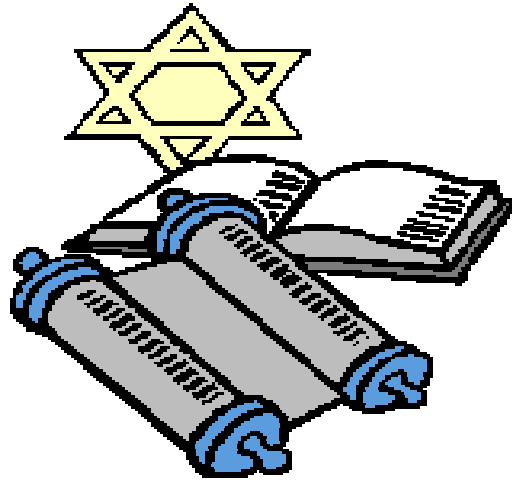


# Irving T. Wolfson Religious School White Meadow Temple

## Parent Handbook 2008-2009



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Harvey Pyser, President  
Rabbi Benjamin Adler  
Janice Rozenwasser, Religious School Director

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Irving T. Wolfson Religious School of White Meadow Temple. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you. I hope that we will become partners in the exciting, challenging and rewarding process of Jewish education this year.

Our Religious School is committed to helping our students become educated and knowledgeable Jews who are connected and committed to Jewish tradition. It is our goal that they embrace Jewish traditions and rituals and feel comfortable with, proud of, and secure in their Jewish identity.

Our Religious School provides a warm and comfortable setting in which to accomplish our goals. We offer small classes, individualized attention and a personal touch. Our teachers are talented, creative and dedicated.

This Parent Handbook has been prepared to help you become familiar with our Religious School. It states our Educational Objectives, Philosophy, and our Mission. It also outlines our school standards and procedures.

We invite you to share your talents and any free time with us. We can always use help on any number of fronts. Please feel free to visit your child's Religious School classes in order to witness our teachers, our curriculum and our students in action and in *interaction* with each other. Visits to your child's class may be arranged by contacting the Director ahead of the date you wish to visit.

I encourage each of you to familiarize yourself with your child's Religious School text books. Attend our Junior Congregation Minyan and learn about the prayer Services along with your child.

Please become an active partner with our teachers, Board of Education members and administration in your own homes by reinforcing and teaching Jewish values, engaging in Jewish activities and being a Jewish role model.

I wish each of you a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

B'Shalom,

Janice Rozenwasser  
Religious School Director

## What Parents Can Do to Enrich Their Children's Jewish Education

The Administration and Board of Education of our Religious School strive to maintain a true partnership between parents, faculty and Administration. We believe that working together is the best way to assure quality Jewish education for your child. In this context, we wish to maximize Parent-School communication.

With this in mind, we wish to outline the ideal procedure in the event that you have a concern about your child and his/her Religious School experience.

1. Please try to first address the concern with the **teacher** involved. Since the teacher has first-hand knowledge of your child's interactions in class, he/she is the logical person to speak with first. If you have a concern about a teacher's interaction with your child, we encourage you to address it. Set up an appointment to speak with a teacher leave a message for the teacher with the Religious School Administrative Assistant.
2. If you are unable to resolve the issue with the teacher, please feel free to contact the Director.

As parents, you are important and essential to our educational program; with your support and encouragement, we can form an effective partnership in the successful education of your child. As a **role model**, your child looks **to you** to confirm the importance of the religious education we provide.

- Be positive. Please don't think or say, "What can you expect? It's only Religious School." Your attitude whether positive or otherwise - is contagious.
- Talk about the value of Religious School. Ask questions and discuss the class work and lesson. Be specific and enthusiastic whenever possible. "Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm."
- Talk about Jewish current events since there are so many in the news.
- Share Jewish experiences with your child: ceremonies, holidays, and memories.
- Make tzedakah a part of your home. Remind your child to bring tzedakah money to school. Recognize important occasions with a contribution to a worthy organization.
- Visit a Jewish historical site or museum with your child.
- Read Jewish books. We encourage you to visit our library or speak with us at the school for recommendations. Encourage your child to join and participate in the Reading Club.
- Bring your child to Synagogue for Services and activities.
- We encourage you to volunteer in the Religious School. If you wish to be a class parent, please contact the school office. Some of the responsibilities will include telephone chain, assisting with holiday celebrations and special activities. Any help will be greatly appreciated.
- Feel free to visit us. Come in and see our bulletin boards in the hallway and share your thoughts. We look forward to seeing you in "Our School."

