

The Bessie Hershey Religious School  
of  
B'nai Jeshurun Congregation



REGISTRATION MATERIALS  
AND  
PARENT HANDBOOK  
2008-2009  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
August 4, 2008



27501 Fairmount Boulevard  
Pepper Pike, OH 44124  
216-831-6555

**BESSIE HERSHEY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
Of B'NAI JESHURUN CONGREGATION**

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*Baruchim habaim–welcome!* We hope that the summer has been safe and enriching, and we look forward to greeting you and your family back to our school this fall. **Because we believe in strong family links with our program**, you will be invited to participate in services, lectures and programming with your student or as an adult learner throughout the year. We hope that you will take advantage of these family and adult educational opportunities. As you model your own positive participation in our school, your children will also respond with enthusiasm.

**The partnership between home and school:** You are your child's first Jewish educator. We thank you for trusting us to be your partner. At the Bessie Hershey Religious School, we strive to provide the best Jewish Education possible for your children. We want to keep the lines of communication open and available between your home and our school. It is our hope that you will never hesitate to contact us for questions, updates, or concerns. Are we doing something especially well? Please don't hesitate to share that with us either. To reach us, call the office at 216-831-6555.

Lita Cohen, Education Director, x124 Barbara Rosenfeld, Executive Educator/High School Coordinator, x 121 Shirley Haas, school secretary and B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, x 122 Wendy Altmire, school secretary, x 123 Karen Glueck, school secretary, x 122 on Sunday Mornings
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***Please read the Parent Handbook and Registration Materials carefully, as we have instituted several changes in policies and procedures. It is filled with important information!***

**New Parent Welcome and Orientation:** If you are enrolling a student for the first time in our religious school, you will want to join us at our **New Parent Welcome on the first Sunday of school, September 7, 2008 at 9:15 a.m.** It will provide you with the opportunity to meet with the clergy, administration, and lay leadership of our school. It's a great time to get a panorama of our entire program, ask questions, and meet other parents. This informal and educational program, is a wonderful way to get acquainted with our school.

**Books:** An integrated program means that the enclosed booklist includes what your students need for the entire three-day program. *Please note that as we make final decisions in our curriculum, it may become necessary to add an additional resource to our program. Should this occur, we will notify you as soon as possible.* If you have older children in our school, you may want to check your bookshelf before making purchases. However, please note that workbooks need to be purchased for each child and are difficult to share.

**Special Needs Education:** We work closely with the special Needs Department of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland to provide quality Hebrew and religious education to all students, regardless of their individual needs. Parents who have already identified their children with special needs to us have been sent a "special needs information form" to complete and return to our school office. Please contact us if you need information regarding the program for special needs education. We have tutorial assistance available during most of the days that school is in session.

Bessie Hershey Religious School of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation  
Statement of Philosophy

**Our Mission**

**Bessie Hershey Religious School is committed to the teaching and upholding of the beliefs, ideals, practices and values of Conservative Judaism in order to help all students develop positive, lasting Jewish identities.**

The Bessie Hershey Religious School ("school") operates under the auspices of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation. It is affiliated with the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. The school recognizes the Rabbi of the congregation as the final authority of Halacha (Jewish Law) as applied in the school.

**The Goals:** The school bases its program on the belief that fostering Jewish continuity requires a solid Jewish education. Upon completion of their formal Jewish education, our students should be able to:

- Live ethical Jewish lives
- Perform acts of Tikkun Olam (the concept of "repair the world")
- Participate actively and competently in prayer services
- Read Hebrew prayers
- Perform *mitzvot* (act according to the commandments)
- Demonstrate a connection and love for the State of Israel
- Identify as a member of *k'lal Yisrael* (the world Jewish community)

**The Curriculum:** The school is committed to offering a quality program that allows students to participate in their learning, discover meaning in their studies, and more deeply understand their Jewish experiences. The school accomplishes these goals through its variety of classroom learning activities, including:

- art, music, drama and outside the classroom experiences
- instruction according to each child's developmental level
- social interaction between students and with educators
- the school's partnership with the student's home life
- family education programming

We encourage students to continue their education through Graduation and become lifelong Jewish learners.

