

# WELCOME BACK TO MIDRASHA!

*Second semester classes resume on January 5, 2011, at Temple Israel. Pizza and late registration will begin at 6:15 p.m.*

## ***Hours***

All Midrasha classes for students in both the middle school and the high school will take place from 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The hours for Midrasha will remain the same throughout the year. **CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON TIME. STUDENTS MAY COME AT 7:00 IF THEY WANT MORE TIME TO SOCIALIZE!!!**

<b>Hour 1</b>	<b>7:15-8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>8:00-8:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Hour 2</b>	<b>8:15-9:00 p.m.</b>

## ***Location***

**Classes and programs for the fall semester will take place at Temple Israel**, located at 2004 East 22 Place (behind Utica Square).

***Calendar - Please mark your calendars with these important Midrasha dates:***

January 5	Midrasha Resumes @ TI	7:15-9:00pm
March 9	BRING A FRIEND TO MIDRASHA!	
March 11 – 14	PANIM in Washington, D.C.	
March 16	NO Midrasha – Spring Break	
April 10	Mitzvah Day (begins at TI)	9:00am
April 20	NO Midrasha – Pesach	
May 11	Midrasha Graduation at TI	7:15pm
May 15	Festival Israel at CSJCC	12:00-5:00pm
June 12-18	Anytown, Oklahoma	

### **Dates not listed above are class as usual.**

To receive credit for Midrasha courses, students must attend at least 70% of all classes. (An instructor may give a make-up assignment in cases where extenuating circumstances justify excessive absences.) Attendance records are maintained through the school offices.

## ***Registration***

Please register by **December 22<sup>nd</sup>** by either:

- Mailing your forms to Rabbi Anna Beroll, Temple Israel, 2004 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Place, Tulsa, OK 74114-2800
- Faxing your forms to 747-3564 attn: Rabbi Anna Beroll
- Go online to [www.tulsamidrasha.org](http://www.tulsamidrasha.org) and register online

# Midrasha

## 2010-2011 School Calendar

July 2010						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2010						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2010						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2010						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2010						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2010						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Eliyahu Krigel, MA**  
 Director of Education  
 Congregation B'nai Emunah  
[elijahu@bnaiemunah.com](mailto:elijahu@bnaiemunah.com)  
**Rabbi Anna Beroll**  
 Rabbi / Educator  
 Temple Israel  
[rabbiberoll@templetulsa.com](mailto:rabbiberoll@templetulsa.com)  
<http://www.tulsamidrasha.org/>  
 Updated as of August 16, 2010



School Closed/ Holidays



General School Sessions: 7:15-9:00. First Semester at CBE, Second Semester at TI.  
January 5: Late registration begins at 6:15 and classes will run from 7:15-9:00.

## Second Semester Special Opportunities

### OCCJ Teen Trialogue

OCCJ Teen Trialogue is a fabulous opportunity for you to join with Tulsa teens of other religions to explore various topics common to all mankind. The topic this year is “Generation XYZ.” Through this process of dinner and discussion you will have the opportunity to learn and teach about the Jewish holidays and how they compare with those of other religions.

This year, OCCJ Teen Trialogue will be a part of the class, “Journeys to Israel: Dreams and Possibilities” with Edna Lapidot. This course is intended to prepare our students who will be traveling to Israel for that experience. It is our hope that by exploring various religious traditions here in Tulsa, our students will be more confident with their own religious and cultural identities.

The discussion locations and dates are as follows:

March 23 – The Peace Academy at the Islamic Society of Tulsa

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Boston Avenue United Methodist Church

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Temple Israel

April 13 – Bishop Kelley High School

On each of these days, the host group will present about their traditions, and we will then have the chance for discussion. *We will meet at Temple Israel at 6pm* on these dates to ensure that we are on time for the program. Following the presentations, we will return to Temple Israel in time for Second Hour classes.

### Panim el Panim

It’s not too early to begin thinking about attending Panim el Panim from **March 11-14 in Washington, D.C.** during spring break. Details and registration materials will be available soon. This program that provides students in grades 10-12 with a hands-on experience advocating for important social justice issues is truly a “must do” for each of you! There are a limited number of places and preference will be given to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

Please call Rabbi Beroll or Mr. Krigel with any questions you may have.

