



BETH TORAH
SCHECK FAMILY
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Parent Handbook 2021-2022

(Amended with Covid-19 Guidelines and Protocols)

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Dear Parents,
Shalom,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the Scheck Family Religious School at Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus. Our Scheck Family Religious School team looks forward to an exciting educational journey and a rich experience that includes a "home/school" connection.

Our goal is to provide a program of excellence in a safe, loving, and nurturing environment where your child will blossom.

We hope this handbook is helpful in addressing questions about supplementary Jewish education in our Beth Torah Family

We thank you for entrusting us with your children!

Looking forward to a year of new learning experiences to treasure in our hearts new discoveries, learning and growth,

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaby Rascovsky

Lifelong Learning Director

Philosophy

- Beth Torah strives to help our children develop positive attitudes toward their Judaism, to give them a sense of commitment to their tradition and to the practices of American Conservative Judaism.
- Our school wants to work with your entire family. We see our task as empowering you to help your children live more meaningful Jewish lives.
- We believe that both school and home want to create positive Jewish memories and meaningful Jewish experiences for your children and by working together, our school is better able to provide those experiences which will positively affect your child's life.
- Through cooperation, family supporting school and school supporting family, we can teach our children that Jewish living is an important part of all of our lives, and that we want Jewish values to be an important part of theirs as well.
- Ours is not only a school; it is a congregation and, as such, we are interested in the entire family. We care about you and try to be sensitive to your needs and desires. We encourage your involvement and your feedback. We need your constant support in this important and holy task.

GOALS

- At the end of their Jewish education, students should be able to enter any synagogue and participate in the services, and understand and read the prayers. Our hope is that students will begin the curriculum in Kindergarten and remain in school through its completion. Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah does not mark the conclusion of one's studies, rather it indicates acceptance of the adult responsibility of continued study. Talmud Torah, the study of Torah, is a goal that we hope our students will begin here at Beth Torah and continue throughout their lives.
- Students should be able at the end of their educational process to feel connected to "Klal Israel "(Jewish People), American Society and the State of Israel as entities that require their love and commitment.
- It is our goal that through activities, students will create their own social Jewish network that will enable them to widen their existent social network from school.
- Culturally we strive to infuse art, music, celebration, food, and terminology that are common in Jewish Culture.

We encourage you to take the time to attend the above described events with your child- and know that parents are always welcomed to attend Shabbat with their children. The best way to instill the love of Judaism in your child, is to do Jewish things with your child that they will enjoy. These Jewish memories will last a lifetime and bring Judaism to the next generation.

Non- Discrimination Policy

Scheck Family Religious School does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship status, marital status, disability or any other protected status.

Our Staff

Our nurturing staff promotes an environment that encourages to seamlessly transition from home to school.

Our teachers are certified by the Center of Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) OR by the State of Florida, and/or have credentials, and degrees, training in Jewish education. All staff members participate in continuous education for professional advancement in order to remain current in the field of Jewish education.

All staff undergo screening and background checks in compliance with DCF regulations.

We are proud to employ teachers who are native Hebrew speakers, and or fluent in other languages and who can ease the transition into school.

Full Time Nurse

We have a full time nurse who will be available for medical needs during the school session. Our nurse will guide us in our pursuit to maintain a healthy environment for our children and staff.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival: 4:30PM

Wednesday afternoon (4:30PM) drop-off will take place in front of the building entrance, staggered between 4:30 and 4:45PM (Steiner Education Building). Our staff will be at the entrance and will walk your child to his/her classroom.

Upon arrival, all individuals must complete a health screening, including a temperature check. No one will be permitted to enter the building with a temperature greater than 100° degrees. Please do not leave the arrival area until we have verified that your child has cleared the health screening.

Parents will not be permitted inside the school. Information for your child's teachers must be communicated via emails or phone prior to school arrival. We request that all parents drive through the carpool circle.

Students in the upper grade levels will not be admitted in the building without adult a parent authorized care taker or legal guardian.

Please note: Scheck Family Religious School does Not provide supervision for your child at the Steiner Educational Complex before or after school hours.

Online model schedule (if offered)

Classes begin promptly at 5:00PM until 6:15PM

Dismissal: 6:30PM

All children will be dismissed from the main carpool lane.

No park and walk will be permitted.

Children will be grouped by family or carpool arrangement staggered in the outdoor areas.

