



September 30, 2021

Hello Beit Midrash Families,

Whether you are returning, continuing, or just getting started-- welcome! We are very much looking forward to learning together again at Beit Am.

Our Curriculum

Our school operates on a four-year curriculum cycle, with the entire school focusing on one theme for the entire year. This model allows us to dive deeply into a theme and explore it in all of our programming throughout the year. Every week that Beit Midrash meets, every class will study the same topic at the appropriate level for their age group. The four years of our cycle are:

Year 1: *Avodah* עבודָה (Jewish practice) ← We are here!

Year 2: *Torah* תּוֹרָה (Jewish text)

Year 3: *Derekh Eretz* דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ (Jewish values)

Year 4: *L'dor vador* לְדוֹר וָדוֹר (Jewish history)

This year as we study *Avodah*, we aim to help students across all ages learn about and find meaning in Jewish practice, customs, rituals, and lifecycle events-- as celebrated by Jewish communities all over the country, around the world, and throughout history.

Just because we are focusing on *avodah*, however, it does not mean that Torah, Jewish values and Jewish history are completely absent from our learning this year! Think of all these subjects like a four-strand braided challah, with one strand rolled a little thicker each year.

Family Engagement (during a typical year)

*Some of these opportunities will not be available during the pandemic.

Student & Family Tefillah

All students start their day at Beit Midrash with Tefillah. Parents/guardians are encouraged to join us during this time to see what we will be learning during the day and engage in a bit of learning together.

Sunday Schmoozes

At various times during the year, parents/guardians will be invited to stay after Tefillah for a coffee and snacks, and a chance to connect with other parents.

Mitzvah Days

Mitzvah Days are a central part of the Beit Midrash curriculum, when students get to see their Jewish values put into action. Family participation on these days helps to underscore the importance of service learning and we can do more in the community! We also welcome help planning the many logistics of Mitzvah Days.

Volunteering

We are always in need of volunteers! This year, there will be many opportunities for parents to help out in the classroom. Additionally, we are looking for help with purchasing and preparing snack, clean-up in the classrooms, sorting donated materials, and other special projects. Please plan to volunteer at least once per season.

Closing Circle

As always, families are invited to participate in closing circle at 11:50. This is a sweet conclusion to our time learning together, and a chance to hear announcements about upcoming events.



Beit Midrash Funding and Support

Beit Midrash staffing, educational supplies, and snacks are made possible through several means of support: Beit Am Membership Dues fund over 70%; and Beit Midrash tuition, paid by the families who are able, just about covers the remaining 30%. Community donations to the Beit Midrash Fund vary from year to year, and also help to cover any supplemental programming, as well as tuition for families requesting a reduction or waiver.

Membership in Beit Am is a prerequisite to participation in Beit Midrash. If you have not yet returned your annual membership form, please fill one out on the Beit Am website, or using this link to the [online fillable form](#).

Tuition payment options this year are: Full payment by the first day of class, October 17, 2021; or monthly ACH payments divided evenly from October through May (8 payments spread evenly, rather than prorated for the # of classes each month). An ACH form is available on the registration page, should you choose the monthly tuition payment option.

Financial considerations should never be a barrier to participation in the Beit Midrash youth education program. If you need a tuition reduction or waiver, or to make alternate payment arrangements, please contact our Beit Am treasurer, Ken Krane at treasurer@beitam.org.

Please return registration forms by August 31st by either filling them out online, or printing them out and delivering them to the Beit Am office.

Beit Am, as a whole community, continues to place Jewish education for all of our children as one of our highest values and priorities as an organization. We are honored to provide quality Jewish education for your children, your families, our community, and our collective future.

Please look for additional announcements about High Holiday programming for your child(ren).

Here's to a healthy, safe, fun, and enriching year at Beit Midrash!

Sincerely,

Ellie Larison, Beit Midrash Director
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