



Abraham Ratner Torah School
TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Parent Handbook

2009-2010 / 5770

Website: www.tiferethisrael.com/TorahSchool
E-mail: torahschool@tiferethisrael.com

School Mission and Philosophy

- To create a desire for a lifetime of Jewish learning.
- To involve families in creative and dramatic Jewish life programs.
- To provide quality Jewish instruction in a secure and nurturing environment.
- To prepare students to participate in Synagogue Services.
- To provide “memory-making” experiences of Jewish holidays and traditions.
- To introduce children to the Hebrew language.
- To develop a love of Jewish values and connection to Israel.

Attendance

By enrolling your child in our school, you have shown that Jewish education is important to you and your family. Regular attendance is critical to the success of our school program. Our staff works hard to incorporate as many learning experiences as possible into each session. We ask you to make every effort to avoid absences.

Students are expected to attend 75% of each of their classes through the year.

If your child will be absent, please notify our school office at (619)697-6001, ext. 115.

Parents are Partners

Parents are always welcome to volunteer in the school and volunteers are always encouraged to assist with special projects. If your talents lie in areas that can enrich our classes, please notify the teacher or school office. We greatly appreciate the parents who give of their time to enhance the quality of our programs.

Home /School Communications

A school calendar is posted on-line at www.tiferethisrael.com/TorahSchool at the beginning of the year with all the important events.

Weekly e-mails will remind you of upcoming events. Sometimes there are may be additions or changes in the calendar, please do read e-mails to stay apprised of all programs and special events.

Our Torah School homepage www.tiferethisrael.com/TorahSchool contains important event information and pictures, please visit it often.

Quarterly newsletter featuring classroom highlights will be sent home.

Progress Report

During the year, two reports will be sent home to notify you of your child's progress. Of course, our teachers are always available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. We do ask that any parental concerns or questions regarding the classroom experience be brought to the teacher first. If there is a need for further discussion, please contact the Torah School Director.

Special Needs and/or Circumstances

The Torah School is committed to meeting the individual needs of each student. If your child has a learning disability, medical condition, or if there has been a special circumstance (birth, death, divorce) in your family, please inform the classroom teacher and School Director. This will help the school be sensitive to your child's individual needs and better facilitate learning.

Arrival and Dismissal – Parking Lot Safety

The safety and well-being of your children is of our outmost concern therefore, the arrival and dismissal policy has been revised. Please **READ CAREFULLY**.

The parking lot will have one entrance and two exits. Please enter ONLY at the first entrance off Tommy Drive. Please see diagrams at the end of the handbook for better clarity.

For everyone's safety, do not ask children to run over to a waiting parked car.

Sunday Drop-off: Grades Kindergarten and First grades: Meet in classrooms.

Children shall be walked to the classroom. Parents should enter at the first driveway entrance off Tommy drive. Turn left before the tree and park down one of the two isle ways.

Sunday Drop-off: Second through Seventh grades: Meet in Sanctuary.

Children will meet in the Sanctuary. Please park your car as indicated above and walk your child to the Sanctuary or pull up in a single line to the curb at the round-about where your child will be greeted by one of our staff members.

Wednesday Drop-off: All Children: Meet at gate leading into Cul-de-sac

Please park your car in the parking lot as indicated above and walk your child(ren) to the gate to be greeted by one of our staff members or drive through the round-about to the gate entrance in a single line where your child will be greeted by one of our staff members.

Dismissal on Sundays and Wednesdays: All Children

The children will be walked to the gate by the teacher and remain **behind the gate** until he/she is picked up by the parent/guardian. Drive through the ***round-about*** to the gate entrance in a single line where you will be greeted by one of our staff members and your child will be assisted into your vehicle.

**For everyone's safety, do not ask children
to run over to a waiting parked car.**

Please notify the school office if a student will not be picked up immediately upon dismissal. ***Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) promptly.***

Tifereth Israel will not be responsible for children on our property prior to 15 minutes before class time.

Early Pick Up

Parents who arrive to pick up their children early will notify the Torah School Director and sign out the student, then go directly to the child's classroom and meet their child. Please make sure the teacher is aware that you are picking up your child.

For safety reasons - ***your child will not be allowed to wait for you outside.***

Car-Pool

If you need assistance in organizing car-pool for your child, please call the office and will be happy to help you.

Text Books

Text books are given out at the beginning of the school year. Some of the books are reusable and the student is expected to maintain them in good condition. Workbooks are the property of the student and will be sent home at the end of the school year.

