WHERE WILL YOUR JEWISH JOURNEY TAKE YOU THIS YEAR?

B’YACHAD
THE 6TH & 7TH GRADE COMMUNITY
at Temple Beth Elohim

6TH AND 7TH GRADE GUIDE
2019-2020  5779-5780

Temple Beth Elohim
YOUTH COMMUNITY
Dear B’Yachad Families:

Welcome to B’Yachad ("Together") 5780 (2019-2020 school year)! You are about to begin/continue your journey in B’Yachad, TBE’s incredible 6th and 7th grade Jewish learning program!

This guide contains most of the information you will need to become familiar with the program for this upcoming year. As B’Yachad has grown, we have made some exciting changes, updates and additions. As you will see in this guide, there are multiple entry points for every student’s interest through Ma’asim Tovim (Jewish service learning), Limudei Yahadut (Judaic Studies), B’nei Mitzvah preparation, Hebrew, family learning programs, social activities, special programs, youth group, and much more. B’Yachad is all about building community, creating a foundation for Jewish adulthood and having lots of fun!

We are looking forward to accompanying you on your Jewish journey through B’Yachad and can’t wait to see everyone! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch. The B’Yachad Team (see below) is very excited to share next year’s journey with you.

L’SHALOM,

THE B’YACHAD TEAM

Jessica Bram
Director of K-7 Youth Learning Programs

Devon Barker
Youth Engagement Specialist

Leah Finkelman
Youth Engagement Specialist

Leah Sherin
Youth Engagement Specialist

Shanna Zell
Cantor

Lilah Doris
Youth Engagement Specialist

Lindsay Flammey
Youth Engagement Specialist
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WHAT IS B’YACHAD?

B’Yachad is Temple Beth Elohim’s 6th-7th grade learning program! The name, which in Hebrew means “together,” was chosen by 6th and 7th graders to better reflect our values and goals as our students come together from our five K-5 learning programs.

B’YACHAD GOALS

⋆ To engage students and their families in the process of study, mitzvot (sacred obligations), worship, ma’asim tovim (good acts), and celebration in order to inspire their continued engagement in lifelong Jewish learning and living.

⋆ To foster a sense of community through the interaction of students, parents, families, clergy and staff.

B’Yachad is a bridge between the K-5 Learning Programs and Havayah, the teen community at Temple Beth Elohim. It includes classroom learning, community service work, informal learning on a Shabbaton (retreat), community building, social activities and JELY (junior youth group). B’Yachad engages students in learning and action through Limudei Yahadut (Judaic Studies) and Ma’asim Tovim (the community service component of our program). These programs enable students to explore Jewish History and Text, and the impact Judaism has in their lives. All B’Yachad activities are geared toward helping students develop their identities as emerging Jewish adults and members of the global Jewish community.
Listing below are important dates for our year together in B’Yachad, including B’nei Mitzvah family programs, Ma’asim Tovim programs, JELY events and more. These events are integrated into the B’Yachad curriculum and all are designed to support your family as you journey through this sacred process. The logistics and the rituals of the Shabbat Morning service will be covered during the family programs. Your attendance and participation in these programs is important. More information can be found in this guide or by contacting a member of the TBE Learning team.

**ONGOING**

- **Ongoing:** Attend Shabbat services, both Friday and Saturday, on a regular basis.
- **Ongoing:** Beginning in 6th grade, students will participate in long-term volunteer service work through TBE-arranged Ma’asim Tovim groups at local organizations. This volunteer work will continue through the end of 7th grade (for more information please refer to page 11)

**IMPORTANT B’YACHAD DATES**

- **Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm:** B’Yachad Welcome Program and Pay It Forward (for both students and parents of 6th and 7th graders)
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, September 24 and 25, 2019:** Regular classes begin
- **Thursday, December 19, 2019-Wednesday, January 1, 2020:** No School (Winter Break)
- **Sunday, February 16-Sunday, February 23, 2020:** No School (February Break)
- **Sunday, April 19-Sunday, April 26, 2020:** No School (April Break)
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, May 7 and 8, 2020:** B’Yachad last days
- **Tuesday, May 7 and Wednesday, May 8, 2018:** B’Yachad snow dates (if needed)