**The school fosters in students a love for the State of Israel. We teach the historical and current importance of Israel in Jewish life and encourage participation in travel and study programs in Israel.**

**Informal Education:** We encourage students to participate in Jewish youth groups and summer camps in order to gain a sense of belonging in the local Jewish community.

A Message from the Education Committee of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation  
*You Are An Important Member of our Educational Team*

**Membership on the Education Committee:**

The Education Committee is an important body in our congregation that creates and oversees policies and provides curricular guidance to the school. We meet monthly, on Monday evenings at the homes of our members. If you would like to become a member of our committee, please indicate your interest on the student registration form.

This committee of dedicated parents has always welcomed the input from religious school families. Our meetings incorporate rich content, important policy discussions, and problem solving, in addition to regular reports on the operations of the religious school. Your willingness to stay in conversation with the administration of the school, or with members of the Education Committee, will go a long way in helping us to do our job and maintain an educational partnership with you. In this way, The Bessie Hershey Religious School can remain a Framework for Excellence in the Conservative Movement.

During the past two years the Education Committee of the Bessie Hershey Religious School had the responsibility of overseeing and facilitating a total school study. If you participated in any of this process, through surveys, interviews or meetings, we thank you.

**A word about School fees and donations:**

The congregation's Education and Finance Committees have worked diligently to provide budgetary guidance for a fiscally responsible accounting of the income and expenses that support our school program. In addition, we are committed to keeping our religious school fees affordable and practical. Your school fees cover approximately one-third of the cost of educating your children. The members of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation assume two-thirds of the cost of educating each child. Additional support for enrichment programming comes from The Fund for a Jewish Future of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, under the auspices of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, and funding from the generosity of Sisterhood and many of our congregational families.

The School has set up a line in our income budget for donations that families can make in honor or memory of a loved one. Donations by individuals should be marked Bessie Hershey Religious School. All donations to this fund will assist our school in maintaining the high quality of education and traditions, which define our program. In addition, many families have created funds that support the school program, Jewish camping, and Israel experience. Your support throughout the school year is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

The Education Committee of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation  
Gena Cohen, Chair

## The Bessie Hershey Religious School of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Bessie Hershey Religious School of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation is a Conservative Jewish School offering Jewish Studies in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12. Our school is committed to the teaching and upholding of the beliefs, ideals, practices and values of Conservative Judaism. We value a partnership between the school and the home and encourage parental involvement in your student's education. For a detailed description of the Bessie Hershey Religious School, please refer to your packet for the Statement of Philosophy and the Curriculum Overview.

The opening session of the Bessie Hershey Religious School begins this year with Bet Limmud on **Tuesday, September 9**. The hours for Bet Limmud have been changed to 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. You'll want to be ready and prompt for your first day of school. As you carefully read through your registration packet, please make note of the following reminders:

- 1) All materials to be returned to our offices are found at the back of your registration packet and are **due in the School Office by August 4, 2008**. A return envelope is supplied for your convenience. Your timely response is greatly appreciated.
- 2) We want our students to be happy in their religious school program. If you are aware of a teacher or a classmate that you would recommend for your child, we now have a space on our registration form for special requests. **Class placement will be based on creating an effective learning environment for teachers and students. We cannot promise to fulfill requests that arrive later than August 4, or which do not meet the educational goals of the school.**
- 3) Please contact the School Office immediately regarding new students entering the program that will require additional registration materials.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHEDULE

#### Pre-Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Sundays:

**Opening Date: September 7, 2008**

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade only – 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Tuesdays

**Opening Date: January 6, 2009**

#### Bet Limmud: Grades 3 through 6

4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. – Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Opening Date: September 9, 2008**

Study Hall Available in Dennis Library beginning at 3:30 p.m.

#### Bet Limmud: Grade 7 (not Bible Contest)

4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. – Tuesdays

**Opening Date: September 9, 2008**

#### Shabbat Morning Program: Grades 3 through 6

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturdays

**Opening Date: September 6, 2008**

#### Gross High School Institute: Grades 7 through 10

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Sundays

**Opening Date: September 7, 2008**

\*Breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m., class at 9:30 a.m.

