



Learning Opportunities

Jewish Learning
Jewish Living
Jewish Caring

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TBS Religious School Programs

Kindergarten-Grade 2

Our youngest students (Kindergarten – Grade 2) meet Sundays 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and have opportunities to experience Judaism in a warm and engaging communal atmosphere.

Grades 3-6

Families with children in Grades 3-6 may choose to enroll in either our standard *Religious School* or our alternative *Family Learning Circle-Hebrew Connection* program.

Religious School

Students attend classes twice a week, Tuesdays 4:15 – 6:15 p.m. and Sundays 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Jewish Studies: Our Jewish Studies sessions allow students to engage in deep learning in a fun and creative setting. We stretch our classroom walls, often moving lessons to our outside rotunda or lawn. We use art, drama, music, creative writing, and movement to bring Jewish texts, traditions, and ideas to life. We strive to make Jewish learning relevant and engaging.

Hebrew Studies: At TBS, we teach students Hebrew through Behrman House's *Aleph-Bet Quest* and *Kol Yisrael* programs. These newly released programs include a technology component that allows our students to engage in Hebrew instruction and games at home and in our school computer lab. Our teachers serve as facilitators and work with each individual student to help him/her learn Hebrew. We work not only to teach our students prayers, but also to ignite within them a connection to prayer and an articulation of spirituality. Tuesday students have the advantage of extra *tefillot* experiences and special programming.

Family Learning Circle-Hebrew Connection

Students in our Family Learning Circle (FLC) program attend Jewish Studies classes on Sundays 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and are tutored in Hebrew once a week at a time and place of their convenience. Each year, FLC participants are required to earn 10 credits from an array of educational and social activities. By earning these credits, FLC families are able to better integrate into, socialize with, and contribute to the temple community. Credits are earned by participating in Family Learning classes, adult education for parents, youth events, and more.

Jewish Studies: FLC students engage in Jewish Studies on Sunday mornings, combined in classes with our Traditional Religious School students (see description above). In addition, FLC students participate with their families in family learning sessions and also have the opportunity to earn FLC credits by participating in TBS Youth Group events, chavurot, and various social action activities.

Hebrew Studies: Students in Grades 3-6 who enroll in our Family Learning Circle program also enroll in our nationally recognized Hebrew Connection program. Students in our Hebrew Connection program are matched with a TBS Hebrew tutor, who works one-on-one with that student during weekly individual Hebrew tutoring sessions. A private tutor meets with each student, either at the student's home or at the Temple.

Adult Education: As part of the Family Learning Circle program, FLC parents are expected to engage in adult learning at TBS. We offer adult education courses on a variety of days and at a variety of times, with many of our adult education classes on Sunday mornings, while the children are in class. Parents are invited to choose from a variety of courses taught by skilled educators, including members of our senior staff. Courses from which to register can be found in our **Adult Education brochure**.

Family Education: As part of the Family Learning Circle program, FLC families are expected to register for a selection of our Family Education programs. The Family Education programs at TBS are offered on a various Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays at varying time. During the programs, there will be opportunities for adult learning, student learning, and family learning. To view this year's offering of Family Education classes and tracks go to our **Family Education page**.



Jewish Studies Curriculum

Kindergarten

In our hands on, music filled, drama enriched, and art focused kindergarten class, our youngest learners are sure to find Jewish life exciting and engaging. In class, students are invited not only to learn about, but also to experience Jewish holidays, Bible stories, and Shabbat. During *tefillot* and enrichment periods, Kindergarteners will participate in a lively prayer service and be introduced to the Hebrew letters and important Hebrew words each week.

First Grade

Our students continue to delight in the joys of Jewish holidays, rituals, and Bible stories. The year is also filled with a number of legacy projects. Students and parents will make keepsake Shabbat candlesticks, participate in a canned food drive & bake sale for Second Harvest, and create gift baskets for the Ronald McDonald House. During *tefillot* and enrichment periods, 1st graders will participate in a lively prayer service and be introduced to the Hebrew letters and important Hebrew words each week.

Second Grade

Our students are invited to explore all aspects of their synagogue. Highlights of the year include a visit and "Chat with the Rabbi" in Rabbi Cohen's office, a tour of the sanctuary, a temple-wide scavenger hunt, and chances to get to know TBS community leaders. Second graders participate in fun-filled holiday celebrations, continue their study of Bible stories, and serve as buddies to our kindergarteners and first graders. During *tefillot* and enrichment periods, 2nd graders will participate in a lively prayer service and be introduced to the Hebrew letters and important Hebrew words each week.