### March 9<sup>th</sup> – “Bring a Friend to Midrasha” Day

During our regular Midrasha sessions, it is wonderful to have time to spend in classes where all the students are Jewish, something that does not happen during our regular school days. However, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, each student is encouraged to bring a non-Jewish friend to class to see what Midrasha and Jewish learning is all about. Not only will we all learn in our classes, but we will get to teach others more about Judaism at the same time.

# MIDRASHA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## GRADES 7-8

### **The Grade 7 Curriculum**

#### **First Hour:**

##### **“Torah, Torah, Torah” with Mr. Tim Wood**

Students will become familiar with the characters, historical events, and themes of our most sacred of texts. They will utilize a multitude of resources to discover how Torah shapes our everyday lives. Students will also begin to learn how to analyze biblical texts in a more mature way.

##### **“Ivriya Chadasha” with Ms. Ofira Shoham**

Students continue their advanced study of Hebrew language meeting on Sunday mornings at Congregation B’nai Emunah or Temple Israel, as well as on Wednesday evenings during Midrasha.

#### **Second Hour:**

##### **“Ethics and Values” with Mr. Jeff Chasen**

This core course for all 7<sup>th</sup> graders will focus on contemporary ethical dilemmas which students face in their everyday lives. Students will learn and discuss how Judaism can provide guidance, insights, and inspiration in making decisions that impact their future choices and relationships.

# The Grade 8 Curriculum

## First Hour:

### **“Comparative Judaism” with Ms. Anne Hipfner**

*Eighth grade students will examine the various movements of Judaism by exploring the similarities and differences in practice, as well as the common threads that unite them all.*

### **“Ivriya Chadasha” with Ms. Ofira Shoham**

Students continue their advanced study of Hebrew Language, meeting on Sunday mornings at Congregation B’nai Emunah or Temple Israel as well as on Wednesday evenings during Midrasha.

## Second Hour:

### **“Comparative Religion” with Ms. Anne Hipfner**

*Eighth grade students will explore the main tenets of the major faiths of the world, comparing views on God, death, repentance, and after-life.*



# The High School

The faculty in the High School Midrasha program strives to provide our students with the opportunity to mold an individualized program of Jewish Studies to meet their needs for continued Jewish learning. Within the framework of a series of required credits, students are encouraged to choose courses in a variety of Jewish topics that are of interest to them.

## *Midrasha Graduation Expectations –*

Upon completion of the four years of the High School Midrasha program, students will have taken at least 14 semester credits, with distribution in the following manner:

### **7 requirements from the following:**

<b>1 Bible</b>	<b>1 Ethics</b>	<b>1 Israel</b>
<b>1 Jewish Literature</b>	<b>1 Rabbinics</b>	
<b>1 Philosophy/Theology</b>	<b>1 Jewish History</b>	
	<b><u>+ 7 Electives</u></b>	

**14 TOTAL**



# ***FALL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES***

## ***GRADES 9 – 12***

### ***HOUR I***

#### **“Journeys to Israel: Dreams and Possibilities” with Edna Lapidot (1 Credit - Israel or History)**

Our Israeli Shlichah has so much to share with us! Take this course to explore your connection to Israel whether you are anticipating a trip to Israel later this year or in the future. You will not only explore facts about the country, but will also discuss issues of identity and belonging which pertain to both Israeli youth and Jewish American teens alike. You will learn why our commitment and support for our fellow Jews in Eretz Yisrael are so needed. Students will also take part in the OCCJ Teen Trialogue as part of this class. *It is a requirement for 10th students planning the summer study trip.*

#### **“Pirke Avot” with Rabbi Charles Sherman (1 Credit – Rabbinics or Elective)**

Pirke Avot, “The Sayings of Our Fathers,” is one of the most quoted sources in Jewish tradition and a favorite from within the Oral Law. This course will explore the moral advice and insights from the rabbinic sages of past generations. Students will engage in stimulating discussions as they relate this wisdom to their everyday lives.

#### **“Reading Jewish Photographs” with Rabbi Marc Boone Fitzerman (1 Credit – Ethics or Elective)**

A photograph is a text that calls for the same alert reading we would use for a novel or a short story. It communicates a world view that might be critical, celebratory or something in between. Jewish photographers have poured themselves into creating a body of work that reflects and responds to a century of Jewish life. We’ll spend this course looking at important Jewish photographs, the stories behind them, and what they say to the mind and the heart. This class is limited to ten students.