#### The Chai School: Grades 11 and 12

9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. – Sundays

**Opening Date: September 7, 2008**

## SCHOOL TUITION AND BOOK FEES

Please be reminded that all tuition, book fees, and synagogue obligations must be current before we can issue class cards. A tuition schedule has been set to take into account all material fees as well as a high school breakfast fee. Because of our deep commitment to the education of our children within the congregation, B'nai Jeshurun underwrites the rest of the cost for salaries, utilities, materials and maintenance.

<u>Tuition Schedule (per student)</u>	
Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten & 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	\$200
Second Grade	\$265
Grades 3 – 7	\$330
Grades 8 –12	\$275

The Finance Committee of B'nai Jeshurun has set a cap of tuition payment for up to \$750. Therefore, no family will be charged more than \$750 for the 2008-2009 school year. The fee structure includes school supplies, holiday celebrations, and membership to the PTO for the school year.

**Books, B'nai Mitzvah fees, Confirmation fees and special program costs (Shabbatonim, class trips, etc.) are not included. A book order form is enclosed for your convenience.**

### **Important Issues of Security**

We are living in very difficult times. Throughout the United States our Jewish institutions have remained diligent in providing a secure and safe environment for our constituencies. With the help of our leadership and membership, B'nai Jeshurun has installed a high tech security system that allows our office and maintenance staff to monitor entrances. To facilitate these procedures, please be cognizant of the following security issues.

**1) Doors:** At any time on your arrival at B'nai Jeshurun, you may find doors locked. Please ring the bell for entrance and be prepared to identify yourself to the staff who are monitoring the system. There is no audible unlock signal, so when instructed to enter, pull the door open, and please be certain to close the door securely after your enter. We ask that you not hold doors open to admit strangers into the building. Please allow the staff to monitor the entrances as instructed.

**2) Parking:** Parking is permitted only in the synagogue parking lot. For the safety of our children and staff, cars parked in the Linden Ceremonial Courtyard or in fire lanes around the building are subject to ticketing and towing. If you are leaving your car to enter the building, please park it and secure it in the synagogue parking lot.

**3) For your own safety,** details about security will not be published in this manual. If you have any questions regarding our security efforts, please contact the Executive Director of the Synagogue for more information.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS OF THE BESSIE HERSHEY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

### PRIMARY GRADES

#### *Holding Down the Costs of Food While Promoting Social Interaction*

##### **Primary Snacks:**

In an effort to reduce the school budget and provide variety in the classroom, each student is asked to bring a kosher, non-perishable snack to school on the first day of each semester. Each Sunday morning, the classroom teacher will choose a snack for that day. This cost savings has allowed us to keep fee increases to a minimum. Children will enjoy sponsoring the morning's snack, too. Please be certain that the treat you send carries an appropriate kosher symbol. Please check the B'nai Jeshurun website for all approved symbols. Because of the increase in peanut allergies, please provide peanut-free snacks. The school office will assist you if you have any questions.

### Curriculum Overview

A complete list of the goals of the Primary Department are available in the School Office.

##### **Pre-Kindergarten:**

Students become familiar with the synagogue and the people who work here. They begin to explore Jewish prayer, holidays, and values through stories, games, art and music. Beginning Hebrew vocabulary is introduced through the oral Aleh Curriculum.

##### **Kindergarten:**

Our kindergartners begin to explore Bible stories and participate in a creation unit. Through the media of art and music as well as children's literature, they begin to see themselves as Jewish individuals within the synagogue. Beginning Hebrew vocabulary continues through the oral Aleh curriculum. They have major units in "Shabbat" and "kashrut."

**Parents with children in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten are invited to a monthly "Mishpacha Shelanu (Our Family)" program under the auspices of our Jewish Family Early Childhood Center.**

##### **First Grade:**

The Consecration experience introduces students to their "formal" experience in Torah study. As they begin to identify themselves within a Jewish family, they also study the families of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and his family. Beginning Hebrew vocabulary continues through the oral Aleh Curriculum.

