

# PARENT Handbook

Bruchim Hab'a'im

ברוכים הבאים

WELCOME HOME



2023  
-  
2024

# Message RABBI'S

As a Rabbi and young parent, I'm humbled to welcome you home to Temple Israel Religious School (TIRS). We pride ourselves at TIRS as being a place for our kids and teens to explore their Jewish identity and understand their role in continuing the narrative of the Jewish people. A typical day at TIRS includes filling the building with learning, song, and laughter. We recognize our diverse backgrounds, and we celebrate these exciting qualities. We're lucky to be championed by our co-principals Ranit Braun and Dovi Chein (also parents of kids in the school!) and a cohort of dynamic teachers and specialists. Let's make Torah together!



*Rabbi  
Daniel Mikelberg*

# Meet Our PRINCIPALS



## Dovi Chein

Here, we celebrate individuality and encourage your children to express themselves creatively. Whether they're performing in our annual Purim play, creating stunning art for Hanukkah, or leading a discussion on social justice, we provide a platform for them to discover their passions and make a positive impact on the world.

From our epic Chanukah carnival to our exhilarating Passover escape room, we know how to have a great time while connecting with our rich heritage. We believe that learning and laughter go hand in hand, and we can't wait for your family to be a part of it all.



## Ranit Braun

Shalom Chaverim!

We are so excited to welcome new and returning families to TIRS! We are looking forward to another memorable year here at TIRS. At TIRS we recognize that learning happens in a variety of ways. We strive to ensure that each student is engaging Jewishly in creative and meaningful ways. We know a strong partnership with you, the parents, will make a significant difference in your child's Jewish experience. As partners and community leaders, we share the responsibility for your children's Jewish engagement and learning. TIRS goal is to create a love for Judaism & community! We look forward to taking this journey with you and your children.

Bruchim Habaim- Welcome Home

# Meet Our TEAM



## Teaching Staff 2023-2024

Gan (JK/SK) Dan Osterer

Kita Bet (Gr 2) Carley Baldachin

Kita Hey (Gr.5) Jenny Burns

Kita Zayin (Gr.7) David Osterer

Kita Aleph (Gr.1): Maya Ruckenstein

Kita Gimmel & Daled (Gr 3 /4): Eve Harris,

Kita Vav (Gr.6) Matthew Garber

Kita Chet (Gr 8) Matthew Garber

Kita Tet & Yud (Gr 9&10) Dovi Chein

**WEDNESDAY EVRIT STAFF TBD**

## Education & Youth Committee **Committee Chair: Micha Garten**

Mitch Leitman, Aviva Stewart, Seline Herz-Fischler  
Lisa Rosen, Brad Koskie, Sarah Burns

# Handbook Introduction

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This manual is designed to encourage your input and participation in our program by sharing with you our goals, and the steps we plan to take to meet them. We hope to provide your family with the tools to live Jewishly in the 21st century. Temple Israel Religious School (TIRS) is part of Temple Israel of Ottawa, Ottawa's only Reform Synagogue. TIRS utilizes the positive and inclusive ideology of the Union of Reform Judaism in educating your child. Using a fresh and positive approach and lots of enthusiasm as we help our young people explore their Jewish identity. The goal of TIRS is to deepen Jewish experiences and strengthen our children's understanding of Judaism, inclusivity, involvement in the synagogue, and participation in Jewish life and the global community.



## School Days & Calendar

Our school year calendar which lists dates on which there will be no Hebrew School classes, Chagim, School Wide and Community Programming has been inserted into this manual. Please remove it and place it somewhere you can easily refer to it during the year.

Sunday	Sunday/Wednesday	Sunday/Wednesday
Grades Gan-Grade 6	Grades 7-Grade 10	Grades 2-Grades 6
9:30am-12:30pm	6:30pm-8:30pm	4:30pm-6:00pm Hebrew VIRTUAL

## Confidential Information

In order for our teachers to provide an inclusive and meaningful learning environment for your child, any information such as IEP (Independent Education Plan), OT (Occupational Therapy) diagnosis (Autism Spectrum, ADHD, LD ) or any Neuro Divergence reports can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. Any information or reports can be emailed directly to TIRS, alternatively a paper copy to the office and teachers, or by private conference with the principal/teacher. Please know that all conversation and correspondence will remain confidential.

## Parent/School Communication

Communication between parents and school is vital and necessary to ensure that parents are aware of the goings on at School. We have so many wonderful experiences, we do not want the parents to miss out. Our weekly Friday communication will offer updates and notices about school happenings as well as with the larger Temple community and the Ottawa Jewish community. If parents have any general concerns or questions regarding their child's class, we encourage parents to reach out to their child's teacher as a touch point.



