




Rodeph Sholom
Religious School

Parent
Manual



2011-2012

5771-5772

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Welcome!



A Jewish education is one of the most precious gifts you will give your child. From Judaism they will gain faith to sustain them in times of trouble and they will find a community in which to celebrate life's successes. Judaism will add meaning and depth to their lives and root their actions in values.

The Religious School at Congregation Rodeph Sholom can help you give this great gift to your child. Students in our school build close relationships with gifted teachers, who act as mentors and role models. Our classroom time is filled with lively discussions, creative projects and engaging activities.

The core of our Judaica curriculum is built around the three pillars of Jewish life – *Torah*, *Avodah* (prayer) and *G'milut Hasadim* (deeds of loving kindness). Torah is the central text of Judaism—a place to learn about our ancestors and to guide our actions. Prayer is the heart of Jewish life, making up the rhythms and cycles of daily, weekly, holiday and life-cycle observance. *G'milut Hasadim* is the actualization of Jewish values—the way we interact with the world and leave it a better place.

Our Hebrew program not only prepares students for B'nai Mitzvah, but it is also the foundation for a lifetime of Jewish practice. Students learn to connect with prayers and seek meaning in Jewish practice.

Students pray regularly in services that allow them both to have spiritual experiences and to practice their Hebrew fluency.

Our school could not be the warm, remarkable place that it is without our dedicated parents. You are a role model to your children about how Jewish life is lived. Your participation in school activities and your feedback on your family's experience here helps us to continually refine our program. Open communication is a cornerstone to the Religious School's strength. We look forward to getting to know your family and to working with you throughout the upcoming school year.

ברוכים הבאים

Philosophy & Goals

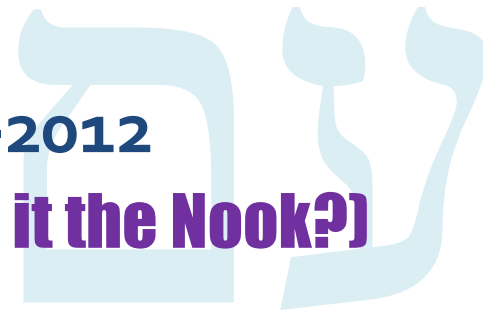
Our Religious School fosters the deepening of knowledge and the Jewish experience for our Kindergarten-12th grade students in order to strengthen faith in God, love of Torah, and identification with the Jewish people through involvement in the synagogue and participation in Jewish life. We believe that Judaism contains answers to the challenges and questions confronting our children every day and that only a knowledgeable Jew can successfully discover these answers.

Linked to these goals, the programs of our Religious School utilize experiential learning activities, encouraging and enabling children, to ...

- Establish **COMMUNITY** among themselves, the families and the synagogue. This will enable our students to feel comfortable with each other and other families whenever they are together and to create a sense of belonging to the group and to the synagogue.
- Build a strong **JEWISH IDENTITY** in the minds of and hearts of our students which complements their identities as Americans and has relevance in their lives today.
- Put what is taught into practice through a well-defined **SOCIAL ACTION** program. By providing vivid experiences in school-wide and/or grade-wide programs which involve the students in doing something relevant and meaningful, the students and their families will have opportunities to internalize important **JEWISH VALUES**.
- Develop a meaningful **CURRICULUM** which is integrated and inter-related to the lives of our students. It will establish a common base of **JEWISH KNOWLEDGE**, which emphasizes **GOD, TORAH, ISRAEL** and **HEBREW** and will attempt to empower both students and their families with the skills necessary to function Jewishly at home and in synagogue comfortably.
- Establish a vibrant **STUDENT-TEACHER** program which will train our older students to work with teachers and younger children in order to create future leadership for the community and the synagogue and develop positive **ROLE MODELS** for our younger students.
- Continue to establish excellent **FAMILY EDUCATION** programs which view the entire family as the student. Families will experience, learn, celebrate, and work together as often as possible. These experiences are created with the relationship of **HOME-SCHOOL-SYNAGOGUE-PARTNERSHIP** in mind.
- Enable our students to understand and appreciate all branches within the family of Judaism, from the perspective of an enlightened and modern **REFORM JEW**.

Education Theme for 2011-2012

Am Hasefer - People of the Book (or is it the Nook?)



Every year in Religious School we chose a theme, one that serves as the lens to view our curriculum, programs and experiences through. This year we chose the theme "People of the Book". Why to choose this theme if the book as many fear is all but disappearing?