**Consecration will be held on Sunday, October 19th for all first graders and those second graders new to our school.** Day school students in first grade are invited to join our consecrants for rehearsals and the ceremony. Please call the school Office during July and August for more information and to apply. Practices will be held during Sunday School sessions, beginning September 7. Details concerning Consecration will be mailed out during the latter part of the summer. This beautiful ceremony is a wonderful time for your student to gain a personal sense of involvement in our synagogue and our congregation. **A special family program, Consecration Round-Up will be held on Sunday morning, October 12, 2008. Please put these important dates on your calendar today!**

##### **Second Grade:**

We begin to connect Hebrew language to the land of Israel in the second grade. Students begin to get an appreciation of the culture, geography, and people of Israel. As they begin Alef-Bet letter recognition, they also increase their Hebrew vocabulary through the oral Aleh Curriculum. (In January, students attend an enhanced Hebrew language and Reading Readiness program on Tuesdays from 4:15-5:45 p.m. in addition to Sunday mornings.)

**Second Grade Midweek Hebrew begins in January.** Foremost to the list of skills that are taught in our curriculum is Hebrew decoding and reading. It is with this goal in mind that the Education Committee of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation has instituted an enhancement to our current Second Grade program with a Tuesday afternoon. Beginning in January, the time spent from 4:15-5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays will include a continuation of conversational Hebrew language, whole word decoding and music. The additional time has already proved effective in fluency and achievement for our Second Grade students. Early in the school year, you will receive additional information regarding this exciting extension of our Second Grade studies, so that in **January** all Second Grade students and their parents will be excited and ready to begin this outstanding opportunity. It will help your children ease happily into their years in Bet Limmud (see next page).

### **Hebrew Decoding and Language Class on Sunday Mornings**

**When: Each Sunday of School**  
          **Parent/Child - 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
          **Level 2-Adults - 11:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**  
**Where: Classroom A**  
**Teacher: Mrs. Judy Friedman**

Want to keep up with your children and grandchildren? Join other adults in learning the fundamentals of Hebrew decoding (sounding out the words) and pick up some vocabulary, too. Offered by popular request from religious school parents, the class will be as much fun as it is enriching! Level 2 students know the sounds of the “aleph-bet” and want to advance to the practice of Hebrew readings and prayers. This program is funded in part by Congregational Enrichment Funds of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.

Parent/Child Class is for third graders and their parents. In-class study will include Hebrew language and decoding and holidays. In addition there will be a homework assignment of not less than one hour to be completed before the next session, to review the Hebrew and provide for Bible Study. On Shabbat, students will study Jewish concepts using *Lessons from our Living Past*, and begin their study of the Shabbat morning service.

### **BET LIMMUD: OUR WEEKDAY PROGRAM-More than Just Hebrew School!**

**Bet Limmud** provides an innovative curriculum implemented in the areas of Hebrew decoding, conversational Hebrew, siddur Hebrew, Jewish literacy and holidays, Bible Study and the study and appreciation of Eretz Israel. The curriculum integrates the weekday and weekend components of our educational program, third grade through seventh grade. In partnership with the curriculum department of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, we have implemented problem-based learning (PBL), which has made our curriculum more interactive, and more progressive than the “typical afternoon program. It has been recognized nationally for its text-based, cooperative methods and innovative approach to learning.

**School Hours for Bet Limmud:** Bet Limmud is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Third grade through sixth grade will continue their program on Shabbat mornings. Seventh grade students will have classes on Tuesdays only for Bet Limmud and continue their program on Sunday mornings. To accommodate variations in schedules, a study hall will be set-up in the Dennis Library beginning at 3:30 p.m. and will be monitored by our Librarian, Raphael Simon. A list of electives to run between 5:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. will be sent to you once they are finalized, for students who cannot be picked up until 6:00 p.m.

### **TRANSPORTATION TO BET LIMMUD**

**CARPOOLS:** A reminder that the community does not provide transportation between the public and private schools and B’nai Jeshurun. If you need assistance in formulating a car pool for the upcoming school year, please contact Wendy or Shirley in the School Office, 831-6555. They will attempt to assist you with the names of families in your area, attending either our program or a program at a nearby supplementary school. Once you have finalized car pool arrangements, please alert our school office in writing regarding adults who have permission to transport your children to and from school, or use the enclosed transportation form. Please contact us if there are any changes in your car pool schedule.