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

- **Sunday, October 13, 2019:** TBE Community Sukkot Celebration
- **Sunday, October 20, 2019, 5:30-7:30 pm:** B’Yachad Leadership joins Kindergarten Consecration & TBE Community Simchat Torah Celebration
- **Friday-Saturday, October 25-26, 2019:** B’Yachad Shabbaton at URJ Eisner Camp, Great Barrington, MA
- **Sunday, December 8, 2019:** TBE Dreidel Dash 5K & Community Chanukah Celebration
- **Sunday, February 2, 2020, 4:30-6:00 pm:** Purim Carnival Preparation
- **Sunday, March 8, 2020:** Purim Carnival (shifts will be 12:00-2:00 pm or 1:30-3:30 pm)
6TH GRADE B’NEI MITZVAH FAMILY PROGRAMS

From Mystery and Magic to Mitzvah and Meaning

Sunday, November 17, 2019, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
students becoming B’nei Mitzvah between September 2020 and January 2021

Sunday, January 12, 2020, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
students becoming B’nei Mitzvah between February 2021 and October 2021

Please refer to page 8 for more information.

7TH GRADE B’NEI MITZVAH FAMILY PROGRAMS

Stop and Go: An Interactive B’nei Mitzvah Service

For students becoming B’nei Mitzvah between September 2019 and January 2020:

★ Sunday, September 19, 2019, 1:00-2:30 pm: students with a Shacharit (morning) service
★ Sunday, September 19, 2019, 2:30-4:00 pm: students with a Mincha (afternoon) service

For students becoming B’nei Mitzvah between January 2020 and June 2020:

★ Sunday, January 26, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm: students with a Shacharit (morning) service
★ Sunday, January 26, 2020, 2:30-4:00 pm: students with a Mincha (afternoon) service

For students becoming B’nei Mitzvah between September 2020 and December 2020 (including 6th graders):

★ Sunday, June 7, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm: students with a Shacharit (morning) service
★ Sunday, June 7, 2020, 2:30-4:00 pm: students with a Mincha (afternoon) service

D’var Torah Family Program

★ Monday, September 9, 2019, 6:00-7:30 pm: students becoming BM between November and December 2019
★ Monday, November 18, 2019, 6:00-7:30 pm: students becoming BM between January and March 2020
★ Monday, January 27, 2020, 6:00-7:30 pm: students becoming BM between April and June 2020
★ Monday, June 1, 2020, 6:00-7:30 pm: students becoming BM between September and October 2020 (includes rising 7th graders)

Please refer to page 10 for more information.

JELY (TBE’S 6TH AND 7TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP)

★ Sunday, November 3, 2019: JELY Event (off-site)
★ Friday-Saturday, January 24-25, 2020, 6:00 pm-8:30 am: JELY Shul-in
★ Friday, April 10, 2020: JELY Chocolate Seder
★ Sunday, May 3, 2020: JELY Event (off-site)

Please refer to page 12 for more information.
Our 6th grade midweek learning program includes Hebrew through Group Tutoring and Judaic Studies.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesdays (3:30-5:30 pm)</th>
<th>Tuesdays (6:00-8:00 pm)</th>
<th>Wednesdays (4:00-6:00 pm)</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-3:45  Snack</td>
<td>6:00-6:15  Snack</td>
<td>4:00-4:15  Snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45-4:40  Group Tutoring</td>
<td>6:15-7:10  Group Tutoring</td>
<td>4:15-5:10  Group Tutoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:40-5:30  Text Class</td>
<td>7:10-8:00  Text Class</td>
<td>5:10-6:00  Text Class</td>
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**GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL TUTORING תפיילה/עבירה**

Our model integrates our Hebrew curriculum and B’nei Mitzvah process. We have tutor-teacher teams that focus on strengthening the students’ reading and chanting skills during class time. One-on-one tutoring will take place before or after the B’Yachad session. A tutor will contact your family when the time comes to begin the one-on-one tutoring outside of normal B’Yachad hours.

The goals of the Grade 6 Group Tutoring are:
1. Review of the prayers and blessings learned in our K-5 Learning Programs
2. Mastery of Torah service including Torah and Haftarah blessings
3. Developing skills to lead a Shabbat morning service

**JUDAIC STUDIES לימודים יהודים**

The sixth grade Judaic curriculum focuses on Text Study.

