

***TIFERET BET ISRAEL
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL***

PARENT HANDBOOK



2008-09

5768/5769

**A Message from the Education Director,
Donald M. Cohen**

B'ruchim Haba'im! Welcome to the Tiferet Bet Israel Religious School family! It is our goal to assist your children in becoming practicing, knowledgeable Jews who will carry on the rich traditions of our people. This is an awesome goal, but one that is attainable through the partnership of excellent teachers and dedicated clergy, committed families and attentive students. On behalf of our clergy and lay leadership, I pledge that we will continue to create warm classroom environments with stimulating programs that educate, and a school atmosphere that cherishes children.

The feelings of "Klal Yisrael" (peoplehood) and "Ahavat Yisrael" (the love of all Jews) are important to our identifying as Jews with all other Jews. This sense of community underlies everything we do. To this end, I ask you to be a positive force for involvement in our educational program. We ask that you become a member of our **NESS POD Leadership Committee**, or a volunteer in the school. We need your help and strength. We need your input on how well our program is working for your child and your suggestions for what you would like to see in the future. As Theodore Herzl said, "If you will it, it is no dream!"

The calendar pages are in the back of this handbook.

As always, I ask for your help, your suggestions and your support in helping me continue to improve the quality of education at our synagogue.

Shanah Tovah /A sweet and happy New Year,
Donald M. Cohen

**TIFERET BET ISRAEL
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

CONTACT LIST

School Office: 610-275-6839
1920 Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422
www.tbibluebell.org

Education Director: Donald M. Cohen, ext. 108
eddirector@tbibluebell.org

VP Education: Marty Schaffer

Religious School Committee Chair: Emily Cutler
ercutler@verizon.net

Rabbi: Joshua Kalev, ext. 105

Cantor: Elizabeth Shammash, ext. 106

Religious School Administrative Assistant: Michelle McKeon, ext. 142

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HOURS:

Sundays: 9am—Noon

Tuesdays: 4pm—6:30pm

Hebrew High: Tuesdays 6:20pm—8:20pm

Junior Congregation: Saturdays 10:30am—11:45am

(specific dates are listed on the Religious School calendar)

To contact a specific teacher, please call the school office or the teacher directly. A Faculty Roster will be issued when school begins.

THIS YEAR IN OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

TBI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AT-A-GLANCE 2008-09 ***New & Continuing Highlights of Our School!***

TBI COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER: Thanks to the generosity of TBI Endowment Funds, we continue to utilize our 10-computer Learning Center located in our Library. Our Religious School and Hebrew High students will use Jewish software and Internet sites in their curriculum. All students will be regularly scheduled to visit the Computer Learning Center as the year unfolds. We plan on using state-of-the-art software for tracking Hebrew learning in our school.

JEWISH THEMES: Our TBI and Religious School theme this year will be ***L'avdah u'lesharmrah—Protecting the Environment***. There are a myriad of associated values with this very Jewish topic including, *Ba'al Tashchit*-Not Destroying Needlessly. All of our grades will explore this theme throughout the year. Students will learn both the Jewish association with the environment in text and in action projects to help our environment.

Additionally our 5th – 10th graders will explore a second theme centered on the Jewish value of ***Shmirat Ha'lashon-Guarding Speech***. This will be done through family education mornings that will examine “Growing Up Online”, a look at how our children’s lives have been changed by technology and the computer. From Facebook to text messaging to cyber bullying, parents and children need to know how to be safe and still social given the new world we live in. Specific Jewish values will be identified in our learning together (see Family Education below).

FAMILY EDUCATION: We continue with our Sunday morning family education sessions facilitated by Rabbi Kalev, Donald Cohen and our teachers.

- **New Name:** C.A.F.E (Community and Family Education)-we changed the designation of our family education program to reflect the specific goal of creating a “community” of parents and students learning together. And the additional goal of creating a stronger community of families within each grade from Gan through Hebrew High 10th grade. This year we begin to include our Hebrew High families in our CAFÉ programming.
- **Family Shabbat Services:** All grades will lead their families in an evening, morning or afternoon Shabbat service during the year as listed below.

