

## Beth Emet Beit Sefer and Teen Education - Overview of Programs

### Gan Yom Rishon (ages 3-5)

Gan Yom Rishon is an interactive parent/caregiver and child (ages 3-5) class that meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Children are introduced to Jewish holidays, rituals, symbols, and values in an age appropriate, experiential setting. They enjoy songs, art and holiday celebrations. Gan Yom Rishon is also open to non-members.

### Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Students attend Beit Sefer on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The curriculum includes Torah stories from the books of Genesis and Exodus, Jewish holidays, *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness,) the State of Israel, and prayer. Select Hebrew words related to these subjects are introduced orally, and students in grade 2 learn Hebrew letter sounds and names.

### 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Judaic Studies and Hebrew

Students attend Beit Sefer on Thursday afternoons from 4:15-6:15 p.m. and on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Judaic studies and prayer-based Hebrew instruction are taught for one hour each on Thursdays and Sundays. We use the Reform Movement's CHAI curriculum which is based on the fundamental pillars of Judaism: *Torah* (text), *Avodah* (worship), and *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). For more information, see <http://chai.urj.org/>. Each grade studies different passages from the Bible as the basis for exploration about the origins and meanings of our Jewish values and traditions. Together with our Cantor and teachers, students focus on specific aspects of the prayer service and engage in *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of kindness) and *mitzvot* that improve our world. Each grade level also focuses on age appropriate aspects of the Jewish holidays as well as the people and land of Israel. Special events and programs for parents/caregivers with students are included throughout the school year.

### 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Alternative Shiur B'internet (Lesson on the internet)

We offer an alternative hour of Hebrew class strictly for those students who cannot attend Beit Sefer on Thursdays, either due to driving distance or a major year-long conflict on Thursday afternoons. In addition to attending classes on Sundays, these students also participate in an on-line class during the week. Fourth to sixth grades have class on Monday nights, and third grade has class on Wednesday nights. Registration is limited and permission from the Director of Lifelong Learning is required prior to registration. It is our intention that Shiur B'internet will ensure that all Beth Emet Beit Sefer students engage in Hebrew learning and activities twice a week.

### Gesher (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Students attend Gesher on Thursday afternoons from 4:15-6:15 p.m. (same as Beit Sefer) and two Sunday mornings per month from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Gesher is the Hebrew word for "bridge" and this program is designed to help our students build and navigate the bridge between being a Jewish child and a Jewish adult. Our curriculum supplements *b'nai mitzvah* preparation by exploring the themes of peoplehood, identity, sexuality and relationships, leadership, spirituality, and religious pluralism through a Jewish lens. This program is also designed to help our students to examine important life choices from a Jewish perspective and learn how to make informed, thoughtful decisions. A detailed calendar with all dates and times will be available at the start of the year.

### Modern Hebrew (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade) (Elective)

This class meets on Monday evenings (time to be determined) and provides our students with the opportunity to engage with Hebrew as a living language. Students will learn from a variety of "hands-on" activities and have the opportunity to put their new language skills to use. Many graduates of this class take Hebrew in high school and some are able to test out of Hebrew I. *Ezeh kefi!* What fun! A minimum of 5 students is required for this class.

# Post-B'nai Mitzvah Programs

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Jewish education is a life-long commitment and here at Beth Emet we know that it is not one size fits all. During the 8th grade year we offer our students great ways to connect to our community and expand their Jewish horizons. All 8th grade students are highly encouraged to take part in Mitzvah Corps, our core program which centers around engaging in community service and looking at current events through a Jewish lens. In addition to Mitzvah Corps we offer two electives. Eighth grade students will participate in a culminating retreat at the end of the year. **If you choose not to enroll in Mitzvah Corps, you are expected to sign up for two electives.**

### Mitzvah Corps

Students attend two Sundays per month. One of these Sundays will be a classroom session at Beth Emet from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Hours may vary depending on site visits and service projects.) During these sessions students will have the chance to learn about and discuss different issues affecting our community and world, as well as what Judaism has to say about them. The other Sunday session will be a hands-on community service project connected to the issue being studied that month. The hands-on sessions are usually during regular Beit Sefer hours, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. More detailed schedule information will be available in the summer.