**Orange School District transportation:** Because B’nai Jeshurun is housed within the Orange School District, **parents can arrange for their students to arrive at Bet Limmud by Orange bus. Arrangements must be made directly with Orange transportation by calling 831-8600 ext. 7632.** Please indicate arrival by bus on the enclosed transportation form. Orange Schools will not allow your children to ride the Religious School bus without your written authority.

**Special Solon Transportation** has been suspended because of decreasing ridership. Our thanks to B’nai Jeshurun Congregation for the generous support in this project for the past few years, and to the many parent volunteers who assisted us.

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR BET LIMMUD STUDENTS**

1. Please review the general instructions for information regarding school philosophy, responsibilities and standards on pages 13-15.
2. **Supplies and Textbooks:** Students will be expected to bring books, pencils, and all educational materials to class each session. We recommend that these materials be kept together in the book bag supplied by the Congregation, or one of your students’ own choosing. Teachers may request that books remain in the classroom if there is no homework expectation. This may assist your child in always having access to their own textbooks.

2a) **Snacks:** Snacks will be available for purchase each Tuesday and Thursday from 3:55 p.m. until 4:10 p.m., and may be eaten before school or during a break set by the classroom teacher. All profits from the purchase of snacks will be donated to *Tzedaka*.

2b) **Snacks from Home:** Students are permitted to bring their own snacks to the religious school during Bet Limmud hours, as long as they are in a sealed package and carry a bonafied label signifying the highest level of kashrut (kosher regulations). Fresh fruit, Little Debbie's snacks, Entenmann's, Austin's, and Lay's potato chips and Fritos (not Doritos) are safe choices. Symbols to look for include U encircled by the O or the K in a Kof. Please check the B'nai Jeshurun website for all approved symbols.. **(Items from fast food restaurants do not provide adequate kosher certification for consumption in our synagogue. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.)**

3. **DISMISSAL:** During the winter months, students will be dismissed in the dark. For your child's safety, when you bring your students to school, drive right up to the Bessie Hershey Religious School entrance at the door in the Berman-Lippa School Wing. When picking up children, please park your car and accompany your student across the driveway to the parking lot. Parking lot lights will be on after twilight.

For your child's safety, please review pick-up procedures, and be sure your child knows who to expect.

**For reasons of security, students who require an early dismissal must present a note from a parent or guardian to the teacher with dismissal instructions. Late arrivals and early departures require a check-in or check-out in the school office. Please assist us in assuring the safety of your children.**

## BET LIMMUD/ SHABBAT CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

**Parents are encouraged to join their children as they participate in Junior Congregation services on Shabbat at 10:50 a.m. in Halpern Hall. If you would like to honor your student(s) by sponsoring a Shabbat Kiddush, please contact the school office. A \$50 donation will help promote these socially fulfilling traditions and help the school defray the costs.**

### **Grades 3-7 (Alef-Hey) Bet Limmud:**

The curriculum at Bet Limmud covers the areas of Hebrew Language, T'fillah (prayer), Judaic Studies, Chagim (holidays) and music. Classes are held in grades 3-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and grade 7 on Tuesdays. The following is a general description of the content of each area of the curriculum:

- 1. Hebrew Language:** There is emphasis on learning Hebrew as a language and learning to decode the Alef-Bet. Additional reading practice is given with words students know, an off-shoot of the Hebrew language work. There is special emphasis on reading Hebrew stories based on the language curriculum in Bet (grade 4) and beyond. Beginning in third grade, all teachers are asked to use as much Hebrew as possible in the classroom, especially in classroom directions.
- 2. T'fillah (Prayer):** On the weekend, (Shabbat grades 3-6) students study prayers, learning to recite them in class as reinforcement to their prayer experience. Each grade focuses on the concepts expressed in specific prayers. Students will begin a more intensive decoding of the prayers that they have learned beginning in their Gimel (grade 5) year. Special grade-level or all-school T'fillot (prayer services) will be scheduled at holiday times. On Shabbat, students participate at 10:50 a.m. in a junior congregation service, including the *Shacharit* service, Torah service, and parts of *Musaf*. By the end of their Dalet year (grade 6), they have mastered all major elements of the Shabbat prayer experience.
- 3. Judaic Curriculum:** Midweek, our Problem-Based curriculum helps us to integrate broad areas of Judaic Studies. On the weekends, students study legends from our tradition (Alef), Partners with God and Prophets and Kings (Bet), the wisdom from the Rabbinic period (Gimel), the history and life of Israel (Dalet), and Modern Jewish Heroes and Holocaust studies (Hey).
- 4. Chagim (Holidays):** Based on the Melton Graded Curriculum and Behrman House Spiraled Curriculum, teachers teach and review the concepts and customs of the Jewish Holidays throughout the year. A schedule of in-school celebrations take place both at Bet Limmud as well as within the congregation.
- 5. Music:** The grades are combined for a 30 minute music session midweek, with special emphasis on songs that reinforce the language and holiday curricula. Students may choose to be in Zamir, our junior choir at this time.
- 6. National Bible Contest: A Special Educational Opportunity for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** We are very proud of the record that our B'nai Jeshurun Bible Contest Students set each year at the National Bible Contest. It is a recommended course of study for students who like to be challenged and have a sincere interest in the study of Jewish text. Plus-it's fun!