2008-09 C.A.F.E. (Community & Family Education) FAMILY PROGRAMS

<i>DATE/TIMES</i>	<i>GRADE</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>
Sunday, Oct. 26: 9a-Noon	7 th –10 th	"GROWING UP ONLINE"- For all parents and students— PART 1 of 2 sessions
Sunday, Nov. 9: 9a-Noon	5 th & 6 th	"GROWING UP ONLINE"- For all parents and students
Friday, Dec. 12: 6p-8p	Pre-K/K/1 st /2 nd	SHABBAT SERVICE FOLLOWED BY DINNER

Sunday, Dec. 14: 9a-Noon	7 th –10 th	"GROWING UP ONLINE"- For all parents and students— PART 2
Saturday, Jan. 10: 9:30a- Noon	6 th	Shabbat Morning Service followed by Kiddish
Sunday, Jan. 11: 9a-Noon	6 th	BNAI MITZVAH FAMILY WORKSHOP-For all parents and students
Sunday, Feb. 8: 9a-Noon	K–2 nd	TU B'SHEVAT AND THE ENVIRONMENT-For all parents and students
Saturday, Feb. 21: 5p- 6:30p	5 th	"THE BEAUTY OF HAVDALAH"-Our 5 th Graders lead the service and learn with parents about Havdalah
Friday, Mar. 6: 6p-8p	4 th	SHABBAT DINNER FOLLOWED BY SERVICE
Sunday, Mar. 15: 9a-Noon	3 rd & 4 th	FOOD, FARMING AND THE ENVIRONMENT-For all parents and students
Friday, May 1: 6p-8:30p	3 rd	SHABBAT DINNER FOLLOWED BY <i>KABBALAT SIDURIM</i> SERVICE

TORAH ACADEMY: Our successful Torah Academy which teaches students how to chant Torah Trope (musical notes) and apply this to reading Torah begins its 3rd year in the Religious School. Torah Academy students will have the opportunity to read Torah in Junior Congregation and the main service during the year. This year the format is as follows:

- **6th GRADE:** Torah Academy becomes part of the regular 6th grade curriculum. Students will be placed into groups that will learn each Sunday with instructors Edie Harris and Rhona Fromm. Additional practice will be part of Tuesday sessions with Cantor Shammash.
- **5th GRADE:** Torah Academy will become a part of the regular curriculum beginning in January for all 5th graders.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION: On most Saturdays that school is in session from **10:30-11:45am** Grades 3-6 will practice the Shabbat morning service in a weekly learning service that will reinforce what students learn in their classrooms. Students will have many opportunities to lead parts of the service and read Torah.

JUNIOR CHOIR: Under the direction of Cantor Shammash, our Religious School Choir will rehearse on Sundays at 12:15pm.

ROSH HODESH-IT'S A GIRLS' THING!: We are proud to offer this innovative Jewish program that gives girls a unique opportunity to learn and socialize in a safe and nurturing setting. This year we offer programs for both 6th and 8th grade girls. Sue Span facilitates the 6th grade program and Shoshana Rosen facilitates the 8th grade program. Contact Donald Cohen for more information.

NESS (Nurturing Excellence in Synagogue Schools): As we enter the third year of this four-year program, our faculty continues an intensive training program. In a 20-hour per year, on-site seminar (conducted at the synagogue over a 3 year period), educators are trained to teach content through meaning-centered, collaborative learning approaches that encourage students to be fully engaged in their learning. Participants reflect on the learned strategies, create lessons and units built on research-based approaches, and practice their skills within a community of learners.

PARENT-STUDENT EDUCATIONAL GUIDELINES

Mission Statement/Goals

Our Mission

The mission of TBI Religious School, in partnership with our TBI families, is to prepare our students to:

- be knowledgeable and proud of their Jewish heritage
- become people of character with Jewish morals and ethics
- actively participate in the synagogue and Jewish community
- establish Jewish homes of their own
- improve the world they inherit for future generations.

Our Goals

- To create an awareness of Jewish history, including major historical figures and events, and to understand its impact on Jewish thought.
- To develop proficiency in Siddur (prayerbook) Hebrew and synagogue skills, so as to provide a sense of familiarity and comfort in any synagogue.
- To create the desire to initiate and participate in Shabbat, Yom Tov, and lifecycle home rituals.
- To gain an attachment to and an appreciation for the State of Israel and its relation to Diaspora Jews.
- To develop a spirit of Klal Yisrael (Peoplehood).
- To understand the concepts of mitzvot (commandments), tzedakah (charity/justice), tikkun olam (repairing the world) and the Jewish resources and social service agencies in the community positioned for doing them.
- To understand the goals and meaning of Conservative Judaism and its relevance to modern life.

