

"And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" --Deuteronomy 6:7



Beit Sefer (Hebrew School and Chai School) **Information 5779 (2018-2019)**

Beit Sefer Staff:

Educational Supervisor: Rabbi Debbie Israel
Education Committee: Kelly Coleman, Grant Gordon, MariaElena Jarson, Eric Killough
Chai School Teachers: Hana Cidon (K-1), MariaElena Jarson (2-4), and Sharon Genkin (4-7)
Chai School Madrichim (assistants): Haley Toch, Josh Mandel, and Nick Lemoff
Hebrew School Teachers: Hana Cidon and Sharon Genkin
Emet Dor Kef (Emeth's Fun Generation) Teen Program: Rabbi Debbie Israel
School Administrator: Charlene Rose

Beit Sefer Days and Times:

- Chai School (Grades K - B'nai Mitzvah): 24 Fridays 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- Hebrew School (Grades 3 - B'nai Mitzvah): 29 Tuesdays 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
- Emet Dor Kef (Post B'nai Mitzvah): Bi-Monthly Sundays 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

NOTE: Chai School and Hebrew classes will begin promptly at the stated time. Please have students in their classroom 5 minutes before class begins.

The first day of Chai School will be Friday, September 7, 2018. School begins promptly at 4:30 PM, when students come to our Sanctuary to be welcomed. Please escort them into the Sanctuary. Following a brief introduction, children will be escorted to their classrooms by their teachers.

The first day of Hebrew School class will be Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Again, school begins promptly at 4:30 PM, when students come to our Sanctuary to be welcomed. Please escort them to the Sanctuary. Following a brief introduction, children will be escorted to their classrooms by their teachers.

2018-2019 Curriculum Topics:

Our Beit Sefer follows a three year curriculum cycle. Each year we focus on two main topics while continuing to reinforce and review previous areas of study. This year is year three, so our primary focus will be on Life Cycle Events in all classrooms, with an additional focus on Jewish Values in the primary grades and/or on Israel's history in the upper grades. We will continue to revisit our year one and year two focus topics as they arise: God, Torah, Jewish Holidays, our Prayer Service, and/or Modern Jewish History. This format helps us better accommodate multi-grade classrooms and ensures that all of our students, old and new, receive a comprehensive Jewish education.

Attendance requirements:

Parents, because we are a small school, children's absences really impact the school. Our teachers prepare lesson plans to teach the year's curriculum, so when a student misses class, he/she loses the opportunity to learn specific topics and reinforce others. This is particularly problematic in Hebrew School. We cannot repeat lessons for students who miss class; it is not fair to the children who attended. Children become upset when they fall behind due to absences. It is the parent's responsibility to assist the child in catching up. The Hebrew teachers will direct you to resources, even if you do not know how to read Hebrew letters. Please help us support you and your child, and please consider how much your child will miss when he or she is not present.

- Students in 3rd grade - B'nai Mitzvah students are required to attend both Hebrew and Chai Schools and all Shabbat Short 'N Sweet services.
- B'nai Mitzvah students are required to attend both Hebrew and Chai Schools and all Shabbat Short 'N Sweet services plus the Shabbat morning Torah 'N Tefilah services.
- Parents of these students are expected to regularly attend Shabbat services with them.

NEW: All classrooms will be inside Emeth this year. Morah Hana's class will be in the new classroom inside the Social Hall. Morah Jarson's class will upstairs in the Art Room. Morah Sharon's class will meet in the Library.

For safety, please come into the building to drop off and pick up your child(ren). No student will be allowed to walk through the parking lot unattended. Our office door is locked when school is in session. After registering your child(ren), you will be given the code to enter the building, which is timed to only work 15 minutes before class, during class, and 30 minutes after posted school times.

The gate across the back parking lot will be closed during school hours. All parents and children must enter through the office door. You are responsible for your children on the playground before and/or after school.

Volunteer!

