



Temple Israel
4737 Deerfield Place, Vestal, NY 13850

Temple Israel Hebrew School Program Overview

Educational Philosophy: Students learn at different paces and to different levels based on a variety of factors. Our Hebrew School Program differentiates instruction accordingly, especially in the teaching of Hebrew.

Hebrew School Philosophy: We run an inclusive school, accepting all students regardless of background, age, or knowledge level. While Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a step in the process, it is the induction ceremony to learning Judaism and participation in the Jewish community, not the end goal.

Overall Goal: Our goal is to build familiarity with Conservative and Pluralistic Jewish values, religious services, and prayers. Some attention is given to balancing tradition and modernity, with an emphasis on critical thinking so that students “own” their beliefs. We also work to foster students’ feelings of belonging and importance in the Temple Israel community.

Hebrew School Organizational Plan: The Temple Israel program is available starting at age 5 and has opportunities beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah. While early groupings are partially determined by age, later programs are based more on students’ level of knowledge and maturity. Students are welcome to join our program at any age/level - we will work with you to ensure a program that matches their needs and abilities! There will also be opportunities for pre-schoolers to attend events with their parents about once per month.

Parent involvement: Parents are expected to regularly bring children to Hebrew School on Sundays and once during the week. Once a month there will be a Shabbat program on Saturday morning in place of the Sunday class. Attendance at other special events and services (especially in the later years) will be encouraged. Parents will also be asked to reinforce learning and encourage practice at home. Support will be given to parents as needed.