We are thrilled that our 6th grade Judaic curriculum, which is now integrated with and directly connected to the B’nei Mitzvah process, will challenge students to develop their creative and critical thinking skills. Students will explore a range of traditional and contemporary texts through different modalities, including art, creative writing, music and technology. They will engage in meaningful discourse while tapping into their creativity and learning the valuable tools of a true Text Detective! At TBE, we celebrate what connects us and what differentiates us. This curriculum highlights the diversity of our community and aims to prepare students as they begin this exciting new stage in preparation for becoming B’nei Mitzvah by expanding their understanding of text and promoting their individual creative expression.

**COMMUNITY TIME קהילה ייחוד**

Throughout the year, as part of B’Yachad, 6th and 7th graders will have the opportunity to come together as one group during Community Time to experience and explore Jewish holidays. Our B’Yachad community will plan out their leadership role during Consecration as we celebrate Simchat Torah with our Kindergarteners and 1st graders.
B’nei Mitzvah students and their parents are expected to participate in family learning programs during the 6th and 7th grades. These programs, led by our TBE clergy and educators, provide necessary skills for becoming B’nei Mitzvah, marking critical and meaningful stages along the B’nei Mitzvah journey.

Please mark your calendars now.

Parents and students are expected to attend all of these programs:

Welcome to B’Yachad and Pay It Forward  
Grades 6 & 7
Tuesday or Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm

Join us for an informative session about our B’Yachad program. You will have the chance to meet our faculty, reconnect with friends and ask questions about the curriculum and the B’Yachad Shabbaton. This will be your opportunity to get the latest information about the Shabbaton, meet the staff and get answers to all your questions. This program will also include “Pay It Forward,” the kick-off event for the Ma’asim Tovim volunteer program for our 6th grade families. Through a variety of educational activities about the imperative of social action in Jewish life, students and their families will explore the specific interest areas in which they most want to make a difference by volunteering at TBE partner organizations.

From Mystery and Magic To Mitzvah and Meaning

There are two groups for this program, based on B’nei Mitzvah dates:

GROUP 1: students who will become B’nei Mitzvah between September 2020 and January 2021
GROUP 2: students who will become B’nei Mitzvah between February 2021 and October 2021

Sunday, November 17, 2019, 11:30 am-1:00 pm  
GROUP 1
Sunday, January 12, 2020, 11:30 am-1:00 pm  
GROUP 2

Can you believe that your family’s B’nei Mitzvah celebration is just around the corner? In the midst of all the details and plans, take time to stop. Spend one afternoon with TBE clergy and educators to discover the meaning of this milestone for your family. As a community, we’ll explore the meaning of “mitzvah” in this celebration and in your family life through a creative and interactive program.

More questions? For more information, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit TBEYouth.org/BMitzvah or contact Kristine Potter, B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator, 781-235-8419 x245, bmitzvah@tbewellesley.org.
Our 7th grade midweek learning program includes Kesher and Bechirot, as well as Taste of Havayah in the spring.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Tuesdays (3:30-5:30 pm)**
- 3:30-3:45: Snack
- 3:45-4:40: Kesher
- 4:40-5:30: Bechirot/Taste of Havayah

**Tuesdays (6:00-8:00 pm)**
- 6:00-6:15: Snack
- 6:15-7:10: Kesher
- 7:10-8:00: Bechirot/Taste of Havayah

**Wednesdays (4:00-6:00 pm)**
- 4:00-4:15: Snack
- 4:15-5:10: Kesher
- 5:10-6:00: Bechirot/Taste of Havayah

**JUDAIC STUDIES יָדְעוּת**

In our Kesher program, students will meet in small gender-based groups to discuss sensitive issues and social challenges while exploring Jewish values and ethics that they can incorporate into their daily lives as they become young adults. Kesher was created several years ago when the success of our informal teen groups, Challah Back Girls and Jew Man Group demonstrated to us that students at this sensitive age search for support from their peers and positive adult role models. The curriculum is revised continually throughout the year to meet the evolving needs of each group of students in today's world. Members of our full time staff and other young professionals will lead these groups.

