



Keshher
Hebrew High School
of Congregation Beth El and
Temple Beth Sholom
2021-2022/5782



Visit us online at keshersnj.org

Introducing KESHER!

Kesher means connection.

Kesher: where teens CONNECT to our Jewish community, CONNECT to Jewish learning, CONNECT to Israel, and CONNECT with one another.



Kesher is a joint Congregation Beth El and Temple Beth Sholom program that brings 7-10th graders together weekly for learning and growth as we seek to build connections among the students, faculty, and South Jersey Jewish communities. With a curriculum rooted in the

foundation of Jewish tradition and culture, taught by clergy and experienced staff, teens will CONNECT and immerse themselves in an environment that is social, experiential, educational, and most importantly fun! We are excited and eager to return to in-person learning and to give our teens the ability to socialize together. Health and safety are our number one priority, and we will make protocol decisions based on recommendations from the CDC and in consultation with our COVID Task Forces at Temple Beth Sholom and Congregation Beth El.

THE PROGRAM

Kesher will convene on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm-8:30pm. The first semester will meet at Temple Beth Sholom and second semester at Congregation Beth El. Teens will engage with clergy and staff through weekly classes and programs.

All Kesher classes and programs will be built on a three pillar foundation:

1. Torah and Israel
2. Avodah (Prayer)
3. Gemilut Hasadim (Acts of Kindness)

In addition to Kesher Tuesday evenings, each synagogue will also have its "Home Shul" day which will allow our teens to remain connected and engaged with their home shul.

Temple Beth Sholom: 7-10th graders will meet on Sunday mornings at TBS.

Beth El: 7th Graders and 10th graders will meet on Thursday evenings at Congregation Beth El.

Kesher is an inclusive program for all learners. If your child has an IEP, 504 plan, or any other concerns, please email Rabbi Nogah Marshall at nmarshall@bethelsnj.org or Rabbi Bryan Wexler at ravbryan@tbsonline.org to discuss how to make Kesher successful for your child.

TUESDAY SCHEDULE

Period #1 (Core Grade Level Classes): 6:30-7:15PM

- 7th Grade: Kulam- Moving Traditions
- 8th Grade: The Prophetic Call for Social Justice
- 9th Grade: Jewish Ethics of our Day: Living an Ethical Life
- 10th Grade: The Five Senses of Israel

Dinner/Break: 7:15-7:45PM

Period #2 (Mixed Grade Elective Classes): 7:45PM-8:30PM

**More classes will be offered throughout the year. These are some examples:*

- Jews on the Stage and the Screen
- Jewish Holidays Through Art
- Hug Ivrit-- Modern Conversational Hebrew
- Thinking About College: Being Jewish on a College Campus
- Game On!
- Israel: Our Homeland



DINNER & BREAK TIME



We are excited to announce that every Tuesday night we will be serving dinner and a fun snack/dessert. At the beginning of each month we will post a menu on the Keshet website. All food served will be kosher and nut sensitive and we will be sure to always also have food options that are gluten free, vegetarian, and dairy free (when applicable).

Possible dinner options will include but are not limited to: pizza & salad, Chinese food, burgers, hot dogs, falafel, deli sandwiches, pasta, & more! Possible snack and dessert options will include but are not limited to: water ice, ice cream/ice cream sundaes, cookies, fruit, chips, candy.

In addition to dinner each week, the extended break time will also allow ample time for Keshet students to socialize and get to know each other. There will be some structured break programs and activities and also time for informal socialization.

The dinner and break programs will be coordinated by our fantastic Keshet Teen Engagement Coordinator, Brooke Miron.

*All meals will take place outdoors for the first month. We will continue to monitor the situation monthly.

SAMPLE BREAK TIME CALENDAR:

October 5: Keshet Kick-Off Event

Dinner: Pizza and salad

Dessert: Mister Softee truck

Activity: Interactive Game Show, Inflatables, Lawn games

October 12

Dinner: Pasta Bar

Dessert: Ice Cream Sundaes

Activity: Keshet Amazing Race

October 19

Dinner: Burgers and Hot Dogs

Dessert: Water Ice

Activity: Lawn Games and Board Games

October 26

Dinner: Pizza and salads

Desserts: Candy, Candy, and More Candy

Activity: Keshet Kahoot and Minute-to-Win-it Games

HOLIDAY HESD PROGRAMS

Throughout the year, we will celebrate the Jewish Holidays as a Keshet Community. Our Holiday HESD Programs will be an opportunity to learn about the holidays, enjoy festive meals, and participate in holiday-themed activities. Each Holiday HESD Program will also have a community service/social action component in which Keshet students give back to our local community.