The Board of Directors of Congregation Emeth has requested that every member volunteer 18 hours of service to the temple. Because of our size, every member plays an important role of "keeping our house" in order and helping to provide the kinds of programs and services we expect. Here are some suggestions of ways you can volunteer:

- Work/clean up days
- Host a Friday Night Live Shabbat or a Saturday morning Torah 'N T'filah service
- Join the Education Committee
- Serve on the Purim Carnival Committee
- Serve on the Beit Sefer fundraising committee
- Serve on any of the temple's committees: Membership, Ritual, Adult Education, Fundraising
- Join those who regularly serve meals for the homeless at the Lord's Table in Gilroy
- Commit to a specific Beit Sefer or Emeth task: preparing school snacks, planning a special event or holiday celebration, creating a school garden, supervising Chai School recess, helping Rabbi with EDK
- What would YOU like to do to serve your congregation? Please let Kelly Coleman, Grant Gordon, MariaElena Jarson, Eric Killough, Becky Neto, or Rabbi Israel know how you'd like to donate your 18 hours of service!

More suggestions are listed on the website. You are needed! Please volunteer!



Shabbat Dinners and Services:

As part of the school curriculum, the Community Erev Shabbat (Friday night) Dinners will be held on Fridays when the Shabbat Short 'N Sweet services are scheduled, about twice per month.

On Friday nights without a Community Erev Shabbat Dinner, the students will come together to share Shabbat rituals for the last 15 minutes of their class sessions. ***We encourage parents and siblings to join us for these Shabbat rituals, beginning promptly at 6:15 pm, when there is no community dinner. Your children enjoy sharing these rituals with you; please make every effort to be there!***

Community Erev Shabbat Dinners and Short 'N Sweet Shabbat Services (SNS), Friday evenings:

- The community Erev (evening) Shabbat dinner begins at 6:30 pm.
- The Short N Sweet Shabbat service begins at 7:15 pm.
- Shabbat Hosting/Kitchen Help duties for the dinners will continue to be rotated among the parents. If you are unable to fulfill your assignment, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.
- Families with children in 2nd grade and younger may choose to leave after dinner, although of course we encourage you to stay!
 - Students in grades 3 - B'nai Mitzvah are expected to attend the community dinners and Shabbat Short N Sweet Services as part of their class curriculum.
 - B'nai Mitzvah students are expected to attend the community dinners and Shabbat Short N Sweet services and one additional service per month, preferably the Shabbat morning service.

Congregation Emeth's Shabbat Services:

- **SNS (Shabbat Short 'N Sweet)** - Generally held twice a month, this service is conducted in the style of a learner's service. Students participate in leading the service, and the rabbi engages all participants, adults and children, in learning the meanings of prayers and the Torah reading of the week. Services begin at 7:15 pm, after our school sponsored community dinner, and will end at 8:00 pm. It is followed by a sweet oneg (reception). All congregants are welcome; prayers for healing and Mourner's Kaddish are included.
 - All students in grades 3 - B'nai Mitzvah are expected to attend this service. Younger students are encouraged to attend as well.
- **TNT (Torah 'N T'filah)** – Usually held once a month, this service takes place on Shabbat morning and includes a Torah Service and sermon or Torah study services and begins at 10:00 AM and ends about 11:30 AM followed by a simple Oneg (reception).
 - This is an opportunity for B'nai Mitzvah families to experience a Shabbat morning service in preparation for bar/bat mitzvah and it is one of their three required services per month.
- **Friday Night Live (FNL)** – This service is an evening Shabbat Service, highlighting the music of Shabbat. The Rabbi either teaches or delivers a d'var Torah ("words of Torah", sermon). There is no Torah reading. Services begin at 7:15 PM and are led by the Rabbi and a cantorial soloist. A sweet Oneg (reception) follows the service.
- **Shabbat at Home** – Occasionally, Congregation Emeth encourages our members to observe Shabbat at home. We hope that our Beit Sefer families will take the skills they have been learning in class, and practicing at the Community Dinners, and replicate them around their own family dinner table. For a guide to home rituals, go to <http://www.emeth.net/worship/blessings/shabbat-blessings>. Rabbi Israel is available to assist you as well.



