



# The Joseph and Belle Braun Religious School

Anshe Emet Synagogue

## **Parent Handbook**

2020-2021

5781

[www.AnsheEmet.org](http://www.AnsheEmet.org)

## A Message from Religious School Leadership

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*B'ruchim Haba'im!* Welcome to The Joseph and Belle Braun Anshe Emet Religious School for 2020-21. Our goal is to instill in our students an understanding, appreciation, and love of their Jewish heritage that will inspire them along a path of lifelong learning and participation in the Jewish community. To meet this end, we are eager to create a partnership with you, the parents, and we look forward to your participation in this learning endeavor. We hope that you and your children will come to enjoy the richness of Judaism together and, in the process, that your children will gain a sense of their Jewish selves, beginning with special memories created in this building and this year on line. There is nothing normal about this year and we all long for the Sunday mornings where we gather together in the sanctuary to hear the sound of the shofar and listen to a story told by our own Max Handelman, we long to visit in the hallways and encourage students to get to class! We will return those days but until then know that we remain committed to our community which continues to blossom and grow.

We are committed to providing you with a safe and comfortable environment to learn in both at Anshe Emet and online. Our goal is to make choices available for you that will work for your family, while working within the guidelines of the CDC, the Governor's office, and the Anshe Emet Health and Safety committee, while respecting our partnership with Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School.

We have spent all summer redeveloping our curriculum to ensure that our students can meet the curriculum guidelines, whether socially distanced or online, in ways that represent best practices. This includes substantially enriching the way we teach Hebrew online, both for upper and lower grades, increasing opportunities for arts-based education across the curriculum, and providing more student choices for ways to study text. We are working with our teaching staff to provide extensive professional development to build new skills, both to enhance their online teaching, and to help them learn new ways to make socially distanced classrooms as engaging as possible while remaining safe for everyone.

In this handbook, you will become familiar with the mission, vision, policies, and procedures of our school. Please take the time to read about how you become involved in all facets of the educational process: family education programs, parent education and community-building programs, *Tefillah* (prayer services), holiday celebrations, special events, tzedakah, social justice projects, and more.

We are always interested in hearing your suggestions or concerns, or even just an update on how things are going!

L'Shalom,



Laurie Orenstein



Rabbi D'ror Chankin- Gould

Religious School Principal  
[lorenstein@ansheemet.org](mailto:lorenstein@ansheemet.org)

Rabbi and Grodzin Director of Education Innovation  
[dcgould@ansheemet.org](mailto:dcgould@ansheemet.org)

We will miss seeing you in the hallways this year ...  
In an effort to answer questions and be available please join us for :  
Weekly Virtual Hallway time with the Education team  
Sundays 9:00-9:30 and Mondays from 3:30 -4:30 join us at  
[:https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8961888107](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8961888107)

## General Information

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### Class Schedule

#### JK-2nd (Sundays only)

##### All:

- Tefillah online 8:30-9:00 am.

##### Choice Between:

- 2 hours in person 10 a.m. - 12pm\_
- 2 hours on line 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (adjustments will be made with our littlest learners as we determine zoom tolerance)

#### 3rd-7th Grade

##### Sunday Choice:

- 2 hours In Person 9:30am-11:30am
- 2 Hours Online 10:00am-12:00pm

Sunday mornings will include 30 minutes of Hebrew instruction

##### Weekday:

- Choice between
  - Monday (5:00pm -7:00pm )
  - Thursday (4:15pm -6:15) online
- Includes Tefillah, small group Hebrew and weekly Arts based Textploration

## **Two Schools, one Community!**

A plan has been approved by the Health and Safety Committee of Anshe Emet that allows us to take a unique approach where families can choose what type of instruction works best for them, while knowing their kids will have the same access to high quality Jewish education, either online or in-person. It is important that parents understand that essentially we are running two simultaneous programs on Sunday. All programs will utilize the same State of the Art curriculum and teachers are dedicated to finding ways to make the material work for all children in this crazy world.