#### **“Reel Jews: Jews in the Movies and Movies about Jews” with Cantor Kari Siegel-Eglash (1 Credit – Philosophy/Theology or Jewish History)**

In this class we will look at the history of the American film industry and the role Jews have played in its development. We will also explore a variety of movies with Jewish themes with the goal of analyzing the ideas presented. What do these images mean? How do they affect us as a community?

#### **“Not Bubby and Zadye's Spirituality” with Moreh Eliyahu Krigel, M.A. (1 Credit – Philosophy/Theology)**

This class will explore the ancient roots of the Jewish mystical tradition known as Kabbalah for the modern young adult. The class will have a workshop component where we will have an

opportunity to learn the basic techniques of the Jewish meditative experience. In addition, the course will provide source texts to use from the Torah and Rabbinic literature aimed at supporting a rich spiritual practice. No experience with meditation or spirituality needed! The class is for the novice practitioner and also for those who wish to deepen their own spiritual encounter in an open and honest way.

**“Jewish Food Around the World” with Morah Pat Snitz**  
**(1 Credit – Elective)**

Taste Jewish culture from around the world! Cook Kosher/Meat-Free recipes from near and far as we build a full meal during the semester, with everything from appetizers and soups to dessert. Cook, laugh and eat together!

**WHAT WOULD JEW(S) DO -- Part 2 (Continuation from Fall Semester)**  
**with Moreh Jeff Chasen**

**(1 Credit – Ethics)**

This class is your class -- you will select the things that matter to you. We will discuss and debate issues in your lives and beyond ... whatever is on your mind. We will look for answers from each other and consider how they interact with Jewish texts and ethics. This is your time as young Jewish adults, and your own time in Midrasha. NOTE: This class will be limited to approximately 10 students to promote the best possible discussion

## ***HOUR 2***

**“Liberal Judaism” with Rabbi Charles Sherman**  
**(1 Credit - Philosophy/Theology or Rabbinics)**

We often take for granted what we are and who we are. In this class Rabbi Sherman will help students understand better what it is to be a Reform or Liberal Jew, and our obligations to our faith. THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED OF ALL TEMPLE ISRAEL TENTH GRADERS WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION. This is the second half of a two-semester course.

**“Ivriya Chadasha High School Division” with Morah Ofira Shoham**  
**(1 Credit)**

This class is open to Ninth through Twelfth grade students who wish to continue their Hebrew Language studies. Modern Hebrew language will be studied through reading, writing and speaking. Materials will include modern day songs and stories as well as vocabulary and grammar. For those planning a trip to Israel during their high school years the class will cover useful language for travel in Israel. Classes will meet both Sundays and Wednesdays. Students will be evaluated for proper placement. There may be more than one section of this class based on the students’ abilities as they enter or continue on in the program. *Students are welcome to begin Ivriya at any age or grade.*

**“Bad Girls: The Women of the Tanakh” with Rabbi Anna Beroll**  
**(1 Credit – Bible)**

Together, we will explore the good, the bad, and the misunderstood women within our Biblical tradition. Through reading the texts in which these women appear as well as some of the commentaries about them, we will try to understand more about the female characters in our oldest texts.

**“Havruta Learning” with Midrasha Student Leaders**  
**(1 Credit - Elective)**

Havruta learning is the old age Jewish tradition of students learning from each other. Haver derives from the Hebrew word friend. This class will utilize the method of Havruta learning as a way to develop and deepen classroom discussion. The facilitators hope to provide students with thought provoking and engaging Jewish texts. Sources from Halakhah (Jewish Law) as well as Aggadah (Jewish Stories and Teachings) will be provided to serve as stepping off points of discussion.

**“American Jewish History” with Moreh Harris Prescott**  
**(1 Credit – Jewish History)**

Are you an American Jew or a Jewish American? This class will explore issues of Jewish identity in the context of understanding American Jewish history? This course will focus on understanding American Jewish history over the past 110 years. What are the contributions American Jews have made to contemporary society? Learn the major players and key historical figures that have helped make the American Jewish experience excel beyond expectations.

**“Top Chef: The Jewish Edition” with Rabbi Marc Boone Fitzerman and Guest Chefs**  
**(1 Credit – Elective)**

A civilization is defined by many elements, including what happens in the kitchen. Some of our most powerful Jewish experiences happen at the family and Synagogue table, where identity and connection are reinforced by the traditional foods of the Jewish community. This course will concentrate on baking as a way of creating important ties and enduring, significant relationships. This class is limited to seven students.