Hanukah: November 30

Tu B'Shevat & MLK Day: January 18

Purim: March 15

Pesah: April 12

Last Day Celebration/Yom Ha'atzmaut: May 3

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMITS

We are excited to continue our Keshet High School Summits which were a huge success of our pilot program last year. Join us on the Tuesday nights listed below to hear from guest educators, speakers, and entertainers from around the country

October 19

February 8

April 26

OPEN HOUSE FOR PARENTS

Join us on Zoom to learn about our new and exciting program, meet the Keshet Team, and socialize with fellow TBS and Beth El parents!

Sunday September 19
7:00pm
for 7th-10th grade parents

Zoom Meeting ID: 952 0424 5314 Passcode: 5782

COVID PROTOCOL

We are excited and eager to return to in-person learning and to give our teens the ability to socialize together. One thing that we have learned throughout the pandemic is that the situation and necessary rules and protocols evolve and change every day. Given that our Keshet program does not begin until October, it is too early for us to determine the exact COVID Protocol. That being said, please know that health and safety are our number one priority and we will make protocol decisions based on recommendations from the CDC and in consultation with COVID Task Forces at Temple Beth Sholom and Beth El. We will also make every effort to be in regular communication with both parents and teens alike about our protocol decisions and practices.

STAFF/FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Rabbi Nogah Marshall:** nmarshall@bethelsnj.org
Beth El Educational Director
- **Rabbi Bryan Wexler:** ravbryan@tbsonline.org
Temple Beth Sholom Associate Rabbi
- **Jared Kaufman:** jaredk@tbsonline.org
Keshet High School Director
- **Brooke Miron:** brookeamiron@gmail.com
Keshet Teen Engagement Coordinator
- **Bruce Duboff:** Beth El
- **Ellen Fine:** Beth El
- **John Imhof:** TBS
- **Alan Kritz:** Beth El
- **Rabbi Micah Peltz:** TBS Senior Rabbi
- **Chai Respes:** Beth El
- **Liat Rosov:** TBS
- **Gilah Lewis Sietz:** TBS
- **Alex Weinberg:** TBS Director of Congregational Learning



Rabbi Nogah Marshall, Brooke Miron, Rabbi Bryan Wexler, Jared Kaufman

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BRIT BRIYUT—HEALTH CONTRACT PLEDGE

5782—2021-2022

Kol yisrael arevim zeh bazeh

All of Israel is responsible for one another

As we come back together to begin our school year, we recognize, perhaps more than ever, how our actions can impact others in our community. These words from the Talmud are just one of many reminders that the steps we take to support and keep our community safe will allow us to have a successful year of learning in our Keshet High School.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to our community. Please join us in signing our Brit Briyut, Health Contract Pledge to help us keep our community safe by:

While our COVID-19 protocols are still in formulation as we get closer to the October start-date, we continue to monitor the situation, and continue to listen to our medical team and task forces. **By signing this contract, you agree to abide by the COVID-19 protocols and practices that we establish at any given time.**

Possibilities may or may not include one or more of:

- Requiring all participants (students and teachers) in the Keshet program to be vaccinated
- Requiring all participants (students and teachers) in the Keshet program to wear a mask while indoors
- Allowing all participants (students and teachers) in the Keshet program the option to choose whether or not to wear a mask

⇒ **Stay home when not feeling well** or when exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms

⇒ **Contact the school immediately** should a member of the family contract COVID-19 or be exposed to someone with COVID-19 or you have been told by the health department to self-quarantine

⇒ **Follow federal, state, local and institutional guidelines** to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19

⇒ **Alert the school if you or a family member has traveled outside the country** in the past 10 days (and follow CDC and statewide guidelines regarding quarantine)

⇒ Encourage family members and each other to follow our **new norms, protocols and expectations**

⇒ Follow all school **signage** and while at Temple Beth Shalom or Congregation Beth El

⇒ Understand and accept that **socialization may look different** at school

⇒ **Uphold communal standards** and expectations for health and safety both in and out of school

⇒ **Get the COVID-19 vaccine when eligible and a flu shot!**

Teen Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

CODE OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

To help foster a positive educational climate in our school, to help create a high school environment in which everyone feels safe and welcome, and to provide a model for our teens to continue to grow into Jewish mensches, we have developed a Brit Halihut- a Behavior Contract that affords each student the opportunity to accept responsibility for their own behavior. Everyone in the school community must play a role in contributing to an effective educational environment.

