



Member of Union for Reform Judaism

**YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM
(YEP)**

**PARENTS HANDBOOK
2011-2012**

**A GUIDE TO YOUR CHILD'S JEWISH
EDUCATION**

“Enlighten our eyes in your Torah that we may cling to your Mitzvot”

4311 Hood Road
Palm Beach Gardens
FL 33410
Telephone: 624-4633

Our Mission Statement

Temple Judea's **Youth Education Program**

Provides a warm and welcoming environment where children and their parents learn by doing. We partner with our parents to develop in our students a strong Jewish identity through experiential learning of Torah, Mitzvot, Jewish ritual, spirituality, Jewish history and love of Israel. The Hebrew language is a connection to years of traditions, liturgy and Torah. Temple Judea's Youth Education Program empowers our families to learn and celebrate at home as well as with our YEP community, fostering a life-long love of Jewish learning and positive enduring commitment to Judaism.

Our Vision

Transforming lives, building community,
Fostering commitment founded in love of
Judaism
Through study and experience of Jewish
text and tradition

Ben Zoma said: Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone, as it is said:
From all people I have gained understanding. *Mishna, Pirkei Avot 4:1*

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our **Youth Education Program!**

It is with great sense of excitement that I am able to report that the first year of our pilot model of YEP has ended with great success!

You might ask, “How do we Assess this statement?” Well here are a few facts that support our feeling. Our school grew during this year by close to 20%, we started the year with less than 80 students and finished with a few over 100! Our hope and expectations are to continue growing as the reputation of the school and of our unique program is spreading in the community.

Our recent survey which was answered by the majority of our families revealed an overwhelming sense of satisfaction from the school.

Our “learning Parents showing the Way” sessions drew in a consistent way between 30-40 parents eager to study and take an active role in their children’s Jewish Education; we know that many others would join if they could.

Finally – generous donors who became aware of our program also recognized that this change is not possible without financial support. They have opened their hearts and pockets and are funding next year’s program in such a way that will enhance every single aspect of what we do and offer.

Lately I was asked to present this model in front of educators from Boca Raton, Miami, New York and Washington. Other temples in our county have started using different elements of this program, it is taking some time for the “word to spread” but it definitely is!

We have learnt a lot from this year of experiment and I have no doubt that we are on the right track to building a model of a school we will not only be proud of, but that we will also be able to see its results over a long period of time.

Our path will continue this coming year as we engage our students, keep building a strong community and continue to foster the love of Judaism through all that we offer and do.

I look forward to opening the year on **Friday, August 26-** with a festive Shabbat dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat at 6pm, this is a great opportunity to meet new families as well as old friends and to meet your teachers. The first day of school (as well as the first session of “Learning Parents Showing the Way” will be on **Sunday, August 28th**, at 9:30am. Join us from 8:45 in the lobby for coffee and cake and a chance to schmooze and catch up with old and new friends.

I would like to conclude this message, reminding you once again that I believe with all my heart that Jewish education is a partnership between home and school. We are ready to join you on this journey, and provide your child with a life-long love of Jewish learning and commitment to Judaism. I invite you to be involved in our school through participation in our Va’ad (our parents committee), our monthly Shabbat dinners for YEP families, attending our “learning parents – showing the way” days and participating in our family celebrations at the end of each term.

This handbook will provide you with information about the different aspects related to the various grades and programs in our school. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. I wish you and your family a year of spiritual growth through our excellent education program.

B’shalom,

Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik
Director of Education

Our Staff

Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik – Director of Education
Limor Meital – Assistant Director of Education

Our Teachers

Deanna Katz-Parade of Holidays

Melinda Gallagher -Kindergarten

Shoshana Sharf -First grade

Michelle Wood -Second grade

Hannah Fleischer-Third grade

Lauren Corwin -Fourth grade

Bailey London – Fifth grade

Lesley Levin - Sixth grade

Mia Jhonson - Seventh grade

Alicia Stillman- Cantorial Intern

Haviva Lapkin- Hebrew

Gila Jhonson - Hebrew

Youth Education Va'ad

Chair - Stephanie Stoloff

Chair - Jennifer Seidman

YEP (Religious school)

Sunday, 9:30 AM – Noon: Kindergarten thru 7th grade

Hebrew school

Wednesday, 4:30-6:00PM: 4th thru 7th grade

Wednesday, 3:45-4:30PM Homework center - Our classroom will be open beginning at 3:45 for those who come early and wish to do their Home work.; Pizza, drinks and snacks are available for purchase.

