

# Religious School Handbook

*2018-2019 School Year*

על שלושה דברים העולם עומד  
על התורה  
ועל העבודה  
ועל גמילות חסדים

The world stands  
on  
three things  
Torah, Prayer and Acts of Kindness

**Naomi & Ken Kramer Religious School  
at Beth Meyer Synagogue**

**Policies and Procedures for  
Parents and Students**



*Beth Meyer Synagogue*  
*Torah • Avodah • Gemilat Hassadim*

# BETH MEYER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Policies and Procedures for Parents and Students Yad B'Yad - 8th Grade

### SCHOOL HOURS

<i>Yad B'Yad:</i>	Selected Sundays	10:00 am - noon
<i>K-2nd:</i>	Sundays	10:00 am - noon
<i>3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:</i>	Sundays Tues or Wed	10:00 am - noon 4:15 - 6:15 p.m.
<i>6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>:</i>	Wednesdays Shabbat mornings	4:15 - 6:15 p.m. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
<i>8<sup>th</sup>:</i>	Wednesdays	4:15 - 6:15 p.m.

It is important that children arrive for class  
and are picked up from class on time.

## **We want our children to be proud of being Jewish.**

We want them to feel that they are part of something which is special, which has made a significant contribution to the world and which continues to have something of worth to offer both to them as individuals and the larger community as a whole. Pride comes from a sense of who one is and where one came from, what hardships were overcome and what joys and wonders were experienced by ancestors both recent and ancient. We want our children be familiar with our history in all its variety and beauty.

## **We want our children to be comfortable in synagogue.**

Whether or not they choose to regularly attend synagogue later in life, we want them to feel that the synagogue is a place where they are welcome. We want them to be able to walk into any synagogue in any place in the world and feel a connection with the people, the liturgy and the “dance” which is the synagogue service.

## **We want our children to have a knowledge of Hebrew.**

Some children will go on to read Torah in the synagogue. Some children will be able to follow the service in the synagogue. Some children will learn to say the blessings in their homes. Many things divide modern Jews. Hebrew unites us. We want our children to have the sound of Hebrew in their ears and the taste of Hebrew in their mouths.

## **We want our children to have a sense of the wide and wonderful range of Jewish thought.**

We want them to know the difference between Torah and Talmud, to recognize the names of people like Maimonides and Rashi, as well as Abraham and Moses and know what their contributions were to what has become modern Judaism. We are only the most recent addition to an ever evolving tradition. We want our children to feel that they are a part of that evolution rather than simply passive bystanders.

## **We want our children to understand that Judaism is more than the service in the synagogue.**

It is a way of life, one which encompasses both the rituals we practice in our homes and the way in which we conduct ourselves in the world. “You shall recite them at home and away...” says the liturgy. We want our children to understand what that means.

## **Beth Meyer Religious School is a supplementary school**

A supplementary school is exactly that - supplementary. It augments and, in turn, supports the learning children do in their homes, with their friends and families, in their secular schools and in the synagogue. It is a partnership between children, parents, teachers and the larger Jewish community. Jewish learning never ends. We, the partners in this endeavor, set a child's feet on a path that will last a lifetime.

We welcome you to a year of laughter, joy and learning.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

The office is closed on Monday, Shabbat and on Jewish holidays. The nature of the job of Director is such that the Director is often working off-site at meetings and other appointments. Should you need to speak/meet with the director, please call or email and leave a message. Every effort will be made to respond to your calls in a timely fashion.

## **SCHOOL PHONE**

The Religious School has its own phone number: 919-848-8111. We make every effort to have someone “on the desk” at all times when school is in session. However, that is not always possible. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message on the school voice mail.

If the phone rings busy, you can call back later or call the synagogue main phone, 919-848-1420, and transfer to the school voice mail. Please also use the main number if an emergency occurs and you need to speak with someone right away.

## **ATTENDANCE**

A key to success in any educational program is a student’s regular attendance. Sporadic attendance inevitably creates frustration for students and teachers. Please make every effort to keep absences to a minimum. Whenever possible, please notify the school office that your child will be absent. Make-up work will be provided for students and every effort will be made to help the student complete his/her work.

## **DISMISSAL and SAFETY**

Parents may drop off and pick up their child in front of the school. **CARS MAY NOT BE UNATTENDED IN THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE OR ANYWHERE ON THE DRIVEWAY. IF YOU WISH TO GET OUT OF YOUR CAR, FOR ANY REASON OR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, WE ASK THAT YOU PARK IN THE PARKING LOT!**

**The safety of all our children depends on everyone observing these rules.**

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Notification about class cancellation will be sent via e-mail and phone calls. When possible, there will also be a message left on the school answering machine. You can also check the following stations: WPTF/680 AM or WRAL/TV5.

### **Parents call also elect to get a text message for school closing notification.**

*Sunday Classes:* The decision to cancel classes will be made no later than 9 a.m.

*Weekday Classes:* If Wake County schools close early for a weather-related event, religious school classes are *usually* cancelled.