I love books, I devour them. I especially like to read when I am on vacation and late at night. I used to run out of books while on vacation and kept my husband up at night with the noise of flipping pages, but not anymore! I started by using a kindle and have since upgraded to an iPad. I downloaded enough books to last me through three vacations and do not keep my husband up by flipping pages. Am I still then a card-carrying member of *Am haSefer*, if I don't flip the physical pages anymore?

The truth is that we were the people of the book long before the appearance of paper and the printing press. We became a people with the creation of the book of books – the Tanach (Bible). The ten commandments were carved in stone, the Torah was and still is written on animal skin in the form of a scroll, so the theme has little to do with the material aspect of books.

This year will be a celebration of literacy, of the written word encouraging our children to write and create stories, and books (with a Jewish twist of course), to write a class blog, and read Jewish literature from our most famous Jewish authors.

Whether we flip pages, read from a scroll, stone tablets or a NOOK, we still are and always will be AM HASEFER – THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK.

Wishing all of us a Shana Tovah, a year of health, happiness, safety, curiosity, learning and reading!

Tirza Arad



Jewish Life at School



Tefillah (Prayer)-Students put their learning into practice at our services, which are held weekly in the Schnurmacher Chapel on the 6th floor for our 2nd through 12th grade students. Students participate in age-appropriate prayer experiences meant to develop an inner spiritual life. The services also allow students to develop relationships with the Rodeph Sholom clergy, which we hope will continue to grow throughout their lives. In Kindergarten and 1st grade the children participate in a Tefillah experience in class at the beginning of each session.

Tzedakah (Righteous Giving)-Collecting tzedakah from students at the beginning of each class is a time-honored Religious School tradition and a wonderful way to begin Jewish learning. Please send your child to school with some change each day. At the beginning and end of each year the students will have the chance to choose the Jewish organizations to which they wish to make a donation of tzedakah. Participating in this important mitzvah instills Jewish values in our students and encourages them to think of others.

Music- Music is in many ways the soul of Jewish practice. Our capable song leaders work with students on Israeli, holiday and prayer music. Students have opportunities to learn music specifically related to their curriculum. Additionally, students are invited to bring their own instruments and participate in the Tefillah band during weekly services.

Community-We are not just a school, but we are also a community of students, parents, faculty and administration working together as part of Congregation Rodeph Sholom. Our goal is for every child to feel welcome and comfortable. Families are encouraged to see the Religious School as just one part of their involvement in the Rodeph Sholom community.

Fieldtrips/ Special Programs- Every year some of our students go on field trips to different Jewish programs, exhibits, performances, etc. that are offered in the community. We also invite programs to come in such as the Matzah and Shofar factories, Avodah Arts, etc.

Kif Kef-Before School Program- Kif Kef is a fun, transitional program for Kindergarten-sixth grade students from 3:00-4:00pm on the days when they attend Religious School. Students may choose from a variety of activities to do during this time such as work on their homework, learn about Israel, read Jewish books, participate in mitzvah projects, discuss current events, watch Jewish videos, create interesting art projects, eat snacks, and much more. Complimentary snack is provided for students in K-6 and 2th-6th grade students have the option of purchasing inexpensive snacks.

This program is available for all K-6 students who arrive at Religious School before 3:45pm and is free of cost

Hours:

Office Personnel, Location and Hours

Our school runs smoothly with the help of Kelley Braverman, the Religious School Administrative Assistant. She is happy to help you in any way possible. If at any time you have questions or concerns, feel free to call the office at 646-454-3085. The Religious School office is located on the 5th floor of the 83rd Street Synagogue building.

Our office hours when Religious School is in session are:

Monday - 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday - 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday-10:00a.m.—2:00p.m.

Saturday and Sunday- Closed

During vacation breaks when Religious school is not in session, the office is open from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Education Administrators:

Director

Tirza Arad

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Rodeph Sholom

In order for our families to have a meaningful Bar/Bar Mitzvah experience it is important that they are part of our community for a number of years leading up to this milestone. We want to have time to get to know your family and for you to get to know us...our clergy, services, educators and programs. We also view the Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a family experience, one during which families need the time to learn together, reflect, and communicate open and honestly with each other. Through our six Family B'nei Mitzvah program sessions (FBMP) families are afforded this opportunity.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Eligibility

Students are required to complete a minimum of three consecutive years of Religious School beginning in 4th grade immediately prior to and including the entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. Families whose children enter the Religious School after the fourth grade must make special arrangements with the Religious School Director to meet grade-level requirements and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date may be delayed. Students who have attended another accredited Religious School prior to arriving at Congregation Rodeph Sholom are eligible for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, provided all requirements have been satisfied. Students leaving the Rodeph Sholom Day School before the date of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah must join the Religious School program. Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations are handled through the Cantor's office.