"All who honor Torah are honored by others." – Avot 4:6

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM
DATES 2011-2012

FIRST TERM:

Aug 28 - First day of 1st term; learning parents- showing the way.
Sep 11, 18, 25
Oct 2
Oct 9 - End of first term, Family celebration.

Sep 4 : Labor day weekend – NO SCHOOL

Oct 16: Professional development day - NO SCHOOL

SECOND TERM:

Oct 23- First day of 2nd term; learning parents- showing the way.
Oct 30
Nov 6, 13,
Nov 20 End of second term, Family celebration.

Nov 27: Thanks giving break – NO SCHOOL

Dec: 4 Professional development day - NO SCHOOL

**Dec 11: SPECIAL EVENT – Hanukkah day @ temple (K-3rd)
B'nai Mitzvah work shops (4th-7th grade)**

WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL:

Dec 18, 25 and Jan 1

THIRD TERM:

Jan 8 - First day of 3rd term; learning parents- showing the way.
Jan 22, 29
Feb 5, 12
Feb 26 - End of third term, Family celebration.

Jan 15: MLK DAY OF SERVICE – SPECIAL PROGRAM

Feb 19: President Day weekend – NO SCHOOL

March 4: Professional development day - NO SCHOOL

March 11 – SPECIAL PROGRAM – PASSOVER DAY FOR ALL GRADES

SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL

March: 18, 25

FORTH TERM:

April 1- First day of 4th term; learning parents- showing the way.
April: 15, 22, 29
May: 6
May 20 - End of forth term and school year, Family celebration

Apr 8: Passover – NO SCHOOL

May 13: Mothers day – NO SCHOOL

Hebrew school 4th -7th Grade

DATES 2010-2011

Wednesdays from 4:30 – 6:00

August 31 – First day of school
September 7, 14, 21, (No school 28)
October 5, 12, 19, 26
November 2, 9, 16 30 (No school 23)
December 7, 14, 21 (No school 28)
January 11, 18, 25 (No school 4)
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 28 (No school 21)
April 4, 11, 18, 25
May 2, 9, 16

Home Work center

Home work center will be open every Wednesday to all 4-7 grade students from 3:45 to 4:30 P.M – snack can be purchased.

Family Shabbat dinners

Most months, on the third or fourth Shabbat of the month, families celebrate around the Shabbat table. Dinner begins with Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00pm and ends with *Zemirot* (Shabbat songs) at 7:15 pm.

2011:
Aug 26
Sep 16
Nov 18

2011:
Jan 20
March 9
May 18

YEP lead services

Wednesday, October 19th @ 6pm: Consecration ceremony for our Kindergarten and new students.

November 18th: 4th – 7th Grade will participate in Shabbat services at 7:30pm

Feb 9th: 1st -3rd Grade will participate in Shabbat services at 7:30pm

Temple Judea Shabbaton:

Friday September 23- Sunday September 25.

Hilton oceanfront @ Singer Island Hilton. See details in attached flyer.

“The world stands on three things: the study of Torah, service to God and deeds of loving kindness” – Avot 1:2

Our Program

YEP CURRICULUM for 2011-2012

The four main themes that all students will be focusing on this year will be

***Term I: Ritual and Prayer-** Our students will understand and learn to incorporate ritual and prayer into their lives, strengthening their joyous and spiritual identity as Jews.*

***Term II: People of the Book:** Our students will discover new insights about the Torah and experience hands on the Mitzvah of writing a letter in a Sefer torah (Torah scroll)*

***Term II: Jewish living:** Our students will explore the meaning and beauty behind various Jewish life cycle events.*

***Term II: Torah stories about receiving a second chance:** Our students will learn a variety of stories from various book of the Tanach all focusing on the Jewish concept of receiving a second chance , repenting and Teshuva (Making better choices)*

YEP HEBREW CURRICULUM for 2011-2012

Our education program operates under the following core ideas.

1. Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people. It has and will always continue to be a unifying element between Jews all over the world. It is a gate in to the world of our ancestors, into understanding our sacred text and traditions and a key element in building relationship with our brothers and sisters in modern Israel.
2. Hebrew, like any other language cannot be fully taught in the limited time that we as educators have with our students. We must be realistic and set adequate goals for our students.