We are delighted that Mr. Koret will be returning in the fall. If you are enrolling for National Bible Contest, please indicate this on your registration form and select the JPS Chumash on your booklist for your student who is participating in this special program. **Because of the popularity of this program and limited space, we cannot guarantee placement in the class after the August 4, 2008 deadline.**

# The Gross High School

Committed to Educating our Teens to be Knowledgeable Jews!!!

We are excited to announce innovative changes to the Gross High School Program. The calendar includes mitzvot opportunities, interactive and experiential learning at each grade level. The block schedule allows for more time and opportunity for creative programming.

## Schedule of the Gross High School

9:00-9:30 a.m.	Breakfast in the Gross Atrium
9:35-10:30 a.m.	First Period
10:35-11:00 a.m.	T'filla (teen service)
11:05 a.m.-Noon	Second Period

Our doors and ears are always open. If you or your teenage student(s) have ideas for speakers or programs that enhance our curriculum, please share them with Barbara Rosenfeld, Executive Educator/High School Coordinator or our Education Director. We know that our families are wonderful resources and committed to the Bessie Hershey Religious School.

**High School Breakfast: Honor a student with a \$50 donation.** Parents and grandparents are encouraged to promote these socially fulfilling traditions by making donations to the school program to help defray these costs. These donations can be made in honor of your children, and we will publish them in the Tidings on a monthly basis. Please help to support these important traditions within our school.

## The High School Years In Curriculum

### **THE SEVENTH GRADE YEAR: ELIGIBILITY FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

For boys and girls to be eligible for Bar or Bat Mitzvah at B'nai Jeshurun, students must be enrolled in and attending our Religious School Program, including Bet Limmud, or a program approved by B'nai Jeshurun (such as a Jewish Day School) for 5 years, including the year of Bar or Bat Mitzvah. **It is our requirement and expectation that students will continue their religious school education beyond the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, to celebrate Confirmation and Graduation within our program.**

### **To Accommodate the Schedule of our Busy Seventh Graders:**

In order to be responsive to the busy schedules of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students the midweek class will be held on Tuesdays from 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **in addition to** Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Because of the amount of time required to prepare for National Bible Contest, there can be no flexibility in the Tuesday/Thursday schedule, and the class will continue to meet on both days. If you expect any interruption in your 7<sup>th</sup> graders schedule, please contact the Education Director at your earliest convenience.

## Curriculum Overview

Each grade will participate in various Mitzvah projects throughout the year.

### **Seventh Grade:**

The unthinkable past will not repeat itself because our 7<sup>th</sup> graders are educated, researching and learning about the Holocaust era and Jewish heroes. Heroes come in many different shapes, sizes and religions. This year is full of discussions, debates and lively class interactions about our history and the heroes who affect its outcome.

### **Eighth Grade:**

Outstanding 8<sup>th</sup> grade Shtetl Study: Going Back in Time: Students in the eighth grade will be learning about their history. They will also be studying about the lives of Jews who lived in a European shtetl around the late 1800's. This year of study culminates in the re-creation of an actual working shtetl.

**Ninth Grade:** We are instituting a new curriculum in ninth grade. This year will be filled with discussions and experiential learning opportunities. There is much to learn about Israel, our homeland, and we will be using a new Israel Interactive CD curriculum. There of course will be our famous Eat Your Way through Jewish Cleveland along with studying about Cleveland and what it takes to build a community.