Children will be brought to the front of the school for pick up. It is imperative that you arrive on time. The school will provide you with a carpool pass to be displayed on your dashboard.

Please remain in your car at all times. A staff member will bring your child to you.

Do not plan on parking and walking up to pick up your child.

Carpool, please notify the office if you are carpooling with other families for drop off or pick up.

If someone other than the parent is going to pick up a child, the school office **MUST** be notified in advance. That person must carry a photo ID.

Early-Care - After-Care

Not offered for Religious School

Late Drop off

Please, notify the office if a student is running late. A staff member will assist you in the drop off area with the check in upon arrival.

Early pick up

We will be unable to assist you with permanent early pick up arrangements. In case of an occasional need we will try our best to accommodate you but you must called the school office.

Security Procedures

The safety and security of your child is our priority. All individuals entering the buildings must wear a Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus badge. Our campus is gated and monitored by cameras and our security director. **Due to Covid guidelines, no parents or visitors are permitted in our buildings. We are limiting access to staff and students only.**

Security at Dismissal

No individual, other than the parent, may pick up a child from school unless they are listed on the pick-up list located on the child's emergency card. Please advise the designated person that they must show a valid picture ID. Children will not be released unless the school has written permission from the parent.

If someone not listed on the Carpool Pick-Up Form is picking up your child, you must notify the school by one of the following ways:

- 1) By calling the school office at 305. 932. 2829 x 7821 (Morah Gaby) or x 7836 Veronica Zalcborg
- 2) Informing the teacher in writing or via email is a must if the person is not on the authorization for release.

Students will not be released without presenting a government-issued photo ID.

Emergency Weather Closing Procedures

Emergency and notification information will be sent out by email messages.

Scheck Family Religious School will follow Miami-Dade County Public School closings for weather emergencies. Re-opening of school is at the discretion of Scheck Family Religious School. If dangerous weather conditions develop during school hours, it may be necessary to dismiss classes early, without advance notice. If the weather appears threatening, you will be notified via email. In the event that there is a power outage which precludes our ability to contact parents, we will do our best to make those contacts as soon as we have a way to communicate.

Emergency Procedures/ Drills Fire Drills and Emergency Procedures are essential for ensuring the safety of all students, faculty and staff. All Scheck Family Religious School students are required to follow the instructions and guidelines for the numerous types of emergency procedures. Students are required to follow directions at all times, walk silently and orderly in a timely manner, remain quiet and calm, go to their assigned waiting area, line up quietly, stay with their teacher and class, and listen for further directions.

Communication

Scheck Family Religious School uses emails (Constant Contact, Outlook, Shulcloud) to communicate and share images from your child's day in an effort to always keep you connected. Room parents administer the class chat to communicate amongst them .

We encourage parents and staff to communicate primarily with Morah Gaby and or the teacher for any concerns, keeping in mind the following:

- Teachers will check emails daily, but not on Wednesday between 3:00PM to 6:00PM, so please refrain from sending last minute emails to for special arrangements.
 - Beth Torah does not communicate during Shabbat or Jewish Holidays, so we kindly ask you to refrain from any communication with teachers or the school.
 - If you would like to communicate a message immediately, please call the school office at 305 932 2929 (x 7821 or 7836) or email an Administrator.
1. Handbooks are available on our website, www.btbrc.org (Scheck Family Religious School tab).You will find important information such as Admin Information, Parent Manuals, school calendar and more.
 2. School-Parent Communication will take many forms:
 - a. Weekly emails.(Koleynu)
 - b. Flyers, invitations and announcements.
 - c. Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place once a year. We have an open door policy for communication, if you need to speak with your child's teacher, or to an administrator feel free to contact us.

Parent-School Communication

Please notify us at 305. 932. 2829 x 7821 or 7836 if:

- Your child is sick or will be absent.
- Your child or anyone you have been in contact with has developed a communicable disease (COVID-19, flu, etc.).
- Your child or anyone in your home will be traveling (foreign or domestic), as per our covid protocols.
- Your contact information has changed.
- You wish to change or add emergency contact numbers.
- Your pick-up person has changed - even for one (1) day. We will not release your child to anyone (other than the parent) without written permission.

Policy for Student Placement

The Religious School weekday classes will be assigned at the discretion of the Director. Please contact the school administration if special circumstances exist.