The curriculum is designed with the understanding that students attend religious school as a means of supplementing the spiritual basis of home and synagogue life. Family is the place where so much of the formation of ideas and practices occur. We encourage adult learning, which parallels the school's aims and curriculum. We believe that what our students study is relevant to their daily lives and that through their learning, they will begin to make their own Jewish decisions from a standpoint of knowledge and commitment.

Guiding Principles

Tikkun Olam

We see ourselves as God's partners in trying to make the world a better place. Learning about the earth, pursuing social justice and caring for the disadvantaged are just a few of the principles gleaned from the moral laws in the Torah that we study.

Hebrew

Hebrew, as it is taught at Tiferet Bet Israel, serves as the language of prayer (Lashon Ha-Kodesh) and the language of the Torah. Our curriculum focuses on teaching our children prayers and rituals, exposing them to a variety of Torah texts, and familiarizing them with basic speech patterns. Younger grades receive a mixture of oral Hebrew language and letter recognition, while higher grades learn to read and write Hebrew.

Prayer (Tefillah)

We begin with rudimentary knowledge of the Hebrew text and the melodies of our most basic prayers and rituals. As students progress in school, they will know more and more of the Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat service, the weekday Mincha (afternoon) and Shabbat morning Shacharit service, and many home rituals and b'rachot. Specific prayers will be taught to 3rd through 6th graders during classes. Grades 3-6 will have the opportunity to lead their own Shabbat service during the year (please see schedule in this handbook).

Israel

Our generation has witnessed the miracle of Israel's birth. Our curriculum strives to impart the meaning of this miracle through lessons in history, geography, and current events. Through the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, high school age students have the opportunity to travel to Israel to experience life in the country first-hand.

Tzedakah

Although many people interpret "tzedakah" as charity, the actual translation implies doing justice through righteous acts. Students are asked to bring Tzedakah money to Religious School each session and each individual class decides where to contribute the money it has collected. Students are also involved in volunteer work in the community. Examples of our activities include visits to nursing homes to sing for the residents, raising money for the Jewish Braille Institute through sponsorship of a Jewish read-in and delivering Maot Chittim to families. Once a year, the TBI community joins together for Mitzvah Day, day of social action. This year it will be on Sunday, May 3, 2008. Look for it on your school calendar and plan to participate as a family!

Attendance Policy

Thank you for placing such a high level of importance on your child's Jewish education by enrolling him or her in our Religious School! You have made the commitment to pass your Jewish identity along to your children; one of the highest Mitzvot that one can perform. We promise to do our best to ensure that your good intentions are rewarded by providing your child with the tools necessary to develop her or his Jewish identity.

We understand that people these days are extremely busy, especially our children. They are constantly being pulled into one extracurricular activity or another and the time conflicts add up quickly. There are precious few times in today's society where our Jewish children can learn about themselves, their people, their history and their God. We need you, our parents, to be our partners in making the most out of your child's Jewish education. This, of course, requires that your child attend Religious School classes and Junior Congregation regularly, and take part in as many additional programs at TBI as possible, given today's hectic schedules. We promise to do everything we can to make your child's time with us as productive as possible in that regard.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

With this in mind, the Education Committee has established the following guidelines for attendance:

1. Each child must attend at least 80% of all class sessions during each school year.
2. If your child misses two (2) class sessions in a row, the designated teacher will contact you, to inquire as to your child's absence. If you know in advance that your child will be absent for an extended period (i.e. because of an extended illness or planned vacation), please contact the Religious School and inform the office of the pending absence.
3. Prior to **January 15**, if your child's attendance is below the minimal level, you (the parent) will be notified by the Education Director to discuss the issue.
4. On or about **April 15**, if your child's attendance is below the minimal level, you will be notified and asked to meet with the Education Director to make arrangements for make-up work.

Action Steps

- If a student is not meeting the requisite attendance requirement, several arrangements can be discussed with the parent(s). They include:
 - Requiring the student to complete classroom worksheet(s) to indicate that he or she is familiar with the materials discussed in class;
 - Requiring the student to complete an additional project related to the materials in the curriculum;
 - Preparing an examination for the student to take at a scheduled time;
 - Helping the family make arrangements for private tutoring at the family's cost;
- Students who achieve a perfect Religious School attendance record will be recognized and honored at the end of the school year in front of the entire school.