**Confirmation** is held on the first day of Shavuot, Friday, May 29, 2009. Confirmation is a year filled with many exciting opportunities. This year there is a great deal of current events discussed in the form of Teenage Issues; they learn more about Conservative Judaism and they touch upon Comparative Religion. There is a class retreat and an opportunity to participate in Panim el Panim (Face to Face), Washington, DC trip (an opportunity to learn about public policy and political activism through interactive experiences

There may be Confirmation rehearsals this school year on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., starting in May. Parents and students will be notified during the second semester of a final rehearsal schedule. **Confirmands are required to attend TEN (10) Friday night Shabbat services, Saturday services, minyans, or holiday services as part of their responsibility.** More details regarding Confirmation will be distributed at Confirmation Orientation on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

### **Chai School:**

The coffee house Chai School format; an educational partnership for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Come each week for coffee, tea, cocoa and learning. This year is an interactive year of study around current events; Jewish Civics Initiative (JCI), a year-long service learning experience. The core of the program is based on *Jewish Civics: A Tikkun Olam/World Repair Manual* published by Panim el Panim and a Beit Midrash (house of study format of learning). The topics are varied and each theme has an interactive component. This class will meet on Sunday mornings, 9:30-11:45 (to accommodate students who have jobs beginning at noon!) There is an opportunity to participate in Panim el Panim (Face to Face), Washington, DC trip (an opportunity to learn about public policy and political activism through interactive experiences).

### **Akiva High School:**

Akiva High School is available for students from grades 8-12, meeting in the Siegal College of Judaic Studies building. This program is an outstanding way for teens to build advanced skills in Hebrew language and text. The program meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:50 p.m. In the past, B'nai Jeshurun has reimbursed a portion of the tuition at the end of the school year for all Akiva students who have attended 75% of the class time. Registration should be made directly with Akiva by calling 216-464-4050. **Please let us know in writing if your child will be attending Akiva High School.**

## **POLICIES of THE BESSIE HERSHEY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Parents can best prepare their children by sharing in the religious school experience. Throughout the school year you will be apprised of services, programs, and activities which all parents are encouraged to attend along with your children. We hope that you will accept these invitations as often as you can. Your eager participation is your child's best model of the importance of religious school to the entire family.

In addition, your compliance to the following policies will assist us in getting your child started in the right direction:

- 1. All financial obligations must be met before the first day of school.** If you need any assistance, please contact Paula Botkin in the financial office.
2. Books should be purchased before the first class as they will be used on the first day of school. If you are providing texts from prior years, please send them with your children on the first day.
3. Students will report to school with all necessary supplies including *kippot (yarmulkes)*, books and permission forms. High school students should come equipped with notepads and pencils.
- 4. The Weekend School begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at Noon. Bet Limmud begins at 4:15 p.m. and ends at 5:45 p.m.** Students who are to be dismissed early for any reason must present a note from a parent or guardian to the teacher. If car pool arrangements are to change, a note must similarly be presented. We encourage your family to enjoy the once-a-month Sunday Men's Club breakfast, but please arrive one-half hour before school begins so that your child can be in the classroom on time.
- 5. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late should report to the office for an admission pass so that your attendance for the day can be accurately reported.**
6. Our Primary teachers ask that, for your child's safety, a designated adult or older sibling come to the class for dismissal.

### **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

*Sundays and Weekdays: 831-6555, ext. 122*

*Shabbat: 831-6559, ext. 116 (Maintenance Office).*

*On Shabbat, messages will be delivered to  
the Education Director.*

## **STANDARDS**

In order to make the educational experience a pleasant one for students, teachers, and parents, the following standards have been adopted by the B'nai Jeshurun Education Committee.

**Attitude:** Students are expected to exhibit respect for the rights and dignity of fellow students, teachers and administrators, and the synagogue building. Teachers will return this respect in kind, to their students.

**Attendance:** Prompt and regular attendance of a minimum of 75% of class time is required for promotion. Students who fall short of this standard will be required to make up work over the summer before promotion into the next grade. Students who miss class due to a religious obligation in another synagogue, youth activities, or mitzvah activities will be granted an excused absence when a note of explanation is provided by a parent or guardian, and not to exceed six sessions.