## Behavioral Expectations

At TIRS we strive to create an atmosphere that reflects our Jewish values. We take pride in our student body that understands the importance of respect for teachers, respect for each other and each other's property, and respect for ourselves are essential for a successful learning environment. Our school has zero tolerance for bullying of any kind (physical, verbal or cyber/digital). Problematic behavior will be addressed accordingly, with conference and communication between parents educators and principal(s). In the instance where behavior becomes problematic, a conference with parents, teachers and principal will be called. If problematic behavior is noticed or reported teachers, principals and parents will work in concert to help ensure everyone is safe and respected.

## TIRS Commandments of Kindness & Respect

1. Every student to treat fellow students and staff members with respect
2. We are a LGBTQ+ Space, we welcome everyone and respect the pronouns and/or names chosen by individuals.
3. Hands Off Rule, we use words to address conflict, and our hands for High Fives
4. No name calling or demeaning language. We strive to use language that expresses our feelings in a respectful way.
5. Acknowledging that learning happens in many different ways, we respect other students' ways of learning and encourage others to join in the experience.
6. Books and materials are to be treated respectfully and with care.
7. Our building is our extended home, let's keep it clean and a space we can be proud of.
8. We are a NUT-FREE space.
9. Electronic Devices are fun; we do however ask that electronic devices are left at home unless required for a specific learning task.
10. We love to have fun, but we do so in a safe way. Please be careful and stay safe while you play

## Parent's Responsibilities

1. Class begins at 9:30 am Sunday mornings and ends at 12:30 pm. Please arrive promptly so your child doesn't miss out on any fun. Please refrain from dropping off before 9:30 am. We ask that parents of students in Gan-Grade 2 please go to their classrooms to pick them up.
2. Please notify the school in advance if someone besides a parent/guardian is picking up your child. Please make every effort to consistently attend classes.
3. Please notify the office if your child will be late or absent. [tirs@templeisraelottawa.com](mailto:tirs@templeisraelottawa.com) or 613-224-3133.
4. Please provide your child with a nut-free snack for school.
5. We are outside for snack breaks and class time when appropriate. Please be sure to send your child with appropriate outdoor clothing. In the wintertime, we do not go outside for a break unless a teacher specifies.
6. If your child's teacher reaches out to you to discuss a class event, project or your child's progress or an incident please do your best to respond promptly
7. If your child has a life-threatening allergy please be sure to provide the office and teacher with any additional information or medical intervention ( EPI-PEN), and a recent photo of your child.
8. Please drive carefully as you enter the Temple's parking lot and do not stop in front of the school door to let your child off, please pull further ahead to avoid any accidents.
9. Please refrain from parking in the upstairs Hellenic Center parking lot, unless indicated in the weekly communication.

## Hebrew School Responsibilities

1. Provide a safe, positive, and warm environment for your child.
2. Provide your child the knowledge of Torah, Mitzvot, Tikkun Olam, Jewish Holidays and most importantly FUN through Jewish learning
3. Keep you informed of your child's progress and class activities.
4. Provide your child with the textbooks and materials needed for class.
5. To provide your family with opportunities to learn experience and enjoy our Temple family and Jewish values.
6. Provide students with material to work on at home with their families when requested.
7. Ensure timely correspondence and regular communication with families.
8. Encourage full participation, foster love of Jewish learning and community



## **Supplies**

- Students in Grades 1-Grade 7 will be provided with Textbooks. Hebrew textbooks are for students to keep and write in. Other textbooks will be used in class and returned at the end of the year .
- Pencils, paper, crayons and all other regular classroom supplies will be provided by the school .

## **Take Home Work**

While we do not assign “homework” at Temple, we do send home exercises and lessons to be shared with the family. We encourage families to do some learning together in their home to reinforce what we are learning at school. If at any time students or families would like additional exercises or lessons, please let your students' teachers know and they will be happy to send home more material.

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. We do understand that attendance is not always an option due to illness or travel.

## **Illness**

If your child has symptoms such as a runny nose or sore throat, fever or diarrhea they should not attend school. All public health guidelines apply to TIRS as well.

## **First Aid**

A number of our teachers are First Aid Certified. First aid kits are located in the school office and in the upstairs kitchen. Please note that we cannot administer any medication, topical or otherwise without medical consent.

## **School Records**

Please notify the school promptly, in writing, of any change in address, telephone number, as well as any change regarding emergency situations. Promptness and accuracy are necessary to keep records up to date and to communicate with the home when necessary.

## **Refund Policy**

Please reach out to TIRS administration.