We ask all families to remember:

- Every family will have the option to be exclusively online if that is best for them
- Families who do choose to come to school can feel safe that:
  - There will be limited exposures to students outside of their child's immediate classroom- Classes will be limited to ensure no more than 20 people per space.
  - We will be limiting building access to students, religious school staff and synagogue staff to protect all of us. Parents are asked not to enter the building.
  - WE ask that all parents fill out a health assessment each morning before students arrive at Religious school. A link will be sent to you by email and text.
  - All Singing and Tefilah (prayer) will be online.
  - **There will be no eating or drinking.**
  - Everyone will wear a mask while inside the building.
  - Hand washing and sanitation will be available and encouraged for all staff and students.
  - We will practice social distancing by encouraging all students to give 6ft of space.
  - We will be ready to go exclusively online at any point necessary.
  - We know this will be hard for some students, and we are committed to work in partnership with parents and we will do everything we can to work with children and their needs. We reserve the right to determine that online is a more suitable option for certain families. Please work with us for everyone's safety!

- Families who choose on line programming should know:
  - All students will receive a menu of zoom links to use to log in to their classes.
  - Most students will need to navigate between more than one call per session to enable us to learn as individuals, classes and a whole community.
  - We ask that parents help children to navigate and manage their calls. It is best that whenever possible the student is the face in the zoom box.
  - We do ask that all students keep their camera on whenever possible, Please communicate directly with your child's teacher if needed.
  - While we expect some challenges in the beginning. We believe we will see a seamless transition after a short time!

### **Communication**

More than ever before, it is important that parents read email communications carefully. We know how much information you are receiving, and we will do our best to be brief and intentional. Once school starts, you should expect to see two emails per week.

1. School wide email from the Education team this will include:
  - a. Logistical information ( Zoom links, Pick up changes, etc)
  - b. School News
  - c. Big picture messages
  - d. Important dates
  - e. General Synagogue information
2. Emails directly from your child's Teacher including:
  - a. Specific supplies needed for class
  - b. Classroom Information
  - c. Upcoming programming

Unless we hear otherwise, we will send emails to both Parent 1 and Parent 2. If you are not receiving emails please let us know. Due to the fact that we send emails to our entire list at once, parents sometimes find our emails in the spam folder.

**We generally do not collect student emails but if parents with students 4th grade and up want to share additional emails with teachers you are welcome to do so.**

### **Scholarships**

If you need financial assistance, please contact Laurie Orenstein, the Religious School Principal, at (773) 868-5131. Tuition scholarships are available and are confidential. We believe strongly as a community that money should never be an obstacle for families who aim to ensure the Jewish education of their children.

(Virtually all Religious School tuition scholarships are directly funded by the annual Sustaining Fund Campaign. Contributions to the Sustaining Fund enable Anshe Emet to aid those families who are unable to pay the full tuition.)

### **Attendance Information**

If your child will be absent from Religious School, please contact the Education Office at (773) 868-5143 or [hschreiber@ansheemet.org](mailto:hschreiber@ansheemet.org), before the start of school that day. Attendance will be taken at each class session. We would appreciate knowing about both online and in person students.

### **Security Procedures:**

A parking decal is required for entrance to the parking lot, and a member badge is required for entrance to the building. We will pass out decals or placards on the day of school.

### **Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures:**

**Pick-up and Drop Off will look different this year. Please assist us by reading carefully and following directions for the safety of all.**

- Obey the entrance and exit signs in the parking lot.
- Please use the pick up the line whenever possible, stay in your car and wait for your child to be escorted to you.
- Please wear a mask when opening the window or getting out of the car

- Please come at the designated time. Early drop offs and pick ups will be challenging this year. If you must pick up early, stay in your car and call (303)819-3121 and your child will be escorted out.
- Please enter the South Gate and leave through the Grace exit.
- Whenever the weather permits we will bring the children outside to wait for their cars .
- If you are walking, enter the Broadway gate and proceed to the bench near the Sukkah garden. Give your child’s name and then wait for them to come down. Please maintain 6ft of space and wear a mask.
- Upon your arrival, the parking lot staff will text or walkie talkie your child's teacher and your child will be brought out.
- Please be sure to place your placard in the window, They are color coded for each of your children.
- If you have designated an alternate to regularly pick up your children, please arrange for them to get a badge and for their car to have a decal. Provide names of alternate pick-up drivers to the Religious School office.
- If someone other than the parent, guardian, or established alternate will pick up the student, we need advance written notification.