- All teachers should have copies of all work performed in class available for students who cannot attend class. If a student completes the class work at home and submits it at the following class, the student should be given credit for partial attendance.
- Make-up assignments should, to the extent possible, take into consideration each student's relative strengths and weaknesses, as well as any extenuating circumstances behind his or her absences.
- The overriding concern at the meetings is that the "solution" selected for each student must be agreed to by the parent.

EARLY PICK-UP & LATE DROP-OFF

Just as absenteeism affects the quality of learning, so too does frequent late arrival and early dismissal from class. Parents are urged to minimize these occasions. Please note the following regarding this issue:

- If you need to pick up your child prior to the scheduled school closing time, you must contact the Religious School office in advance. The office will arrange for your child to be dismissed from class at an appropriate time, so as not to disturb the other students, and you may pick up your child at the Religious School office at the time specified in your notice.
- Similarly, if your child is arriving late, you may drop your child off at the Religious School office upon arrival, and the office will arrange for your child to be admitted into class at an appropriate time, so as not to disturb the other students.

Code of Responsibility

1. It is the student and parent's responsibility to respect all teachers, fellow students, and adults with whom they come in contact. Students are expected to follow the teacher's directions and to maintain an acceptable voice level in hallways and classes. No profanity from students, parents or staff will be tolerated.
2. It is the teacher's responsibility to respect the student and student's parents.
3. The student is expected to show proper respect for his/her books, school materials, and all synagogue property.
4. The student is expected to come prepared for class each day with those supplies requested by her/his teacher, i.e.: books, binder, pencil/pen, homework.
5. No food, drink or gum chewing is allowed in the classroom, with the exception of food/drink that pertains to an aspect of Jewish celebration or teaching at the discretion of the teacher.
6. The student is encouraged to discuss any situation or problem with the teacher or the Director before or after school.
7. Aggressive behavior is not acceptable in our school. Any attempt to intimidate or threaten violence against a fellow student or staff member will result in immediate suspension and possible expulsion from the school.

Disciplinary Process

Every student has the right to participate in and contribute to class discussions. However, he/she must also give the same right to fellow students and teachers. In order to create an atmosphere in which each student can reach her/his full potential, parents and students should review the Code of Responsibility, with its details of appropriate behaviors for both students and teachers.

The following 3-step disciplinary procedure will apply to all students:

1. The teacher is responsible for controlling classroom behavior. The teacher will make all attempts to speak to a student and correct inappropriate behavior within the classroom setting.
2. If the teacher does not feel that she/he can correct the inappropriate behavior within the classroom, the student will be sent to the Education Director. The Director will discuss the problem, assist the student in accepting responsibility for the behavior and explore methods of improvement. The Director will send the student back to his/her classroom when deemed appropriate.
3. If a student is dismissed from class a **second** time for the same behavior, a phone call will be made to the parent by the Director. A parent must then meet with the Director prior to the student being re-admitted to school.

It is our hope that a stimulating and productive environment can be maintained at the school for the benefit of all students, families and staff.

Programming & Administrative Information

Arrival & Snacks (Tuesdays)

- From 3:30pm until 4pm: Chips, pretzels and other snacks are available for purchase in **THE HALLWAY NEAR THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE** in the religious school. Or students may bring a **kosher** snack from home to eat in the classroom until classes begin.
- ***Formal class time begins promptly at 4:10pm.***

Books and Supplies

Students are always required to bring all textbooks to class unless otherwise advised by the teacher. Some teachers will have students store their textbooks in class as needed. Students should always bring the following materials to his/her classes:

- **pen/pencil**
- **notebook with lined paper**
- Each teacher will notify parents of their students about any other materials that they should bring to class.

Drop-off and Pickup Procedure

Children must be dropped off at the main school entrance off of the main parking lot (**Rear entrance with canopy**). At dismissal, children are to be picked up at the main school entrance. Parents are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times or park and then walk to pick up children. Never leave your vehicle while in the pick up line, please.

Due to heightened safety concerns, the Religious School portion of the building will be closed to all non-school persons while classes are in session.

Pick-Up procedure is the same as last year:

- **Parents should get into the pickup car line and will be asked for the names of the children they are picking up. At 6:30 pm on Tuesdays and Noon on Sundays, students will be dismissed from the Chapel where they will wait until the teacher on duty calls their name. They will then exit out of the canopy door to be escorted to their car.**
- **Parents who are in the building on Sunday mornings at TBI activities or those parents who wish to come into the building to pick up their child should sign their name on a list that will be posted in the school lobby (outside of the Gift Shop) beginning at 9:25am on Sundays. Students on this list will be brought to the lobby after all other students have been dismissed to the car-pool line.**

Communication

- Parent-Teacher:
In addition to regular written communication between parents and teachers, parents of K-7th graders will attend:
Back-To-School Day on Sunday, September 14: On September 14, parents will meet with the Education Director and the student's teacher(s), learn about the curriculum for the class and participate in a classroom event with your child.
Parents will receive monthly communication by mail, email or phone from the student's teacher on classroom progress.