Basic philosophy of Emeth's Beit Sefer programs

Chai School:

The primary goal of this program is to foster Jewish identity development as well as the acquisition of knowledge. It is recognized that knowledge of and comfort with Jewish traditions, values, and practices are an essential component of Jewish identity development.

1. *Jewish education and identity development are a lifelong process. We therefore provide programs for children from Kindergarten through 12th grade. We reject the view of either Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Confirmation as the culmination of a student's Jewish education.*
2. *We affirm the autonomy of each Jew to make choices regarding their observance and theology, but simultaneously expect all members to make these choices in an informed and responsible manner, respectful of Jewish tradition. Our programs are intended to empower students toward this goal.*
3. *A significant goal of our programs is to build community among students, and for students to acquire a positive image of both Judaism and synagogue. These goals are viewed as equally important to the goal of knowledge acquisition.*
4. *Our programs seek to utilize a broad range of educational modes. Programs follow our three year scope and sequence rotations and include formal (classroom) and informal (activity-based) learning environments.*
5. *We view the congregation's role in Jewish identity development as secondary to, and supportive of, the parents' role in the child's Jewish identity. Therefore many programs and projects are specifically designed to empower family discussion, practice and participation.*

Hebrew School:

6. *The primary goal of this program is development of core Hebrew skills. Hebrew is critical for a strong and sustainable Jewish identity for three reasons: (1) Hebrew is the primary language of Jewish prayer and is therefore a way for Jews throughout the world to feel a common bond and sense of continuity; (2) Hebrew is the unifying language of the Jewish people worldwide and the official language of the Jewish homeland of Israel; (3) Hebrew is the language of our sacred texts and artifacts and encountering these texts in their original meaning must be done in Hebrew.*
7. *We recognize Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a primary catalyst of students' Jewish identity, and recognize that many of the skills acquired in Hebrew School are necessary for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. However, we believe that the goals and content of Hebrew School transcend simply Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation and should not be viewed as the primary purpose of Hebrew School.*
8. *Recognizing that language acquisition requires ongoing reinforcement, we expect students to spend approximately 1 hour per week outside of class, spread throughout the week, practicing Hebrew skills.*
9. *Our program is limited to once-per-week class during the school year for just 4 or 5 years. During this time we expect students to develop: (1) the ability to read and write Hebrew words; (2) comfort navigating and leading basic Jewish prayers and home rituals; (3) basic prayer, Torah, and Modern Hebrew vocabulary; (4) to know elementary Hebrew grammar; and (5) to develop basic Torah cantillation (chanting) skills. We believe it is not reasonable to expect that a student will become conversant (much less fluent) in Hebrew in the amount of time given.*



Congregation Emeth Beit Sefer
5779 Educational Field Trip
Consent and General Release of Liability

Parents will always be notified in advance of all field trips, but this general consent form is provided so that individual permission forms do not need to be returned for each trip. Students will travel by bus or private automobiles and will be accompanied by Synagogue staff and parents.

By signing this Consent and General Release of Liability you (you or your refers to the parents or guardians of the student) are knowingly and voluntarily agreeing on behalf of yourself, your child and others to assume the risks of participating in field trips sponsored by Congregation Emeth's Beit Sefer program

You are also knowingly and voluntarily releasing from all liability Congregation Emeth and all Congregation Emeth's representatives and employees from all claims and liabilities of every kind, known or unknown, which relate in any way to this event or activity, whether the claim exists now or in the future, whether based on tort, including negligent or intentional, contract, statute, or other theory, including compensatory and punitive damages claims.

You are waiving all rights under California Civil Code section 1542, which states:

"A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of execution of the release, which if known by him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor."

