



**RABBI SOLOMON GELD
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Parent

Student

Handbook

2011-2012

5771

WELCOME

Within the last 11 years, the Rabbi Solomon Geld Religious School has been awarded the coveted International Solomon Schechter Gold Award for elementary education. The school has also been recognized with two silver awards in this time frame. In 2007, we earned a Silver award for elementary education. We are recognized as one of the top synagogue schools in the Conservative Movement.



STAFF 2011-2012 (5771-5772)

Jack Rosenbaum, M.ED, Principal
Ann Leonardi, Administrative Assistant

FACULTY:

Kindergarten: Karen Klebenoff

1st and 2nd grades: Natalie Godin

Aleph (3rd): Maya Gabrieli, Meredith Pressler

Bet (4th): Maya Gabrieli, Meredith Pressler

Gimmel (5th): Maya Gabrieli, Meredith Pressler

Daled (6th): Ellie Abrams, Roneet Edrich, Ruth Schreiber-Greene

Heh (7th): Ellie Abrams, Roneet Edrich, Ruth Schreiber-Greene

Kid's Congregation Club: Meredith Pressler

Student Evaluation

Periodic evaluation of students' progress is important for the student, parents and the school. This mechanism provides our students with a sense of their accomplishments. Parents become aware of what their children have studied, and our teachers can see their successes in attaining school goals. Quizzes, reports, projects, group activity and other assigned activities are all vehicles for evaluation.

As a way of keeping parents informed of their children's progress, anecdotal report cards are issued twice during the school year for all of our students. Letter grades are not used. For questions and concerns, please call the School Office at 954-968-4545, extension 26. Your child's teacher will return your call as soon as possible. The principal is available for conferences and meetings.

Parents are also welcome to visit classes in session provided they make prior arrangements with the principal. To assure class continuity, no one is admitted to any class at any time without the permission of the principal.

The School Board of the Religious School

The School Board of the Religious School functions in conjunction with the Professional Educational Staff. The Board members oversee the school, and are always available to listen to questions, suggestions or concerns. If you have any questions please contact Ann at [954-968-4545 x26](tel:954-968-4545) who can relay your message to the Chairperson.

Parents Role in the School

Both family and school have a role in the educational, spiritual and ethical development of our children. All parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's Jewish education.

Please, join us for special events, such as our

Back to School Morning on SUNDAY MORNING, October 16, 2011 at 9:00 AM

as well as Shabbat meals and holiday celebrations through our award-winning Family Garin Program.

Participation is vital to our success.

Formal communication between the school and parents is done by way of email (95% of all correspondence) and voice mail. At various times, short family *Torah* and *Mitzvah* materials will be included.

The family unit is vital to the expression of Judaism. As parents, you can reinforce at home, what is being taught in the school.

Standards for Students

1. **Attendance and School Work Requirements:** Regular attendance and completion of assigned work are essential for the continuity and effectiveness of the learning process. Students are expected to attend 75% of all scheduled classes, which means he/she cannot miss more than twelve classes and must complete class work in order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade. **Heh** Class students must have a 70% attendance record (must not miss more than 15 classes per course) in order to participate in commencement and receive a diploma. If a child is absent, late or is picked up early he/she is expected to make up missed work, as he/she may miss a whole class period.

NOTE: *Except for home Hebrew reading practice, much of our work is accomplished in the classroom. Due to most grade levels being involved in a departmentalized system, students should be present at the assigned times of their registered classes to assure the utmost learning experience.*

2. **Preparation for School:** All students should bring their books in a backpack and a pen or pencil to each session. Textbooks are the property of the School and, except for consumables, are to be returned in good condition at the end of the school year. Lost books and school materials will be purchased at market price by the family.

3. **Food:** Students who bring snacks will eat them at the time assigned by each individual teacher. Kosher snacks may be brought from home or purchased through the school office by pre-ordering only. Forms are in the parent packet and available from the school office. Kashrut descriptions are found below.