Any questions relating to Bar/Bat Mitzvah should be directed to the Cantors' Assistant at **646-454-3039**.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates are coordinated by Gail Becker at **646-454-3022**.

Students must be enrolled in a Congregation Rodeph Sholom School to keep their Bar/Bat Mitzvah date on the calendar.

FAMILY B'NEI MITZVAH PROGRAM (FBMP)

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah year is one of anticipation, anxiousness and excitement. Both the student and the family members devote a considerable amount of time and energy in preparation for this ceremony.

We are excited for our families to participate in this program that represents an essential part of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process. The program is designed to help families deepen their understanding of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience.

This six session program focuses on the questions, "Why are we here?", "Who am I?", "Where am I going?" and topics such as God, prayer, ritual, Tikkun Olam, community and responsibility, etc.

Through interactive, engaging text study and experiences, families will explore how this milestone impacts the family before, during and after the actual ceremony. As part of this program, families will meet with one of the rabbis to study their Torah portion and will also complete a mitzvah project serving both Rodeph Sholom and the larger community.

STUDENT AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

"Make your study of Torah a fixed habit,

say little and do much and greet all people with a cheerful smile"

-Shammai

Parent/Student Visits

Parent Visitation Parents are encouraged to visit our classrooms at any time. All you need to do is call our religious school office to let us know that you are coming.

Student Visitation For security reasons we cannot allow children who are not registered in our Religious school to visit in our classrooms. Guests who do arrive at our school will be asked to be picked up immediately.

Regular attendance

Your child's regular attendance is the largest indicator of his or her success in Religious School. We understand the time constraints that busy families face, however we ask that you make school a priority. The time we are given to teach is so limited, that we must ask you to be certain that your child attends regularly. If a student is absent for more than 25% of all classes in a year, that year will not be able to count toward the requirement of completing three full years of school prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Tardiness

Arriving late keeps your child back in his/her studies and disturbs the class and the teacher as well. Please make every effort that your child gets to class on time.

Dress code

Students will be expected to **dress appropriately** for Religious School. Good taste, with the consideration that they are entering a Religious Institution - their synagogue - is vital for the promotion of respect and decorum.

Student behavior

The attitude that your child brings to Religious School is of consummate importance. Respect for fellow students, as well as teachers, is a central element in the educational process in our Religious School. Disruptive behavior and lack of respect will not be tolerated.

Respect for property

should be an unspoken understanding of all of our students. Although we do not expect such occurrences to take place, parents will be responsible for any damage done to the synagogue by their children.

All books and supplies

are the property of the Religious School. Replacement of lost or damaged books will be the responsibility of the students.

No food or drink

will be allowed into the classroom areas. Snacks are provided to students before school in Kif-Kef (before school program) and are provided at the teacher's request.

Remember—**We are a NUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL!!!**

(No nuts or nut products are served or may be brought to school.)

The safety of your children

during Religious School dismissal is of utmost importance to us. If a student needs to leave before regular dismissal time, a parent or caregiver needs to sign him/her out in the Religious School office. No student will be permitted to leave the premises on his/her own before dismissal.

Also, students arriving early to school are expected to enter the building and proceed straight to the supervised "Before School"-Kif-Kef location.

Homework

Because we have so much to teach and so little time with your children, we may ask students to complete work at home. Often, these "homework" assignments are family discussions for you and your child to share. For students learning Hebrew, practice between Religious School sessions is crucial for their success. Ask your child to read to you, even if you can't correct him or her it will reinforce learning. Alternatively you can go to the website www.behrmanhouse.com/SUNowRead to hear letters and prayers to read along with.

Curriculum Outline

Jewish Learning



The Primary Years

At this age, it is important that students feel nurtured and comfortable as they learn that being a Jew means they are part of a Jewish family, that we are all part of the greater Jewish community and that they are an integral part of our synagogue. Through the use of a variety of educational strategies, early elementary students are introduced to: Jewish holidays, Shabbat, Torah, Prayer and *G'milut Hasadim* (deeds of loving kindness).

NEVATIM Family Pre-K Program (Sprouts): See p.19 for details.