Beginning this year, from September to the middle of March during the 2nd session of the day, 7th graders will participate in a new program called Bechirot (Choices): The Choices and Stories That Define the Jewish People. For generations, Jews have grappled with what it means to be Jewish and how to express and engage with our faith as members of a larger world. Pray in the way of our ancestors, or create something new? Assimilate to modern society, or flee from it? Have Shabbat dinner or play football on Friday nights? Move to Israel or stay in the United States? Sandy Koufax to Isaac Mayer Wise, Golda Meir to Adam Sandler, Jack Kirby to Louis Brandeis, Hannah Szenes to Aly Raisman: Jewish history is full of the stories of those who made the choice to embrace and fight for their Judaism in their own unique and powerful ways. This class will not only explore these stories with our students, but help them determine for themselves the path their own Jewish Journeys might take for years to come.

During the spring, students will experience a “Taste of Havayah,” a sampling of the learning and community-building opportunities we offer in Havayah, the teen community at TBE, including our chavurot (interest-based groups), holiday celebrations, social events, and NFTY, the Reform Movement’s North American youth group.

**COMMUNITY TIME כְּהֵנָה בְיָחָד**

Throughout the year, as part of B’Yachad, 6th and 7th graders will have the opportunity to come together as one group during Community Time to experience and explore Jewish holidays. Our B’Yachad community will plan out their leadership role during Consecration as we celebrate Simchat Torah with our Kindergarteners and 1st graders.
Students and their families are expected to participate in family learning programs during the 6th and 7th grades. Our thoughtfully planned Family Programs help prepare your family for this sacred and momentous lifecycle event and give you the opportunity to reflect on its meaning and importance in your life. These programs, led by our TBE clergy and educators, provide necessary skills for becoming B’nei Mitzvah, marking critical and meaningful stages along the B’nei Mitzvah journey.

**PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS:**

**WELCOME TO B’YACHAD** Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm
Join us for an informative session about our B’Yachad program. You will have the chance to meet our faculty, reconnect with friends and ask questions about the curriculum and the B’Yachad Shabbaton. This will be your only opportunity to get the latest information about the Shabbaton, meet the staff and get answers to all your questions.

**STOP AND GO: AN INTERACTIVE B’NEI MITZVAH SERVICE** (1.5 hours Sunday afternoon) Families will review the service structure and have the opportunity to ask questions during an interactive “Stop and Go”-style service specific to their child’s assigned service time. Parents will also receive guidance and ideas for speaking to and blessing their child at the service, fulfilling traditional service honors and conveying the meaning of becoming B’nei Mitzvah to their guests, while students will begin to prepare for the writing of their Personal Prayer. Parents will also receive guidance and ideas for speaking to and blessing their child at the service, fulfilling traditional service honors and conveying the meaning of becoming B’nei Mitzvah to their guests, while students will begin to prepare for the writing of their Personal Prayer. Families are requested to attend one TBE B’nei Mitzvah service before their assigned Stop and Go service and one TBE B’nei Mitzvah service after to help familiarize them with our Shabbat service. For dates please refer to page 5.

**D’VAR TORAH FAMILY PROGRAM** (2 hours Sunday afternoon—2 months prior to service) This family program will integrate 6th grade B’Yachad Text Study learning and give students the basic skills to write their D’var Torah (Torah Teach). Students will write the beginning of their D’var Torah during this program. Families will also discuss the performance of mitzvot (sacred obligations) and the meaning of becoming B’nei Mitzvah. For dates please refer to page 5.

**D’VAR TORAH CONCLUSION** (1 hour weekday afternoon) Students and parents will meet individually with the clergy to continue working on their D’var Torah.

**PERSONAL PRAYER** (30 minutes weekday afternoon) Students meet individually with clergy to learn how to compose a prayer from the heart which will be shared during the B’nei Mitzvah service.

**B’NEI MITZVAH REHEARSALS AND FINAL WALKTHROUGH** (1 hour each in the weeks prior to service) Each student will have three rehearsals with clergy to prepare for their B’nei Mitzvah service. The third will be led by the officiating clergy member. All family members are invited to ask questions during this time.