**“ISJL Holocaust Studies” with Moreh Ira Rothman**  
**(1 Credit – History or Ethics)**

The Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) has recently developed an engaging high school curriculum for Jewish community schools based on exploring the consequences and impact of the Holocaust. In this class, students will explore anti-Semitism and the Holocaust by using the ISJL curriculum as a guide.

# Special High School Information

## ***Confirmation***

There are special moments in our lives during which we stand before our congregations to publicly confirm our dedication to Jewish learning and practice. During tenth grade at Temple Israel, and the eleventh grade at Congregation B'nai Emunah, students participate in special study and service programs designed to enable them to fully express their commitment to Judaism. The year culminates in a special worship service at each congregation during which the students are honored. This yearlong experience is called "Confirmation."

Temple Israel confirmation requirements are:

- Completion of the Temple Israel year-long Confirmation course, "Liberal Judaism", with Rabbi Sherman
- Earn a total of 8 Midrasha credits by the conclusion of the tenth grade and
- Completion of grades 7-10 in Midrasha

Congregation B'nai Emunah requirements are:

- Earn a total of 12 Midrasha credits by the conclusion of the eleventh grade,
- Completion of grades 7-11 in Midrasha.

## ***The Trip to Israel***

The summer after Confirmation, students from both congregations are invited to participate in special travel experiences to Israel, sponsored by the Conservative and Reform movements. In order to honor our students for their dedication, this trip is subsidized by both the students' congregations and by the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. During the semester prior to their travel to Israel, Confirmation students will participate in a special preparation course taught by the Shaliacha. Participation in this course counts as one credit toward Midrasha graduation. Confirmation students may contact the Rabbi or Director of Education from their congregation for more information.

## ***Institute for Adult Jewish Studies***

The Tulsa Jewish community sponsors the Institute of Adult Jewish Studies, a program of continuing education, on Monday evenings. Students in grades eleven and twelve may further enrich their Judaic background through this program. If students are interested in a specific course or have a scheduling conflict during a particular semester, they may participate in the Institute. Full Midrasha credit will be awarded to students for successful completion. For more information or to arrange Midrasha credit, contact either Eliyahu Krigel or Rabbi Anna Beroll.

## ***Independent Study***

Students in the Midrasha program may design their own one credit independent study course in a particular area of Jewish Studies to supplement the curriculum. Interested students may complete a project proposal to be approved by the Education Directors. Students may earn up to two credit hours of independent study during their Midrasha career. Either Rabbi, educator, or mentor chosen from our community may guide independent study projects.

## ***Flow Chart***

There are many options available to Jewish students in Tulsa. The following flow chart represents a bird's eye overview of some of those engaging possibilities. The flow chart is at the end of this handbook and is posted on the website.

## *Panim el Panim Civics Initiative*

During their **sophomore, junior and senior years** of the Midrasha program, students will have the opportunity to participate in special travel experiences. Such experiences expand their sense of Judaism and their connection to the world Jewish community. This year we will offer our teens the chance to participate in the Panim el Panim Civics Initiative. This program differs from past Panim el Panim experiences in that it offers our students an expanded opportunity for active community service. This will offer students the opportunity to explore the Jewish world that exists beyond their Tulsa community and lobbying and advocacy.

***Panim el Panim*** (Face to Face) takes place in Washington D.C. Panim el Panim is a program designed to bring together Jewish teens from around the country to discuss issues surrounding the American political system. For four days, the students focus on a particular theme (poverty, social justice, or democracy) and engage in discussions and activities from both a Jewish and an American perspective. Panim el Panim provides our students with the opportunity to learn about the American political process, along with their responsibilities for action as prescribed by our Mitzvot.

This program is for students who are fully enrolled and participating in the Midrasha program. The programs are open first to juniors and seniors then for sophomores on a space availability basis. Students receive generous subsidy from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the Jewish Federation Foundation. Students interested in joining these programs will submit applications and participate in the application process, overseen by the B'nai Israel Board of Directors. In 2010, 10 Midrasha students traveled to Panim el Panim. Here what the 2009 Panim participants had to say about this engaging program:

**Rachel Newman:** “Panim was a very good experience for all of us. During the conference I learned so much about community service, social action, and the political process that I will never forget. I especially appreciated the powerful experience of visiting the Holocaust Museum.”

