



## **2009-2010 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK**

Head of School, Orna Jaffe

Rabbi Gary Perras

**TEMPLE ISRAEL**  
**50 S. Moss Road**  
**Winter Springs, Florida 32708**  
**Phone 407-647-3055**  
**Fax 407 647-8542**  
***www.tiflorida.org***

## Table of Contents

<b>Mission Statement.....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Attendance/Service Attendance .....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Dress Code .....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Arrival &amp; Dismissal Procedures .....</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Discipline Policy &amp; Procedure .....</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Books, Supplies &amp; Homework .....</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>General School Rules .....</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Tzedakah .....</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>Graduation .....</b>	<b>Page 11</b>

# Memorandum

**To:** Parents of Religious School students

**From:** Head of School, Orna Jaffe

**Ref:** School Year

Welcome to our Religious School:

As you know, Temple Israel Religious School is a **nationally accredited** School. This fact should assure you that the curriculum, staffing and procedures, etc. meet rigorous requirements set forth by United Synagogue. We are very proud of that fact.

It is a our desire to provide our students with a quality education. We want your children to have a positive and meaningful experience in school. To achieve this goal our standards are high and our commitment to Jewish education great.

From our staff, we ask hard work, careful planning and sensitivity to our children.

From our students, we require hard work, regular attendance and preparedness each and every day at school.

From our parents we ask for encouragement and support.

Yes, we are asking a lot! Your children deserve the best!

This Parent Handbook has been prepared in order to convey information to our parents and students. It contains our Mission Statement, adopted policies and general rules and regulations. After reviewing the Handbook, please complete and return the last page to your child's teacher. This is to acknowledge that you have received and reviewed the Handbook.

If at any time you have a question or your child has a problem, please first contact the teacher by phone to discuss the problem. If you do not feel the problem has been solved, contact the Head of School at 407-647-3055.

We are going to have a great year and with your support, we are assured it will come to pass! Please keep in touch.

## **Mission Statement**

Temple Israel Religious School's Mission is to provide an innovative and effective formal Jewish educational experience for each child that will equip them with the tools for continuous growth and involvement in their adult years. It is also our goal to strengthen our Synagogue's Jewish families and to enrich the educational experience of Temple Israel's students by giving parents the opportunity to become involved as partners and co-learners in their children's educational experience.

Temple Israel is the facilitator helping to create positive Jewish experiences in a Jewish environment. Our program is designed to enhance the Jewish family unit, and develop and sustain Jewish values and commitment within the family.

Our teachers are not only professional educators, but they have a deep love for children as well. As a result our children develop strong bonds with their teachers and enjoy attending our school.

## Attendance

The goal of Temple Israel Religious School is to educate your child about many aspects of Jewish life. In order to accomplish this goal, it is necessary for all children to maintain a good record of attendance. Sometimes this may be difficult for you, as a parent, to enforce. There are many activities in which our children participate. Sometimes these activities create a conflict with attendance. We ask you to try to keep these absences to a minimum. Our graduation and B'nai Mitzvah policies state that students must maintain a 75% attendance rate.

If your child misses too many lessons, it may be necessary that they receive private tutoring (at parents expense) to achieve the same level of preparedness as their peers.

## Service Attendance

Attending services regularly should be viewed as an extension of your child(ren)'s religious education. Beginning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, attendance (on average) at Shabbat services shall be as follows:

**Grades 2-4** should attend one Kabbalat Shabbat service (Friday night) and one Saturday morning services (this can be the monthly Junior Congregation) per month.

**Grade 5** should attend an average of three services per month, including one Saturday morning service (this can be the monthly Junior Congregation).

See the B'nai Mitzvah manual for attendance requirements for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

An attendance tracking system using stickers will be maintained. Please make sure your child has been credited for their attendance.

It is also expected that your child(ren) attend congregational holiday services and events during the year (High Holiday children's programming, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, and Shavuot).

Students will be recognized for their regular attendance at services.

## **Dress Code**

All students should dress in neat clean clothing, appropriate for a synagogue school setting. Tzniut (modesty) is a long standing Jewish value. As people who see ourselves as reflecting the image of God, our Jewish community believes that we should act accordingly; thus some things are not appropriate, for they do not reflect our Jewish values. How we dress is a basic example of these values.

With your cooperation, there should be no need for anyone to be spoken to about their attire.