NEVATIM Family Kindergarten Program : See p.19 for details.

NITZANIM (Flower Buds): KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE The curriculum in Kindergarten and first grade centers around the Jewish holidays, Bible stories, Jewish symbols, exposure to blessings, basic Hebrew vocabulary and the recognition and identification of the Alef-Bet. Students engage with the material through interactive Jewish learning centers targeting multiple learning styles. Hebrew language is taught orally and through movement. Students will also have the opportunity to bring home the class Shabbat, Ivrit (Hebrew) and Bible activity bags!

Kindergarten: The **Torah Alive! Early Childhood Torah Curriculum** truly brings the Torah alive for the Kindergarten students by re-creating the stories of Genesis and Exodus through dramatization, conversation and a community artistic description of them throughout the year culminating in receiving a photo version of their own class Torah at a special end of the year ceremony. **Let's Discover the Alef Bet** booklets are used to introduce the Alef Bet. The **"Drops of Honey"** activity booklets focus on Holidays and are sent home for family learning.

1st Grade: **Teach Me Torah** is used to introduce 1st graders to the Prophets. First grade will "tour" Israel throughout the year with **Let's Discover Israel** booklets. First graders will explore further the Alef-Bet through the **Letter Factory** a PHD primer. During the second semester, the students begin a systematic decoding program called PHD(Phonetic Hebrew Decoding). **BJL Beginning** activity booklets focus on Holidays and are sent home for family learning.

SECOND GRADE: Megalim I (Discoverers) The emphasis in the second grade is on Torah. Through pictures, arts and crafts and stories, the children will study selections from the Torah and will begin to learn the various values taught by the Biblical personalities. Bible is taught on a more significant level than in the previous years. Text: **Explorer's Bible: Volume 1: From Creation to the Exodus.** A more conceptual approach than in earlier years is used in order to teach about the Jewish holidays. Text: **Holy Days, Holy Ways.** Israel will be studied as it connects to the other topics in the curriculum.

The Hebrew language is taught through the systematic decoding program called PHD (Phonetic Hebrew Decoding) and the development of basic vocabulary.

THIRD GRADE: Megalim II (Discoverers) The students study the Prophets and Writings and through these books begin their historical and ethical study of Judaism. Text: **The Explorer's Bible, Volume 2: From Sinai to the Nation of Israel.** Students also begin to learn about the special connection Jews have to Israel by learning about its cities and people. The Jewish holidays are studied through the use of the text entitled **My Jewish Year,** as well as through projects, in class celebrations (occasionally with parents), and discussions.

The Hebrew language is taught through a systematic decoding program called PHD (Phonetic Hebrew decoding) and the development of basic vocabulary.



The Intermediate Years

In 4th through 6th Grade students engage in the study of the prayers used in the synagogue and establish fluency in Hebrew. These skills will enrich their synagogue experience and further develop their connection to the Jewish people through prayer. These skills are also a pre-requisite for students to begin the Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation program. In-depth studies of Torah and Prophets, Jewish holidays, customs and ceremonies complete the program. Jewish history and the study of the modern state of Israel and Jewish values are also a central part of the curriculum.



FOURTH GRADE Judaic Studies centers around exploring the concepts and rituals of the Jewish holidays. Students will study the Jewish folklore, texts, laws, customs, and rituals of the holidays as they reflect on their own holiday experiences and discover ways in which they can enrich their celebrations. Students will also learn how different Jews observe the holidays, especially focusing on observance in Israel. Text: **The Book of the Jewish Year**. Studying Torah with commentary is introduced and students are asked to take a “closer look” at the Book of Genesis as they develop a new relationship with the Torah. Text: **Exploring the Torah**. As fourth graders, students are now becoming better able to have an overall view of Jewish life. The important role of the Synagogue is also stressed during this year. **Students will also have the opportunity to take home the class Shabbat activity bag.**

FIFTH GRADE By fifth grade, students are better able to grasp a sense of historical perspective. They study the Jewish people’s journey from a small nation in Israel to an international community in the 19th century, discovering how in every century the Jews have adapted to changing times with creativity and a sense of purpose while holding fast to our core beliefs. Text: **The History of the Jewish People: Volume 1**. Bible studies are continued as the students explore the Exodus from Egypt with the use of the text: **Exploring the Torah**. The land and people of Israel come alive through our special Yachdav program, pairing our students with students from a school in Israel.