**Britney Wambold:** “What stuck out most for me at the conference was the importance of being a leader. Showing leadership is a strong Jewish value and I was able to live it at Panim. I really enjoyed lobbying Senator Tom Coburn and got so much out of the experience.”

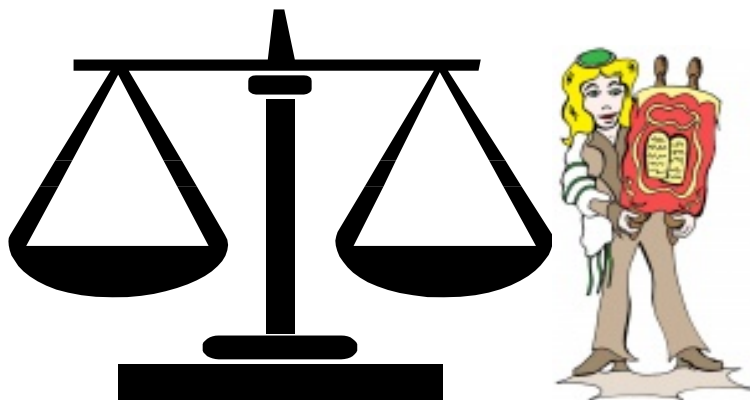
**Jena Baratz:** “Panim was so interesting and so much fun. I enjoyed learning about the political process and lobbying Senator Tom Coburn on important topics such as health care, poverty, homelessness, Israel, the new administration, and the economy.”

**Chaver Harrison:** “I liked the Panim conference very much because it was an opportunity to understand how Jewish issues apply to the modern world and how the Jewish world community is affected by politics. I now truly believe I can make a significant difference in this world.”

**Ari Prescott:** “Panim was an incredible experience. Mixing Jewish values with politics is a recipe for success.”

**Matt Vaughn:** “Panim was an emotional and passionate experience for me. It gave me a new perspective on politics and I loved meeting and networking with all the Jews from all over the country. Panim gave me a sense of belonging to a nation wide movement of political activism with Jews helping and assisting in paving the way.”

**The 2010 - 2011 school year, the Panim el Panim trip is scheduled for MARCH 11-14, 2011. Make it a spring break to remember!**



## **Policies and Expectations**

### ***Administration***

The Midrasha program is jointly administered by Eliyahu Krigel, the Education Director at Congregation B'nai Emunah and Rabbi Anna Beroll, the Education Director at Temple Israel. The direction and supervision of the program is done cooperatively and you may contact either of us at any time to discuss suggestions and concerns. The phone numbers of both directors are at the front of this handbook.

### ***Attendance***

Consistent attendance at Midrasha is necessary to fully benefit from the program. When a student misses a class, please contact the teacher or a classmate to inquire about missed work and assignments. Please notify us in advance of scheduled absences and call immediately in the case of absence due to illness or emergency. ***In order to receive credit for a Midrasha course, students need to attend at least 70% of all classes during the semester, or complete all assigned make-up work. Attendance records are maintained through the school offices.***

Students are expected to arrive on time and to remain until the end of class. Late arrivals must check-in at the office in order to ensure their attendance is recorded.

Early dismissal students must sign out in the office before leaving the campus. Failure to sign out and to report to second hour will result in a phone call home to ensure your student's safety.

### ***Attire***

It is important that Midrasha students dress appropriately for a synagogue. The way we dress affects our behavior and our attitude. Respect for the learning process, as well as pride in the Midrasha program, will greatly enhance the success of both students and teachers. Therefore, our students' dress should be neat and modest. (If you can't wear it to your secular school; it is probably not appropriate for Midrasha.)

### ***Break Time***

During the scheduled break time each Wednesday evening (8:00-8:15 p.m.) refreshments will be provided and students can socialize with their peers. **Students are required to remain in the building and are not allowed to congregate in the parking lot or go off-campus during break.**

### ***Behavior***

Mutual respect allows students and teachers greater opportunity to engage in rewarding Jewish learning experiences. Kavod for others and learning is a highly regarded Jewish value. As parents and teachers we want our students to be respectful of themselves, others and our synagogues. Attention, cooperation and respect are the foundation of a successful learning environment.