### **Early Pick ups/ Late Pick ups**

PLEASE assist us by avoiding early pickups and late arrivals whenever possible. If it is absolutely unavoidable please wait in your car and call 309-819-3121 and your child will be brought out.

### **Snacks**

Due to COVID restrictions there will be no snacks allowed or food provided. Please be sure that your child has a hearty breakfast and a snack prior to arriving at school. If children need a snack while on zoom it is fine.

### **Attire**

Students should dress in a manner that reflects selfrespect and respect for the synagogue. All are encouraged to wear kippot during tefillah.

### **Parent Volunteers**

Parent involvement is essential to the success of our school. Volunteer parents will be asked to assist with zoom meetings, community events, and more. If you would like to volunteer, please call Laurie Orenstein at (773) 868-5131.

### **Zoom Tips and Tricks**

Learning online is less than perfect, but we have been working hard with staff to provide enrichment and learning that will challenge and engage all of our students. Just like school during the week, we hope that our students will take this time seriously and with the expectation that they will come ready to learn and grow with the community.

Here are a few tips:

1. Find a good spot to learn
2. Use the tools effectively
3. Raise your hand
4. Be ready and on time
5. If you need a break take a break but come back ready to learn
6. Follow your teacher's directions
7. If something doesn't make sense, ask
8. Set up your name (not your parents name)
9. It's ok to pass
10. Have fun

### **B'nai Mitzvah Celebrations**

The creation of community is a fundamental value at Anshe Emet Synagogue. With that in mind, the Religious School and the Anshe Emet staff and clergy strongly encourage families to invite all the students in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah's Religious School grade to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service and celebration in order to ensure that all children are included.

## **Pillars of Learning**

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Religious School is defined through our four pillars:

**Diversity-** Anshe Emet is proud to celebrate that our students and Families represent a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds and learning styles; our education is consciously designed to meet the needs of a diverse audience.

This year: WE will find new ways to engage with learners of all needs through individualized hebrew learning ( 3-7th) and Hebrew through movement. Together we will partner with parents and Keshet to provide the methodology that works for every student. Additionally we will be experimenting with Arts based learning to embrace the sacred text in our learning. Did you ever think you would learn the story of Jonah with photography or the Parsha (Torah portion of the week) through song.

**Flexibility-** Anshe Emet acknowledges the fact that our students and families lead busy lives, we strive to provide flexible options about where and when to learn.

This year: We are striving to provide every family and every teacher with choices they are comfortable with in this COVID world. We acknowledge that our format is not for everyone and we encourage you to reach out if you need us to help make it work for you.

**Community-** Anshe Emet believes that Jewish growth is all about relationships. Our learning strives to foster deep connections between students, families, and the larger Jewish community.

This Year- We acknowledge that community is something we are longing for as we begin the school year. Weekly Tefillah (prayer) will happen across grade levels and encourage friends to connect virtually. WE are continuing to look for new ways to connect, Stay tuned for virtual hallway chats, curriculum nights, holiday celebrations and more!

**Knowledge-** Anshe Emet strives to equip all students with robust knowledge of Jewish texts, ritual, history, and contemporary life, and with a deep love and

appreciation for the Hebrew language. We believe in bringing that knowledge to life through both reflection and action.

This year: We have been working hard to refine and reorganize our learning to be effective in an online setting this year! Visit our website for grade specific learning goals and outcomes.