**TASTE OF HAVAYAH: LIFE AFTER B’NEI MITZVAH** (Date/Time TBA) While our 7th graders participate in Taste of Havayah during regular B’Yachad hours, parents will have the opportunity to meet with the Havayah Director, Hannah Kearney, to learn more about opportunities to engage with TBE’s teen community.

**MORE QUESTIONS?** For more information, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit TBETYOUTH.org/BMitzvah or contact Kristine Potter, B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator, 781-235-8419 x245, bmitzvah@tbewellesley.org.

* All B’nei Mitzvah family programs, meetings and rehearsals are scheduled through Kristine Potter in the Clergy office. For family program dates, please refer to page 5. You will receive a separate letter with dates for individual meetings.
Making a Difference Through Service in the Community

Part of becoming B’nei Mitzvah is contributing as an active and responsible member of the community. Over the course of the B’Yachad experience, students will engage in learning about mitzvot (sacred obligations), ethics, social justice workshops, long-term volunteer service and community service learning through Ma’asim Tovim (good acts).

This year, 6th graders will begin ongoing volunteer service work through TBE-arranged Ma’asim Tovim groups at local organizations. This volunteer work will continue through the end of 7th grade. 6th graders will participate in an introductory session in September during Welcome to B’Yachad. This session will help orient students and families to the goals of our program.

As 7th graders enter into their second year of Ma’asim Tovim service work, we expect that most students will continue with the projects and programs they began in 6th grade. We know, however, that student schedules and interests change, and therefore, students may switch groups if necessary. We expect that students involved with independent projects will complete/continue their independent work through May 2020.

The 7th Grade Ma’asim Tovim Recommitment Survey with instructions on how to proceed for the upcoming 2019-2020 year and updated schedules will be emailed in September 2019. Please complete the survey promptly. This will help us finalize our Ma’asim Tovim group assignments on time and enable students to start their volunteer work on time.

Our B’Yachad students also plan and facilitate the TBE Purim Carnival for our younger students each year, designing booths related to their Ma’asim Tovim projects and fundraising for our partner organizations. All 6th and 7th graders will continue to meet throughout the year to share their group volunteer experience with other students. See the schedule below for class sessions and Ma’asim Tovim group meetings.

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<th>Grade 6 only:</th>
<th>Grades 6 and 7:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay It Forward Program (at Welcome to B’Yachad)</td>
<td>Ma’asim Tovim B’Yachad: Purim Carnival Preparations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(for both students &amp; parents)</td>
<td>Sunday, February 2, 2020 – 4:30-6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 17, 2019 – 6:00-8:00 pm or Wednesday, September 18, 2019 – 6:00-8:00 pm</td>
<td>Purim Carnival, Sunday, March 8, 2020</td>
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<td>Tuesday afternoon families are invited to join either welcome program.</td>
<td>(shifts will be 12:00-2:00 pm and 1:30-3:30 pm, sign up will be sent out in February)</td>
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Current Ma’asim Tovim sites include:

- Family Promise (Hunger & Homelessness)
- Natick Community Organic Farm (Environmental Awareness)
- Framingham Head Start (Literacy)
- Hebrew Senior Life (Connecting Generations)
- Cornerstone Senior Living Residence (Connecting Generations)
- Belmont SPORT (Disabilities)
- Climate Action (Environmental Awareness)

New groups and projects are formed each year based on student interests and availability. Volunteer opportunities are available on midweek afternoons and weekends. Sixth grade families will receive more information during our kick-off program “Pay It Forward,” at Welcome to B’Yachad and will choose partner sites in September.

For more information about Ma’asim Tovim, contact Lilah Doris, Youth Engagement Specialist, ldoris@tbewellesley.org, (781)235-8419 x221.
JELY (Junior Beth Elohim Local Youth) is our youth group for grades 6 and 7. JELY has events several times a year, including activities such as roller skating, laser tag, local sports events, bowling, snow tubing and our annual Chocolate Seder!

JELY also maintains a strong commitment to social action and the TBE community through student involvement in the B’Yachad Ma’asim Tovim (good acts) Program.