We take many factors into consideration. We strive to create classroom communities that promote the growth and development of each child. When assigning children to a specific classroom, the Administration considers the following; recommendations of the current classroom teacher, class size, child to teacher and boy- girl ratios, birth date, social/ emotional/ cognitive development, and cultural diversity.

We are committed to provide the best learning experiences for each space. **We value your opinion, and will work with you and or with your concerns.**

Curriculum

At our Scheck Family Religious School we teach our children to understand and revere the wisdom in our heritage, letting it shape the children's hearts, minds, morals, and values. We strive to develop positive attitudes toward their Judaism, to give them a sense of commitment to their tradition, Ahavat Eretz Israel and to the practices of American Conservative Judaism. Our school boasts children as young as Kindergarten through Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Our students learn everything from Hebrew reading and Jewish Holidays to Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation with a curriculum specially designed to be age appropriate. We are proud to have the Beth Torah clergy playing an integral role in the school, enriching our children's spiritual and educational experiences with more than 80 years of combined Rabbinical and Cantorial knowledge.

The curriculum is designed to integrate the family in the learning process while providing meaningful learning opportunities to the individual students and to the families as a collective.

Our curriculum is guided by seven pillars of Jewish education:

- **Hebrew language**

Hebrew sits at the core of our instruction as the main connector to our heritage, identity and to the Jewish People. Students begin Hebrew instruction in Kindergarten by learning

to decode the Aleph Bet and progress through the elementary school years to gain fluency in reading and basic writing skills. Modern technology plays a major role to reinforce Hebrew skills aimed toward prayers and liturgy to enhance the B'nai Mitzvah experience.

- **Jewish Traditions**

Students in grade K-6 are exposed to experiential learning about holidays and traditions.

- **Jewish Values**

The Scheck Family Religious School is highly committed to Tikkun Olam on an individual and collective basis. Each grade level is responsible for an exciting Tikkun Olam Project. These activities are integrated with the different arms of the synagogue such as the Social Action Volunteers, Sisterhood, Men's club or other committees.

- **Torah Study**

In the Religious School we expand our students' Jewish textual learning by delving deeper into Torah Study and including texts found throughout our tradition, inspiring our students to find their own voices in our eternal conversation.

- **Israel**

Students are exposed to Israel studies, connections and actuality while developing an emotional and intellectual attachment with our homeland, the land of our ancestors.

- **Music & Arts**

Music is an integral part of Judaism. In music classes with Cantor G, students learn the traditional songs for the Jewish holidays, blessings and prayers.

Arts and crafts are integrated in class by the homeroom teacher. Our students get acquainted with Jewish art in its many creative expressions. We strive to give our students many opportunities to express their feelings and connections to Judaism, ritual objects and to Israel through art enrichment, music, literature and arts and crafts.

- **T'filah**

The prayer curriculum focuses on Friday Night service and Shabbat morning while including prayers and rituals to the corresponding Jewish holidays.

Shabbat and Celebrations at School

We enjoy celebrating all holidays and milestones with you in school. This year we will be celebrating Shabbat, holidays, or other family events online. This is to ensure the health and safety of all of those on our campus. Your child's teacher will send you pictures and videos from all classroom celebrations.

Family engagement programs

“Family” plays an important role in the school. The Scheck Family Religious School integrates its families as our partners in Jewish education. As such, during the year every grade level multiple has opportunities to engage with their families in experiential programs to enhance the journey, as well as to bond with the community, clergy and staff.

Our program will provide your child with many early learning experiences and will bridge the gap between home and school. Your child will blossom and develop socially, emotionally, and cognitively through our creative, “hands on” learning activities and sensory exploration.

Dress Code Policies

SCHOOL/SYNAGOGUE ATTIRE

During the week, we request that students come to school neatly attired. No t-shirts with offensive wording, tank tops, tube tops, short-shorts, or baseball caps.

Synagogue services or other synagogue events:

On Shabbat, girls are expected to wear either a skirt or a dress. Boys are expected to wear pants and a collared shirt. No sneakers flip flops or blue jeans.

- **Virtual classes’ etiquette**

Remember that, even though you may be alone in your room, you are not. We interact on the screen together. Please monitor your children. While attending class in pajama bottoms is a tempting option, we want to make sure that we present ourselves in the best possible light at least from the waist up. Make sure students wear a clean shirt. Run a brush through your hair. Brush your teeth and put on deodorant... no, they can't smell you through the screen but that is just good common hygiene.