If a disciplinary issue does arise, the teacher will handle it initially. When necessary it will be brought to the attention of one of the Education Directors and parents may be contacted. Consequences of inappropriate behavior include removal from class, conference with the administrator and parents, alternative assignments, and, in severe cases, suspension.

### ***Cell Phones***

Cell phones may not be used during class time.

### ***Communication With Parents***

Jewish Education is the most successful and long lasting when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the student. This should be the purpose of every communication between parents and the school. Parents are encouraged to visit with teachers to stay informed on the student's progress. Should the need arise; a teacher may request a meeting with a parent to discuss their student. Parents, in turn, should feel free to request a meeting when they have a particular concern or question. Please note; teachers are not available for in-person or telephone consultation while classes are in session.

At the end of each semester parents will be provided with progress reports. Copies of the progress reports are kept in the offices of both educational departments.

### ***Enrollment Process***

It is important that students who participate in the educational program feel a sense of connection to their community. Therefore, all Midrasha students must be affiliated with a local Jewish congregation.

During each semester of Midrasha, new enrollment forms will be mailed to families, along with an outline of the course selections. Courses change each semester, therefore, it is essential that students and parents review the materials and return the registration as quickly as possible. This will help to insure their first choices. Late registration for each semester will take place during the first session of Midrasha, but students who register at this time cannot be guaranteed their class selections.

### ***Homework and Testing***

Homework will occasionally be assigned in a meaningful and realistic manner. It serves as a preparation for future class sessions. Students may be assessed from time to time to evaluate their accomplishments. Students will be notified in advance to allow time for preparation.

### ***Youth Group Activities***

We encourage our students to participate in many kinds of extra-curricular activities, most especially in the junior youth groups of Congregation B'nai Emunah and Temple Israel, as well as the community high school youth group, BBYO. These organizations provide our students with outstanding opportunities to

interact with their Jewish peers in social, community service, and worship activities. All three youth groups are invited and encouraged to utilize the spaces of either congregation (with advance permission and arrangements) for meetings and programs. **However, during the class hours of Midrasha (excluding breaks), students will be asked to refrain from gathering to discuss youth group business and preparing youth group materials.**

### ***Jewish Observance***

The philosophy of the Midrasha program is to include members of the Tulsa Jewish community who observe Judaism across the spectrum of the Jewish Movements. It is our hope that teachers, students and families will come together for educational and social experiences in an atmosphere of respect for the varying traditions existing within our community. At times, observances in the school setting may differ from those practiced in individual homes, and full respect for family decisions will always be supported in our classrooms. We encourage students and their families with specific questions regarding Jewish observance in Midrasha to speak with their Rabbi or Educator.

Teachers in the Midrasha program are encouraged to be sensitive to the distinctions between Conservative and Reform observances. We believe that this respect will enhance the substantive learning of the students and allow them greater appreciation of their own congregation as well as others.

### **Kashrut**

Snacks and meals served as a part of the Midrasha program will be purchased or prepared according to the Laws of Kashrut in order to create an atmosphere in which all students feel comfortable.

### **Kippot**

Fundamental to Jewish worship and study is the respect we feel toward our sacred texts. These writings serve as a tangible representation of our relationship with God. We want our students to feel a sense of uniqueness and holiness when they read the words of *Torah, Tanach, Talmud, Midrash, and Siddur* or any other sacred writings. Some people believe wearing kippot when studying sacred texts enhances that experience. Midrasha students will be asked to wear kippot when studying sacred texts as a reminder of the special task they undertake. Students are invited to bring their own kippot, borrow from the Midrasha program or purchase one in the gift shops of both congregations.

### **Brachot**

As part of the Midrasha program, students are to be encouraged to recite appropriate blessings during meals, study, and special activities. Families are invited to contact their Educator for copies of these blessings for reinforcement at home.

### ***School Closing Due to Inclement Weather***

In an instance of inclement weather, local radio and television stations will be informed so that notification of school closing can be broadcast. When possible, we will notify families by telephone.

### ***Student Pick-Up from Midrasha***

As Midrasha classes end at 9:00 p.m., please, pick up your students promptly. The Directors of Education will remain in the Midrasha facility until all students have been picked up.

### ***Visitors Policy***

Visitors to Midrasha are not encouraged as it creates a liability issue for the program. However, each Semester we will schedule one session during which our students may each bring one invited guest with them to class. Bring your friend to Midrasha day will be scheduled once the semester is up and running.