SIXTH GRADE By the sixth grade, the students’ concepts of past, present, and future have matured to the point that our study of Jewish History can continue on into the study of Zionism, the Holocaust, and the subsequent establishment of the State of Israel. Text: **Holocaust: History of Courage and Resistance** and **The History of the Jewish People: Volume 2**, documentary films from the **Simon Wiesenthal Center, Moriah Films and Maus I**. Bible study continues focusing on the journey of the Israelites through the desert toward the Promised Land learning the major stories from the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy: **Exploring the Torah**. Students will rotate to different teachers for each Jewish Studies unit and will create hands-on projects to depict their knowledge and understanding of each time period. Parents will be invited in a few times during the year to view the projects as students present what they’ve learned.

Hebrew Program



The primary goal of the Hebrew program at the Rodeph Sholom Religious School is to foster an understanding of the place of Hebrew in the Jewish tradition and to cherish and use this Holy Language of the Jewish people during synagogue worship and home celebrations. Our Hebrew program is to help students gain fluency in reading and understanding the prayer book and to instill in all our students a feeling for the beauty of the Hebrew language and the central part it has played in the continuity of Jewish history, religion and culture.

Oral Hebrew and Letter Recognition Students will begin their Hebrew program on an informal basis in Kindergarten and First grade. Along with Hebrew letter recognition through games and activities, equal attention is given to oral language skills. The children will learn Hebrew words that are a natural part of their environment, through song, dance, arts & crafts etc.

PHD-Phonetic Hebrew Decoding In the second semester of first grade we begin to develop good reading skills and habits. The PHD curriculum is divided into a series of 12 units in which letters and vowels are introduced sequentially and in increasing degrees of complexity according to their shape and sound. In the first 6 packets, PHD teaches the alphabet, how letters are written, and how they sound. As students read more accurately and their skills become more fluid, the remainder of the vowels is introduced in the final 6 packets. This approach enables students to phonetically read almost any text in either classical or modern Hebrew. Each PHD unit introduces letters and vowels along with games, such as letter-searches, word-searches, and word-matches to reinforce the material and enhance the student's learning experience.

T'fillah Contract Program Formal Hebrew instruction on a twice-weekly basis begins in the fourth grade, continuing through their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. Once students have completed the PHD program mentioned above, they will begin the Hebrew Contract Program, an individualized program that teaches students a general understanding of the Shabbat and holiday prayers and blessings and how to read them fluently. By the end of sixth grade students will have completed the three contract books. Part of the program includes having parents listen to students read certain prayers each week. We look forward to your support and encouragement of this program. In conjunction with the Hebrew Contract Program, students learn more about the meaning and function of the prayers through weekly interactive and creative tefillah lessons planned by the teachers. *(Students who enter the school after second grade and who need to learn Hebrew will begin with the PHD program listed above and will work at their own pace as they progress with their Hebrew studies).*

Ulpan –Modern Hebrew Religious School students who have successfully completed the Hebrew Contract program will enter our Ulpan class for the study of **Modern Hebrew**. Students transferring from the Rodeph Sholom School (Day School) who have achieved an advanced level of Hebrew will also be placed in this class.

Make-Up Hebrew/ Hebrew Enrichment we are offering Hebrew make-up sessions for those students who miss Religious School for various reasons for limited times only. Classes will be held on **Tuesdays from 3:30 5:00PM**. These classes can be attended only through special arrangement with the director. Additionally, students who would like extra time to work though the Hebrew program may choose to attend during this time.

LEWIS STEINMAN CENTER

Educating Jewish Children with Special Needs

The Rodeph Sholom Religious School is in the unique position to offer Jewish education in a synagogue school for students with special needs through the Lewis Steinman Special Education Center. This innovative program is made possible through the generous contributions of the Steinman family and the Rudin Foundation in memory of Lewis Steinman.

We offer an inclusion program for our younger students. Experts believe that young students are best served within the regular learning community. Therefore trained faculty work with the Kindergarten through third grade students who need individualized attention in the classroom setting. For fourth through seventh graders, we have learning specialists available to work with the students on a small group basis. We are proud that we can provide all students with a quality Jewish education

Middle School Year



7th Grade: Finding Your Place in the Community

The Bar/Bat ceremony is a new beginning! This program is not about the ceremony, - or even the party- it is about the rest of your life as a responsible and self-motivated Jew. Students sign up for small Jewish Studies groups; previous topics include Israel, Spirituality, Jewish Life Cycle through Arts, Synagogue Documentary project, and a Family Genealogy project. Students also continue preparing to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah during a weekly Hebrew class. This is a great opportunity to get extra practice with blessings and rituals, and after Bar/Bat Mitzvah are invited to join a Modern Hebrew class. All 7th grade students are eligible for the Post-B'nei Mitzvah Paid Internship Program, described on the following page.