**Effort:** Because education can only be successful with an adequate amount of effort, participation in class activities and completion of all assignments are expected of each student. The teachers or administrators will meet with parents and students who fail to conform to the standards of effort and achievement in order to assist each child in meeting this requirement.

**Dress:** Boys will wear a kippah (yarmulke) whenever they are in the synagogue, and are encouraged to bring their own. Shabbat school students are required to come dressed for services. Boys: dress shirt and tie with either a suit jacket or sweater. Girls: dress, jumper, or skirt. No jeans, shorts or athletic shoes, please. On weekdays and Sundays, students may attend in school clothes and play clothes that are neat and clean. No outrageous slogans, please!

## **EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

Should inclement weather necessitate cancellation of classes, closings will be announced on radio and television. In the event of a closing, staff, aided by room parents, will try to alert you by telephone.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES FOR CAMP AND ISRAEL

### CAMP/ISRAEL FINANCIAL AID GUIDELINES

Financial Aid is available to Congregants due to the generosity of many of our synagogue families. Priority will be given to families based on demonstrated need. Deadlines for winter camp and winter Israel program scholarship application are November 2. Deadlines for summer camp and summer Israel experiences are February 27. To apply for camp or Israel financial assistance, please contact the school office for an application form.

### CRITERIA FOR CAMP FINANCIAL AID

The following criteria were adopted by the Education Committee regarding camp financial assistance:

1. Campers eligible for assistance are defined as children of members in good standing who are enrolled in B'nai Jeshurun's Weekend School program and/or another approved educational program. Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students not enrolled in school must participate in an approved synagogue activity during the following school year to fulfill eligibility requirements. Assistance is available to students in grades 3 through 12 for residential camps.
2. Residential camps will receive priority funding over day camps due to limited available funding and a larger financial obligation for parents.
3. Appropriate camps eligible for assistance are defined as camps that maintain a level of Jewish observance and include Jewish content in their programming. Summer programs must run for a minimum of 3 weeks within the Conservative, Orthodox or Reform movements. Camps that meet the guidelines set by the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland will also meet B'nai Jeshurun's guidelines. Other camping experiences will be considered on an individual basis.
4. If funding is limited financial need may be the main factor in granting B'nai Jeshurun assistance.
5. Due to the generosity of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, students, students attending approved Jewish overnight camps for the FIRST TIME can apply for incentive funding by calling the School Office.
6. Families must be current in their financial obligations to B'nai Jeshurun and maintain membership.
7. Madav IX Camp Funds for Camp Ramah and other Denominational Camps  
Thanks to a generous donor in the community, first and second time campers to a denominational Camp, including Camp Ramah, the Conservative Jewish camp system, can apply to B'nai Jeshurun for funding that will be matched by the community. Please contact the School Office for the appropriate request form.

### **CRITERIA FOR ISRAEL FINANCIAL AID**

Students and parents accepting Israel assistance will sign a contract agreeing to these eligibility requirements. Financial need will be a key consideration in the decision to grant financial aid.

1. Students must be currently enrolled in B'nai Jeshurun's Weekend School program and/or Akiva High School. Assistance is available to students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.
2. If not a twelfth grader, the student must commit to continue in the religious school through high school graduation, and meet all requirements of attendance and performance.
3. The student must be a participant in an approved Israel student program. The program must be a minimum of a fourteen day stay in Israel. Length of the Israel program will be a factor in determining the amount of financial assistance.
4. The student must accept as an obligation to assist in promoting the Israel experience within the synagogue and community when requested.
5. In order to be eligible, application forms for a summer program must be submitted by the February 27 deadline. Forms for mid-year programs are due November 2. Forms are available in the School Office.
6. Families must be current in their financial obligations to B'nai Jeshurun and maintain membership.

### **POLICY FOR AKIVA HIGH SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT**

B'nai Jeshurun will grant a reimbursement to students who attend 75% or more of their Akiva classes during the year. A percentage of the Akiva fee will be refunded in June at the close of school after the verification of attendance. The percentage is determined each year based on the funding provided and the number of B'nai Jeshurun students enrolled at Akiva.