3. We are committed to create a learning environment in which we can provide our students with basic decoding tools that they can use to read Torah and follow prayers in every siddur they encounter.
4. We are committed to install within our students a love to the language and a sense of familiarity with basic key words, phrases and expression.
5. Our hope is that in the future, having had a positive experience with the language, our students will seek advanced opportunities to master the language and to use it as a key element in their Jewish identity.

The goals of our Hebrew program are the following:

1. In the early grades (Kindergarten–third grade), the emphasis will be on exposure to Hebrew letters and familiarity with the Alef-Bet.
2. Beginning in Forth Grade, our students will start using the P.H.D program (phonetic Hebrew Decoding). This is a program written by Dr. Sara Rosen and is used by many different schools in the New York area. This program allows any two students that are on the same level to study together and advance in their own pace according to their abilities and to the time they invest in their studies. Students have 12 books that they are asked to complete during the year, averaging approximately 2 hours per book. Finishing all 12 books will bring students to a level in which they are comfortable decoding any Hebrew word or sentence.
3. By the beginning of 5th grade most students should complete the 12 first books they move on to concentrate on Hebrew liturgy, the most practical use of Hebrew for our students. For the study of the Jewish prayers we are using the curriculum provided by the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) called MITKADEM.
4. Our Sixth grade Students will focus on studying trope, which is the art of Torah and Haftarah cantillation, after completing this skill they will engage in conversational Hebrew.
5. Our 7th grade students serve as tutors for the younger students. By serving as tutors they achieve two main goals:
 - a. They serve as an inspiration to our younger students who see that this is all possible and get to know the older students and learn from their experiences as they prepared for their B'nai Mitzva. We

believe that these relationship will also help strengthen the comfort level that our students will feel when they join our JUICY Jr youth group and have already meet some of the active students in the youth group who served as their mentors.

- b. 7th grade students earn \$7 for each tutoring session of 1 hour, this money is collected for them in a special account and serves to offset their fee to register to the Teen Tzedakah Project which is part of their 7th grade curriculum.

Teffilah (Prayer) :

Every Wednesday, at 5:30pm all students move into the sanctuary where they pray together and learn essential core ideas of our liturgy, focusing on Shabbat service but expanding to other times and occasions. In addition to being able to read and explain each prayer, students will gain an understanding of the overall design of Jewish worship.

General Hebrew Note: We will be using Hebrew tutors as available and needed to provide additional Hebrew assistance if a student is having trouble with the language. We are committed to help the students arrive prepared to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Parental Involvement

We see our role as becoming your partners in the task of raising *Menches*. We are here to assist you in the task of passing on all that you love in Judaism to your children. Therefore, this year we are going to ask for your increased involvement as we offer you more opportunities to both learn and celebrate with your children and your Temple Judea family.

The school year is divided into 4 terms. The first meeting in every term is also an adult education day. **Our main educational philosophy claims that you can tell your children how special Judaism is or you can SHOW them.** We offer you the opportunity to demonstrate through personal example the importance of life long learning, we offer you the opportunity to follow up closely with your child's Jewish education and we offer you the gift of learning yourself – or relearning parallel to your child.

“Learning parents, showing the way.” Is offered four times a year, at the first meeting of every term. You are welcome to join us, to meet other parents and receive an overview of the entire curriculum for the term. We will give you a sense of what are the things your children will be learning and provide you with

materials that you can use at home as you continue to engage your child with the lesson he or she has learnt at YEP. This is the place you will be able to meet other parents, exchange stories, share fears and success stories and prepare yourself to some of the question your child might be asking you, or you would like to ask him or her.

The last meeting every term will be dedicate to a **family celebration**. You will have the opportunity to worship with your child, engage in study, in an art project, participate in special events and always end with a great BBQ meal.

Wwill also offer a **Friday night Shabbat dinner for YEP families**. This is your opportunity to come together with our YEP family and indulge in the beauty and comfort of a Shabbat dinner and a short Kabbalat Shabbat among friends and family.

We encourage you to take advantage of the many different ways you can be engaged in YEP this year.

Please remember that we respect and accept each and every individual in their different comfort levels. We see our role as being here to support you as you move forward, as you keep taking small steps on the rich and magnificent journey of Jewish study and tradition.