The Post B'nei Mitzvah Paid Internship Program

7th & 8th graders can earn money through a Manhigut and Tikkun Olam (Leadership and Service) Internship with Rodeph Sholom!

What You Have To Do:

- ➔ Complete the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process
- ➔ Be enrolled in and attending Religious School at least 80% of Tuesday nights
- ➔ Participate in the Tuesday night Internship chug (club)
- ➔ Do 20 hours of service at Rodeph Sholom

What You Earn:

- ➔ Stipend of \$300 per 20 hours
- ➔ Clergy letter of recommendation
- ➔ 25% of pay received after 10 hours with remainder paid after 20 hours
- ➔ 8th graders can earn \$500 for a 2nd set of hours

Contact Jay Rapoport at youth@crsnyc.org or 646-454-3083 for more info!

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

8th – 12th Grade

Our Tuesday night High School Program is an exciting program that is providing our teens with a solid foundation of Jewish information (**Midrasha**) necessary to help them make informed Jewish decisions through enjoyable, experiential informal Jewish Education.

Ma'amad (creative prayer experience) is where our teens are empowered to connect with the prayers of the service through varied modalities.

An important part of the High School program and our senior Youth Group (CRuSTY) is the creation of a community (**Kehillah Kedoshah**) in which all Rodeph Sholom teens can feel a sense of belonging, friendship, safety and purpose. Every week students have the opportunity to connect with their rabbis, cantors and educators. During dinner there is ample opportunity to socialize with friends and staff.



Commitment to **Tikkun Olam**-repairing the world through community service, speaking, lobbying, and rallying on current domestic or foreign political issues is a central part of the High School years and our students are committed to learning, caring and making a difference in the world.

Our program provides our teens with a Leadership Development program (**Manhigut**) that inspires them to become the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. Under the continuous encouragement of our clergy, educators and Youth advisor they acquire leadership skills through peer-led programming, serving on committees, and CRuSTY board and fundraising events

10th Grade Confirmation

Confirmation is a ceremony that was originated by the Reform movement for students in the 10th grade of Religious School. It is tied to the holiday of Shavuot, which is dedicated to Torah and Torah study. The year culminates in a beautiful ceremony at Erev Shavuot services offering the confirmands the opportunity to publicly affirm their loyalty to Judaism, the Torah, and the Jewish people. Many students reflect that this ceremony is even more meaningful to them than Bar/Bat Mitzvah as it was their own choice to reach this milestone. There are multiple paths toward Confirmation and each path has a different focus. There is a path of weekly study of topics such as God, Torah, and Israel as part of the Tuesday night program, there is a social justice path that includes completing community service hours, there is a Madrichim leadership path in which students serve as Assistant teachers in Religious School classes, and there is an Israel path for students who participate in the P2K program with students from Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem.

Madrichim

(Teacher & Youth Group Assistant Program for Post B'nei Mitzvah Students)

Be an assistant in the Religious School or Junior Youth Groups and earn money or community service hours. You will make a positive impact on Jewish children; the experience will make you a stronger candidate for summer jobs and will stand out on college applications.

For more in depth information on our Teen Programs please ask for a brochure of our specific teen programs.

Conclaves/Weekend Retreats

A very important part of our students' Jewish education is learning about Judaism in an informal environment that allows them to establish closer relationships with staff and peers. Students from the fifth through twelfth grades attend various conclaves in order to enrich what they are learning in their classes.

Fifth, sixth and seventh graders attend Conclaves, special retreats where students and staff participate in a wide variety of activities based around a given theme related to their regular curriculum. The weekends include Friday night, Shabbat morning, and Havdalah services, social activities and exploration of a theme by participation in large and small group activities and art projects. In addition, there are outdoor facilities for athletics. Singing, supervised social time, and a movie are also part of the weekend experience.

Eighth Graders visit New Orleans where they celebrate Shabbat, meet with local Jewish teens and engage in social action projects throughout their trip.



Ninth graders attend a special seminar at the **Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C.** Students learn about prominent political issues and Reform Judaism's position regarding these issues. Then students have the exciting opportunity to lobby Senators and House Representatives according to their beliefs and what they learned during the seminar.