Snacks and Supplies

Please be aware that we are a Kosher campus. All food items we serve are Kosher.

- Snacks will be distributed individually upon arrival to the classroom.

We are kindly asking parents not to send any snacks unless there is a severe allergic case. In that case items must be in a sealed package and display the Kosher certification.

- If students bring his/her own reusable water bottle with his/her name clearly displayed. The bottle must be taken home to be washed every day.
- Water fountains will not be in use.
- If children bring any personal item, please make sure it is labeled with their names.

Students will receive personal school supplies, text book, notebook, Kippah, (when applicable)

- Personal supplies and materials will be kept in school.
- Ipads will be disinfected after each session.

Students will receive

- **Supplies for onsite** students will receive personal school supplies, text book, and notebook. (when applicable)
- **Supplies for online** students will be available for pick up prior coordination with the school office
- **Masks**
 - a) Staff, parents and students must wear a mask at all times.
 - b) Masks should be clean every day
 - c) Children will remove masks for snacks

Health and Safety on Campus

- All staff and children will wash hands before and after entering the building.
- All classroom surfaces will be wiped down between uses and at the end of the day
- Our facility will undergo a deep cleaning and disinfecting at the end of each day. We will also be implementing cleaning and disinfecting practices for most touch areas throughout the day (every 2- 3 hours) including bathrooms, common areas, door handles, light switches, copy machines, physical barriers, etc .
- Campus signage will reinforce the importance of physical distancing expectations and protocols.
- All classrooms have easy access to hand wash sinks and are stocked with soap and paper towels.
- Children will be taught and encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow.
- Children who develop symptoms at school will be isolated in the Nurse's office until parents are able to pick up. Children must be picked up within 30 minutes of parental notification.

Hand Washing

All children and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

Upon arrival to the facility and after breaks.

- Before and after preparing food or drinks.
- Before and after eating or handling food or drinks.
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom.
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid.
- After playing outdoors or in sand.

- After handling garbage.
- After sneezing and/or coughing

All staff and children must adhere to regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds:

1. Turn water on and wet hands, remove from water
2. Add soap to hands and create friction to make bubbles
3. Scrub for 20 seconds
4. Rinse hands under running water
5. Dry hands with single use paper towels
6. Turn off faucet with paper towels

Group Size

- Group sizes will be limited to no more than 9 children and one adult.
- We will not gather in hallways and other community spaces, unless we can properly physically distance.

Co-mingling

- Drop off and pick up will limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to physical distancing recommendations.
- Classes will include the same group each day and the same teachers will remain with the same group each day.
- If special events will be offered to individual classes only will require presenters to be screened in the same way as staff and children before entry.
- To minimize campus interaction, specialists will go into each classroom with sanitized equipment.
- Events with parents will be held online.

Back to school packet

Our School requires that certain forms are read and signed by you, the parent (these will be sent to you via e-mail and are on the website). You will be able to fill or scan the documents electronically and email them back to the school office all properly signed.

Children may not attend school unless these forms are in your child's folder by the first day of school

Immunization Policy

Scheck Family Religious School is mindful about the health of all members of our community. Immunizations are required in order for your child to attend our school and we must receive all up to date forms before August 26th. Any student who is unable to be immunized for any medical reason must provide the school with a permanent medical exemption by the State of Florida.

School Closings

In the event of a force majeure, hurricane or other natural disaster we follow Miami Dade County procedures.

Medication

If you need the nurse to dispense medication, you must sign a release form authorizing the school to administer the medication. Medicine must be in a pre-measured container with your child's name written on the original package.

Teachers are **not** permitted to administer any medications to your child. All medications whether they are prescription, over the counter or homeopathic must be administered by the school nurse and must be accompanied by a prescription from the doctor. There are no exceptions to our policy.

Policy for the Exclusion of Children

All children exhibiting one or more of the following symptoms must stay home:

1. A fever of a 100 or above
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath
4. Stomach cramping
5. Diarrhea
6. Fatigue
7. Nausea
8. A family member living within your home displays the above symptoms

If a child or staff member presents with any one of the above symptoms consistent with

COVID -19, the child or staff member must self-isolate at home until:

- The child or staff member had no fever for 72 hours without the help of a fever reducer.
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- The child or staff member tests negative for COVID-19.
- Children with pre- existing health conditions that could make them more vulnerable to COVID - 19 will need verification from a doctor to return.