**JELY Dates 5780**
- Sunday, November 24, 2019  
  JELY Event (off-site)
- Friday-Saturday, January 24-25, 2020  
  JELY Shul-In
- Friday, April 10, 2020  
  JELY Chocolate Seder
- Sunday, May 3, 2020  
  JELY Event (off-site)

**JELY Contact Information**
Lindsay Flammey, Youth Engagement Specialist  
lfammey@tbewellesley.org, (781)235-8419 x226

Stay updated with TBE Youth Groups! Check out www.tbeyouth.org/JELY and facebook.com/TBEYouth for event updates and registration, forms, photos and much more.

The B’Yachad retreat for 6th and 7th graders accomplishes several goals:
- Allows students to spend time with and get to know one another better outside the walls of TBE
- Introduces many of the themes and topics taught during 6th and 7th grade
- Invites students to experience Jewish worship in an informal setting
- Creates and build community within B’Yachad
- Enables students to relax and have fun!

Students and staff will spend Friday and Saturday engaged in a variety of hands-on activities and interactive learning programs. We will eat and sing, worship, study and play in a variety of groups and settings throughout the retreat.

*The B’Yachad Retreat is an essential part of the B’Yachad curriculum; we strongly encourage all 6th and 7th graders to attend. The theme and programming of the Shabbaton change yearly, and students are expected to attend both years to ensure that they continue to meet the goals of the Shabbaton. Students who do not attend will be expected to participate in additional programming, details will be provided after the Shabbaton.*

A “fact sheet” about this year’s retreat, scheduled for October 25-26, 2019, is posted on TBEEYouth.org.

If you have questions about the B’Yachad Shabbaton, please contact Leah Finkelman, Youth Engagement Specialist, lfinkelman@tbewellesley.org, (781)235-8419 x206
**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TRAFFIC/DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP**

During weekdays when the doors are locked, we ask all adults to check in in the atrium, as well as wear a name tag while at TBE.

This year you will have two options for pick-up and drop-off. You can park and walk your child into the building or wait in the car line. Please note that the parking lot was designed to accommodate only one lane and therefore if you choose to park you will NOT be able to get out until the drop-off or pick-up line is over. You can always continue to park at the Schofield school for easier in and out access. We encourage you to organize car pools with other families for mid-week sessions to reduce the number of cars coming and going to the temple.

Children may be dropped off up to 15 minutes prior to scheduled class time on midweek learning days. Children supervised by a parent (or responsible adult) are always welcome outside of class time. However, due to safety and supervision concerns, we cannot assume responsibility for unattended children. Please call the front desk if you expect to be late picking up your child.

**EARLY PICK-UP PROCEDURE**

For the safety and security of your children at TBE, all parents are required to follow the early pick-up policy. If you need to pick up your child early from our learning programs please do ALL of the following in order to expedite the process:

1. Email BOTH Jessica Bram (jbram@tbewellesley.org) AND your child's teacher with the date, time and person who will be picking your child up early.
2. You MUST park and come into the Atrium to pick up a child early. No child will be allowed outside TBE doors without an adult accompanying them.
3. If you do not see your child in the Artuim, please ask the receptionist to call your child's class.

*Please note: Students will not be dismissed from class early if they receive a text message or phone call. The receptionist will contact the teacher directly.

If you have any questions about our early pick-up policy, please contact Jessica Bram (jbram@tbewellesley.org).

**SCHOOL CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We automatically cancel school when Wellesley schools are canceled. A school cancellation announcement will be made on WBZ (TV 4 Sundays only), WCVB TV 5, WHDH TV 7 (Sundays and weekdays), and the Temple Beth Elohim website and voicemail recording. Please watch your television station or listen to the radio so the phone lines are kept open for essential calls. If your e-mail address is current, you will receive a notice on weekdays if you are on our temple’s e-mail broadcast list from our B’Yachad e-mail lists. Please use your own judgment about whether to drive if we do not cancel school.
DERECH ERETZ - ISSUES OF RESPECT

A central component of our curriculum in every grade is *derech eretz* – thoughtful, respectful behavior. *Derech eretz* applies to all people and things with which someone comes into contact. Translated into action, *derech eretz* demands that students treat with respect their classmates, teachers, madrichim (TAs), professional staff, clergy, custodial staff and visitors. Moreover, students should exhibit respect for property, whether it be furniture, school displays, materials or supplies. Students are expected to walk, not run, while in the temple, to speak without screaming and to refrain from fighting, wrestling, or jumping on furniture or on others. *Derech Eretz* means that students adopt appropriate behavior as they enter the synagogue and especially when they enter the sanctuary.