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

All classes will start promptly at the designated time. Parents are asked to pick their children up on time. Please arrive at Temple for pick up by 12:00 noon on Sunday and 6:30 pm on Wednesday. The teaching staff cannot leave the premises until children are picked up.

Children who are being picked up early are not allowed to leave class before an adult arrives and signs them out. If you want someone other than those who you have designated on your registration form to pick your child up, **YOU MUST SEND A NOTE**. No child will be allowed to leave the building at the end of the school day without the appropriate person being present to take the child. Religious School pickup is in the double classroom.

## Discipline Policy and Procedure

**Teaching is an art** in the sense that no single method is ideal for every teacher, nor is its application, for every student. The teachers at Temple Israel are encouraged to teach as “a guide on the side” rather than “a sage on the stage.” The following was not developed with the expectation of frequent usage. We are privileged at Temple Israel, in that we have few discipline problems. The reason we have a discipline policy is so that on those few occasions when a problem does arise, the teachers will have a mechanism in place to help deal with it, and so that you, as parents, will know what you can expect from the staff.

Students are sent to the Head of School for disciplinary reasons only when they are keeping others from learning, or are being disrespectful to the teacher. We want our students to be able to make positive choices about how to interact. The system which we have developed recognizes that children need to fail (occasionally), need to experience the consequence of that failure, and need to have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and change their behavior. Respect for them as problem solvers is the message that is conveyed by not phoning their parents after the first warning by their teacher. Recognizing that they are not yet adults, not yet completely responsible is the rationale behind setting up the behavior contract in the beginning of the school year and contacting the parents only after the child has a second behavior problem. Respect for our staff is the reason we involve parents if the behavior does not change.

## **Books, Supplies and Homework**

Students are expected to attend class with all the books and materials they need in order to participate in class. Texts, workbooks and other learning materials will be provided by the school at the beginning of the school year or at other appropriate times. Not all books are permitted to be taken home. When a book is taken home it is expected that the student will bring it back to class for the next day's classes. At the end of the school year, students will keep the workbooks that they were provided with.

Additional supplies may be required by individual teachers. Please check your child's notebooks for notes and flyers from the teacher and from the school.

Students will be asked to complete homework assignments on occasion. Our teachers are well aware of secular school obligations and do not intend to give lengthy homework assignments on a regular basis. However, it is recommended that all students studying Hebrew are expected to spend 15 minutes a day at home practicing reading Hebrew and reviewing the materials being studied in class.

# General School Rules

**Appropriate behavior is required in the Synagogue at all times.**

- Wear a Kippah
- Give “100%” in class
- Come to school with a positive attitude
- Save running for recess
- Gum chewing is not permitted
- Keep your hands to yourself
- Show respect for teachers and peers
- Respect the property of others
- Remain on school grounds at all times
- Cell phones, I-pods, and game systems may not be used during class time and are the responsibility of the student. Skates or skateboards are not allowed in the school
- Any processed food/snack sent to Synagogue **must** have a kosher symbol on it.
- If you are planning to bring a guest please let the teacher know ahead of time.

## **Tzedakah**

A fundamental concept of Judaism is the responsibility of each person to his fellow human beings. Performing acts of tzedakah are important ways for our students to fulfill this obligation. We'd like every family to encourage and support this mitzvah. Each classroom has its own tzedakah box for monetary donations made on Sundays and Wednesdays. Each class will make decisions about which charitable organization(s) they will support.

This year we will become involved with local and international efforts, secular and religious organizations. Jewish tradition tells us that we are expected to take care of the poor and infirm. Even those among us who are the recipients of charitable donations are expected to help others. We sincerely hope that you will encourage your children to participate in these worthwhile projects. We work closely with our Ma'asim Tovim Committee which at times helps us in our efforts. We encourage you to participate with us in the school as well as helping your child to participate in acts of tzedakah outside of school.

## **Graduation**

Graduation from Religious School is a major accomplishment. It represents the completion of the first stage of Jewish education which involved study of many areas of Jewish life including holidays, Hebrew, prayers, history, customs and ceremonies, life cycle events, ethics and moral values, to name a few. Students who have completed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class deserve recognition for their accomplishments. In order to graduate, a student must attend classes on a regular basis, and meet the standards of Temple Israel.

## NOTES

**Please sign and return to:**

**Temple Israel Religious School**  
50 S. Moss Road  
Winter Springs, FL 32708

**I have reviewed the Temple Israel Religious School regulations with my child.  
He/She agrees to abide with them.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date