## **Guiding Principles**

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### **Family Involvement**

Jewish education is a community-wide endeavor, and attending Religious School is only one component of Jewish Education. Family involvement, program and service attendance, adult education classes, and participation in community events are essential elements as well. Judaism is a way of life; we aim to build spiritual and community connections through the life span with our member families through educational and community programs for both children and parents, independently and combined. Parents will be invited to a curriculum night and a Clergy text study independently from your children. All parents with students in third-seventh grade a culminating event will be held at the end of each trimester. You will receive a list of dates for these events. Of course, every Shabbat there are family services for children from tots through sixth grade, and parent participation is encouraged!

### **Curriculum Content:**

In each grade, we focus on developmentally appropriate learning in eight content areas:

#### **Sacred Text**

We help to build our students' connection to and love of the Torah, select prophets, historical books, megillot, and rabbinic text. Multi-modal learning allows students to choose between traditional modes of study, art, drama, and other forms of creative expression, building curiosity around and passion for the texts.

#### **Hebrew**

Our students learn Hebrew in the context of meaningful prayer. A love for Hebrew is developed in the lower grades through movement and song, progressing to increasing familiarity with the aleph-bet through multimodal learning. Fluency and

vocabulary are gained through interactions with sacred texts, in the context of an integrated curriculum.

### **Prayer, God, & Spirituality**

Our school works to create an environment where students can develop a rich, personal relationship with prayer, God, and their sense of spirituality. We encourage student discussion of tough moral and ethical questions, in the context of the Jewish tradition. Students learn rituals, traditional prayers, and songs, as well as methods for spiritual seeking and advanced prayer leader skills in the upper grades.

### **The Jewish Calendar**

From learning the symbols and foods of the holidays in the early grades, to engaging in historical and social analysis of holiday observance throughout the Diaspora and Israel in the upper grades, our students develop a rich appreciation of the Jewish calendar. We love celebrating the holidays, and we also are invested in studying the intellectual, historical, traditional, and spiritual richness of the calendar.

### **Jewish History**

Students at our school engage in Jewish History from a personal, familial, and global perspective. As students grow, they will learn about Jewish History from Mishna to modernity, with additional focuses on Biblical history, American Jewish history and our relationship to Israel, and the history of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

### **Israel**

Developing an understanding of Israel's history and culture is an important part of students' developing relationships with Israel. Our students' education in the state of Israel provides a rich and nuanced backdrop for the development of advocacy skills in the upper grades, giving our young people the tools and the confidence, they need to discuss Israel with their peers.

### **Mitzvot and Values**

We explore mitzvot and values through study and action. Our students work with synagogue committees to help actively serve our community through participation in projects like Team Yarok, making baby meals, and engaging in tzedakah while building meaningful relationships with other kids in international Jewish communities. Kashrut, prayer obligations, and Shabbat observance are also important elements of our curriculum, as are other ways the mitzvot tie to care of the self and care of others.

### **Contemporary Jewish Life**

From lifecycle events to current events through a Jewish lens to contemporary Jewish communities around the world, our students learn about the richness of Jewish life today, as well as the meaningful ways the tradition helps to frame crucial events in each Jew's life, from birth to death, today.

### **Curriculum Content by Grade:**

#### Junior Kindergarten

**Sacred text:** 7 days of creation - **Hebrew:** Hebrew through movement and song - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Blessings, God through love, gratitude, and creation - **Jewish Calendar:** Holidays through symbols and food, with special focus on Shabbat - **Israel:** Israel through food and symbols - **Mitzvot and Values:** Being a good community member - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Learning about Anshe Emet with Rabbi Russo

#### Senior Kindergarten

**Sacred text:** Adam and Eve; Noah - **Hebrew:** Hebrew through movement and song - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Blessings, God through love, gratitude, and creation - **Jewish Calendar:** Holidays through symbols and food, with special focus on Rosh Hashanah and Pesach - **Israel:** Israel through food and symbols - **Mitzvot and Values:** Being a mensch. Making kippot - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Learning about Anshe Emet with Rabbi Russo

#### First Grade

**Sacred text:** Stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs - **Hebrew:** Hebrew through movement **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Kabbalat Shabbat. What does God do for us, and what do we do for God? - **Jewish Calendar:** Holidays throughout the year: core stories - **History:** Where do Jewish people live now and how did they get there? Family stories - **Mitzvot and Values:** Loving your neighbor as yourself. Welcoming guests - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Synagogue symbols & meeting synagogue staff.