Third Grade

Our students begin the year by exploring the first book in the Torah, Genesis. We make our foundational text come alive through drama, art, and kinesthetic activities. In small learning communities, students are encouraged to ask questions and uncover new answers. Their conversations will continue into the second semester as the students engage in "God Talk." Each session is based on a different fundamental question, beginning with "Why don't we see or hear God today like they did in the Bible?"

Fourth Grade

Our students jump back into their Torah exploration in "Exodus and Homeland." In this wildly creative curriculum, students feel themselves a part of the Exodus story and experience the joys and disappointments of life in the Land of Milk and Honey. In the second semester, students will fast forward in history to modern life in Israel. Together, they will explore *Eretz Yisrael*, the land of Israel, through our deeply experiential Israel curriculum.

Fifth Grade

Students will jump into Mitzvot and Jewish Living as they explore the values and rituals we hold dear to our lives. Students will explore ritual mitzvot such as lifecycle traditions, wrapping tefilin, kissing the mezuzah, and more. The class will also get into the shoes of the biblical prophets, who provided us with a tradition to seek out justice and pursue ethical mitzvot with passion.

Sixth Grade

In Jewish History: Space and Time, students will be invited into our "TBS Time Machine," as they travel through Jewish space and time, visiting Jewish communities from antiquity to the present, in diverse places around the globe. Through this course, our students will gain an understanding of, and appreciation for our rich history as a people.



Jewish Studies Curriculum

Seventh Grade

Students meet with Rabbi Cohen for B'nei Mitzvah Class either on select Shabbat (Saturday) and Sunday mornings throughout the first semester of their seventh grade year (see [Schedule and Calendar](#) for details). Together, they explore what it means to be a Jewish adult, tackling issues from keeping kosher to observing Shabbat. The B'nei Mitzvah class is enhanced by a series of family programs and a special TBS seventh grade retreat. Additionally, students take part in our ATID program Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. During the first semester of ATID students participate in a B'nei Mitzvah Trope & Hebrew Class and select from a variety of elective classes. During the second semester 7th Grade ATID students engage in a study of the Holocaust with our Rabbi. In addition, each semester all 7th graders select an exciting elective in which to participate. Past electives have included Jewish Cooking, Mitzvah Meals, Drama, Video, Art, Technology, Glee Club, Guitar, and more.

Eighth Grade

In 8th grade, students continue their participation in our ATID program on Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. During the first semester our 8th graders engage in a study of Comparative Judaism and explore the diverse beliefs and customs of the Jewish people. The class includes field trips to a variety of Jewish places of worship. During the second semester, 8th graders engage in a challenging curriculum about the modern state of Israel. We will attempt to answer questions such as “What makes a Jewish state?” “What challenges to Israelis face today,” and “How might we respond to anti-Israel statements?” In addition to these core classes, 8th graders participate in an elective each semester. Past electives for 8th graders have included Sacred Choices: Sexual Ethics for Jewish Teens, Leadership training, Jewish Cooking, Drama, Technology, Glee Club, and more.



Ninth Grade

TBS students join ninth graders from all over Orange County and Long Beach in the TALIT Program, a community-wide program sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education. TALIT Ninth Grade includes an opening day orientation, a series of three 9th-12th grade retreats, three camp-prep Sundays, and a Siyyum graduation event. For more information, visit the [Bureau of Jewish Education](#) website (www.bjeoc.org)

Tenth Grade

In Confirmation, students return to us on select Sundays from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. (see [schedule & calendar](#)). Confirmation students have an opportunity to reflect on their own Jewish identities and confirm their commitment to Jewish life. Along with the Confirmation class, which is taught by Senior staff, students participate in a TBS Confirmation trip and lead the congregation in a Confirmation ceremony. Throughout the year, students will wrestle with foundational questions, such as: Who or what is God? How can Judaism guide my understandings on a modern, often controversial topics? How can I live an ethical life? Why and how do we pray? How can I affect change in the world?



Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

Post-Confirmation students gather one Sunday each month and learn with our Rabbi, Cantor, or Director of Congregational Learning. Most gatherings are held in a private home setting, where dinner is served and students get a chance to enjoy each other's company. The Post-Confirmation curriculum alternates each year between a study of Comparative Religions and an in-depth study of Israel and Israel activism. Post Confirmation prepares our students to navigate the world as young Jewish adults in college and beyond. Our Post Confirmation students also take an optional trip each year, to New York City, the Religious Action Center, or the AIPAC Conference.