Dress Code

Student appearance and dress are a reflection of the values of the Jewish tradition. Clothing should not be overly revealing or provocative. **No** baseball caps, hats, or bare midriffs are allowed in the classroom. Appropriate dress and good grooming contribute to a positive atmosphere and promote student safety.

Snacks/Kashrut

The rules of Kashrut are observed in our school. Please check with the school office , If you are planing to bring a snack for your child to share with whole class. The list of approved bakeries is available in the school office.

On Sundays and Wednesdays we sell a variety of snacks and drinks at .50 cents each. This is available on Sunday and Wednesday during break time only. All snacks are to be eaten during break and will not be allowed in classrooms. In honor of holidays, we provide a special snack to all our students.

Tzedakah

Giving Tzedakah is one of the ways of showing that we care about others

The Tzedakah money is collected in the classrooms and distributed to several organizations (chosen by the students) during the school year. We suggest that your child have an opportunity to earn Tzedakah money doing odd jobs around the house or yard.

School Ethics

Torah School is a special Jewish community of people learning together. We expect every member of the community, students and staff alike, to follow a set of basic Jewish ethics and school rules. These include:

- *Demonstrating respect for other persons in what we say and how we act
- *Demonstrating respect for the school, its program, rules, and personnel.
- *Demonstrating respect for other people's possessions and for school's property

Weapons / Dangerous Objects

The synagogue has a zero tolerance policy for students who bring weapons or dangerous objects onto the facility. It is against synagogue policy to possess any firearm or firearm replica on the property. (This includes objects such as a dirk, dagger, razor, taser, stun gun, concealed knife, switchblade, smoke bombs or gravity activated blade of any size.)

Should a student be found with any object of the type described above the Executive Director, Torah School Director, designee or local law enforcement officer shall:

- Confiscate the weapon if it is safe to do so.
- Contact the police department for a full investigation

Any student that does not follow these basic school ethics will be addressed with the following:

First Warning: Student is sent to Director's Office. Director speaks with the student.

Second Warning: Student is sent to Director's Office. Teacher and/or Director call parent(s).

Third Warning: Student is sent to Director's Office. Parent is called. Student is not allowed to return to classroom without parent accompanying student. Parent must remain in class for one complete session.

Continual Warnings: May result in dismissal. Rabbi, Abraham Ratner Torah School Director and/or the Education Vice President, Student and Parent(s) will meet for appropriate action.

Classroom Visits

You are welcome to visit your child's classroom at anytime, please call the school office and notify us prior to your visit. If you have any specific questions, please contact your child's teacher or the Torah School Director.

Your child may occasionally bring a friend or relative to class. The visitor's parent must sign an emergency medical form in order for the friend to attend class with your child. The form must be on file for the day in which the child is in school. Please inform the school office prior to these visits at 697-6001, ext. 115.

Graduation

Students who have successfully completed the course of study and have satisfactory attendances qualify to participate in any graduation ceremonies, trips, or activities held at the end of the school year.

Post Graduation

We encourage our graduates to continue their Jewish education in a formal study program designed for 8 - 12 grade students at San Diego High School of Jewish Studies (Hebrew High).