The STUDENT will:

- Accept responsibility for their own actions.
- Attend school regularly or make arrangements to complete any projects.
- Arrive on time for class and activities.
- Treat fellow students, teachers, and staff with respect.
- Respect property.
- Only bring appropriate materials to school.
- Abide by our school's dress code and policies.
- Accept responsibility for completing all classroom requirements.

The PARENT will:

- Assure the student's regular attendance in school or completion of make-up projects.
- Inform the school if extended absences occur and help to create a make-up plan.
- Exemplify an enthusiastic and supportive attitude toward the school and Jewish education.
- Discuss behavioral responsibilities and expectations with the student.
- Be responsible for student's behavior, including paying for damaged books and property.

The TEACHER will:

- Promote a climate of mutual respect and dignity, hence strengthening each student's positive self-image.
- Discuss with students the behavioral guidelines, including individual interpretations and expectations, teacher to student, as well as student to teacher.
- Attend to minor behavioral problems in the classroom, always maintaining the student's dignity.
- Follow the guidelines set forth for inappropriate behavior.
- Keep parents, Rabbi Marshall, Rabbi Wexler, and Jared Kaufman apprised of students' progress.

It is our number one priority that every student feels "at home" and safe while in the building. Our program is dedicated to providing a nurturing learning environment where Temple Beth Sholom and Beth El teens can explore their Jewish identities, make new friends, and grow into their best selves. Bullying and disrespect will not be tolerated and any issues will be communicated with parents immediately.

Let's keep the lines of communication open between us.

Please don't hesitate to call should any problem arise. This is important for both parents and students.

CODE OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS CONTINUED

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Regular and punctual attendance is required in all classes.
- If you know in advance that you will be missing a significant number of classes, please contact us to make a plan for outside projects to compensate for absences.

LATENESS

Every moment of class time is precious, and it is inconsiderate to the teacher and fellow students to interrupt a class already in progress. **Students are asked to please report to class on time.**

DRESS REQUIREMENT

- Students entering the building must be clothed in a respectable and acceptable manner befitting a religious environment.
- **KIPPOT:** Students identifying as male are required to wear **kippot** or hats at all times while in school or Synagogue. Kippot are optional for students identifying as female. For sanitary reasons, we recommend that kippot be purchased from the gift shop and brought each evening by the student.
- Each teacher is responsible for the teaching environment in their classroom. Therefore, an individual teacher may set additional rules.

CELL PHONES

We understand our students' reluctance to part with their cell phones and we understand the concern for their safety. However, cell phones are extremely disruptive to the High School Program, even when turned off.

Therefore:

- Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight while in class.

BRIT HALIHUT—BEHAVIOR CONTRACT 2021-2022

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM.

Student's Name: _____

Class: _____

I (We) have read the Student and Parent Handbook and discussed with my (our) child the DISCIPLINE, ATTENDANCE, DRESS CODE, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER POLICIES in the handbook.

My child understands these policies.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Comments: _____



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CALENDAR

FIRST SEMESTER

HOSTED AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

OCTOBER	
5	Keshher Kick Off at TBS
12	Class at TBS
19	Teen Summit
26	Class at TBS

DECEMBER	
7	Class at TBS
14	Class at TBS
21	Class at TBS
28	No Classes; Winter Break

NOVEMBER	
2	Class at TBS
9	Class at TBS
16	Class at TBS
23	No Classes; Thanksgiving
30	Hanukkah Celebration

JANUARY	
4	Class at TBS
11	Class at TBS
18	Tu B'Shevat Celebration
25	Class at TBS

Regular Classes

Holiday Celebrations

Summit Programs

No Classes



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CALENDAR
SECOND SEMESTER
 HOSTED AT CONGREGATION BETH EL

FEBRUARY	
1	1st Day of 2nd Semester at Beth El
8	Teen Summit
15	Class at Beth El
22	Class at Beth El

APRIL	
5	Class at Beth El
12	Passover Celebration
19	No Classes; Passover
26	Teen Summit

MARCH	
1	Class at Beth El
8	Class at Beth El
15	Purim Celebration
22	Class at Beth El
29	Class at Beth El

MAY	
3	Last Day of Classes at Beth El

Regular Classes

Holiday Celebrations

Summit Programs

No Classes