Welcome 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 **Sunday, September 14th at 9:15 AM** where students will have the chance to meet their teachers, classmates, and enjoy a special treat! Parents can join us on **Sunday, October 26th at 9:30 AM** for a Parent Meet & Greet Breakfast.

Meet Your TE Explorers 4's (Pre-K 4's) Teachers!

Debbie Freesman
debbiefreesman@gmail.com

Morah Debbie's welcoming classroom quickly engages students with a variety of developmentally appropriate Judaic learning opportunities. Often, you will find Morah Debbie sitting on the floor reading, playing, and singing with the TE Explorers!

Outside the classroom, Morah Debbie loves spending time playing with her granddaughter, Arielle who turned 2 over the summer! Morah Debbie also enjoys, gardening, walking, reading and playing canasta. She is thrilled to welcome a new class of Explorers 4's to our Temple Emanu-El family this fall.

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. Morah Debbie has worked in Early Childhood Education since 2005.

Marlene Westhelle
marlene.westhelle@yahoo.com

Morah Marlene has been a preschool teacher, for the last 23 years teaching and nurturing children between Temple Beth El, Kol Dorot and now Temple Emanu-El. She has a wonderful ability to make each child feel safe and special. This is Marlene's second year at Temple Emanu-El and is excited to welcome her new class of TE Explorers in the Tall.

Marlene and her husband Bob live in Norwood, has three children and last year welcomed her first grandchild.

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

Administration

Adam Schwartzbard
Director of Youth Engagement
schwartzbard@tecloster.org

Shelby Effron
Administrative Coordinator, Lifelong Learning
effron@tecloster.org

Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg
Rabbi for Lifelong Learning
ruberg@tecloster.org

Temple Emanu-El Religious School Curriculum

TE Explorers 4's (Pre-K 4's)

Goal of TE Explorers - Jewish Learning Through Play:

Following best practices in Early Childhood Education, our TE Explorers will learn about being Jewish including holidays and Shabbat as well as Hebrew words through play and sensory activities. Additionally making Jewish friends and feeling comfortable in the synagogue are central points of emphasis for the program.

Music with Moreh Matt:

Moreh Matt our music instructor will visit our class and lead us in Jewish songs.

Special Programs:

Throughout the year, our class will have special on-site programs that focus on the Jewish holidays. Such activities include a visit to our sukkah on Sukkot, decorating dreidels on Chanukah, and making Israeli Flags for Israel's Independence Day.

Clergy Involvement:

Throughout the 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 read stories to the kids.

Teaching Torah/Mitzvot/Values

Each session will include a Jewish story that teaches about a Jewish value. Most books will be from the PJ Library collection.

Snack/Free Play:

Learning how to eat and play with friends is an important aspect of our program. Snack will be provided and time for play will take place either inside or outside each session.

Teachers

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