



Beit Sefer (Hebrew School and Chai School and EDK)
Information 5781 (2020-2021)

Beit Sefer Contacts:

School Administrator: Marcia Fishman
Education Board Liaison: Josh Levine
Rabbi: Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz

Beit Sefer Days and Times:

Hebrew School (Grades 3 - B'nai Mitzvah): **Tuesday**

Grades 3-4 3:15 - 4:00

Grades 5-6 4:30 - 5:15

Chai School (Grades 1 - B'nai Mitzvah): **Thursday**

Grades 1-2 4:45 - 5:20

Grades 3-4 3:00 - 3:45

Grades 5-6 4:00 - 4:45

Emet Dor Kef 1 and 2 (Post B'nai Mitzvah):

Emet Dor Kef 1: Bi-Monthly Tuesdays 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm (High School)

Emet Dor Kef 2: Bi-Monthly Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm (Middle School)

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

The first day of Hebrew School class will be Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The first day of Chai School will be Thursday, October 8, 2020. School begins promptly at the times listed above, when students will be introduced to their teacher. Please join them the first 10 minutes of that first day.

Again, school begins promptly at the times listed above, when students will be introduced to their teacher. Please join them the beginning 5 minutes of that first day.



2020-2021 Program Overview

Our congregation's religious school uses the *ShalomLearning* platform, a curriculum that was developed for both the virtual or in-person classroom. While it is creative, fun and forward thinking, the lessons provide a range of content from Jewish culture, history, and stories. The lessons are interactive and values-based, providing tenets that we all share, like "Using your inner strength to do what's right" and "Taking responsibility for your actions." It is engaging and innovative Jewish educational content, and it includes videos, text studies, blessings, and activities.

Younger grades experience each lesson using the five senses. As the grades progress, each of seven values (or units) consists of four lessons, incorporating social and emotional skills that enable students to build positive relationships and make responsible decisions. Through the values, students look at Jewish text, history, *tefillah*, and holidays. And since classes are virtually taught in your home, we will occasionally invite the whole family to join in on a selected lesson.

Attendance requirements:

We ask all of our students to make every effort to attend classes. We wish them to have an enriched journey, and connectivity from lesson to lesson will only enhance your children's discovery of the meaning and joy of a Jewish experience. Plus, their regular attendance with their classmates will help build an atmosphere of comfort and camaraderie.

- Students in 3rd grade - B'nai Mitzvah students are required to attend both Hebrew and Chai Schools and Friday night Shabbat services at least once a month.
- B'nai Mitzvah students are required to attend both Hebrew and Chai Schools and Friday night Shabbat services at least twice a month plus Shabbat morning services.
- Parents of these students are expected to regularly attend Shabbat services with them.

Volunteer!

The Board of Directors of Congregation Emeth has requested that every member volunteer 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. During this time of safe distancing during the pandemic, here are some suggestions of ways you can volunteer:

- Help with Zoom tech
- Join the Education Committee
- Serve on a holiday committee and brainstorm virtual options to celebrate" for all holidays.
- Serve on the Beit Sefer fundraising committee
- Serve on any of the temple's committees: Membership, Ritual, Adult Education, Fundraising
- What would YOU like to do to serve your congregation? Please let Josh Levine or Marcia Fishman know how you'd like to donate your hours of service!

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

Shabbat Dinners: SUSPENDED DURING COVID

We look forward to the time when we are able to join together for community Shabbat dinners and services in the Sanctuary.

Until then, we encourage you to continue to celebrate Shabbat with Congregation Emeth during Shabbat services on Zoom.

Congregation Emeth's Shabbat Service Services are generally held 3 or 4 times a month. Please check *HaMadrich* and the website for the weekly schedule. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in services.

Friday evenings at 7:00 PM

Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM

For weeks when there are no services, we still encourage you to celebrate Shabbat at home. For a guide to home rituals, go to <http://www.emeth.net/worship/blessings/shabbat-blessings>. Rabbi Dantowitz 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. 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:

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

EDK:

1. The primary goal of EDK is to sustain a relationship between our middle/high school students and the congregation as a whole, and the rabbi in particular.
2. Our program is limited to twice a month and will be taught by the rabbi and excellent role models of the Jewish community.
3. Jewish Values and Ethics will be a strong component of the curriculum, but input from the students will be considered as well.
4. Experiential learning components (from each student's home) will also be included.



**Congregation Emeth Beit Sefer 5781 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.

During this time of COVID-19, we do not have any field trips scheduled. When it is safe to gather together, we look forward to educational field trips again.

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 5781 - Emergency Information

Emergency Cell phone number(s) Emergency contact (other than parents)

Name _____

Phone _____

In case of injury or illness of a child, every effort will be made to contact their 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 their best judgment may deem advisable.

This authority shall remain in effect until the end of the 2019-2020 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: _____



Financial Aid Application for Beit Sefer

**Contact person: Emeth controller at
controller@emeth.net**

DUE BY: September 25, 2020

Today's Date: _____

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

Part A – APPLICANT (STUDENT) INFORMATION:

Name of Applicant: _____

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: _____