

## **B'nai Mitzvah Studies Agreement**

### בְּרִית לִימוּדִים

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **13<sup>th</sup> birthday:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

*The B'nai Mitzvah Program at Temple Beth Israel is designed to help prepare students to become b'nai mitzvah and enter Jewish adulthood. Such preparation requires focused effort and commitment from the students, parents, and the Talmud Torah staff. This agreement is intended to clarify everyone's responsibilities to assure a rewarding and meaningful b'nai mitzvah process and ceremony.*

### **We understand that in order to have a b'nai 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 your service date should be a minimum of 15 minutes per day, six days each week.
2. Have earned (through participation and/or proficiency in cohort, Hebrew, and JEWL classes) 36 credits by the time of your b'nai mitzvah ceremony, including a minimum of 12 credits during your kita vav and zayin years (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade).
3. Be a role model for appropriate participation in our school. Being older carries the weight of leadership to the younger students. Show respect for the efforts of classmates, mentors, and Talmud Torah staff by being a cooperative learner and contributing to a positive classroom environment.
4. Attend
  - a. at least one b'nai mitzvah Shabbaton during your kita vav and zayin years (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade).
  - b. a minimum of 16 services
  - c. a minimum of 2 TBI programs
5. Continue to participate in cohort classes throughout kita zayin year, even after becoming b'nai mitzvah.
6. Arrive at each session - class time, tutoring, and other preparatory meetings - on time and with proper materials.
7. Carve out time and space for this commitment in the same way that you would for any other extracurricular activity.

#### **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 Family Handbook.
3. Oversee, support, and, if need be, enforce your child's regular work on b'nai mitzvah progress. This is not a small commitment. Many (if not most) students need one-on-one support to get through the process and time specifically set aside in the schedule for working on b'nai mitzvah related goals.

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. Set some goals to experience some Jewish traditions that may be new to your family.
5. Attend the b'nai mitzvah family meetings.
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 oneg 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 the 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 agreement is necessary for admittance into TBI's B'nai Mitzvah Program and for reserving a date for a bar/bat mitzvah. Talmud Torah will work with families who need a modified agreement.*

**Signatures**

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rabbis:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rabbi Educator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_