



Family Handbook

14200 Lamar Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66223

<http://www.bethshalomkc.org/>

School Telephones: 913-647-7290 (PRS Desk)
913-647-7282 (Civia's Desk)

E-mail addresses: cwhite@bethshalomkc.org

MISSION

The Polsky Religious School of Conservative Judaism will create an inclusive religious school environment for children and their families that fosters a life-long love of Jewish learning, Jewish identity, and spiritual growth in accordance with the philosophy of the Conservative Movement.

VISION

We foster family commitment to the study of Torah, worship and performing mitzvot within a caring community.

VALUES

The Polsky Religious School of Conservative Judaism demonstrates values of "*Al sh'loshah d'varim haolam omed: al haTorah; al haAvodah; v'al G'milut Hasadim.*" "The world is founded on three things: on study; on worship; and on acts of loving kindness." *Pirkei Avot*—Ethics of the Fathers, 1:2.

Our Why...

The Polsky Religious School of Congregation Beth Shalom differentiates itself from other schools in the Kansas City area in several ways.

At the Polsky Religious School, your child will not only learn the Hebrew he or she needs to prepare to read Torah, Haftarah and lead at least the Torah service. In our school, we cultivate a deep connection to the Hebrew language - a love of Hebrew. While we do not have the teaching hours required for our students to become fluent Hebrew-speakers, they leave the Polsky Religious School wanting to learn more, and with the passion to continue to learn Hebrew and connect with Hebrew-speakers in college and beyond.

Our students develop a deep connection to Israel. From this place of love and care for Israel and her people, the Polsky Religious School students have the tools to grapple with the difficult issues that face Israel and her people, and honest conversations about those issues are encouraged and facilitated by our faculty as well as clergy in the upper grades

One of the core tenets of the The Polsky Religious School is to give our students the skills they require to participate fully in Jewish life once they leave home.

Throughout the year, there will be several opportunities for your entire family to engage with Beth Shalom through the Polsky Religious School-related events. You will be invited to purely social events as well as events connected to holidays or to Shabbat. I hope you will attend these events with your friends, as they serve to bring our community closer, to foster meaningful, lasting friendships within our Beth Shalom community.

The Polsky Religious School faculty is committed to nurturing the Jewish soul of each child, supporting the learning of every student and family. We are an inclusive, caring school community, and we are very glad you have chosen the Polsky Religious School. We look forward to an amazing school year together with your family!

Sunday Programs

9:15 am Doors Open

9:30 Welcome and prayers:

Grades PreK to 4th meet in room 108-109

Grades 5-8 meet in the sanctuary with the Hazza.

10 am Classes by Grade

- Pre-K monthly
- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd-Grade
- 4th and 5th Grades
- 6th, 7th and 8th Grades
- High School Students are Madrichim (classroom assistants)
- 9th and 10th meet for Confirmation class with the Rabbis (7 Sunday sessions).

The pick-up time is Noon.

Wednesday Programs

3:15 pm Homework Hall (*optional*)
Supervised early arrival in
Goldsmith Hall. Hebrew tutoring is
available.

4:15 pm Hazzan leads afternoon
service

4:30 pm to 6:15 pm

- 3rd-7th Grades

Pick-up time is 6:15 pm.

Conduct

We expect that all students and adults will honor themselves, synagogue property, teachers and classmates with respectful and appropriate behavior. We ask that our parents partner with us to talk to your student about how to be a positive influence in our community. Bullying is not tolerated whatsoever. We take this behavior very seriously and provide the following strategic plan for such behavior. If a student is bullying or causing anyone to feel unsafe in the classroom the following will happen:

1. The student will be removed from class and brought to the office.
2. The office will call the student's parents.
3. If a student uses physical violence, the student will be sent home and parents will need to meet shortly thereafter with the Director of Education to discuss and understand the incident and decide on a strategic plan for the students involved.

Procedures for Leaving the Campus

While classes or programs are in session, students are not allowed to leave the building unless accompanied by a parent/guardian, or on an officially sanctioned field trip.

If it is necessary to take your child out of school early, please come into the school office and sign the student(s) out.

Teachers have been instructed to never dismiss a student from class without first being notified to do so from the office.

Visitor Regulations, Snow and Other Emergency Information

Visiting Parents

Parents are welcome to visit the The Polsky Religious School. If you want to visit during school hours, let us know in advance. Please sign in at the office so that we know who is in the building and can inform the appropriate teacher or teachers.

School Closing Information

The Polsky Religious School will close due to inclement weather or if road conditions are unsafe. We follow the Blue Valley School System; if they call a snow day, there will be no Hebrew School that day.

Please check one of the following if you are unsure.

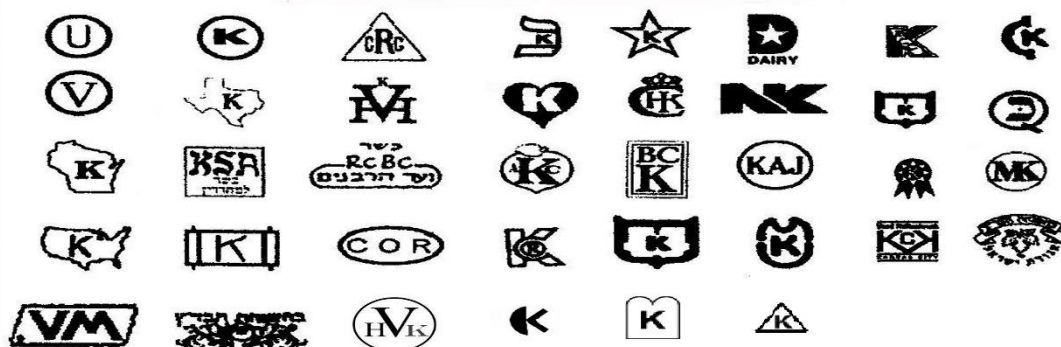
- Check the Beth Shalom website www.bethshalomkc.org