### Madrichim in Training (Elective)

Madrichim training is for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have an interest in working with younger children and developing their skills as leaders and teachers. Students who successfully complete the training will be given hiring preference as 9th-12th graders if they wish to work as madrichim (paid classroom assistants) on Sundays and/or Thursdays. Madrichim in Training classes are coordinated with the Mitzvah Corps schedule whenever possible to allow for maximum participation. Students attend two Sunday mornings per month. Regular class meets from 9:30-10:30 a.m. More detailed schedule information will be available in the summer.

### Rosh Chodesh for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls (Elective)

Eighth grade girls have an opportunity to continue the Rosh Chodesh program in order to build self-esteem and Jewish identity through the use of performance and visual arts projects, games, and facilitated discussions. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Rosh Chodesh meets once a month at Beth Emet. Enrollment in the Gesher Rosh Chodesh program is not a prerequisite. This program will not conflict with any other 8<sup>th</sup> grade program.

## High School Chavayah Program (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Chavayah is Beth Emet's experientially based 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade education program. Chavayah takes learning out of the classroom and allows students to put their Jewish values into practice. Chavayah's core curriculum is based around monthly seminars and field studies that will allow learning about current events and community issues through a Jewish lens. During the 2016-17 academic year, the curriculum will culminate in a social justice trip the week of March 27 through April 2. (Details about the scope and focus of the trip will be forthcoming.) Chavayah also offers our high schoolers elective workshops that will allow them to explore Judaism through their preferred style (or styles) of learning. Students also elect to attend interactive Torah study and electives with Rabbis and educators from Beth Emet and the greater Jewish community. More details will be available in the summer and at our kick off barbecue at the start of the academic year.

## High School Rosh Chodesh Group

High School Rosh Chodesh is open to girls in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and is open to all regardless of past participation. The sense of support, community, and growing connection to the Jewish calendar and following of the seasons are valuable parts of Jewish life and spirituality for them. One high school group will continue in 5777 to ensure continuity as well as foster a strong sense of sisterhood among the girls.

## **Madrachim in Classrooms (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Madrachim in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades have the opportunity to become young leaders in our congregation by serving as assistants to teachers and role models to our younger students. They work in kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms helping to run programming, mentor students, and provide extra help to both teachers and students. Madrichim may work on Thursday afternoons and/or Sunday mornings. Madrichim also have the opportunity to assist experiential programming such as Shabbat programs and retreats. Madrichim are paid on a per session basis or volunteer hours are given. Pay scale increases with each year of service. For more information or to apply for the 2016-17 school year, please contact Marci Dickman.

*Note on continuing education:* We at Beth Emet strongly believe that Jewish learning is a lifetime commitment and does not stop after the Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Our Madrichim need to model this value to our young children. For this reason, **freshmen and sophomores who wish to work as Beit Sefer Madrichim must be enrolled in some type of continuing Jewish education, preferably in Beth Emet's Chavayah High School program.** For more information on meeting this requirement, please contact Marci Dickman or Abigail Backer.

## **Talmidim (11<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

A *talmid* is a student, a budding scholar, and this is what we ask our 11th graders to be. Recognizing the advanced level of critical thinking skills that these students use in school and in viewing the world, we offer an opportunity to apply these skills to the analysis of primary Jewish texts and events happening in the world today. Talmidim meets monthly for 1.5 hours on Sunday afternoons. During the 2016-17 academic year, the curriculum will culminate in a social justice trip the week of March 27 through April 2. (Details about the scope and focus of the trip will be forthcoming.)

## **Additional Programs**

### **Chochma – Hebrew Support Services**

This program is designed for students in grades 4-6 who learn Hebrew best with individual or small group instruction in a warm, conducive environment. Chochma also supports students who have ongoing or periodic special learning needs. Students attend Sundays and Thursdays as part of the Beit Sefer program and receive special instruction during their Hebrew class. Please contact Marci Dickman at 847-869-4230, ext. 310 to discuss whether Chochma would be a good fit for your child(ren).

### **Kabbalat Torah (12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

As our seniors begin their final year of high school, we at Beth Emet share excitement in thinking about the year ahead. We're eager to help our seniors mark the many milestones of the senior year with both the thoughtful reflection and the festivity that it warrants. We plan a lot for our seniors – from dinners with the Rabbi to a very exciting New York trip (January 20-23, 2017). We are eager to reconnect and welcome our students, even if they haven't been actively involved in our youth programming over the past several years. Kabbalat Torah (or "confirmation") participants choose from a variety of options to fulfill the requirements for Kabbalat Torah. Most programming will take place during the second semester, when the stress of college applications has passed and students have a chance to relax, celebrate, and prepare for the journeys that await them.