## **At Irving T. Wolfson Religious School, Our Objectives are to Produce:**

- Jews who express pride in their heritage, who are excited about being Jewish, who observe and practice Jewish traditions, and who desire to transmit their knowledge of and enthusiasm for their tradition to those who come after them.
- Jews who can describe the different ways Jews have conceptualized G-d throughout history, and who can affirm and act upon a personal perspective of G-d and spirituality.
- Jews who have a clear understanding of the nature of prayer - what it is and why we pray - who are knowledgeable and comfortable with the structure and content of the prayer book, and who themselves participate in *Tefilah* (prayer) with *Kavanah* (spirituality).
- Jews who are committed to the values of Tikun Olam and Tzedakah, which have guided us for 4,000 years, who know the reasons for Jewish devotion of these principles and actions and who themselves are committed to live by these values.
- Jews who demonstrate basic competence in the Hebrew language and who understand the place of Hebrew in Jewish tradition.
- Jews who are familiar with the origin and meaning of Jewish customs and rituals, including life cycle events and all forms of Jewish practice, and who observe these Jewish ceremonies throughout their lifetime.
- Jews who enthusiastically support and participate in the life of the synagogue, their Jewish community, and their community at large.
- Jews who see themselves as an important link in the chain of Am Yisrael, the Jewish people, for whom the history of the Jewish people, including the Holocaust, is familiar, meaningful, and central.
- Jews who affirm their historic bond to Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel, who visit Israel, and who work for its well-being.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Irving T. Wolfson Religious School of White Meadow Temple is a Jewish supplemental School dedicated to creating a caring and supportive environment for excellence in Jewish education. We emphasize *Tefillah* (worship of G-d), *Limud Torah* (study of Jewish texts), *Mitzvot* (observance and practice), and *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving-kindness).

As a school affiliated with the Conservative movement, we seek the integration of Judaism into the lives and homes of our students. We are committed to enhancing the full intellectual and spiritual potential of each student, recognizing that students have varied learning styles and abilities. We support the enrichment of study through both traditional and innovative means.

We seek to build a school community in which students work with a dedicated faculty, which will bring to each student a love of Judaism, Jewish values, and a deep regard for the individual differences and worth of each student.

We seek to instill a respect for *Klal Yisrael*, the entire spectrum of the Jewish community and Jewish civilization. We seek to inculcate *Ahavat Yisrael* (a love of Israel), its language, land and people. We are committed to the study of Hebrew as the language of prayer and seek to provide students with a foundation for further study.

In a secular world, we seek to imbue our lives with a sense of *Kedushah* (holiness), an awareness of G-d's presence, our individual and collective responsibilities toward G-d's creation. We cultivate a sense of wonder, gratitude, and thankfulness, which is the foundation of Jewish religious life.

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

### **TUESDAY**

4:15pm - 6:15pm: Aleph, Bet, Gimmel, Dalet, Hey

### **SUNDAY**

8:45am . 12:00pm: Dalet, Hey

9:00am . 12:00pm: Gan, Pre-Aleph, Aleph, Bet, Gimmel

**“The world rests on three things –  
on Torah, on Divine service, on deeds of love and kindness.”  
Pirke Avot 1:2**

## **Academic Standards**

### **Curriculum**

- Curriculum objectives for each grade level will be established by the Director of the Religious School with the Board of Education.
  - A copy of the curriculum and Class Book List is available in the Religious School Office for your examination.
  - The curriculum has six core areas: Holidays and Symbols, Prayer and G-d, Jewish Values, Hebrew, Jewish Customs and Practices, Bible and History.

### **Attendance**

- Students are expected to be on time, to be prepared for class, and to attend classes on a regular basis.
- A student who is absent is expected to make up any missed class work at the discretion of the teacher.
- If a child leaves class early, it is his/her responsibility to obtain class assignments and bring them completed to the next scheduled class.
- Parents will be notified in cases of excessive absences.
- Chronic absenteeism may result in failure to be promoted.

### **Homework**

- We do not assign written homework, however we do recommend Hebrew reading review at least 3 times per week for fifteen minutes.
- If you feel that your child would benefit from extra work to do at home, please contact your child's teacher or the School Director.

### **Books and Supplies**

- Students are required to bring texts, a notebook, a pencil, and *kippah* (for boys) in a backpack to class daily.
- Each student must take proper care of his/her books.
- Students must pay for lost or damaged books.
- All sacred text should be treated with proper respect. The student's prayer book and workbooks remain property of the student, but they should not be defaced or discarded. They should not be torn, written in, or placed on the floor. Please turn in all sacred books to Religious School office for burial or repair.
- All other texts must be returned at the end of the school year. If a child writes anything in a textbook other than his/her name, the parents will be billed for the purchase of a new book.

## Resource Room

- Remediation will be provided within school hours as deemed necessary by the student's teacher and Director for those who have been identified as not achieving proficiency in a particular academic area.
- The Director may meet with the parents to discuss progress and further options.

## Report Cards

- Report cards will be issued twice a year, in December and in June.
- At the conclusion of the school year, the student's achievement will be assessed. Based on the results of this assessment the parents will be notified of their child's progress.

