



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Behavior and Attendance Guidelines

Religious School Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for a quality learning experience. Each class is carefully planned, and teachers use their classroom time to the fullest possible extent. When students miss a class, there is a break in the continuity of their learning. Regular attendance maintains this continuity and promotes healthy social interaction. In addition, learning is a communal experience, and everyone benefits from classroom participation by all who are present.

Excessive student absences and tardiness are disruptive to the flow, continuity, and dynamics of the classroom. Students with less than 70% attendance do not meet our requirements for regular attendance and do not have the classroom opportunity to adequately learn our curriculum. Students with less than 70% attendance will not be permitted to begin or continue with their B'nai Mitzvah training until make-up work is completed. Therefore, after four absences per semester, students may be required to do a make-up assignment created by the teacher in consultation with Rabbi Rebecca Reice. A student with less than 70% attendance and his/her parent may also be required to meet with Rabbi Rebecca Reice before continuing in the Congregation Shir Ami Religious School.

Religious School Expectations

You can expect:

- *A meaningful and lasting Jewish education* that complements and supports a Jewish lifestyle at home.
- *A strong partnership* between teacher and parent to create a foundation for your child's Jewish identity.
- *Teachers* who are prepared for class each week.
- *Teachers and administrators* who are available to parents and students.
- *An environment* that is warm, friendly, and emotionally and physically safe for your child.
- *A hands-on, active approach* to Jewish education.

We expect:

- Students to attend school regularly, arrive on time, **bring money (even a penny can be a meaningful contribution!) for tzedakah**, and to stay with their class until it ends.
- Students to behave with decorum befitting a synagogue and an institution of learning.
- Students to honor the requests of their teachers and other staff members.
- Parents to work for their children's regular, punctual attendance and to avoid disruptive early departures.
- Parents to encourage their children to behave respectfully and appropriately toward all community members.

- Parents to cooperate with our school in upholding the expectations of behavior among all students.
- Parents to notify the Religious School of early dismissal in writing. For security, Student(s) must be picked up from the classroom. Parent(s) must indicate in writing if someone other than a custodial parent will pick up their child.

Respecting Self, Others, and Property

- Respect for self, as well as the persons and property of others, is a keystone of Jewish teaching. Fighting, name-calling, property destruction, entrance into private areas, and disregard for safety and security will not be permitted. If incidents occur in class, parents will be notified, and further steps will be taken, as needed.
- Toys, games, cell phones, and other electronic devices etc. should not be brought to class. If they are brought to class, students will be asked to place them in the basket on the piano during class to encourage full engagement in the classroom environment. These items may be used during break times, if allowed by the teacher.

Calls During Religious School Classes

If students need to make a phone call during school hours, they may do so from the telephone in the Congregational Office. If you need to reach your child during school hours, please contact Rabbi Reice at the Congregational phone: 512-843-3539.