

You may use this document familiarize yourself with the general timeline of becoming a B'nei Mitzvah preparation, but you will be guided and contacted by Temple Judea Clergy and staff before each new step.

General Educational Requirements: To achieve the best possible outcome, we hope students will begin their Jewish education as early as possible, but no later than 4th grade. Students must be enrolled in Religious School from 4th grade through the B'nei Mitzvah year (for 4 consecutive years before the BM date). Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the clergy team. Every student will be expected to meet a minimum Hebrew requirement. Please be sure to closely review **all** our [B'nei Mitzvah policies](#), including eligibility requirements.

4TH GRADE

Students begin Hebrew instruction, in addition to Religious School.

5TH GRADE

Orientation and date selection will begin as students become age-eligible.

6TH GRADE

Students will study with and get to know our clergy during Religious School.

7TH GRADE

Students will continue on the Tzedek Track of Religious School, which may count towards your fulfilling the benchmarks in your child's **G'milut Chasadim** pillar.

ABOUT 18 MONTHS BEFORE

Families will meet with clergy for an initial conversation about choices regarding B'nei Mitzvah training. At that time, you'll have the opportunity to deeply understand the program, ask questions, review program expectations, and receive other important materials.

ABOUT 12 MONTHS BEFORE

Active preparation for the ceremony begins. Students will begin attending the weekly **Beit Midrash** program to fulfill the **Avodah** pillar. Clergy will meet with each family early in the year of training to establish individual goals for the training process and ceremony. Details will be provided to each family about the specific dates and classes, as well as private tutoring opportunities for an additional fee.

ABOUT 6 MONTHS BEFORE

A member of the clergy team will be assigned to officiate at the B'nei Mitzvah. The B'nei Mitzvah coordinator will reach out to students seeking a higher level on the **Torah** pillar pathway to schedule a meeting with a member of the clergy team to begin working on the D'var Torah (Torah learning and teaching). The number and duration of these meetings will depend on the student's specialization.

2-3 MONTHS BEFORE

Parents will receive a request for a picture of your B'nei Mitzvah child and information regarding the community service fulfillment of their **G'milut Chasadim** for inclusion in *the ENews*. At this time, you will also be asked for the Hebrew names of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student and their parent(s).

6-8 WEEKS BEFORE

The B'nei Mitzvah coordinator will contact parents to schedule a D'var Torah speech meeting and weekly rehearsals/check-ins with the Rabbi and/or Cantor. All students will meet *at least* once with the officiating Rabbi, Cantor, or B'nei Mitzvah Mentor to prepare their *D'var Torah* (speech) and multiples times to rehearse. A speech outline to guide your child in preparing for the meeting will be e-mailed in advance.

3-5 WEEKS BEFORE

The officiating clergy will meet with you and your child to discuss the Torah portion and the D'var Torah that the child will be giving during their service.

1-2 WEEKS BEFORE

You and your child will meet with the officiating clergy in the Goor sanctuary or chapel to review the sequence of the service, and chant everything that they have studied.

***If you are planning to have photography at or before the service, you need to reserve the space with the B'nei Mitzvah coordinator. Also, if you have a video montage for your reception, you need to bring it on a labeled flash drive to our [B'nei Mitzvah coordinator](#), one week before or earlier for testing.

FRIDAY NIGHT BEFORE

Your family is invited to participate in the *Erev Shabbat* service, where your child will chant the Kiddush. Your attendance needs to be confirmed with the [B'nei Mitzvah coordinator](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND TO REVIEW OUR FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS), PLEASE VISIT OUR [RESOURCES PAGE](#).