## Discipline Policy

We believe that students have the privilege and right to learn and the teachers have the privilege and right to teach. There are times when the educational process becomes disrupted because a student is not behaving in an appropriate manner. The school needs parental help and understanding in maintaining discipline. The Board of Education has adopted the following procedures for discipline:

- Each teacher will post class rules in the classroom for the students to see at all times. Class rules are composed with the input of the students during the first class session. Behavioral expectations will be communicated to the students at the beginning of the year.
- ***Upon the first infraction***, the teacher will attempt to resolve the situation with the student outside the classroom and the Director will be notified. A written record will be kept of all behavioral incidents.
- ***Upon the second infraction***, the teacher will contact the parent by phone to solicit their assistance in resolving the issue. The Director will be notified.
- ***Should the behavioral issues persist***, the Director will meet with the student and contact the parent. A conference may be required. Such a conference will include the student, the parent/guardian, the teacher and the Director.
- ***In the event that it becomes necessary to suspend a student*** from school, he or she will be responsible for the completion of all missed class work. Prior to readmission, the student, parent(s), and school Director will meet to develop a behavior plan.
- ***If after readmission the behavioral issues continue***, the Director may recommend permanent withdrawal to the Board of Education. The student and his/her parent(s) will be offered an opportunity to meet with the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

## **Graduation Requirements**

- A student will be eligible for graduation upon **successful completion** of the course of study for grades Aleph through Hey, **including** satisfactory attendance both in class as well as at Junior Congregation/Learners' Minyan services.

Parents will be notified well in advance if it appears that their child may fail to graduate. A student who fails to meet graduation requirements will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

## **Dress Code**

- To preserve proper Religious School decorum, students must be dressed appropriately. Proper dress is important in creating the proper atmosphere for study.
- T-shirts with inappropriate pictures, words or logos, short-shorts or short shirts, shirts that do not cover the shoulders such as tank tops and halter-tops, are unacceptable.
- Boys are required to wear a kippah at all times while in the White Meadow Temple building.
- **NO** baseball caps or other hats are allowed.

## **Special Needs**

Parents of a child with special needs (physical, developmental, educational, emotional, etc.) are encouraged to inform the Director as soon as possible. The more that we know about your child, the better we can meet his/her needs. **All information will be kept strictly confidential.**

## **Telephone Calls**

Students may not leave class to make non-emergency or personal calls. The office phone is available for emergency or essential use only: illness, carpool changes, etc.

## **Trips and Special Programs**

Learning takes place in many ways. We may schedule field trips or special programs which may take place outside of the synagogue building. Such events are planned to supplement the curriculum and to enhance your child's learning experience. Should a student be unable to participate in such an event, a written make-up assignment will be given. Permission slips will be required for field trips.

## **Tzedakah**

During each School day, students will have the opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of Tzedakah - sharing with those less fortunate. This is a means of experiential Jewish education. There is a Tzedakah box in each classroom. Children are encouraged to bring money for the Tzedakah box each session. At the end of the year, the school's collection will be distributed to one or more worthy causes.

## **Valuables**

Personal items such as i-pods, personal stereos, beepers, cell phones, video games, toys, large sums of money, etc., should be left at home. Any of these items that are brought into the school are subject to confiscation by the teachers and Director. They will be returned to the parents at the end of class.

## **Dismissal Procedure from the Parking Lot**

Due to the potential for great danger, this procedure has been reviewed and approved by the Rockaway Police Department.

During dismissal, there are many children in the parking lot. Everyone must follow the designated procedure to avoid accidents and ensure the safety of each child.

- Please line up one car behind the other in two rows facing Clubhouse Way.
- Do not park at the far end of the lot. Your child may find it difficult to locate your car, and running across the lot is dangerous.
- Do not motion your child to cross the lot. If you do not want to wait in line please park your car away from the line and walk to your child(ren) and then walk them back to the car.
- When all children are in their cars, you will be signaled to leave.
- Should it become necessary to change the present dismissal policy, notices will be sent home. Please inform other family/friends who may occasionally pick up your children of this dismissal procedure.

## **Early Pick-Up**

In the event that a parent finds it necessary to pick up a child before regular dismissal time:

- A note should be brought to the office at the earliest possible time.
- The parent picking up the child must come into the School office to sign the child(ren) out and the Director or Administrative Assistant will then take the child out of class.
- The student is not permitted to wait outside of class.
- **Please do not park on Clubhouse Way.** This is an order issued by the Rockaway Township Police Department.

## **Alternate Pick-Up**

If someone other than a parent is picking up a child:

- He or she needs to have a note.
- To ensure your child's safety, the office may follow up with a phone call to verify legitimacy of the note if your child will be leaving with someone other than the driver of his/her regular carpool.
- The Administration reserves the right to ask for identification.