Tenth through twelfth graders are also invited to attend the **RAC trip** mentioned above and also attend **Senior Youth Group weekend retreats** as described on the following page.



Partnership 2000-Jerusalem-New York

This program is for our 10th-12th grade students. The participants will join in study and action with the High School Youth of Kol HaNeshama, our sister reform congregation in Jerusalem. The two groups will learn from each other about the different needs of each community and engage in Tikkun Olam- "repairing the world" projects. Working together the youths themselves will discuss via e-mails, web forums, phone calls, and video conferences the issues concerning each community and the project will culminate in a face-to-face meeting in Jerusalem and New York. This will allow them to create a special bond and enable our youth on both sides of the ocean to enrich their lives and the life of their community. This program is funded by the UJA-Federation-Partnership 2000 program and includes funding for our youth to visit Jerusalem. (Approx.10 days).

Youth Program



Through informal education our youth will have many opportunities to interact and engage in social and educational programs. Youth groups provide a natural setting for learning about Judaism in new, exciting and fun ways. We have five youth groups.

CRuSTY 2 2nd grade

CRuSTY 2 is aimed at welcoming 2nd graders and their families to the youth group atmosphere at Rodeph Sholom. With four activities a year that explore Jewish holidays and New York City, CRuSTY 2 is a great way to get involved in the youth program and the community.

CRuSTY 34 3rd/4th grades

CRuSTY 34's amazing activities bring 3rd and 4th graders together for holiday parties, trips around NYC and of course Camp CRuSTY, our overnight shul-in, where kids take part in different social mixers and activities to get to know each other better and to learn about their Jewish identity in an informal environment.

CRuSTY 56 5th/6th grades

From raising money for charity through a skate-a-thon, to attending a Yankees game, and even dancing at the dance, the CRuSTY 56 schedule strengthens our 5th and 6th graders' connection to each other, Rodeph Sholom and the Jewish community.

CRuSTY 78 7th/8th grades

CRuSTY 78's activities are geared toward having a great time while giving 7th and 8th graders the tools to become the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. Students help plan and prepare the events and help to recruit new members. The highlights of the year are joining with the high school youth group for special events, social action projects, and leading others in the Camp Conclave.

CRuSTY 9th – 12th Grades

Congregation Rodeph Sholom Senior Youth Group

With the guidance of our Youth Director and Clergy, this self-governing community allows Jewish high school students to join together in social action events to help the community, in educational programs to expand their knowledge as developing Jewish teens, and in fun events and outings geared toward simply having a good time together! This youth group empowers our teens to take on leadership positions and explore their Jewish identities together. Their enthusiasm and passion inspire the entire congregation each and every year.

CRuSTY's educational, social, spiritual, and social justice programs include: Beit Café, our annual talent show and silent auction; Purim Carnival, put on by CRuSTY but open to kids of all ages; events with the organization Midnight Run, Shul-Ins; Friday Night Lounge Nights; a CRuSTY-led Erev Shabbat service; Fall and Spring Conclaves; a trip to the Religious Action Center in Washington D.C.; SNL, an all-night adventure, and other fun-filled activities throughout the year.

For more information, please contact Hannah Ellenson, Youth Director at crusty@crsnyc.org or (646) 454-3082.

Family Study

Rodeph Sholom is committed to supporting families on their Jewish journey. Judaism enriches our lives with learning, ritual, values, community, connections with Israel, our heritage and so much more. At Rodeph Sholom families have the opportunity to study, do mitzvah work, and celebrate Shabbat and holidays together. Children who see their parents attending classes and/ or participating in Jewish experiences recognize the value and importance of Judaism and Jewish living to the entire family.



Family Shabbat Retreat

Families embark on a Jewish family vacation at an offsite location for an amazing opportunity to get away, celebrate Shabbat, learn and have fun together as a community. The retreat combines Shabbat programming (services on Friday night and Saturday morning, Shabbat dinner, Havdalah), family programs, adult only and children/teen only programs that range in type of activities throughout the weekend. Some being structured activities as well as time for family swim and game/free time.

NEVATIM Family Pre-K Program (Sprouts)

A Pre-K (4 year old) parent(s)-child program that invites families to be Jewish explorers as they experience Judaism through story, song, movement, drama and more!! Families learn together, celebrate together and enjoy a pizza dinner together as a community.