You understand and agree that you hold Emeth, its officers, employees, and representatives harmless from any and all liability or claims which may relate in any way to your child's participation in this event or activity. Congregation Emeth does not provide insurance coverage for these events or the driving trips that may be required for these events or activities. You agree to allow your child to ride with any Emeth employee, volunteer, or other person to and from these events or activities. If volunteer drivers provide transportation, Emeth requires that volunteer drivers carry sufficient liability insurance, hold a valid driver's license, and operate a safe motor vehicle.

In the event of an emergency, you do hereby consent to whatever medical treatment and hospital care that are considered necessary in the best judgment of the attending physician of the hospital or facility furnishing medical services.

This document incorporates the entire understanding between you and your child/ren and Emeth regarding Emeth events and activities and cannot be changed by verbal or other written statements.

Student(s) Name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Congregation Emeth Beit Sefer 5779 - Emergency Information

Name of Child _____	Date of Birth: _____
Health/ Accident Insurance Company _____	Policy # _____
Any medical/psychological/learning disabilities or conditions Congregation Emeth needs to know about your child: _____	
Medication, Strength, Dosage _____	Medication, Strength, Dosage _____
Medication, Strength, Dosage _____	Allergies: _____

Name of Child _____	Date of Birth: _____
Health/ Accident Insurance Company _____	Policy # _____
Any medical/psychological/learning disabilities or conditions Congregation Emeth needs to know about your child: _____	
Medication, Strength, Dosage _____	Medication, Strength, Dosage _____
Medication, Strength, Dosage _____	Allergies: _____

Name of Child _____	Date of Birth: _____
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Medication, Strength, Dosage _____	Allergies: _____

Name of Child _____	Date of Birth: _____
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Medication, Strength, Dosage _____	Medication, Strength, Dosage _____
Medication, Strength, Dosage _____	Allergies: _____

Emergency Cell phone number(s) _____

Emergency contact (other than parents) _____

In case of injury or illness of a child, every effort will be made to contact his/her parent(s) or guardian. The following instructions will remain in force unless revoked by parent(s) or guardian in writing.

I (we) the undersigned, parent (s) of _____, minor(s), do hereby authorize Congregation Emeth as agent for undersigned to consent to x-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment and hospital care which is deemed advisable by and is to be rendered under general or supervision of any physician and surgeon licensed under the provision of the Medical Practice Act on the staff, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said hospital.

It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of specific diagnosis, treatment, or hospital care being required but is given to provided authority and power of the part of aforesaid agent(s) to give specific consent to any and all said diagnosis, treatment or hospital care which the aforementioned physician in the exercise of his/ her best judgment may deem advisable.

This authority shall remain in effect until the end of the 2018-2019 school year unless sooner revoked in writing, delivered to agent(s). This authorization is given to provision of Section 25.8 of the Civil Code of California.

Date: _____ Parent 1: _____ Parent 2: _____

Legal Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____

**Confidential Financial Aid Application
Beit Sefer**

DUE BY: August 20, 2018

Today's Date: _____

Condition for all Financial Aid: Family is in good standing as per constitution.

Part A – APPLICANT (STUDENT) INFORMATION:

Name of Applicant: _____ Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Emeth Beit Sefer Grade (for school year of this application): _____

Secular School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Parent's Address (if different from student's):

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PART B - FINANCIAL AID REQUEST

Cost of Program: \$ _____ Amount Requested: \$ _____

Confidential Statement of Financial Need: (Relevant comments could include: family circumstances; health, marital status, employment information, college tuition, etc; attach additional paper with comments if needed) _____

PART C - STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT:

I/We acknowledge that the grant of this financial aid is conditioned on the applicant being enrolled in the Congregation Emeth Beit Sefer or Emet Dor Kef. I/We understand that if the recipient is removed from the program for cause, or if the child stops attending any Emeth School for any reason, the grant/scholarship will be refunded to the congregation in full.

Parent's Signature (for everyone) _____

PART D- SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ACTION

Approved Amount: \$ _____ Denied: _____

Date: _____

Explanation: _____

Scholarship Committee Chairperson's Signature:
