

Kane Street Synagogue Hebrew School Parent's Handbook 2017-2018

236 Kane Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231
718-875-1550 www.kanestreet.org

Director of Education & Family Programs

Rabbi Valerie Lieber RabbiVal@kanestreet.org

Office Hours for appointments: Mon, Tues, Wed. 9am – 2:30pm; Friday 9am – 4pm
Please call or email to make an appointment

Class Schedule

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Roshanim (pre-k) | Tuesday 3:45pm – 5:15pm |
| Gan (Kindergarten) | Tuesday 3:45pm – 5:45pm |
| Alef (Grade 1) | Tuesday 3:45pm – 5:45pm |
| Bet (Grade 2) | Tuesday 3:45pm – 5:45pm |
| Gimmel (Grade 3) | Monday & Wednesday 4:00pm – 6:00pm |
| Dalet (Grade 4) | Monday & Wednesday 4:00pm – 6:00pm |
| Hey (Grade 5) | Monday & Wednesday 4:00pm – 6:00pm |
| Vav (Grade 6) | Monday & Wednesday 4:00pm – 6:00pm |
| Miftan (Grade 7) | Tuesday 4:30– 6:30PM |
| Bogrim (Grade 8-10) | Monday 6:15pm – 7:45pm |

Teachers

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Roshanim (Pre-k) | Yiram Aldouby | yiram@yahoo.com |
| Gan (Kindergarten) | Eyal Hai | eyalhai@yahoo.com |
| Alef (Grade 1) | Amit Goldberg | amiitgold@gmail.com |
| Bet (Grade 2) | Jordyn Jacobs | jordynjacobs@gmail.com |
| | Itai Kriss | itaikriss@yahoo.com |
| | Moran Lantner | ranibsl2p@yahoo.com |
| Gimmel (Grade 3) | Lior Shtivi | l.shtivi@gmail.com |
| | <u>Nadav Kesler</u> | brickskesler@gmail.com |
| Dalet (Grade 4) | Noam Wiesenberg | nvizen@gmail.com |
| Hey (Grade 5) | Gabriela Geselowiz | GabrielaGeselowitz@gmail.com |
| Vav (Grade 6) | Tamy Bentor | tamybentor@gmail.com |
| | Jordyn Jacobs | jordynjacobs@gmail.com |
| | Lean Nagarpowers | leahnagarpowers@gmail.com |
| Haftarah (Grade 6) | Melissa Zimmerman | zimgirl725@gmail.com |
| Miftan (Grade 7) | Tamy Bentor | tamybentor@gmail.com |
| | Shayna Goodman | goodman.shayna@gmail.com |
| Bogrim (Grade 8 – 10) | Tamy Bentor | tamybentor@gmail.com |
| Music (Pre-K – Grade 7) | Cantor Mike Weis | cantorweis@gmail.com |

Welcome, Students and Families!

The Mission of Kane Street Synagogue Hebrew School is to engage children and families in Jewish life and learning. At Kane Street Synagogue Hebrew School, children from all types of Jewish backgrounds find a stimulating and welcoming atmosphere that makes Judaism come alive. We take pride in our Jewish identity and look to our rich traditions to guide and enrich us at holiday seasons and at times of both celebration and sadness. We build community through acts of kindness and social justice. We encourage open questioning and strive to help students and their families find their own personal meaning in our rituals, culture and learning.

Hebrew School Classes and Shabbat Services

Our Hebrew School education includes two main components: weekly classes and Shabbat services.

In afternoon classes, our students learn about holidays, ethics, music, Torah, God, traditional and modern Hebrew, rituals and prayer, Jewish history and Israel. Over the year, students gain concrete Jewish knowledge and skills and also encounter questions to consider over the course of their lives.

Attending Shabbat and holiday services is also an important part of the Hebrew School curriculum. Starting in Gan (Kindergarten), students are required to attend a certain number of services to build on their knowledge and connect to the Jewish community. Our fun Shabbat family services are a great way for kids to show their parents what they've learned during weekday classes. Students can also fulfill the attendance requirement by attending Friday services, Holiday Services, Saturday adult services in our main sanctuary, and services at other synagogues (Havdalah services, while very meaningful, do not count toward this requirement.) Please see **Shabbat Credits** for more information.

Shabbat Services

Mini Minyan for ages 2 – 5 and their parents, 11:00AM – 11:45PM on the 3rd floor of the Goldman Educational Building

This energetic program for our youngest children includes singing, simple Hebrew exercises, movement, basic prayers, puppets, stories and a Kiddush.

Kinder Minyan for Kindergarten – Grade 2 and their parents, 11:00AM – 11:50am

This lively and participatory service is designed for those beginning to read in English and learn a bit of Hebrew. We sing, recite prayers, listen to stories, and learn about the Torah. We also play and ponder as a way to activate the natural spirituality innate in children.

Minyan Noar for Grade 3 – Grade 6, 11:00AM - 12:10PM

As they get older, students learn the prayers from Kane Street's prayer book, Siddur Sim Shalom while continuing to explore the great themes of Jewish living. We learn traditional and contemporary melodies for prayers and everyone gets a chance to take roles during the reading of the Torah. To honor their progress, we hold a "Yom Siddur" for our 3rd graders, when they are presented with their own travel copy of the Siddur Sim Shalom at services in the sanctuary. This year, Yom Siddur will be on Saturday, October 21.

Miffan (grade 7) students are normally preparing for Bar Mitzvah and are expected to attend Shabbat services in the sanctuary most weeks, especially the Torah service and Musaf.

Shabbat Credits

Students are required to attend the following number of services from September through May:

- Gan and Alef – 8 services
- Bet and Gimmel – 12 services
- Dalet, Hey and Vav – 18 services
- Mifftan – 22 services

We take service attendance seriously, but make it fun for students, too. To keep track of their attendance, every student gets an attendance card with their name on it, and each time they attend services, they'll get a sticker if they give their card to the Shabbat service leader (or place it in a pocket on Rabbi Val's office door). Attendance cards are kept in a large tri-fold display on our 2nd floor hallway. (If a student services at another synagogue, please email Rabbi Val for credit).

Minyanaires

Students who attend 20 or more Shabbat or holiday services are named "Minyanaires" and receive a great thank you gift at the end of the year. Through their dedication, these students enrich the Kane Street community, and their enthusiasm raises the level of our Shabbat services.

Family Involvement

Communication

We encourage families to stay up to date on the great activities at the Hebrew school and synagogue. At least once a month, your child's teacher will update a Google Doc with information about class activities, goals, homework assignments and photos. Rabbi Val also emails updates on synagogue activities called "The Synagogue Scoop."

Curriculum Nights

At Curriculum Nights, you're invited to hear from the teachers about what your child will be learning over the course of the year. You will be able to see the curricular materials and books and ask questions. We will have pizza and activities for kids who attend.

- Pre-K & Kindergarten (Roshanim and Gan): Tuesday, September 26, 5:45pm – 6:25pm
- Grades 1 & 2 (Alef and Bet): Tuesday, September 19, 5:45pm – 6:25pm
- Grades 3 & 4 (Gimmel and Dalet): Monday, September 25, 6:00pm – 6:45pm
- Grades 5 & 6 (Hey and Vav): Monday, October 16, 6:00pm – 6:45pm
- Grade 7 (Mifftan): Tuesday, October 17, 6:00pm – 6:30pm

Visiting Day

You are invited to join us for the last 45 minutes of a class to see what the children are doing.

- Pre-K through Grade 2: Tuesday, November 28, 5:00pm – 5:45pm
- Grades 3 – 6: Wednesday, November 15th 5:15 – 6:00pm

Mid-Year Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents will be invited to sign up on line for an appointment with their child's teacher(s) to discuss their progress. (There will be no classes for children, but we will have babysitting and activities.)

Pre-K through Grade 2, and Grade 7:
Grades 3 – 6:

Tuesday, January 16, 4pm – 7pm
Monday, December 4, 4pm – 7pm

End-Of-Year Celebration

As classes come to an end, we assemble as a community to thank our teachers, assistants and to award students . Please join us for singing, an entertaining slide show reviewing the highlights of the year, and our annual Make-Your-Own-Ice-Cream-Sundae on **Wednesday, May 23, from 4:45pm - 6pm.**

Community Building

Judaism is a culture of community as well as learning. Throughout the Jewish year, we strengthen the bonds between our Hebrew School families and the larger Kane Street Synagogue congregation through programs that bring us together.

Adult Cocktail Party

On **Sunday, September 17, 4pm – 5pm**, come to the chapel at Kane Street Synagogue to meet other parents and catch up with friends and acquaintances. Beer, wine and a special cocktail will be served. Babysitting will be available.

Sukkot Dinners

Wednesday, October 4, 6:00pm – 7:00pm. On the first night of *Sukkot* after our children's service at 5:15, we invite parents to join us for a casual dinner together inside the *sukkah*. We will all have a chance to fulfill the *Sukkot* mitzvah of waving the *lulav*.

Tuesday, October 10, 5:45pm – 6:30pm After our Hebrew School session, we invite parents and kids to stick around for a casual dinner together.

Celebration Shabbat Services & Dinners

Join us at Celebration Shabbat, where Hebrew School families gather with the whole congregation on Friday evenings for a lively service and a fun dinner. At each service, one grade prepares a skit they have created on a topic they are learning about.

- Friday, November 3
- Friday, December 15
- Friday, March 16
- Friday, May 4

Havdalah Celebrations

Havdalah is the set of blessings we sing at the end of Shabbat as we transition to the normal week. At each service, one grade prepares a skit on a topic they are learning about.

- Pre-K through Grade 2: **Saturday, December 2, 5:30pm** and **Saturday, January 6, 5:30pm**
- Grades 3 through 7: **Saturday, December 9, 5:30pm** and **Saturday, January 27, 5:45pm**

Trivia Night Friend-raiser Fundraiser

Put this date in your calendar for one of the best parties all year: **Sunday, February 11, 5:00pm – 8:00pm**. Adults gather to compete in a fun team trivia competition, and to raise vital support for our Hebrew School and Family Programs. Last year, this event was attended by over 130 adults and 100 kids from all over the Kane Street community, raising \$25,000!

Volunteering

We look to parent volunteers for many tasks during the year. Parent volunteers help build community, raise funds, and improve all of our children's learning opportunities. You can help by:

- Hosting a potluck to provide a homey atmosphere for the class to gather once a year
- Participating in special events like High Holy Day services, Chanukah and other programs
- Volunteering to help set up and serve at our Celebration Shabbat family dinners
- Being on the Trivia Night Committee to help run the party and solicit donations
- Fundraising on meaningful programs like our honey sale and more.
- Joining our Mommy/Daddy Ducks to help parents with walking pools to Hebrew School

Other Things to Keep In Mind

Kippot

While in Hebrew School, we require girls and boys to cover their heads with a kippah, or other Jewish headcovering. Parents are asked to buy your child their own kippah to keep in their book bag. (Don't worry, we have loaners if they forget.) You can buy all kinds of kippot at Judaica shops or online, and it's a great way for you and your kids to get ready for Hebrew School together. Here are some suggestions:

- [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com) – a wide variety of kippot for every taste (search for “kippah”)
- [Kidskipot.com](https://www.kidskipot.com) – Made to order, reversible kippot with cool cotton patterned fabrics
- [Judaica.com](https://www.judaica.com) – A huge range of kippot in a variety of fabrics. Everything from Thomas the Tank Engine to Family Guy
- [Mayaworks.com](https://www.mayaworks.com) – A terrific social justice project employing poor Guatemalan village women to make Judaica for fair trade wages. Beautiful multicolor kippot.

Here is an explanation about kippot from Rabbi Sam Weintraub:

The special head covering worn by Jews is known in Hebrew as Kippah (covering) or in Yiddish as Yarmulke (from "Yarei Mei'lohim" meaning, "revering G-d"). For Jews over the centuries, the Kippah has assumed "vertical" and "horizontal" significance, that is, it is a public statement of our relationship to G-d and to each other. The Kippah affirms that we respect the G-d above us, who is the Source of Creation and of the Torah, our guide. The Kippah is also a symbol of our identification with other Jews.

Over the centuries, some Rabbis and communities have regarded the covering of the head as mandatory at all times, some only when one is performing sacred acts, and some communities have abrogated the practice of covering the head altogether. We follow the normative Conservative practice, which is to cover one's head when one is involved in sacred acts, such prayer, Torah study or religious rituals, and when one is in a holy space, such as a Sanctuary or Synagogue. For these reason, we require girls and boys while in Hebrew School to cover their heads with a Kippah.

Snow Cancellation

Hebrew School will be cancelled due to snow any time the public schools are cancelled. If public schools are open and there is a midday storm, the decision whether or not to cancel will not be made before 2:00 PM, and we will make every effort to send out a blast email in a timely fashion.

Snacks

Each afternoon, the children receive a small snack to "refuel" and allow them to bond socially with their peers. We offer a variety of snacks, including fresh fruits, yogurt, hummus, carrots and celery, pretzels, and other small snacks. At holiday times we serve special holiday related snacks which are often sweeter. We do not serve nuts. If your child has a non-nut allergy, please tell us on your registration form or notify Rabbi Val.

Tzedaka

Tzedaka literally means "righteousness." We teach our students that it is incumbent upon all righteous Jews to give money to those less fortunate than themselves. At the beginning of the school year, each student receives their own *tzedaka* box to decorate and bring home so that they and their families can collect charity. We encourage parents to remind their kids of the value of *tzedaka*, and it's a great Shabbat tradition. Our tradition teaches, "If you have much, give much. If you have little, be not afraid to give according to that little."

We have several drives -- such as a toy drive run by the *Hey* (5th grade) class, and a food drive run by our *Vav* (6th grade) class -- for which students can use funds from their personal *tzedaka* box.

Student Progress Reports

Students (except Pre-K) will receive one written mid-year progress report from their teachers to help parents, students and teachers assess a child's successes and challenges: *Gan* (K) through *Bet* (2) in early January, and *Gimmel* (3) through *Vav* (6) in late November. Students are evaluated on class participation, completion of assignments, attitude toward learning, understanding of content, Hebrew progress, and behavior and ability to get along with others. If you have any concerns during the year, you are encouraged to contact your child's teacher or to Rabbi Val.

Fundraising

Every year, the tuition you pay covers only half of the cost of running our Hebrew School and family programs. The Hebrew School relies on fundraisers – as well as membership dues and other donations – to provide our kids with excellent textbooks, high-quality teachers, a full-time Director of Education & Family Programs and a dedicated maintenance staff to keep our building comfortable for our children.

We urge you to participate in fundraisers, either with your donations or your volunteer time, or by soliciting donations from family, including grandparents, who are often delighted to help ensure their grandchildren's Jewish education.

Working on a fundraiser is also a great way to get to know more people in our school community. Our biggest fundraiser of the year **is our Trivia Night, February 11, 5pm-8pm**. Other fundraisers are the **Purim Mishloach Manot** and the **Chanukah Book Fair**. Plus the congregation at large raises vital funds over the High Holy Days at the **Kol Nidre** (Yom Kippur Eve) Appeal and the **Spring Journal**, a book celebrating a synagogue member and leader for their contributions to our congregation.

B'nai Mitzvah

Bar and Bat Mitzvah is a milestone for a child, a moving family occasion, and cause for celebration for the entire community. At Kane Street Synagogue Hebrew School, we see Bar and Bat Mitzvah as one step along a lifelong process of Jewish education.

Students prepare for the Bar and Bat Mitzvah in Vav (6th) and Miftan (7th) grades. Around ten months before their Bar or Bat Mitzvah service, students begin to study individually with a tutor, learning to chant the *Haftarah*, the prayers of the Torah service and the *Musaf* service. They will meet with Rabbi Weintraub to prepare a D'var Torah, or talk on the weekly Torah portion. These skills prepare our students to not only lead a Bar or Bat Mitzvah service, but also participate more fully in Kane Street's and other synagogues' services.

Parents will have two group Bar and Bat Mitzvah meetings with the rabbis: An introductory meeting in the winter of grade *Hey* (5th grade), and another in the fall of the Vav year (6th grade). Between those two meetings, they will be asked to choose a date with Rabbi Weintraub. At both meetings meeting, parents will begin to learn more about the Bar and Bat Mitzvah education process and their familial obligations.

We hold several meaningful programs for the families of 5th-7th graders, including volunteer opportunities to help actualize the values of *tikkun olam* ("repairing the world") that are part of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah process.

Staff

Our Director

Rabbi Valerie Lieber has directed our Hebrew School for 9 years, and she has been in the field of Jewish synagogue education for 25 years. Her experience with children and families is broad and deep. Valerie Lieber grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana where she was very involved in her synagogue, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. She graduated from Swarthmore College Phi Beta Kappa and with Honors in English Literature. She was ordained in 1995 from Hebrew Union College after which she served as Rabbi and Director of Education at Temple Beth Ahavath Sholom in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. After 7 years she moved on to serve as Rabbi and Superintendent of Education at Temple Israel of Jamaica in Queens. Over many years Rabbi Val has taken advantage of many professional development opportunities in education and social justice. She is known in the New York Metro area as an educational innovator committed to inspiring children.

Our Teachers

Kane Street's teaching staff is a diverse, creative group. They are Israeli, American and Canadian. Some are Ashkenazic, while others are Sephardic, or *Mizrachi* (from Middle Eastern countries). They reflect a spectrum of religious belief: many are life-long Conservative Jews; others are Reform or Modern Orthodox; some resist categorization. Some of our teachers have many years of teaching experience, while some are newer to teaching.

We've chosen this diverse group of teachers deliberately, to show our children a variety of paths to living a good Jewish life. In each new teacher, children see different models of authentic Jewish practice and belief.

And our teachers have chosen Kane Street because they are passionate about Jewish life and learning, they love the Hebrew language and Israeli culture, and they appreciate the creative ideas that your children come up with to make learning a cooperative effort.

At the end of the year, parents present a small gift of appreciation to our teachers and support staff to thank them for their hard work. Such *kavod* (honor) helps to recognize their important role in our children's lives and make our school a place that attracts the best and brightest teachers.

Parental Brit (Covenant)

In order for your children to get the full benefit of their education, we ask for your help in several areas:

Please make a commitment to get your children to class on time and with regularity.

Please guide your child in practical ways to remember their supplies:

Please try to avoid giving your child a high sugar snack prior to Hebrew School.

Please read handouts and emails we send you. We know you are swamped with news, so we try to keep our updates pertinent and meaningful.

Please accompany your child to Shabbat services, holiday celebrations and other synagogue events.

If you have any problems or concerns, please speak to your child's teacher before or after class or speak to Rabbi Lieber.

Student's Brit (Covenant)

Hebrew School and our synagogue is a place where all children deserve to feel safe to learn, express their opinions, ask questions and receive respect from everyone. Therefore we have very high expectations about behavior from every student.

We ask all students to commit to the following:

Listen patiently to classmates

Show honor to teachers, teen assistants and all staff members by listening, following directions and being polite

Treat the building and its furnishings with care

Exhibit *Derech Eretz* (courtesy) in the synagogue

Bring my books and notebooks to class each session

Bring a pencil each time and have it ready at the beginning of class

Wear a kippah or Jewish head covering when entering class each session

The following behaviors are not acceptable in our Hebrew School and synagogue environment:

Teasing or insulting other children

Using verbal aggression or physical violence

Repeatedly interrupting classmates or teachers

Defacing the building, books or furnishings

Using mobile phones, gaming devices or iPod during Hebrew School

Hebrew School Committee Governance

Both professional staff and volunteer parents collaborate to insure the success of the Hebrew School. The Hebrew School Committee meets monthly to address curricula, programming, events, fundraising and new projects. The Committee considers nominees for new Members in the spring. Generally candidates for the Committee have demonstrated interest in event planning, fundraising or other Hebrew School community activities. The Committee has between 5 and 12 members and reports directly to the Kane Street Synagogue Board.

Members of the Hebrew School Committee:

Judith Hoffman, co-chair

Reed Lowenstein, co-chair

Leslie Budnick (past co-chair)

Rachael Burton (past co-chair)

Norman Cohen (past co-chair)

Allison Day

Sari Fensterheim

Dominic Fumusa

Bena Gershon

Jeff Klein

Denise Kohn

Aviya Landesberg

Glenn Nadaner

Elizabeth Schacher (past co-chair)

Rabbi Valerie Lieber & Rabbi Sam

Weintraub, ex officio

General Themes and Topics Covered in Each Grade Level

ROSHANIM

Children at age 3 and 4 build a sense of community and identify with Judaism. They learn songs, play games, hear stories, role-play, and do holiday, Shabbat and Torah crafts. They learn some basic Hebrew phrases and encounter Hebrew letters to build familiarity to the Alef-Bet.

GAN

Kindergartners learn Hebrew letters in print and learn the stories and customs for each holiday. Students learn a dozen Bible stories and the Jewish ethical values embodied by the heroes of those stories. Crafts, play-acting, Hebrew games, singing and stories are a major component of the class.

ALEF

First graders strengthen their Hebrew letter proficiency and begin to learn vowels. They learn to decode words and sounds on the first week, and begin to write in Hebrew script. Students explore the Jewish calendar, associating each holiday with its major symbols and stories. Students learn core Jewish values and apply them to their own lives. Children learn to sing Shabbat and holiday prayers including the Shema, Shabbat Table Blessings, Chanukah blessings and the Four Questions.

BET

Second graders explore Israel, its people, places and culture, and will continue to build their understanding and application of Jewish ethics. The Bet class explores questions about God through stories, activities and discussion. Students master Hebrew letters and vowels, become more fluent readers, and practice writing in script. Students learn Shabbat prayers and holiday music with special focus on the *V'ahavta*, and Erev Shabbat *Kiddush*, and they review blessings from Alef level.

GIMMEL

Third graders learn about the yearly cycle of holidays and explore the book of Genesis (Breisheet) in depth through art, drama, dance, discussion and writing. Students learn Shabbat and holiday music and learn and review prayers and blessings from the Shacharit and Ma'ariv services like *Yotzer Or*, *Ahavat Olam*, *Ma'ariv Aravim*, *V'ahavta*. They master Hebrew script writing, expand their Hebrew vocabulary, and can form simple sentences matching masculine and feminine nouns and adjectives, and matching singular and plural pronouns and nouns. They become more confident in speaking Hebrew, reading and translating short stories with the help of a dictionary.

DALET

Fourth graders explore the Bible from the Exodus from Egypt through the stories of Joshua, the Judges Samson and Deborah, Kings Saul, David and Solomon, and many of the prophets. They learn not only about this period as history, but also analyze the heroes, enemies and the motivations of God and the humans in the stories. Fourth graders learn about the rites and rituals of the Jewish life cycle, including birth, starting a Jewish education, wedding, and mourning. They learn how to bring holiness into their everyday lives, and they build a vocabulary to talk about God using stories and answers to common questions about God. In Hebrew, they begin to ask and respond to simple questions. They focus on the prayers of the *Amidah*: the chanting, the meaning, the choreography and the themes of Judaism they evoke. The students learn Shabbat and holiday music.

HEY

Fifth graders learn about the creation of the state of Israel, its major heroes, its obstacles and triumphs. They consider the current stalemate between Jews and Palestinians and its genesis. They encounter Jewish heroes from history and contemporary leaders and newsmakers, focusing on the ethical values that have driven these leaders. In fifth grade, students begin our *L'Tzedek* service learning program, in which they put the Jewish values they have learned about into use through hands-on acts of kindness

and social action. The projects often take place on Sundays and can include their families. Fifth graders continue to build their Hebrew speaking, reading and comprehension skills with more sophisticated stories. They improve their grammar and build vocabulary. Students learn to chant the prayers from the opening of the Torah service and other liturgical music and holiday songs. Students actively participate in Shabbat prayer and begin to take leadership roles.

VAV

Sixth graders polish their Hebrew speaking, reading and comprehension. They learn how to decline verbs of several *binyanim* (categories), and begin to work with past and future tenses. Students learn how to chant Haftarah Trope. They study texts from the Bible and rabbinic literature about the treatment of animals and the environment, and consider how to treat these resources in their own lives and in national and local policy. Sixth graders learn in depth about the history and legacies of the Holocaust using memoirs, video, primary sources and graphic novels. 6th graders and their parents engage in service learning through our *L'Tzedek* Program – incorporating the Jewish values of social action that they have learned in class to hands-on helping in the world. They begin to build a habit of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) in the context of Jewish life and learning. They learn the meanings and messages of prayers from the closing of the Torah service and continue to use modern Hebrew vocabulary to deepen understanding.

MIFTAN

The seventh graders are in a special program called *Miftan*, meaning Threshold. There are four major areas of focus in classroom learning: 1) Sanctuary Skills – the customs and traditions that they will see in the sanctuary including wearing tallit, lifting the Torah for hagbah, choreography of prayer, and more 2) American Jewish History, 3) Modern Hebrew and 4) Scandalous Tales of the Bible and how we each make meaning in the face of ambiguity.

BOGRIM

Bogrim engages post b'nai mitzvah students grades 8-10 in serious, dynamic, fun, relevant Jewish learning each Tuesday evening from 6:15 – 7:45PM. (The word “bogrim” means “adults” in Hebrew, and in the Jewish world, we consider students after B'nai Mitzvah as adults.) Our students think of Bogrim as their “Tuesday Family,” and enjoy an environment of warmth, openness and acceptance where they can explore their Jewish identity without judgment and in ways that speak to their 21st century Brooklyn teen experience.

Last year the focus was “Israel as a shared community with friction among community groups.” We did all of our learning through films made by Israelis and Palestinians. This year the focus is “American Jewish Identity: How do we fit in and stand apart?” This will also all be studied through films.

Bogrim is open to interested post B'nai Mitzvah teens in the community. Kane Street Synagogue membership is not required.