We would appreciate your reinforcing with your children this central Jewish value, explaining that your expectations of them while in the synagogue are exactly the same as your expectations of them in regular school, as guests in someone’s home and in a sacred space. We will discuss this issue often with students, and we expect that they will comport themselves appropriately.

EDUCATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Our broad objective is to give our students the skills and knowledge to appreciate Judaism and their Jewish community, and to live a full, joyous Jewish life. Achievement of these objectives is hastened by the family’s regular participation in the life of the congregation – school attendance, worship and community activities.

We have precious few school days during the year and we urge you to make it possible for your children to attend regularly. A strong partnership between school and parents reinforces our mutual commitment to a Jewish life and acts as a powerful influence on children. When they see parental dedication to the synagogue, school and community, children learn that Judaism is important to the family.

LEARNING AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS

Arlene Lemieux, our Coordinator of Learning Support, helps students succeed academically, socially and behaviorally in their classes. Arlene has adopted a consultative approach, working with faculty and professional staff to design a positive learning environment for all students. She provides educational and behavioral strategies to teachers, children and families. By providing a nurturing experience, our children can feel comfortable and successful. Arlene looks forward to hearing from parents to form a “partnership in holy work” that will enable children to bridge the gap between their secular and religious lives.

HOMEWORK

As we only see our B’Yachad students once a week, review outside of our learning program is integral to the success of each student in our B’nei Mitzvah and B’Yachad programs. Students (and parents) should expect 10-15 minutes of Hebrew homework from their Group Tutor each week. This homework is meant to reinforce class content and allow students to gain more confidence in their
Hebrew reading and chanting skills. If your child is absent, please contact the teacher to receive the week’s homework.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

The B’Yachad faculty work hard to create an atmosphere that engages children and foster a love of being Jewish through positive Jewish experiences. We praise them, challenge them and encourage them to work to the best of their abilities. We offer an opportunity to learn new skills and explore ideas in a safe, yet challenging environment.

If a child is having difficulty in school, we will let you know. If a child needs extra attention, we will address each child and each situation appropriately. Please remember, the B’Yachad Director and teachers are always available to discuss your child’s progress.

**DRESS GUIDELINES**

We follow the same dress guidelines found in the Wellesley Public Middle School Handbook, that states:

“Clothing that exposes a student’s underwear [underpants or bra] or midriff area is not appropriate to wear in school. T-shirts with reference to drugs, alcohol or sex, or which contain derogatory illustrations or words can be a distraction to the learning process. In these cases, staff will discuss the issue with the students and, when appropriate, the parents in order to identify a solution that balances freedom of expression with the need for a respectful and distraction-free learning environment.”

**A LAST WORD: NO CELL PHONES, PLEASE!**

Students will not be dismissed from class early if they receive a text message or phone call. The receptionist will contact the teacher directly. For more information, please refer to our Early Pick-Up Policy on page 13.

Many students bring cell phones with them to B’Yachad classes. In the past few years, we have noticed an increase in cell phone use (particularly text messaging) that has become disruptive to our learning program. **We would like to request that students leave cell phones at home.** If it is necessary for your child to bring a cell phone to class, please be aware that cell phones **MUST remain OFF** during program hours unless permission is granted by a member of the faculty. If a teacher finds a student using a cell phone without permission, the phone will be confiscated until the end of class and returned to the student’s PARENT at the end of the session. Thank you for your cooperation with this policy.
CONTACT US

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT B’YACHAD:
Jessica Bram, Director of K-7 Learning Programs
(781) 235-8419 x210, jbram@tbewellesley.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT B’NEI MITZVAH PROGRAMS:
Visit TBEYouth.org/BMitzvah
or contact Kristine Potter, B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator
(781) 235-8419 x245, bmitzvah@tbewellesley.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MA'ASIM TOVIM:
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHABBATON OR JEWISH CAMPING:
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Lindsay Flammey, Youth Engagement Specialist
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