## Early Arrival/Late Pick-Up

**Be advised that no supervision is available for children before 4:00pm on Tuesdays or before 8:45am on Sundays.** Therefore, children cannot be admitted into the building before that time. If this is problematic, please contact the Director.

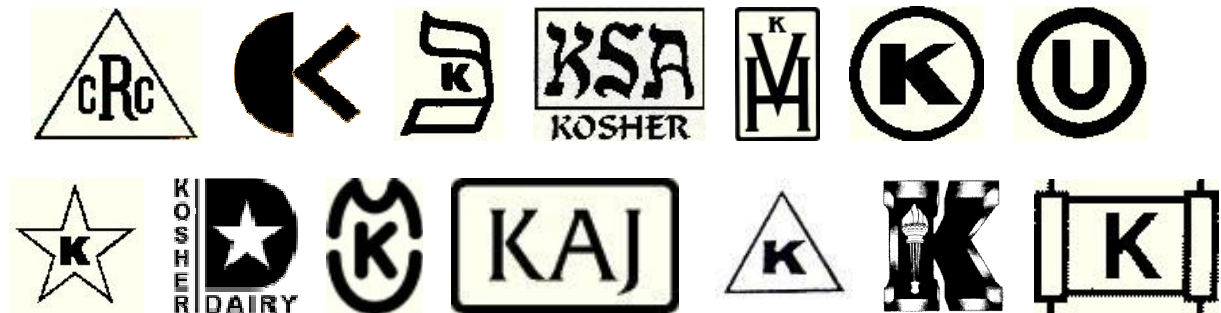
**Dismissal is at 6:15pm on Tuesdays and 12:00pm on Sundays.** In the event that a parent is late, the student will be taken back into the building and the parents will be called. In case of emergency - please call at the earliest possible time.

**IT IS EACH PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PICK UP HIS/HER CHILD ON TIME!**

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE DO NOT PROVIDE STAFF TO SUPERVISE AFTER DISMISSAL**

## Kashrut

- All food brought into the synagogue must be kosher, with clearly labeled kosher symbols.
- Food must be brought in the original container, not in a baggie. There can be no exceptions!
- Any non-kosher food will be confiscated and disposed of.
- Only foods bearing the following acceptable symbols may be brought into the synagogue:



**NOTE:** A plain **K** on a package is **NOT** acceptable

- The Rabbi must approve a product bearing any other Kashrut symbol.
- Eating or drinking during class, including candy or gum is not permitted.
- The only exception is class parties.
- If your child has special dietary needs, which are affected by this policy, please discuss them with the Director.

## **School Closing in case of Emergency or Inclement Weather**

### A) On Tuesdays:

- If Rockaway Township Public Schools are closed for the day or have an early closing, then *no* Religious School classes will be held on that day
- If Rockaway Township Public Schools have a delayed opening, Religious School classes *will be held* unless you are notified to the contrary.

### B) On Sundays

- In case of snow or other emergencies, school closings will be announced via a phone chain.

## **Shabbat: Junior Congregation Standards**

Attendance on Shabbat is an integral part of our Religious School curriculum.

## **Aleph, Bet and Gimmel Students**

Shabbat Mornings 10:30AM - 11:45AM

Weitman Chapel

- For the 2008-2009 School year, students in Aleph, Bet and Gimmel must attend a minimum of **eight** Shabbat morning Junior Congregation services ***at*** White Meadow Temple.
- Failure to attend the required minimum of Shabbat morning attendances can result in failure to be promoted and may also result in an alternative Bar/Bat Mitzvah date being assigned.
- Junior Congregation will be held on scheduled Shabbat mornings during the academic year, and are listed on the Religious School Calendar.
- Special Junior Congregation services will also be held on the First and Second Days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur morning, but will **NOT** count toward the eight required sessions.
  - Students attending Junior Congregation Minyan must pull their card in the Junior Congregation file box at the **completion** of Shabbat services, in order to assure credit.

## **Dalet and Hey students**

- **Students are expected to meet the Junior Congregation requirement by attending Shabbat morning services in the Main Sanctuary at White Meadow Temple.** This will help them to be better prepared for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah service.
- Rabbi Adler will have Dalet and Hey Class students pull their cards after services from an index card box kept on the Bimah.
- The only exceptions are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, when it is assumed that Dalet and Hey class students will be participating in Junior Congregation.

## Dress Code for Shabbat Services

- All students attending Shabbat Services are required to dress in their %Shabbat Best.+
- Boys are required to wear a *kippah* at all times while in the White Meadow Temple building.
- **NO** baseball caps or other hats are allowed in place of a *kippah*.
- T-shirts with inappropriate pictures, words or logos, short-shorts or short shirts, shirts that do not cover the shoulders such as tank tops and halter-tops, and jeans are unacceptable.