Classes will *generally* be canceled for a weather event the first day that Wake County schools close. Subsequent closing during the same weather event will be at the discretion of the religious school director.

*Shabbat Classes:* Shabbat programs are rarely cancelled. Please use your judgment about getting to synagogue safely during weather events.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

If a student needs to leave school during school hours, the parent or other authorized adult should check in with the school office before picking up the child from his or her classroom. Please notify teachers in writing, or call the school office, if your child will be picked up early.

## **VISITORS**

Visitors are welcome - we love to show off our school. However, we do ask for advance notice. Please notify the Education Director should you wish to bring a visitor to class.

## **FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Throughout the year, a variety of family education programs will be offered. We encourage you to join us for these unique opportunities to grow Jewishly as a family. Children may attend these programs without a parent (unless noted otherwise) but we strongly advise you to clear your schedule to participate with your child.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES**

Progress reports are issued twice a year: in January and at the end of the school year. Each report will indicate the areas of study, projects, goals of each, unit studied and the quality of the student's participation.

Hebrew skills of children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades will be evaluated, either by the Director or the teacher, twice during the year. If there is a concern about a student's progress a parent-teacher conference will be scheduled.

## **ATTIRE**

All males are required to wear a kippah whenever they are in the synagogue or participating in religious school activities. There are kippot available in baskets in the lobbies of both buildings. Kippot are encouraged for girls and women.

Clothing that is not permitted in the Wake County Public Schools is not appropriate for our halls. Contact the school office if you need clarification of this policy.

Shabbat attire: Students are expected to dress appropriately for synagogue attendance. Girls should wear dresses, skirts or nice slacks and boys should wear shirts and slacks. Jeans, shorts and T-shirts are not acceptable Shabbat attire.

## **CELL PHONES, VIDEO GAMES, TOYS, etc**

Cell phones should be turned off during school hours, and should be out of site. A teacher may confiscate a phone if it rings or proves to be a distraction during class. The phone will be returned at class dismissal.

Handheld video games and other toys should not be brought to class. If they are brought to class, and prove to be a distraction, they may be confiscated by the teacher and will be returned at class dismissal.

## **SNACKS**

If children bring snack with them, for before class consumption, we ask that the snack be in keeping with the laws of kashrut. Dairy or parve products are fine. For questions about appropriate snacks, please call the school office.

Middle school students who attend religious school on Shabbat are invited to join the congregation for Kiddush after services provided that a parent is in attendance. The religious school is not responsible for students once services have ended.

## **TZEDAKAH**

Literally, acts of righteousness or doing justice, each child is encouraged to participate in tzedakah projects throughout the school year. Teachers will work with students to understand the importance of this simple act of giving as a way of helping to repair the world, to make it a better place.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

“Do not do unto another that which is hateful to yourself,” taught Rabbi Hillel as noted in the Talmud, Shabbat 31a. This is the basis of the discipline policy at the Beth Meyer Religious School. Our expectation is that every student will conduct his/her self in a manner that allows all children to learn effectively.

If a student finds him or herself unable to comply with this policy and the teacher has made a reasonable effort to correct that behavior, the child will be removed from the class and sent to the Director who will deal with the situation at her discretion. If disruptive behavior continues, the director, in consultation with the teacher and parents will develop a plan for successful resolution.

**Punitive actions are not reflective of the Religious School’s approach to behavior problems.**



## Staff Roster

Kelly Bloom	Yad B'Yad
Karen Bograd	1st grade
Julie Braman	5th -6th grade
Jim Doerfler	Gesher
Hirsch Fishman	High School
Deborah Goldstein	3rd - 5th, Gesher & HS
Cathy Kaplan	4th grade, Gesher & Tutor
Jonah Kaplan	High School
Marc Kasten	High School
Fern Kaufman	Tutor
Rabbi Steve Kirschner	Tutor
Steve LaSala	Gesher, High school
Sharon Mills	Tutor
Allison Mitteer	High School
Josh Orol	Gesher, High School
Ira Planer	3rd - 5th, Gesher, High School
Elizabeth Portnoy	1st grade
Jennifer Rifkin	3rd - 5th grade
Jodi Salzman	2nd grade
Graham Satisky	Kindergarten
Rabbi Eric Solomon	Gesher, High School
Rabbi Jenny Solomon	High School
Kim Wicksel	3rd - 5th grade
Janis Zaremba	Gesher

**Amy Ripp**

**School Director**

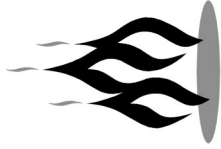
**Cathy Kaplan**

**School Administrator**

**Naomi & Ken Kramer Religious School  
at Beth Meyer Synagogue  
504 Newton Road  
Raleigh, NC 27615**

**School Office Phone: 919-848-8111  
Synagogue Office Phone: 919-848-1420  
Synagogue Fax: 919-848-1571  
School Email: [school@bethmeyer.org](mailto:school@bethmeyer.org)  
Synagogue Email: [office@bethmeyer.org](mailto:office@bethmeyer.org)  
Synagogue Website: [www.bethmeyer.org](http://www.bethmeyer.org)**

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