#### Second Grade

**Sacred text:** Stories from Genesis through Exodus, with focus on the 10 Commandments - **Hebrew:** Hebrew through movements - **Prayer, God, and**

**Spirituality:** Kabbalat Shabbat. What does God do for us, and what do we do for God? - **Jewish Calendar:** Holidays throughout the year: practices and traditions. Second grade will emphasize Shabbat, and will help lead the Tu B'shvat Seder - **History:** The Diaspora, stories through history and family - **Mitzvot and Values:** Ten Commandments. Honoring parents.

### Third Grade

**Sacred text:** Introduction to the Weekly Parsha - **Hebrew:** Reading Letters and Vowels - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Havdalah & Maariv. Introducing Kavanah - **Jewish Calendar:** Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Hanukkah, and Pesach: deep dives with text and history - **History:** Biblical history, from ancestors to entering the land - **Mitzvot and Values:** kashrut - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Birth and the Lifecycle. Brit milah, Simchat bat. Make a baby meal.

### Fourth Grade

**Sacred text:** Jonah, Esther, and Ruth - **Hebrew:** Reading Fluency in the Siddur - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Shabbat Shacharit. Struggling with God & Searching for God - **Jewish Calendar:** Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Purim, and Shavuot: deep dives with text and history - **Israel:** Geography and Maps of Israel and Neighbors. Israeli Customs & Culture - **Mitzvot and Values:** Prayer Obligations - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Conversion

### Fifth Grade

**Sacred text:** Deborah & Yael, Sampson, and David - **Hebrew:** Prayer Vocabulary & Reading Fluency - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Shabbat Morning Prayers; Mourner's Kaddish, Kiddush, Ein Kelohenu, Aleinu, & Adon Olam. Different Names of God, Different Jewish Images of God - **Jewish Calendar:** Shabbat Deep Dive; Prayer, Text, Traditions & Practices - **History:** Biblical History: Kings of Israel, Exile, Diaspora, Construction & Destruction of the Temple - **Mitzvot and Values:** Visiting the Sick, Shabbat Observance, & Lashon Hara - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Weddings

### Sixth Grade

**Sacred text:** Weekly Parsha - **Hebrew:** Prayer Vocabulary & Reading Fluency - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Torah & Haftarah Service. Trope. Personal Images of God & Hard Questions about God - **Jewish Calendar:** Holiday-Specific Prayer &

Liturgy. Hallel. Melodies & Sounds of the Holidays. Nusach - **History:** American Jewish History - **Israel:** Israeli Folk Songs & Popular Culture Today - **Mitzvot and Values:** Social Justice, Feeding the Hungry, Saving a Life, Clothing the Naked. Leket, Shichecha, & Peah. Tallit & Tefillin - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** American Current Events Through a Jewish Lens. Conservative Judaism.

### Seventh Grade

**Sacred text:** Isaiah, Jerimiah, and Ezekiel - **Hebrew:** Basic Modern Hebrew Conversation - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Bnei Mitzvah Prep. Hard Questions about God - **Jewish Calendar:** Months, Lunar Issues, Leap Years. Tisha B'Av & Tu Bishvat - **Israel:** Israeli & Zionist History Overview - **Mitzvot and Values:** Team Yarok, PIP - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Lifecycle Events & Death: Funeral, Shiva, Chevra Kadisha. Israeli Current Events Through a Jewish Lens.