Re-admittance to school for the following communicable diseases (other than COVID- 19) shall be:

- a) If antibiotics have been prescribed for your child, please allow at least 24 hours for the drug to take effect before sending him/her back to school.
- b) Chickenpox - all lesions are dry and crusted.
- c) Impetigo (blisters covered with honey-colored crust) - at least 24 hours after the start of medication. If there is no improvement in 48 hours, the child should be reassessed by the physician.
- d) Conjunctivitis (pink eye) - redness of eye with burning and thick purulent discharge at least 24 hours after the start of medication **and** no drainage present.
- e) Lice and Scabies - following medical treatment.
- f) Pinworms - no restrictions following the start of treatment.
- g) Hepatitis - physician statement required for remittance.
- h) Strep Throat - 24 hours after the start of antibiotics. A doctor's note is needed to return to school.

Discipline Policy

Our policy is to reinforce positive behavior, not negative behavior.

Teachers facilitate the development of self-control in children by using positive guidance techniques, such as modeling and encouraging expected behavior, redirecting children to more acceptable activity and setting clear limits. Teachers' expectations match and respect children's developing capabilities in order to elevate interpersonal problems.

Children are provided many opportunities to develop social skills, such as cooperating, helping, negotiating and talking with the person involved to solve interpersonal problems. Teachers facilitate the development of these positive social skills at all times.

We do not believe in punishment, but rather in modeling and redirecting children's behavior. The following policy applies to all the Scheck Family Religious School:

Every child is entitled to a safe, peaceful environment in which they are assured the opportunity to learn and thrive. Any individual who disrupts this environment infringes upon the rights of other students and is in violation of the following discipline code:

Classroom Rules

1. All students will come to class on time, prepared.
2. Students will show respect for peers and teachers, their person and their possessions- and for school property- *Derech Eretz*.
3. Students will not get out of their seat or leave the room without permission.
4. Raise your hand to speak and wait to be called on.
5. No food or gum may be brought into the Religious School classroom (unless it is part of a planned class activity).

Discipline Procedures

Both staff and students will be treated with respect at Beth Torah. Students are expected to be courteous to their teachers and fellow students, and follow the classroom rules- observe *Derech Eretz*.

Disruptive behavior in class will result in

- 1) Warning
- 2) Parent contact
- 3) Parent/ teacher conference
- 4) Assignment of specific duties as consequences
- 5) Parent/ teacher/director conference
- 6) Parent/ director/teacher/Rabbi conference
- 7) Suspension - Make up assignments or outside tutoring at the family's expense, will be necessary during the time of suspension
- 8) Expulsion

Vandalism

We request that students remember that they are attending Religious School at a Synagogue and conduct themselves accordingly. Parents will be charged for any vandalism to school property by their child.

Parent Involvement

Parents play a very important role at the Scheck Family Religious School.

We encourage parent involvement in our School, including attendance at special events via zoom or the modalities safely available to us during this time. Hineynu, our parent association, is an integral component of our school.

Room Parent Program

We have a very active Room Parent Program. Our Head Room Parent will coordinate all Room Parents and serve as a liaison between parents and administration. Our volunteers serve as Friend Raisers, Fund Raisers and Liaisons to new and prospective parents in our community.

Child Custody Policy for Parents Experiencing Divorce, Separation or Child Custody Disputes

- 1) Parents should be reminded that upon registering their child for School, both parents **must** be listed along with all appropriate information for **each parent**.
- 2) In the event that either parent wishes to preclude the other from contact with the child, or from picking the child up at the School, a legal court order must be procured by one (1) of the parents, and a copy of said document provided to the School Office.
- 3) In the absence of a court order specifically prohibiting one parent contact and/or custody of a child, the School must release a child to either parent upon demand, along with all information relating to the child.
- 4) Under no circumstances will the School be considered as a place where visitation of a child may take place by a parent under restrictions of a court order.
- 5) The School will do its best to adhere to aspects of a court order that directly require the School's action. The School will not go beyond what is required in a court order.

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received, read and accept the following:

Scheck Family Religious School Parent Manual 2021-2022

I have read, understand and agree to follow all policies, rules and regulations set forth in the Scheck Family Religious School Parent Manual 2021-2022.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____