Parent-Education Director: The Education Director is always available for formal or informal conversations with each and every parent. Please feel free to contact Donald Cohen personally, by phone or e-mail. Parents will also receive regular communication on school events or general news from the Director by mail and e-mail. Donald Cohen's e-mail address is: eddirector@tbibluebell.org. **New this year: Look for a monthly email newsletter from the Director.**

Dress Code

Tiferet Bet Israel Religious School is an environment of *limud kodesh* (holy study). To that end, we wish to have all students feel comfortable and safe in the environment of our school. Students are asked to be neat and clean at all times, and dressed appropriately. Parents are asked to carefully monitor their child's attire. Students attending grade-level Shabbat services should be dressed appropriately for Shabbat, which is a holy day. All boys are required to wear a *kippah* (appropriate head covering). Girls may also wear a head covering if desired.

Faculty

Our professional, enthusiastic faculty combines Judaic and general teaching backgrounds and serve as Jewish role models for our children. They regularly attend educational workshops, staff meetings and curriculum implementation sessions. In order to assure the highest level of teaching possible, supervision and feedback are an important part of our commitment to the professional growth of our staff.

Family Education/Special Programming

Family Education is a vital component of a strong Jewish educational program. In the coming years, one of our goals will be to create an extensive Family Education offering that will appeal to all of our TBI families. Please see the schedule above for all details.

Homework

Appreciating the requirements of public school, homework is kept to a general limit of 15 minutes per class and issued only when a teacher feels that additional work outside of the classroom will be of maximum benefit to the learning of our students. It is exceptionally valuable to students to practice Hebrew reading outside of the classroom time available each week. On occasion, parents will be requested to sign completed homework. This helps keep parents informed of their child's religious school studies.

Kashrut

As a Conservative congregation, TBI observes the dietary rules of Kashrut. Parents are asked to not have your child bring in any unpackaged or homemade foods. Food and drink that has a recognized *Hechsher* (proper authorization of Kashrut) may be brought into the synagogue. If you have any questions about which symbols of Kashrut on packaged goods are accepted, please contact Rabbi Kalev or Donald Cohen.

School Hours

Sundays : 9am-Noon

Tuesdays: 4:00pm—6:30pm (Grades 3-7)

Tuesdays: 6:20pm—8:20pm (Grades 8-10)

Saturdays (Jr. Congregation): 10:30am—11:45am (Grades 3-6)

Junior Congregation

Junior Congregation Shabbat Services

Junior Congregation for grades 3rd—6th will be held weekly beginning September 13th. Junior Congregation runs from 10:30am—11:45am. Members then have a special kiddish prior to dismissal. Junior Congregation is a learner's service held with the goal of giving students an opportunity to "practice" the prayers they are learning to read and chant during religious school.

Junior Congregation Attendance Policy:

For all grades the requirement will be for students to attend 10 Shabbat or junior congregation services.

Out of those 10 services, we ask that 7 be at our Junior Congregation service so that your son/daughter can be a part of the special Shabbat community we enjoy at TBI – there are 29 of them scheduled throughout the year. The remaining services can be at any Friday evening or Saturday morning Shabbat service that your family might wish to attend whether it is at TBI or another synagogue (we have a form for you to fill out should you attend a service outside of TBI).

Advancement to the next grade level may be jeopardized if this requirement is not fulfilled.

Special Programs/Services

- Junior Choir
Students in grades 3 through 6 have the exciting opportunity to join Cantor Elizabeth Shammash in the Junior Choir. The choir will meet at a regularly scheduled time of 12:15pm on Sundays and will perform at special events throughout the year.
- Grade-Level Shabbat Services-Our religious school students lead a Friday evening, Saturday morning or Saturday Havdalah Shabbat service for the congregation.

