

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Religious School Handbook
For Chai Students**

**2011-2012 School Year
(5772)**

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah
1001 Finnegan Lane
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
(732) 297-0295 ext. 21**

Contacts:

Ann Ruth Nimberg, Director of Education
school@bnaitikvah.org

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff
rabbi@bnaitikvah.org

Cantor Bruce D. Rockman
cantor@bnaitikvah.org

Website: www.bnaitikvah.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Dear Chai School Parents,

The Congregation B'nai Tikvah Chai School Program has been redesigned to expose students in grades 8-12 too many different educational and social opportunities. The program allows the students to experience Judaism in many different ways. The courses, electives and special programs that will be offered are designed to give students options so they can decide how they wish to learn and express their Judaism.

The Chai School students will have an opportunity to be part of our successful Toranim Program. The Toranim tutor our religious school students, work with the teachers and provide assistance in the office on Sunday mornings.

The core courses for the Chai School will run for the entire academic year. Electives will change three times throughout the year - September to November, December to February and March to May. We are also incorporating trips into our Chai school program.

On Sunday mornings, Chai School students will be able to socialize with each other and their teachers during their Sunday morning breakfasts. We will also continue, the Chai School breakfasts with the Rabbi. You will find the dates for these breakfasts at the end of the handbook.

To facilitate these new programs, we have changed the times that Chai School meets each week. Chai School will begin at 10:00a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. The Toranim will be able to assist in the Religious School from 9:00a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

B'Shalom,

Ann Ruth Nimberg
Director of Education

Grade 8 and Grade 9 (Overview)

Students in these grades will have a core course that will meet each Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-11:05 a.m. The students will also choose electives each semester. The electives will meet from 11:25 a.m.-12:00 a.m.

Grade 8 and Grade 9 (Core Courses)

Jewish Law - Halacha is the collective body of Jewish law and includes biblical law (the 613 mitzvot), Talmudic and Rabbinic law, as well as customs and traditions. Through their study of Halacha, our students will be presented with cases, or a halachic problem, to evaluate. After weighing the arguments for and against, the students will work out their own verdicts. Following this exercise, they will study a selection from the Mishnah and apply the ethical principles extracted from the Mishnah to the set of facts they were given.

Israel - This course takes a broad look at Israel and students will be able to study many aspects of the Israeli experience. The students will be introduced to Israel's history; geography; politics; culture; entertainment; environment, and technology of modern Israel. The students will be able to debate how Israel has responded to many of its modern challenges. Through this study, we hope to develop our students' personal relationship with the Jewish homeland.

Grade 10 and Grade 11(Core Courses)

Judaism and World Religions -This course will study the many paths through which people search for G-d. What do Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity share with Judaism and how do they differ? The course will study the basic tenets of each of these religions and compare and contrast them with Judaism.

Jewish History-This course presents a clean and dynamic introduction to three thousand years of Jewish history. Enriched with numerous maps, charts, graphics, and photographic images, the course will provide a thought-provoking foundation for students who seek insight into the cultural, intellectual, and religious experience and evolution of the Jewish people.

ELECTIVES

1. **Arts-** Creating and learning about Jewish cultural artwork combining Judaica and a hands-on experience.
2. **Current Events-** A discussion of modern issues in today's society and world through the eyes of the media. The students will discuss topics of interest. Magazines such as Zim Zim will enhance the elective.
3. **Jewish Humor-** The students will see how Jewish humor has evolved throughout the years. They will use movies and books as well as discussions.
4. **Newspaper-** The students will develop their own newspaper. They will have interviews, puzzles, games, editorials and articles all having a Jewish content.
5. **Madrichim Training** – The Madrichim program will train students to be Hebrew tutors and teacher aides in our school. The students will keep records. They will be able to teach a lesson in the classroom. After the completion of classes, students will begin working in the Religious School as a tutor or teacher aide. Tutors and teacher aides will meet periodically with Mrs. Nimberg for supervision.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8TH GRADE & 9TH Grade

10:00-10:35

Jewish Law

10:35-11:05

Israel

11:05-11:25

Breakfast – donuts or bagels and juice

11:25 – 12:00

Elective

10th grade & 11th grade

10:00-10:35

Judaism and World Religions

10:35-11:05

Jewish History

11:05-11:25

Breakfast

11:25-12:00

Elective

Electives:

Jewish Humor

Newspaper

Creative Arts

Current Events

Madrachim

CHAI BREAKFAST WITH THE RABBI

October 23

December 18

February 12

March 18

April 22