

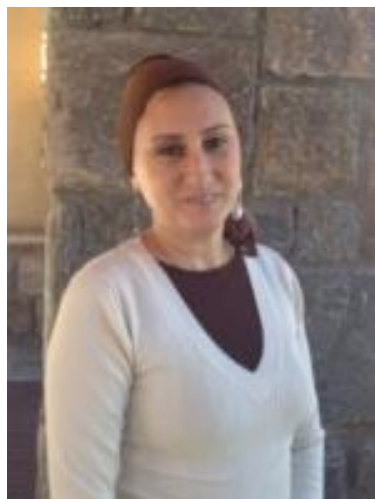


**W**elcome to **Temple Emanu-El's Religious School**.

We are so happy to have you join us this **2025-2026/5786** school year!

Our first day is **Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM** where students will have the chance to meet their teachers and classmates. On the first Sunday of the year, **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**, a special treat awaits at the end of the day for the entire school. Parents can join us on **Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM** for a Parent Meet & Greet Breakfast.

#### **Meet Your Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) Teachers**



**ETTI AHDOOT**

[ahdoot.esther@gmail.com](mailto:ahdoot.esther@gmail.com)

Etti Ahdoot is delighted to have been working at Temple Emanu-El for 15 years as a second-grade teacher. She teaches Hebrew as well as Jewish studies both at Temple Emanu-El and at a local Jewish day school.

Etti loves all her second graders and enjoys watching them grow-up and mature throughout their years at Hebrew School.



**ALIZA STRAUSS**

[Ketchupgrrl78@yahoo.com](mailto:Ketchupgrrl78@yahoo.com)

Aliza Strauss is the tefillah and holidays teacher for Kitah Bet. She will be entering her 13th year of teaching at Temple Emanu-El.

Aliza lives in Teaneck, NJ and is married to a firefighter with whom she has two lovely daughters.

Aliza has her B.A. from Queens College and a certificate in Fundraising from NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies.



**DEBBIE FREESMAN**

[debbiefreesman@gmail.com](mailto:debbiefreesman@gmail.com)

While Morah Debbie is best known for her work with our PreK TE Explorer program she also assists with 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade on Wednesdays.

Outside the classroom, Morah Debbie loves spending time playing with her granddaughter, Arielle. Morah Debbie also enjoys, gardening, walking, reading and playing canasta.

Morah Debbie received a BA in Psychology from Clark University and holds a CDA certificate. Additionally, she has taken graduate courses at Bank Street College and Rutgers University.

**Questions, Comments, Concerns? We're here to help!**

### **Administration**

**Adam Schwartzbard**

Director of Youth Engagement

[schwartzbard@tecloster.org](mailto:schwartzbard@tecloster.org)



**Shelby Effron**

Administrative Coordinator, Lifelong Learning

[effron@tecloster.org](mailto:effron@tecloster.org)



**Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg**

Rabbi for Lifelong Learning

[ruberg@tecloster.org](mailto:ruberg@tecloster.org)



# Temple Emanu-El Religious School Curriculum

## Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

**Learning Hebrew:** By the end of the year, Bet Students will be familiar with the Aleph Bet - both the names of the letters and their sounds. The 2nd grade Hebrew books are *Sarah, David and You Read Hebrew Books One and Two*.

In addition, students will learn the days of the week in Hebrew and how to count from 1 to 10. Students will also be able to write their names in Hebrew by the end of the year.

**Teaching Israel:** Building on our past lessons about Israel, we will introduce students to the map of Israel and its geography, along with discussing Israel as a special place for the Jewish people.

**Music with Moreh Matt:** For a half hour each week, Moreh Matt will visit our class and lead us in song. Throughout the year and during the holidays, he will teach primarily Hebrew songs and the prayers of Kabbalat Shabbat / Friday Night services.

**Special Programs:** Throughout the year, our class will have special on-site programs to complement our lessons. Bet students receive their first prayer book, Siddur Mah Tov, in a grade-wide ceremony on a Shabbat morning. Special activities include a Mezuzah program, a communal candle-lighting for Hanukkah, planting parsley for Tu B'Shvat, in-class Passover Seder, and a Lag Ba'Omer Field Day. Throughout the year, we will incorporate singalongs in our classes to learn through music. We will also collect tzedakah throughout the year.

**Clergy Involvement:** Over the course of the school year, our clergy – Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg, Rabbi Gabe Cohen and Cantor Israel Singer – will visit the class. Our Rabbis will participate in “Ask the Rabbi” sessions, and Parasha/Torah portion units.

**Teaching Torah/“Chumash”:** In our study of the Torah, we will focus on stories from the books of Genesis and Exodus, including the story of Creation and Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, Joseph and his rise to becoming a leader in Egypt, Moses, the Ten Commandments, and much more. We will also learn portions of the Bible, such as Jonah and the Whale, and the story of Purim. We will also talk about the concept of hospitality, or Hachnasat Orchim as illustrated in these stories.

Bet students will learn Torah through hands-on activities along with a new book titled *“Let There Be Play: Bringing Bible to Life with Young Children.”*

**Teaching Mitzvot/Values:** Teaching mitzvot/values is an important component of our study at Religious School. We will address concepts such as, Tzedakah, Chesed/kindness, blessings for food, lighting Hanukah candles, Shabbat, the special nature of Torah, prayer, Israel as the Jewish homeland, honoring one's parents; V'ahavta L'Reiecha Kamocho – respecting all people, and Tikun Olam – repairing the world.

**Teaching Holidays:** As we celebrate Jewish holidays throughout the year, our guiding focus word will be “explain.” Building on our past lessons on “identifying,” through special programs and fun class activities, we will teach the concepts of each holiday so that the students will be able to confidently explain the holiday, and why and how we celebrate. As students grow older, we will begin to shift our focus to “apply” as a guiding concept.

**Teaching Shabbat:** Each grade will learn songs from the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat Service in their music class with Moreh Matt. The quantity they will learn will increase with each successive grade.

Bet students will learn the following prayers: Hinei Ma tov, Lechu Neranena, Or Zarua, Od Yavo, Oseh Shalom. They will also discuss and enjoy hands-on activities relating to the customs and foods associated with the importance of Shabbat and its role in creating Jewish community.

Applying that learning from the classroom, each grade will have a special Friday night student-led Shabbat Service and will also be invited for a special Shabbat morning ‘Shabbat Together’ service with a book ceremony.

### **Teachers**

Etti Ahdoot  
[ahdoot.esther@gmail.com](mailto:ahdoot.esther@gmail.com)

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[Ketchupgrl78@yahoo.com](mailto:Ketchupgrl78@yahoo.com)

Debbie Freesman  
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