4. **Dress for School:** While we do not have a rigid dress code, please keep in mind that the children are coming to a synagogue. Clothing should at all times be appropriate for attendance at Temple and Religious School. Neatness, modesty and good taste are expected. In addition, all boys must wear a "Kippah" (yarmulke).

5. **Dress at Junior Congregation Services and Temple Services:** Students should come attired in their *Shabbat* "best". Girls are to wear modest dresses or skirts and blouses; not shorts or slacks. Boys are to wear collared shirts and slacks; not shorts or jeans.

6. **Guests:** Students are not permitted to bring guests to class. Insurance issues are considered and our teachers have considerable responsibilities with enrolled students.

7. **Classroom Discipline:** A positive learning environment requires that each student involved in the learning process exercise reasonable self-discipline and curtail disruptive behavior.

1. In the event that a child's comportment becomes a challenge, he or she will receive a "referral." The original referral is kept on file and a copy is sent home to the parents, to be signed and returned to the school.
2. If there is a second "referral," a parent/teacher conference will take place.
3. If a student receives a third "referral," he or she can be suspended from Religious School for one week (5.5 hours of class time), and is expected to make up assignments during that week. If the assignment is not completed, the student will remain on suspension.

A student who receives four "referrals" will not be allowed to return to school for the balance of the year. The student and parents then have the option of continuing their Jewish education with a tutor, twice weekly, at their expense. In this case the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date will remain as assigned. However, should Jewish education stop, the privilege of a *Shabbat* (Saturday) morning ceremony cannot be extended.



General Behavior Guidelines for Every Classroom are as Follows:

- (1) Teachers and fellow students are to be treated with respect. (2) Students are to remain in their seats unless given permission by the teacher to move. (3) Students are to speak according to normal classroom guidelines set by teachers. (4) Property of others, and of Temple Beth Am, is to be respected and treated accordingly.

Please discuss these basic "Derech Eretz" (Normal Behavior) guidelines with your children. We believe that you, as a concerned parent, wish only the best conditions within the school for your child. Thank you for your support in this area.

8. **Early Pick-Up:** If your child has to leave class before the regular dismissal time, you must sign him or her out of the School Office. Please **do not** go directly to your child's classroom. It would be greatly appreciated if you sent a note to your child's teacher if he or she is leaving class early. If the person picking up your child is someone other than a parent, a note stating who is picking your child up or a call to the school office by a parent must occur.

Note:

If a student misses class work due to early dismissal or late arrival, he/she is responsible to make this work up, as determined by the teacher

9. **Student Responsibility for School Property:** Students will be held responsible for any school furnishings or property damaged or marred. The cost of fixing or replacing the damaged items will be assumed by the student or the family.

10. **Tutoring:** Additional Hebrew reading remedial tutoring can be provided for students who attend regularly and are in need of reading assistance from time to time. In certain cases, the school may require additional remedial private tutoring. Our teachers are available to do this at a reasonable cost to you. Parents and teachers will privately negotiate the time required and the fee to be paid the teacher. Teacher recommends tutoring to the principal who refers parents to teachers, when necessary.

School Kashrut Policies

As part of Temple Beth Am, the Rabbi Solomon Geld Religious School operates within the guidelines of Conservative Judaism. In accordance with Jewish law, all food served at a school activity or on the school grounds must be kosher.

When there is a party, or activity within the classrooms for which students are asked to bring in food products, all products and all snack foods must have an approved kosher symbol such as these:



(Please check out our website at www.beth-am.org for symbols or call Rabbi Plotkin's office at extension 18 for more information.)

Here are a few acceptable **kosher** foods:

- All Entenmann products
- Any fruit or vegetable
- Hershey products made in Hershey, Pennsylvania
- Fresh Fruit Sodas (without natural fruit flavors)
- Mott's Apple Juice
- **Only** Donuts from Margate Dunkin Donuts across the street from TBA on Royal Palm Blvd.