### Eighth Grade

**Sacred text:** Introduction to Rabbinic Texts - **Hebrew:** Basic conversational Hebrew - **Prayer, God, and Spirituality:** Weekday Minyan Prayers. Methods for Spiritual Seeking - **Jewish Calendar:** Focus on Israeli Holidays. Yom Ha'atzmaut, Yom Hazikaron, Yom HaShoah. Differences in American and Israeli Holiday Practices - **History:** Mishna to Modernity (Including Anti-Semitism & Holocaust) - **Israel:** Advocacy Skills - **Mitzvot and Values:** Sex & Sexuality, Being an Upstander - **Contemporary Jewish Life:** Denominations. USY.

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## High School Curriculum

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Students in grades 9-12 are invited to apply to be in our Leadership Institute, "Madrachim." Madrachim consists of two fundamental building blocks: the Madrachim Program and the Learning Tracks. Madrachim has limited space.

### **Madrachim Program**

Those who choose to serve as Madrachim (teacher assistants in the Religious School) will work under the guidance of our Religious School teachers, Education department, and clergy, to develop leadership and teaching skills while serving as role models for younger students. Madrachim can choose to receive community service hours or a salary for their work in the school and can choose from a broad range of assignments. Assignment choices and descriptions can be found below. New Madrachim must meet with Samantha Isenstein, Director of Adolescent Education, before placement in an assignment.

### **Learning Tracks- Tikkun Chicago**

Tikkun Chicago, our community wide Teen learning experience- Under the direction of Samantha Isenstein, are courses designed to guide teenagers in developing a personal, adult relationship with the Jewish tradition through interactive learning, student-driven discussions, and timely, relevant topics. The program also includes a mentorship and teacher-training component. This year the learning tracks will be offered at different times throughout the school year, in 6 week sessions.

### **Shabbat Madrich Program**

Continuing this year, we are accepting a limited number of students to work as Madrachim on Shabbat mornings. They will serve as youth service leaders and mentors, and will have regular opportunities to polish and expand their prayer leading skills under the guidance and supervision of Max Handelman. This year, the training will be on Zoom at a time that works for the madrachim. Currently, tefilla options for families and children are evolving with the seasons and the possibilities. The madrachim's practical experiences will take place in the virtual and in-person services as they develop.

For more information about the Madrichim program, Tikkun Chicago, SHMUSY (USY) or any other Jewish Teen experience, please contact Samantha Isenstein at (773) 868-5116, [sisenstein@ansheemet.org](mailto:sisenstein@ansheemet.org).

## Youth & Family Services

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### Youth & family Services in Covid

Even during this time when we can not gather together regularly for song and tefillah, we still strive to create opportunities to come together for prayer and learning. The experiences Anshe Emet offers families change and evolve as our Covid situation and seasons change. Please watch the “Your Shabbat Today” email from Anshe Emet for updated information.

### Young Families:

**Spring and Summer:** Joyful and musical services on Zoom with Rabbi Donni Aaron and Max Handelman, 5:45pm (feel free to eat dinner during the service). On the first Friday of the month, we offer the opportunity to pick up dinner on Thursday afternoon, then welcome in Shabbat together on Friday (on Zoom)

**Fall and Winter:** Join us for a rockin’ Havdalah Party! Singing, dancing and a story to start the week. November and December at 5:30pm, January 6pm, February 6:30 pm (but double check the website or email for exact time)

### Kindergarten to 2nd graders:

**Shachar service and Torah study Sundays, 4pm, on Zoom.** Virtual Shachar is a chance to share some gratitude, sing and pray a little, and study the weekly Torah portion with the aid of video and other visual resources (which we actually wouldn’t be able to use if we were meeting on Shabbat). See the website for the link.

