

## Community Erev Shabbat Dinners and Short 'n Sweet Services

Approximately twice a month Congregation Emeth holds a community dinner, usually followed by a "Short 'n Sweet" Friday evening service. This service is conducted in the style of a Learners' Minyan, with students participating in leading



the service and the Rabbi engaging all participants--adults and children--in learning the meaning of the prayers and the Torah reading of the week.

The community dinners and subsequent services are open to all, and the services are also an important part of the school curriculum. They also give the family the opportunity to learn together, thus empowering family discussion, practice, and participation in Shabbat rituals and services.

## Youth Education Supervisory Personnel

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**Please contact either of the above with  
additional questions. or visit emeth.net.**

*With active and sustained participation  
in Emeth's education programs,  
reinforced by ongoing parental commitment,  
Emeth's youth should develop:*

*A strong Jewish identity*

*A commitment to lifelong Jewish learning/participation*

*A sense of Jewish pride*

*Confidence when making choices about their Judaism*

*Skills to practice Judaism*

*Connection to the local and world Jewish community*

*A strong, stable foundation to anchor life's challenges*

*Commitment to betterment of the self and of the world*



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## Youth Education at Congregation Emeth

## Beit Sefer - House of the Book Program Intentions

**Kindergarten through B'nai Mitzvah:**

**Chai School: Kindergarten - Grade 2**

What is Judaism?

**Grade 3 - B'nai Mitzvah**

Skills for participating in a Jewish community

**Hebrew School**

Tools to be an active member of the Jewish religion  
Hebrew skills to connect with the Jewish world,  
past and present

**Teen Youth Group:**

**Emet Dor Kef - The Fun Generation**

Jewish ethics and values; socializing with other Emeth  
teens and with teens from other temples

**Madrichim (Student Teachers)**

Mentoring, leadership development, role modeling

Our students are also encouraged to participate in  
summer camps, day camps, and camp weekends.

These programs are opportunities for them to  
experience a wholly Jewish environment and schedule

## Religious School

1. At Emeth we foster Jewish identity development as well as the acquisition of knowledge. Knowledge of and comfort with Jewish traditions, values, and practices are essential to Jewish identity development.
2. Jewish education and identity development are a lifelong process. We therefore provide programs for children from Kindergarten through 12th grade.
3. We affirm the autonomy of each Jew to make choices regarding their observance and theology, while simultaneously expecting 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.
4. A significant goal of our programs is to build community among students, and for students to acquire a positive image of both Judaism and the synagogue. These goals are viewed as equally important to the goal of knowledge acquisition.
5. All programs are content-based and aligned with Emeth's three and six year plans for the primary and elementary classrooms. Lessons include formal instruction and informal, play-based learning opportunities.
6. 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 foster family discussion, practice and participation.



## Hebrew School

1. Our primary goal is development of a familiarity with 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.
2. Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a primary catalyst of students' Jewish identity, and many of the skills acquired in Hebrew School are necessary for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. However, the goals and content of Hebrew School transcend simply Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation.
3. Recognizing that language acquisition requires ongoing reinforcement, we expect students to spend approximately 1 hour per week outside of class, spread throughout the week.
4. Our program is limited to once-per-week class during the school year for just 4 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 grammar; and (5) to develop basic Torah and Haftarah cantillation (chanting) skills. It is not reasonable to expect that a student will become conversant (much less fluent) in Hebrew in the amount of time given.

## Teen Programs

After the bar/bat mitzvah year, students may participate in Emet Dor Kef, Emeth's "Fun Generation," combining social and Jewish learning opportunities for our teens. **Emet Dor Kef** functions like a club. There is a classroom teacher, leading class discussions twice a month, but there are also monthly activities, weekend retreats with other temples, and away weekends. In addition, Rabbi Israel is the Emet Dor Kef advisor and leads a monthly program in a social, religious or community service area.

**Confirmation** - A confirmation intense learning weekend takes place in the fall or spring, followed by a confirmation ceremony. Students in grades 10+ are eligible to participate in this program.

**Madrichim - Teaching Assistants** - After bar/bat mitzva, teens may apply to become teaching assistants. (Madrichim needs will fluctuate year-to-year.) These teens help the classroom teachers, act as mentors and role models for the younger students.



## Class Schedule

**Hebrew School:** Gr 3 – b'nai mitzvah Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:00 pm

**Chai School:** K – b'nai mitzvah Fridays 4:30 – 6:30 pm

**Emet Dor Kef:** Post b'nai mitzvah Sundays (times vary)

**Shabbat Short 'n Sweet services** (monthly) are also considered to be part of the Youth Education program and students in Grade 3 - b'nai Mitzvah should attend as part of their Jewish education.