Please understand that a **K** is not sufficient. We must know under what supervision the **K** was authorized. Please check with the Synagogue Office in such cases. We ask for your cooperation as we observe the laws of *Kashrut*. It helps to teach your children to distinguish between what is kosher and what is not.

SNACKS ARE AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL. THIS IS PREPAID BY MONTH OR YEAR. CALL 954-968-4545 X26 FOR FURTHER INFO. Snack forms available on www.beth-am.org.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures



The following traffic procedures are to be followed, and with your cooperation we will have a very safe school year ahead:

Drop-Off:

Parents may drop their children off in front of the school. Please only do so at the overhang in the front of the school and not from the parking lot. Parents are welcome to walk their children to their classes no earlier than 10 minutes before school begins. Park in legal parking spots.

Pick-Up:

Each student will be picked up by parents from their classrooms. Parents must park their cars in a legal spot and come into the school. Please arrive a few minutes prior to the scheduled end of your child's class. Parents will wait outside the entrance until the doors are opened and an official from the school allows entry. Parents will retrieve their children from class. Teachers will be at their respective classroom doors to greet you and sign your child out from the classroom. This allows us to efficiently monitor who your children are leaving with.

Traffic barriers will block the front roadway of the school building. Please make your children aware that he/she will not be brought out to meet you and that you will come to meet them at their rooms and walk with them to the car. Students are never left unattended. If you are going to be late, please call the religious school office at 954-968-4545, extension 26. Place this number in your "Fave Five".

PICK-UP AUTHORIZATION - Parents have authorized individuals to pick up their children on the paper registration forms. This section indicates which persons, besides parents, are authorized to pick up your children. Pick-Up Authorization CHANGES must be given to the school office. In the event you are unable to pick up your child and you send a person not indicated on the form, you must call the school office and let us know the person's name and relationship to you and your children.

Special Circumstances:

1. **ON TIME** - Please arrive in a timely fashion. Remember, our staff members have professional or family obligations once sessions end. If a parent is 10 minutes late, we will make note of this, the first time. If lateness occurs a second time, we must charge \$15 after the first 10 minutes. Parents who have a consistent challenge in picking up their children on time must let the school office know immediately so a financial arrangement can be made. **If you are running late on a particular day, please call the school office at 954-968-4545 extension 26, in a timely fashion. Please save this number in your cell phone for easy access. Late charges may apply.**

2. **SPECIAL PICK-UP** - Students may not be picked up within 10 minutes of posted dismissal times. If you must pick up before this, parents must please check in with the office. Ann will page your children to come up to the office. Parents remain at the office until the child arrives.
3. **IDENTIFICATION** - During the first days, some parents may not be known by our veteran teachers and by our new teachers. In this case, you may be asked for identification; even if the child runs to you in recognition. Please be patient, as we regard safety as the foremost priority.



SEVERE WEATHER: Lightning storms are a part of our lives here in south Florida. When hard rains occur at dismissal, teachers will remain with the students in their classes and we ask your patience with the realities of sub-tropical weather. If the storm is about to subside we will allow for dismissal to continue and for you to enter the building. The safest place for you during such an event provided by Mother Nature is your car. Your child will be safe and so will you.

In the case of **continuous hard rain**, we will have cars may line up for a carpool line. This will be the **only time** this will take place and will take time to complete. Staff will direct cars to the overhang and as you approach the building, we will get the names and classes of your students and have them out as quickly as possible. Patience is truly appreciated at such events.



HURRICANES: If a **Hurricane Warning** is put into effect the school will be closed. We remain open during Hurricane watches. A recorded message will be placed on the synagogue answering machine after hours. If the Broward County Public Schools close, the religious school will close. Our telephone system will apprise you of any closures, as well.

START & DISMISSAL TIMES FOR EACH CLASS SITUATION & DAY

K, 1 & 2 **Sunday** – 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

K, 1 & 2 + Child-care **Sunday** – 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

Grades 3-7 (Aleph-Heh) **Sunday** – 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

Grades 3-7 (Aleph-Heh) **Wednesday** – 4:45 PM to 7:15 PM

KIDS Congregation Club & Carlebach Minyan Requirements

Prayer Service Requirements for Aleph through Daled

Attend **a combination** of High Holiday Services, Saturday Kid’s Congregation Club and Friday Carlebach services at Temple Beth Am, get the following:

- ✧ **Seven times** = **Aleph** student *minimum* expectation including two (2) Saturday morning services.
- ✧ **Ten times** = **Bet, Gimmel and Daled** *minimum* expectation including three (3) Saturday morning services.
- ✧ **Sixteen times** = **All Students** One movie pass.
- ✧ **Twenty-eight times** = **All Students** Another movie pass.
- ✧ **Thirty-six times** = **All Students** A \$25 Gift Certificate to the store of your choice.

(Note: Attend Main Sanctuary service for a bar mitzvah or because it is your choice, inform the school Office immediately for credit.)

Friday Evening Carlebach Dates (6:10-7:10 pm In Youth Center)

(Any other Friday evening Carlebach Service counts. Please tell the school office if you attend on a different night.)

<u>Aleph</u>	<u>BET</u>	<u>Gimmel</u>	<u>Daled</u>
Sep 9 – Welcome Back Service	Sep 9 – Welcome Back Service	Sep 9 – Welcome Back Service	Sep 9 – Welcome Back Service
Nov 11 + Garin Shabbat Dinner	Nov 11 + Garin Shabbat Dinner	Nov 11 + Garin Shabbat Dinner	Dec 9
Jan 6	Jan 6	Jan 6	Jan 27 + Garin Shabbat Dinner
Feb 10	Feb 10	Feb 10	Feb 24
Mar 2	Mar 2	Mar 2	Mar 25
Apr 27	Apr 27	Apr 27	

Saturday Morning KCC (Kid’s Congregation Club) (9:30-11:00)

In the Chapel on these Saturday morning dates:

<u>ALL GRADES with Morah Miriam:</u>	<u>ALEPH</u>	<u>BET</u>	<u>GIMMEL</u>	<u>DALED</u>
<u>Sept 10, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 7,</u>	Dec 3	Oct 29, Dec 3,	Oct 29, Dec 3,	Sep 24, Nov 19,
<u>Feb 11, March 3, April 21, May 12</u>	Jan 21	Feb 25, Apr 21 (S)	Feb 25, Apr 21 (S)	Mar 31 Sanctuary

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd & Aleph (3rd) - Minimum two (2) Saturday mornings.

Bet (4th), Gimmel (5th) & Daled (6th) - Minimum three (3) Saturday mornings.

Here is what you get for attending KCC:

Understanding/Appreciation of the structure & creativity of the morning service

Comfort & Familiarity with *nigun* (melody) used at TBA services

Shabbat Games & Shabbat Candy: Congregational Lunch: Awards for attendance

Parents Should Join Children at this family learning experience about Shabbat Morning Prayers.

The **Carlebach** minyan meets every Friday at 6:10 PM in the Youth Center. When your child's class is designated to attend on the calendar, parents should accompany and sit with the child. You can bring your other children the same evening and receive credit.

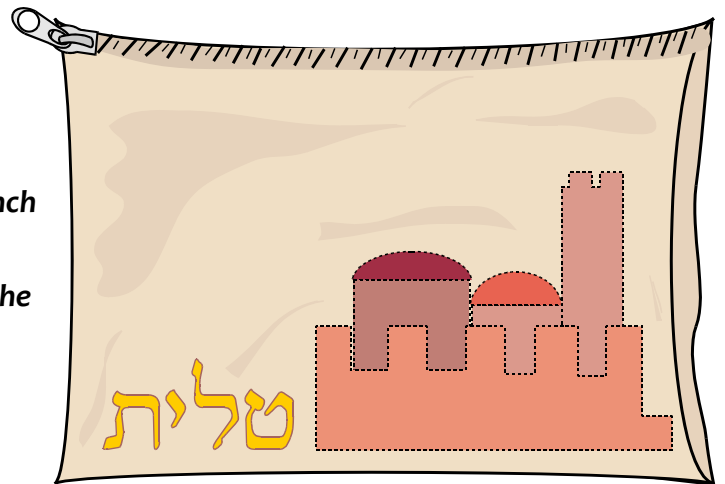
Teachers attend on varied class KCC Saturdays and Carlebach services and take attendance. Be sure to check in with the teacher taking attendance. **If no teacher is present, call Ann in the school office, right away, to report the date of your attendance and she will post it.**

On Shabbat, the time is 9:30 AM-11:00 AM on Saturdays found on the schedule above. Drop-off will be at the chapel and pick-up will be from the chapel. Look for signs if the location changes to the school building on some days. NOTE: Attending a service at other synagogues, while admirable, cannot be accepted as make-up for the Shabbat programming particular to our shul.

These services are the means by which classroom practice is transformed into worship. Our goal is for our students to participate and share in conducting the service. Special features of our student services include incentives, each class (Bet-Heh) leading the Sanctuary service and Shabbat Morning family experiences.

Every Shabbat, starting after the Holidays, the synagogue continues to offer members sit-down luncheons representing the Seudah Shaini (second feast of Shabbat). Please join him/her and have lunch with the congregation. Even if you are unfamiliar with Shabbat ritual, you can learn with your child the joy of Shabbat.

Heh (7th Grade) students are expected to attend, with a parent, the Shabbat adult services. (6 Saturdays and 6 Friday nights are mandatory.)



Carlebach Happy Minyan

Every Friday night hundreds of temple members and visitors gather at 6:00 PM for our famous Carlebach happy Minyan in the Youth Center. This one-hour service of *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Ma'ariv* is filled with the *ruach* (spirit) of *Shabbat*. (See above for student requirements)

Educational Programs

Our school provides for formal education beginning in kindergarten through the high school years. The curriculum for each grade is based upon the needs, interests and learning styles of the children at that grade level.

Primary Department: Kindergarten, first and second graders meet once a week, experiencing for the first time formal Jewish education. These youngsters learn about being Jewish by way of a "hands-on" approach to the holidays, Torah and Jewish culture. First graders learn the Aleph-Bet. Second graders also begin the study of the Hebrew reading using a primary reading readiness program.

Intermediate Department: Grades three through seven meet two days a week for 2½ and 3-hour sessions. This complies with the standards for Jewish education established by the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education. Through cumulative study of the Bible, Jewish history, the Hebrew language and prayer, our students attain knowledge of our past and present, along with the skills and knowledge necessary to feel at ease with their own Jewish present and future. Holidays are taught at the intermediate level according to a graded curriculum, thus avoiding repetition while providing our students with the knowledge of ritual observances and placing the holidays which mark our years in the proper historical perspective.

6th and 7th Graders will be taking part in the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism's ETGAR (Challenge) Program. This is a cutting edge curriculum that motivates students and parents alike.

Judaica High School: The Northern Branch of the community Jewish High School, administered by the Orloff Central Agency for Jewish Education, provides continuing Jewish education for eighth graders and high school students. It is also a valuable Jewish social experience. Classes are held one night a week, with times, locations and tuition announced in the spring. The Judaica High School has required courses and electives, along with extracurricular activities, giving students the opportunity to pursue their own interests. Continuation in Judaica High School is strongly encouraged at Temple Beth Am and is required for all students wishing to participate in *B'nai Torah* Confirmation with Rabbi Plotkin during sophomore year of high school.