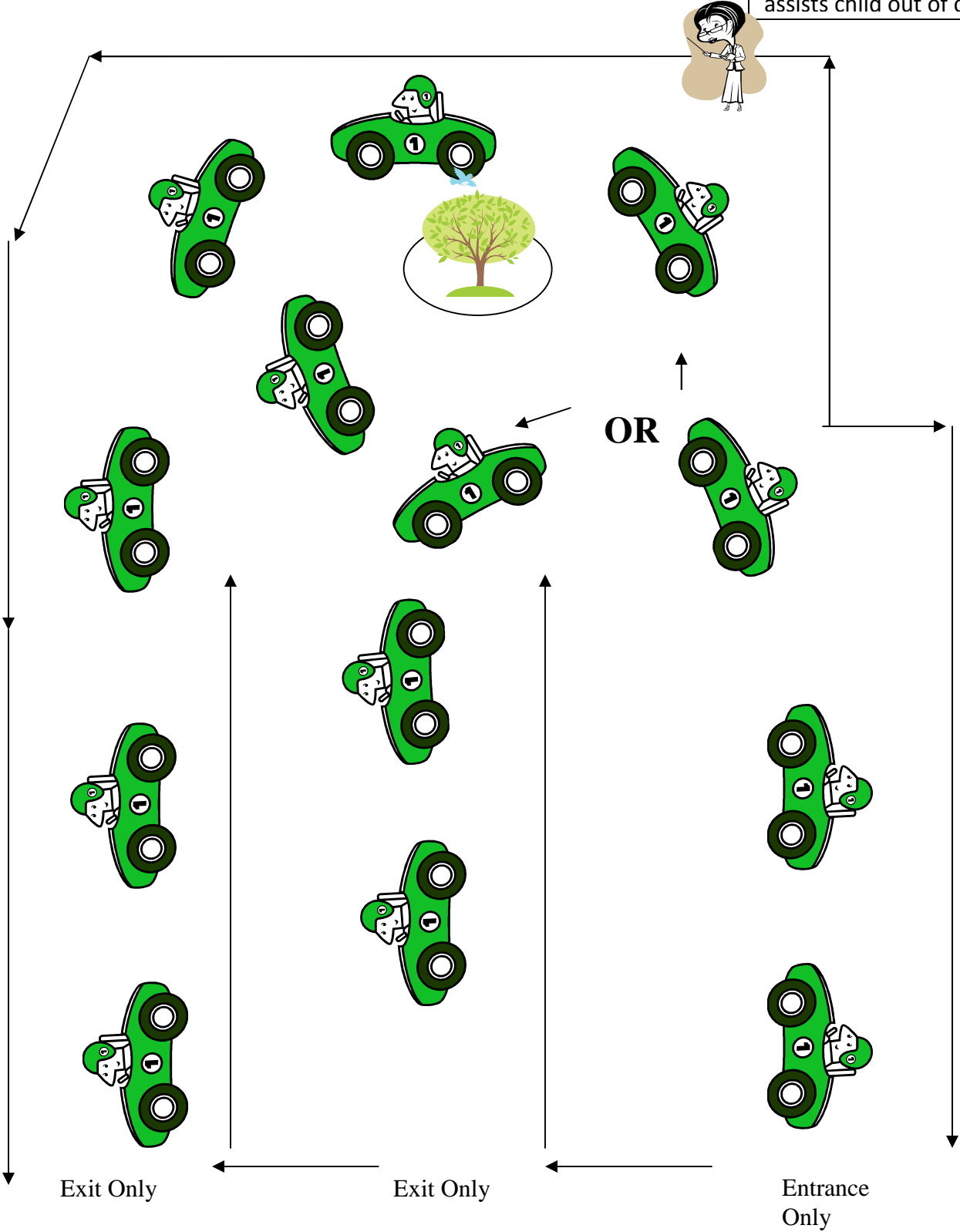
Helping Your Child Achieve

As yet, we have not found the 100% foolproof formula for perfect achievement in school, be it religious or secular. However, experience has shown us that the following suggestions are crucial to helping your child have the most well-rounded, positive experience possible at Torah School. As a parent, ask yourself the following questions:

- Have I discussed with my child the reasons that I feel Torah School is important? Better yet, have I discussed it with myself?
- Do I make a conscious effort to ask my child what was covered in his/her classes each session, and to regularly discuss and expand upon these topics with him/her at home?
- Do my actions concerning Judaism match my words? Do I show my child that Judaism is important to me by attending services regularly with my child, participating in Synagogue activities, celebrating the holidays, lighting Shabbat candles, having Shabbat dinner, putting a mezuzah on the door, etc., or do I just drop my child off at school and figure that's enough? Do I particularly make sure to attend services on special holidays, such as Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Purim, etc.?
- Have I attempted to make myself proficient enough in Hebrew to help my child with his/her studies and participate more fully during services by joining an adult Hebrew class?
- Do I encourage my child to behave in a respectful manner during school sessions and at all Synagogue services and events?
- Do I make sure that my child attends Torah School regularly?
- Do I support my child's Torah School programs by volunteering to help with special programs and by attending assemblies and special events?
- If I am contacted by the school about a problem with my child's conduct or achievement, do I treat this matter with the same amount of concern that I would a call from the child's secular school?
- Do I encourage my child to develop his/her friendships with Abraham Ratner Torah School peers?
- Do I show my child that Jewish study and learning are important by attending adult education classes and by making sure that my house contains books, music, etc. of Jewish content?

Sunday Drop Off and Pick up

Torah School Staff Member, greets at entrance to courtyard assists child out of car



Tommy Drive

Torah School Staff Member, greets at gate assist child out of car through gate into cul de sac

Wednesday afternoon
Drop Off and Pick up

