

Religious School



TEMPLE BETH EL

ABOUT US

Temple Beth El Religious School (TBERS) partners with parents and guardians in raising children who are proud of their Jewish identity and inspired by Jewish values to positively impact the world around them. Our warm and welcoming Jewish learning community helps children actively engage with their Judaism, discovering how our sacred traditions, texts, and values are relevant and applicable to their daily lives. We are deeply committed to helping children develop strong, caring relationships with their Jewish peers and with adult Jewish role models. Our dedicated team of clergy, staff, teachers, and madrichim (teen assistants) work together to support each child's learning needs and personal identity development.

SUNDAY PROGRAM: KINDERGARTEN-6TH GRADE

Children in Kindergarten through 6th grade attend Religious School on Sunday mornings from 9:00am-11:15am. Each Sunday morning includes a variety of activities, inviting children to explore their Judaism through different lenses. Special programs throughout the year also give parents and guardians an opportunity to learn alongside their children or bring the whole school together for special events.

Judaic Studies. *In grade groups, children study Jewish traditions, texts, and history. Each grade celebrates and studies the Jewish holidays at an age-appropriate level. In addition, each grade has a different focus, allowing children to develop their Jewish knowledge and identity over time.*

T'filah and Shirah. *Every grade spends time weekly with our clergy and song leaders engaged in worship services and singing. Grades are grouped together by age (K-2, 3-4, 5-6) so that the service and songs can be customized to address spirituality and Hebrew knowledge at an age-appropriate level.*

Hebrew Hafsakah. *Hebrew Hafsakah is an energetic period in the morning when students can engage with Modern Hebrew and the language of Hebrew prayers. For younger grades, we hope that this time will inspire them to study Modern Hebrew in the future. For older grades, this time reinforces the prayers they are learning in their Hebrew Small Groups.*

Chug Hour. *Children can stay for an additional hour (11:30am-12:30pm) on Sunday mornings for optional enrichment activities. Shir Kids (our youth choir) and Conversational Hebrew are always two of the options. (Some Hebrew Small Groups also meet during this hour).*



HEBREW LEARNING: 3RD-6TH GRADE

At Temple Beth El Religious School, Hebrew is taught in small groups to ensure children receive individual attention from teachers. Each small group meets for one hour each week. To accommodate children's varying schedules and learning needs, Hebrew Small Groups are offered both in person and online on multiple days of the week.

Hebrew decoding (learning how to phonetically read Hebrew) begins in 3rd grade. 4th through 6th grades each focus on a different section of the prayer service, preparing children to actively participate in worship services as well as lead them when they celebrate becoming b'nei mitzvah.

TIKVAH CHARLOTTE

Temple Beth El Religious School is committed to ensuring accessibility and engagement for individuals with learning differences. Tikvah Charlotte is a joint special needs religious school program between Temple Beth El and Temple Israel. Tikvah Charlotte’s Director of Inclusion Services supports students with different learning and behavioral needs by helping students integrate into classes or by organizing alternative learning plans. Temple Beth El students who qualify for Tikvah Charlotte often study Hebrew through one-on-one tutoring.

SHEVA - 7TH GRADE

Sheva (seven), our program for 7th grade students, reflects that this year marks the beginning of their Jewish young adulthood. Sheva is offered at two different times to accommodate families’ schedules, and each option includes a meal to encourage community building: Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm-8:30pm, in conjunction with Hebrew High; Sunday mornings from 11:15am-12:30pm, in conjunction with Chug Hour for younger siblings. The Sheva curriculum covers three units: **1. Tzedakah** – How do we make responsible and meaningful decisions about our giving? **2. Holocaust** – How did this tragedy shape our Jewish community and what does it teach us for the future? **3. Jewish Choices** – How might Jewish concepts and values influence my choices and opinions today?

HEBREW HIGH - 8TH-12TH GRADE

Hebrew High is a joint venture between Temple Beth El and Temple Israel, offering 8th-12th grade students in the greater Charlotte area a top-notch Jewish educational experience and meaningful opportunities for community building. Hebrew High’s main program meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm, including a communal dinner and a choice of classes taught by a team of educators and clergy from both synagogues. Hebrew High also offers a Modern Hebrew program for school credit and teen groups that meet monthly to explore important issues using Judaism and a gender lens. Hebrew High registration is done directly through Hebrew High at www.hebrewhigh.org.

Temple Beth El students are also encouraged to participate in the Confirmation program during 10th grade. Confirmation includes courses offered through Hebrew High, as well as a weekend trip and other special programs specifically for the Confirmation Class.



YOUTH TRIPS

Immersive Jewish experiences, including retreats and trips, help our children and teens safely explore their identity and build deep friendships. Temple Beth El offers retreats and travel experiences for children in 4th-12th grade. Children in 4th-7th grade attend weekend retreats at Camp Thunderbird. Teens can join three weekend trips: 8th/9th grade trip to Charleston; 10th grade Confirmation Trip to Washington, DC; 11th/12th grade trip to Atlanta.

TBE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Enrollment in Temple Beth El Religious School (TBERS) is a benefit offered to members of Temple Beth El. Enrollment can only be completed once a 2023-2024 My Temple Commitment is confirmed.

Finances should never be a barrier to a Jewish education. Financial aid for Religious School tuition is considered as part of the Commitment Review Process. (Additional Financial Aid for retreats and teen trips is available during the year when registering for these experiences.)

Program	Annual Tuition
Grades K-2 Religious School (Sunday)	\$725
Grades 3-6 Religious School (Sunday and Hebrew Group)	\$875
Grades 4-6 Conversational Hebrew (Optional)	\$150
Grade 7 (Sheva) (Includes class and a meal)	\$725
Grades 8-12 Hebrew High (Primary Wednesday night program)	\$650
Grade 10 Confirmation (Preparation and celebration expenses, and class trip)	\$600