

B'nai Mitzvah Studies Agreement

Student Name: _____ **13th birthday:** _____

Parent Name(s): _____

The b'nai mitzvah program at Temple Beth Israel is designed to prepare students become b'nai mitzvah and enter into Jewish adulthood. Such preparation requires focused effort and commitment from the students, parent(s), and the Talmud Torah staff. This agreement is intended to clarify everyone's responsibilities to assure a rewarding and meaningful b'nai mitzvah preparation and ceremony.

We understand that in order to have a bar or bat mitzvah at Temple Beth Israel, we are each committed to the following:

Students:

1. Regularly practice Hebrew, trope, and prayers. Practice in sixth grade should be at least 45 minutes a week outside of class time, ideally about 10 minutes a day. Practice for the 8 months prior to the b'nai mitzvah should be a minimum of 15 minutes per day, six days each week. Practice is best done out loud, while following the text, in front of a parent, tutor, or friend. There's no reason it can't happen on the fly: in the car, in the orthodontist appointment waiting room, etc.
2. Have earned (or achieved the equivalent of) 18 cohort credits and 18 combined Hebrew and/or JEWL credits through attendance, participation, and/or mastery by the time of your bar/bat mitzvah ceremony.
3. Attend:
 - a. at least two b'nai mitzvah retreats
 - b. a minimum of 16 services
 - c. a minimum of 2 TBI programs
4. Continue participating in classes throughout 7th grade, even after your bar/bat mitzvah service. Arrive at each session - class time, tutoring, and other preparatory meetings - on time and with proper materials.
5. Show respect for the efforts of classmates, mentors, and Talmud Torah staff by being a cooperative learner and contributing to a positive classroom environment.

Parent Responsibilities:

1. Understand why you want this ritual for your child and explore what it means to you.
2. Read and become familiar with the b'nai mitzvah parent manual.
3. Oversee, support, and ensure the regular practice of your child's b'nai mitzvah study.
4. Attend services regularly with your child and celebrate Judaism as part of your family life. Commitment to Judaism and our community is most effectively taught through familial example.
5. Attend most of the b'nai mitzvah family meetings held on Sunday mornings.
6. Help create a sense of community among b'nai mitzvah families by attending parent meetings, celebrating together and making an effort to support each other, including assisting with onegs and greeting responsibilities.
7. Schedule appointments, pay fees, and take care of other logistics on time.
8. Prepare for the parent parts of the service by practicing prayers, writing blessings, etc.

Talmud Torah Responsibilities:

1. Provide appropriate materials, resources, and assistance necessary for students' success.
2. Give students the opportunity to learn and grow as individuals in their b'nai mitzvah process.
3. Arrive at each session (class, tutoring, meetings, etc.) on time and prepared.
4. Help the students to discover the spiritual connection between the skills learned, the effort exerted and Judaism as a whole.
5. Answer questions and concerns about the b'nai mitzvah process, ceremony, and celebration.
6. Give regular feedback about student progress.

A signed brit is required for continued participation in TBI's B'nai Mitzvah Program and for holding a date for a bar/bat mitzvah service. Talmud Torah will work with families to create a personalized brit where desired.

Student's signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

Date _____

Rabbi's signature _____

Date _____

Talmud Torah director's signature _____

Date _____