Dates:

Pre K-2 nd Grade Service:	Fri. Dec. 12--6pm (Service & Dinner)
3 rd Grade Service:	Fri. May 1--6pm (Dinner & Service)
4 th Grade Service:	Fri. March 6--6pm (Dinner & Service)
5 th Grade Service:	Sat. Feb. 21—5pm (Mincha, Light Meal & Havdalah)
6 th Grade Service:	Sat. Jan. 10--9:30am (Followed by Kiddish)

- Youth Activities

TBI offers children in grades 5 through 12 one of the most exciting social and educational youth programs available through **Kadima (5th-7th grade)** and **USY (8th-12th grades)**. Activities range from holiday celebrations to ski trips, to feeding the hungry through local food pantries and delivering holiday baskets to the elderly. Our youth activities provide parents with reassurance and the knowledge that their child is in a safe and nurturing environment, forming lifelong friendships and experiences remembered forever.

Snow/Emergency Closures

Every attempt will be made to broadcast announcements when weather conditions cause school to close. You can find school closings on the following AM radio stations:

KYW-AM, 1060—School Number: **1116**

Student Progress Reports

Student Progress Reports will be mailed home in January and at the conclusion of the school year. Each teacher has specific guidelines in evaluating her/his students.

Tzedakah/Gemilut Hasadim

Caring for others is an important part of Jewish life. It is a *mitzvah* of the highest order. One way that we show we care about others is by giving Tzedakah. Students will be asked to contribute tzedakah money on a regular basis at the beginning of each class. We encourage the children to give of their own earnings, in order that their tzedakah be truly their contribution. Acts of loving kindness (*Gemilut Hasadim*) are highly encouraged both in the school and community. There will be ongoing opportunities for students to demonstrate this *mitzvah* in related Jewish values projects throughout the year.

TIFERET BET ISRAEL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW (Grades Kindergarten—7th Grade)

Curriculum development is an on-going, ever-evolving process. TBI Religious School utilizes a “spiral curriculum”. As students progress through the grades of the religious school, they experience different subjects at an age-appropriate level. Some subjects are covered once or twice from Kindergarten through 7th grade. Additionally, there are “core subjects that are taught every year. These subjects are:

- Jewish Values/Mitzvot
- Siddur-based Hebrew and meaning of selected prayers

Also, Kindergarten through sixth grades will have a rotation of music, art, and prayer services to enhance their learning experiences.

Affective learning (education which helps to create positive, emotional experiences) will be stressed in the earlier grades of Kindergarten through second grade.

Additional subjects of Jewish history, Israel, Lifecycle, Holocaust history, Torah and Bible personalities, Jewish current events and conversational Hebrew will be covered in a spiral curriculum, spanning Kindergarten through 7th Grade. The following is a curricular outline for each grade level, to be used by parents, teachers and students as a guide for learning goals. **Parents are encouraged to participate in sharing the educational experiences of their children through home reinforcement of rituals and in any take-home work that their child may bring from week to week.**

Curriculum per grade level will be on the TBI website.

The Ten Commandments of Tiferet Bet Israel Religious School

*"Without Torah there is no Derekh Eretz.
Without Derekh Eretz there is no Torah."*

At TBI, we work together to treat each other with Derekh Eretz. Respect for G-d, Torah, and Mitzvot guide all our actions. We expect members of the School - adults and students - to honor these Ten Commandments:

- 1) **Respect Each Other & Accept Individual Differences.**
"Who deserves respect? Someone who respects others." (Pirke Avot 4:1)
- 2) **Be Honest.** "Stay away from dishonesty." (Exodus 23:7)
- 3) **Show Thoughtfulness, Consideration & Appreciation.**
"Greet every person cheerfully." (Pirke Avot 1:15)
- 4) **Listen Respectfully to Others.**
"Who is wise? Someone who learns from each person." (Pirke Avot 4:1)
- 5) **Take Responsibility for the Safety of Yourself and Others.**
"All Jews are responsible for each other." (Talmud, Shavuot 39a)
- 6) **Use Respectful Language.**
"Death and life can depend upon the tongue." (Proverbs 18:21)
- 7) **Resolve Differences in Appropriate Ways.**
"Seek peace and pursue it." (Psalms 34:15)
- 8) **Make Amends if You Hurt Others.**
"The wrong doer must make peace with the injured person and ask that person's pardon." (Anon.)
- 9) **Respect Each Other's Property & School Property.**
"The property of others should be as precious to you as your own." (Pirke Avot 2:17)
- 10) **Share in Each Other's Joy & Support Each Other in Times of Need.**
"You shall love your fellow person as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18)