

**TEMPLE BETH-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**  
**MISSION STATEMENT**  
**March, 2009/Adar 5769**

*The goal of Jewish education within the Reform Movement is to deepen Jewish experience and knowledge for all Jews, so as to strengthen their commitment to God, their identification with the Jewish people, their involvement in the Temple, their participation in Jewish life, and their determination to live as Jews.*

*- URJ Commission on Reform Jewish Education*

Temple Beth-El strives to provide each student with a comprehensive Jewish education. It is our goal to empower each student to become a vital part of our Temple community and to build, throughout his or her years in the school, a sense of Reform Jewish identity and the foundation of a lifelong commitment to Jewish living and learning. Our program will enable each student to understand and express Judaism, through a deep understanding of God, Torah, and Israel.

Even as the Temple strives to maintain rigorous standards for our curriculum, those who implement it, and our students' achievement, so too do we expect our commitment to Jewish learning to be supported by the students' families.

**TEMPLE BETH-EL SETS TWO GOALS FOR ITS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:**

**I. Through religious education, our students will become a vital part of the Jewish community.**

- a. They will interact with Temple clergy who are their educators, worship leaders, and counselors.
- b. They will study with teachers who are knowledgeable about Judaism, meet the needs of students with various learning styles, and implement a variety of teaching strategies.
- c. They will participate in Temple family programs designed to foster ethical awareness and nurture family commitment to Jewish life.
- d. They will participate in Temple events and activities with their peers.
- e. They will participate in activities that reinforce their connection to the local, national, and worldwide Jewish community, fulfilling the principle of *K'lal Yisrael* – the unity of the Jewish people.

**II. Through religious education, our students will build their Jewish identity.**

- a. They will study and explore Jewish beliefs about God, the core principles of Jewish ethics, and *Mitzvot* (sacred obligations).
- b. They will develop an understanding of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) as a sacred responsibility in partnership with God.
- c. They will develop an understanding of the foundational literature of Judaism: Torah, Prophets, Writings, Talmud, and Midrash.
- d. They will develop an understanding of the Jewish calendar by studying and observing Shabbat, Holy Days, and Festivals.
- e. They will develop an understanding of Jewish life cycle events.
- f. They will develop competence in reading and writing Hebrew.
- g. They will develop vocabulary in liturgical and conversational Hebrew.
- h. They will develop competence in prayer-reading and worship-leading.
- i. They will develop an understanding of Jewish history.
- j. They will develop an understanding of the Holocaust.
- k. They will develop an understanding of the history, geography, and culture of Israel.
- l. They will participate throughout their Jewish education in celebrations of Jewish identity: Consecration (marking the formal beginning of Jewish education studies), *Siyyum* (completion of first year of Hebrew study), Bar-/Bat-Mitzvah, Confirmation, and High School Graduation