NEVATIM Family Kindergarten Program



A Kindergarten parent-child program where you and your child will experience and discover the rich tradition of Jewish storytelling. We will weave a journey through biblical, rabbinic, modern and our own family stories as it connects to the rhythm of the Jewish calendar and values through story, song, movement, drama and more!! We will also enjoy dinner together.

Michapacha Yachad (Kindergarten – 6th Grade)

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Students and parents participate two times during the year in a family class that engages all learners through text study, relevant discussions and activities.

6th Grade

Parents will be invited in 2-3 times during the year to view the projects that the 6th grade students create around their units of study.

THE **JET** PROGRAM (JEWISH EXPERIENCES TOGETHER)

To help bring the joy of Judaism home and to strengthen the school-home connection we offer a program called JET-Jewish Experiences Together to Kindergarten-third grade families. JET is a set of simple, “do-able” activities for parents and children to experience together. Every other week families receive an activity to be enjoyed. After a family does an activity together, they e-mail it to Marcia Stein. Families who participate in this program receive a special certificate at the end of the year in addition to a Family Booklet of all the responses. This program allows parents to become full partners in their child’s Jewish education.

11th & 12th Grade

Packing for College: Where does Judaism Fit?

One of the most exciting and anxiety-producing times in a family's life cycle is when a teen prepares to transition from life as a high school student to life on a college campus. This program helps answer questions such as:

- Not sure which college to choose?
- Concerned about Jewish life on campus?
- What will saying goodbye be like?

Shabbat Programs

"Do not separate yourself from the community..." Hillel



Shabbat B'Shir ("Shabbat in Song")—On the second Friday of every month, we celebrate Shabbat with a song-filled worship service for adults and children of all ages. Services begin at 6:00pm.

Shabbat Morning for All Ages—Sponsored by the Geduld Family

Shabbat is a time for children! Each program encourages the children to participate with their families in a Shabbat experience filled with song, prayer and stories – the perfect way to celebrate Shabbat! *(Note: Shabbat morning children's experiences alternate on Saturday mornings and occur only when school is in session. Please check the the website calendar for more information.)*

- **Sing Along Shabbat** for children ages 0–7. Come for songs and stories as we celebrate Shabbat! (9:30 am - 10:00 am)
- **Shabbat B'Yachad ("Shabbat Together")** for children ages 0–7. Lively prayer, Torah reading, family activities, and a light lunch! (9:30 am-10:30 am)
- **Junior Congregation** for children ages 8–12. Where our youth become leaders – sing, celebrate, and even learn to chant from the Torah! (10:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Young Families Group—Geared to children age 5 and under, this group hosts Shabbat family dinners, brunches, and Jewish holiday programs.

BEHAVIOR

Each teacher will state his/her discipline policy to the class. If a student chooses to display unacceptable behavior, he/she will be sent to the Director for a conference. If unacceptable behavior occurs again, the parent(s) will be informed and asked for cooperation in solving the problem. *Inappropriate behavior shall be defined as any behavior that disrupts either the teacher's right to teach or any other student's right to learn.*

EVALUATION

We send home written evaluations twice a year for Jewish Studies and four times a year for Hebrew. These evaluation letters review your child's attendance, classroom participation, behavior, socialization, mastery of subject matter and ability to relate material to their lives. However, if a teacher is concerned about a student in any of these areas, he or she may request a parent conference. Parents should also feel free to contact a teacher or the Director at any time to discuss a child's progress.

COMMUNICATION

We encourage an open flow of communication between the home and the school. Toward the beginning of each school year you will receive a roster of the students in your child's class as well as contact information for your child's teacher. Feel free to contact your child's teacher, as well as the school Director, if you have any questions about your child's education. You can expect to get a weekly e-mail update from your child's teacher detailing class projects, what children are learning and upcoming events. Families without e-mail can request to receive these updates by fax or regular mail. We also send a bi-weekly e-blast with pictures, information about upcoming events, and links to Jewish activities for families.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND ROOM PARENTS

There are several ways parents can become more involved in the school. Please refer to the Parent Association sign-up sheet to view volunteer opportunities. Another way to get involved is to join the Religious School Committee which meets bimonthly to discuss the business of the school. Parents on the committee give feedback to the Director and serve as a liaison between the school and the parent body at large.

A FINAL WORD...

Coming to Religious School can be challenging for children. It is important that you offer them all the support and encouragement you can give. Your interest and positive attitude affect your child. If you have any questions feel free to call the Religious school or meet with us face to face. We look forward to a wonderful year!