School Procedures and Policies

Attendance

The following are policies that have been set by the Board of Trustees of Temple Judea and the Youth Education Committee. These policies are set up to enable the staff as well as families to fulfill the goals that have been developed. Please take the time to read through them.

1. All children will be required to attend no less then two-thirds of the Sunday and Wednesday Hebrew class sessions appropriate for each grade. Any child unable to meet these attendance requirements will not be given credit for that Sunday and or Hebrew school year.
2. If a child does not fulfill the two-thirds requirement for Hebrew School attendance, he/she will be required to work with a private Hebrew tutor (at the parent's expense) to bring the child up to grade appropriate levels. Otherwise, the child will not be given credit for the Hebrew year. It is the parent's responsibility to be in touch with our staff to find out what level the child should be.
3. If a child is unable to fulfill the two-thirds requirement for Sunday school attendance, he/she will be required to make up the work in some appropriate manner-to be decided upon by the classroom teacher and principal.

4. All students are required to attend Hebrew school on Wednesday from the fourth grade through seventh grade.
5. Every child who will have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah must attend Hebrew and Sunday school for a minimum of two creditable years immediately prior to the scheduled dates. Those attending the Meyer Academy are exempt, but will be in contact with the Education Director and the Rabbi at least one year prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah to set up a study schedule and verify their Hebrew level.
6. A family must be in good financial standing with regard to all Temple fees for a child to have their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 7th grade celebration and Confirmation.

Our school recognizes outstanding attendance! Parties and prizes are rewarded to students achieving perfect attendance.



Late arrival / early pickup

If your child arrives late or needs to leave class early, you must come to the school office to inform the principal as well as notify the teacher.

GENERAL EXPECTATION FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR

In order to guarantee all students the appropriate learning climate they all deserve, Temple Judea will be utilizing the following Behavioral Expectations:

1. All students will conduct themselves with respect for themselves, their peers and their teachers.
2. All students will arrive promptly and remain in school until the end of the session.
3. All students are expected to maintain on-task behavior.
4. All students will bring with them any necessary supplies (textbook, notebook, etc.).
5. Cell phones must be turned off or put on silence during class time.

Our program strives to foster quality learning and positive Jewish experiences. In order for the school staff to achieve these goals, proper student behavior and respect for the program is crucial.

Any violations of this policy will be communicated between the teacher, the student, the parents and the Director of Education.



INCLEMENT WATHER PROCEDURES

Youth Education Program is cancelled if...

1. Palm Beach County is under a Hurricane watch
2. Palm Beach County is under a Hurricane warning.

3. Palm Beach County Schools are closed for inclement weather.

Following the cancellation of Youth Education Program, look for the lead of Palm Beach County school district to determine if school is to resume.

1. If Palm Beach County schools are in session, Temple Judea is in session.
2. If Palm Beach County schools are cancelled, Temple Judea is cancelled.

SAFETY

Please help us keep our school safe!

Enter and exit our building from front doors only. All other doors will be locked and will be used only in case of emergency evacuation. This is applicable for both buildings.

As long as school is in session we have a guard on site. The guard is rotating between the two buildings. He might ask you for I.D. or will ask to search your bag. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Our teachers and staff are trained to follow our emergency safety procedures. The school periodically will practice emergency evacuation and lock down.

Please get familiar with our buildings and identify our emergency exit.

If you notice any suspicious person or object please inform our guard or the school principal.

If you have any questions or concern, feel free to ask our Principal.

Thank you for helping us keep safety first!

APPROPRIATE DRESS

A scholar should dress neatly, and should not wear clothes stained with grease and dirt. He should not dress flashily to attract attention or shabbily so as to suffer disrespect. His garments should be modest and appropriate.

(Maimonide, Mishnah Torah)

Inherent in the Youth Education Program at Temple Judea is an attempt to teach our children the difference between sacred and profane. What goes on between the walls of this building is holy. We pray together, we study together, and we play together. All of these activities are holy because they take place within the context of Jewish space and Jewish community. The way we come to study Torah at Temple Judea deserves a certain respect and we begin by coming to learn with the appropriate Temple clothes.

PICK UP

Our Sunday program ends at 12:00 and our Wednesday program ends at 6:00. At the conclusion of school, Parents are expected to promptly pick up students from the classroom. When we gather for family Prayer (Family Tefilah), dismissal will be from the sanctuary.