B'nai Torah: Those students enrolled in the tenth grade program of the Judaica High School are eligible to participate in the *B'nai Torah* Confirmation program of Temple Beth Am. The B'nai Torah students have the opportunity to study with Rabbi Plotkin, meeting once a week for one hour. This enlightening class covers Jewish issues of concern to our youth, and the format allows for much informal discussion. Those students completing the program participate in the *B'nai Torah* Confirmation ceremony at *Shavuot*. Registration materials are available in the main synagogue office.

Other Programs Offered at Temple Beth Am

GARIN PROGRAM - Mitzvot and Tikkun Olam: For the Jewish people, *Mitzvot* and *Torah* values are tools in our *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) kit. We invite our parents and students to join us in doing *Mitzvot*, as we act ethically and become fixers - God's partners in repairing the world and completing creation. Participation in the *Mitzvah* day sponsored by the *shul* is strongly encouraged for students and their families. But, we have 5-7 programs related to various Holidays, Shabbat, *Mitzvah* and *Tzedakah* in the form of our award winning **Garin** Family Education program. This year we will have 4 Shabbat dinners and some fabulous interactive programming with seasoned members of the synagogue, Rabbi Plotkin and Mr. Rosenbaum.

Breakfast With Rabbi Plotkin: Our classes participate with their families on selected Sunday mornings in a study activity and breakfast with Rabbi Paul Plotkin. The Rabbi will lead discussion in curriculum related topics.

Family Education Activities: Families participate in inclusive, friendly educational programs, specifically designed for each grade level. These family activities are unique opportunities for our students and their parents to come together and share in meaningful Jewish study, learning and action.

Youth Department: Our award winning Youth Department is affiliated with the Department of Youth Activities of the United Synagogue of America, and operates within the guidelines of the Conservative Movement and our Temple. Temple Beth Am sponsors three youth programs, *Chalutzim* for children in grades 3rd through 5th, *Kadima* for children in grades 6th through 8th and U.S.Y. (United Synagogue Youth) for those in grades 9 through 12. Temple Beth Am *Kadima* and U.S.Y. chapters are part of the southeast region and the Arvot sub region. Social, educational, cultural and religious activities are sponsored on the chapter, inter-chapter, sub-regional and regional levels. All three groups are under the supervision of the Youth Commission and are led by a professional staff on all levels.

Camp Ramah: Camp Ramah Darom in Georgia is a strong supplement to a child's Jewish education. The camp provides an opportunity for Jewish children to explore the relevance of Judaism in today's society. A broad spectrum of activities is offered, including a full program of athletics, dramatics, climbing, kayaking and in all areas of Jewish education. Boys and girls from age 9 (completing 4th grade) through 16 (completing 10th grade) are eligible to attend. Scholarship funds are available. We are a strong Ramah school and all inquiries should go to the Education Director.

Tzedakah (Acts of Charity): Students learn the concept and the duty of Jewish citizenship by voluntarily contributing to the daily Collection and by participating in various fundraising

campaigns. Parents are urged to encourage their children in these projects and not to assume that parental donations negate the child's own personal participation in *Tzedakah*. *Tzedakah* and JNF Boxes are also available for home use.

Religious School Registration Information

The bulk of general registration for the 2011-2012 school year happens in July and August. Registration will be accepted, space allowing, through the school year.

It is necessary to limit class size to create an atmosphere for effective learning. The Principal determines all decisions concerning class placement. All Temple membership and School fees must be up-to-date to register for Religious School classes.

Primary Department (Sunday only)

- Kindergarten - Age 5 Grade K
- 1st and 2nd Grades - Age 6-7

Elementary/Middle School (Sunday/Wednesday)

- Aleph Age 8-9 Grade 3
- Bet Age 9-10 Grade 4
- Gimmel Age 10-11 Grade 5
- Daled Age 11-12 Grade 6
- Heh Age 12-13 Grade 7

Community Judaica HS for 8th – 12th Grades (Tuesday nights)