### 3rd-6th graders

A new **Ruach service is recorded by Rabbi Donni Aaron every week.** Playing her big blue guitar, Rabbi Donni immerses your family in learning the tefillot (prayers) and feeling the melodies. The Torah discussion will draw you in and enable your child to relate the text to their life today. **Please visit [our website](#) for the newest service.**

## **Special Programming, Youth Groups, Adult Education**

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### **Shabbat Family Programs**

On one Friday evening during the school year, we invite the families from each of our younger grades to share in a special Shabbat service led by the children, followed by a traditional Shabbat dinner. This is a time when grandparents and other extended family members can partake of the special feeling engendered by a family celebration of Shabbat. Stay tuned to synagogue emails as programming may be on zoom this year. See calendar for dates.

A special shabbat experience will be held for each grade JK-6th grade see your calendar for information:

JK-2nd Kabbalat Shabbat ( Friday evening)

3rd Grade Havdallah program

4th and 5th Grade - Shabbat morning program

6th grade weekday Mincha

### **Journey to Mitzvot/J2M**

It is the belief at Anshe Emet that B'nai Mitzvah should be an experience filled with meaning. The J2M program provides a forum where students and their parents can learn together to prepare for this transformative family moment. Our sixth grade families attend eight sessions, each virtual meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook includes comprehensive information about Anshe Emet's Bar/Bat Mitzvah process from date assignment through the date of becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. If you need a copy of the BBM Handbook or for more information about J2M, contact the religious school office.

### **Young Family Programs**

Families at Anshe Emet Synagogue have numerous opportunities for involvement. If you would like information on our Young Family Programs, please contact Maxine Handleman, Director of Family Life and Learning [mhandleman@ansheemet.org](mailto:mhandleman@ansheemet.org)

### **Youth Groups**

Informal youth education is a key component to developing Jewish identity and leadership skills. For information on our Youth Department, please email our Director of Adolescent Education, Samantha Isenstein, at [sisenstein@ansheemet.org](mailto:sisenstein@ansheemet.org)

**SHACHAR – K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders**

This exciting youth group is for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. SHACHAR, which means “dawn” in Hebrew, meets seasonally for a variety of fun activities.

**MACHAR – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders**

We offer programs seasonally to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This is our students’ first experience with planning the course and content of Jewish youth programming.

**KADIMA – 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**

KADIMA gives 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to get actively involved in the Jewish community by meeting a few times a month for social, social action, and educational programs. Kadima is a great way to keep students participating in Jewish learning and interaction during their B’nai Mitzvah years.

**USY (SHMUSY) 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

USY is our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and high school youth group. We meet on selected Tuesday nights and weekends for a variety of programs. We offer social action, Israel, educational, religious, and social activities, and Shabbat programming. We also join the Chicagoland region (CHUSY) of USY for special regional programs and international USY for international programs.

**SKIP - Send a Kid to Israel Partnership**

Through a cooperative effort with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Anshe Emet participates in a program that can make a trip to Israel an integral part of your child’s Jewish Education. SKIP is a savings plan partnership between the synagogue, the students’ families, and the Federation. Beginning in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and going through 10<sup>th</sup> grade, each participating student contributes \$100.00, the synagogue contributes \$70.00, and the Federation adds \$85.00 annually. The money is then invested in an interest-bearing account. At the end of the program, the student may select any one of a large number of Israel trips offered for teenagers. For more information, please contact Naomi Richman in the Synagogue office.

**Adult Education**

**The Raymond Arbetman Center for Adult Jewish Education .**

Throughout the year, a wide variety of courses and classes are available for your enjoyment and learning. These range from traditional Torah study to experiential learning, including healing programs for people in transition. For a brochure or information, contact our Director of Continuing Education, Cantor Liz Berke. She can be reached at (773) 868-5117, or [eberke@ansheemet.org](mailto:eberke@ansheemet.org).

## Important Phone Numbers

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Anshe Emet Synagogue (773) 281-1423

### Education Team

Laurie Orenstein, Religious School Principal (773) 868-5131  
[lorenstein@AnsheEmet.org](mailto:lorenstein@AnsheEmet.org)

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