KASHRUT POLICY AT BETH SHALOM

In this space Kashrut refers to the body of Jewish religious laws concerning the suitability of food. Since many of our Wednesday students come to Beth Shalom after a long day of public/private school and other activities, we know that they will often bring snacks with them to have before the beginning of classes. In order to make sure that the Kashrut standards of the Synagogue are maintained, here is a brief list of kashrut symbols to help you determine if a snack is kosher. Should you have any questions regarding this subject, please direct them to Hazzan Ben-Yehuda, Rabbi Kaplan Rabbi Glickman. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTE: WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SELECT SNACKS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS.

Only snacks with a Kashrut symbol may be brought into the building--e.g.



Some of the more common acceptable snack products are as follows:

Entenmann's
Girl Scout cookies
Orville Redenbacher popcorn
Pringles
Pop Secret popcorn

Hershey Products
Paskesz cookies & candy
Mars candy products
Ruffles Chips

Hard cheeses do not need to have a *heksher* as long as they contain no prohibitive ingredients. Processed cheeses may be used within the synagogue as long as no meat or non-kosher additives are contained within those cheeses

In addition, the following bakeries in our community are under rabbinic supervision:
Hen House Bakery (117th & Roe only) Meshuggah Bagels (7096 W. 105th St.)

PreK snacks are provided by PRS.

Grades K-2 snacks:

**Each family sends in 30 individually packaged Kosher snacks for the class snack pantry.
Grades 3-8 Snacks:**

There will be a 10 minute break between classes for students to eat a snack from home or to select from a limited choice of packaged foods sold by PRS as a fundraiser for Sasone.

If a child has a **food allergy**, it is essential that parents inform the school office on their health form. In addition, parents should brief their child's teacher as to the implications of the food allergy.

Children who might require the use of an epi pen due to allergies should be sure to carry one with them at all times. We suggest an epi-pen (labeled with your child's name) be kept in the Religious School Coordinator's office. Teachers will be trained to administer them at the beginning of each school year.

Administrative Policies & Procedures

Absences

If you know your child will be absent from Polsky Religious School, please email cwhite@bethshalomkc.org and your child's teacher to let us know that your child will not be in class that day.

Accommodations and Support for children in the classroom

Thanks to the generous support the Jewish Federation, the Sasone Fund enables children in our school who need accommodations and support receive the help they need so that all of our children learn together, so that our community includes everyone.

If your child needs accommodations or any type of support, please speak with Laura Galler, our Sasone Specialist, so that she can understand your child's needs, and can pair your child with a para who will assist your child.

Alcohol/Drug/Illegal Substance Policy

The Polsky Religious School strives to create a safe and healthy environment that fosters learning with a full mind, body, and soul present. Therefore we have a zero tolerance policy on alcohol, drugs and illegal substances.

If there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has used or is in the possession of one of the substances or paraphernalia referenced above, the Director of Education will remove the student from the class or program, and a parent conference with the Director will take place before that student can return.

Help keep our school green—send a non-disposable water bottle to school with each of your children to keep in their desks.

Cell Phones

This policy was approved by the The Polsky Religious School committee. The Polsky Religious School is not responsible for any cell phones or electronic devices that are brought to school.

1. During school hours, cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off and kept out of sight.
2. Any phone or electronic device that is visible will be taken from the student and returned at the end of class (unless below #4 is applied).
3. In older grades, it is possible that students may be asked by the teacher to use their smart phone during class during a lesson. This is the only exception to the cell phone rule.

We recognize that it is a parental decision whether your children should have a cell phone. Our policy is designed to enhance the safety and education of all our students. If a student needs to contact a parent or a parent needs to contact a student, this can be done through the school's front desk (913-647-7290).

Dress Code

We ask that students dress appropriately for the place and purpose. When we pray, we speak to God. When we study, God speaks to us. Please dress appropriately as classes often begin in the sanctuary with a short service. Shoulders should be covered; short miniskirts, short shorts and inappropriate logos on t-shirts are not suitable for religious school.

Emergencies

If a child is injured while at The Polsky Religious School, we will take the appropriate means of intervention and parent(s) will be notified. In more serious cases, the parent will be notified immediately. For any injury in which we feel it is necessary for the child to have immediate emergency medical attention, the paramedics will be called to the school, and parents will be contacted.

Each child must have a current Consent for Emergency Treatment form on file in the school office. If there is a change in any of your child's information, it is your responsibility to inform the office immediately.

Health & Safety

Good health is an integral part of a student's school experience. The Polsky Religious School follows public school policy; **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A SICK STUDENT BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL.**

- In addition to keeping your student out of school, please notify the school if your child contracts any infectious illnesses such as Covid, Chicken Pox, Strep Throat or head lice.
- In addition to keeping your student out of school, if your child has a fever or has vomited due to illness, please keep your child out of school for 24 hours.
- If your child is on antibiotics, please wait one full day to send him/her back to school.

Homework

All students will engage in project work, and occasionally they will need time outside of class to prepare. Please support your children in their need to do research or preparations for any projects. When learning Hebrew, it is extremely important for some work to be done at home to facilitate retention and the development of skills. It is in your child's best interest to **encourage Hebrew review for about ten minutes several times a week.**

- We appreciate your cooperation in supporting the teachers by making sure that any assignments are completed when they are due.

Please consult your child's teacher for clarification on class assignments.

Kipot & Tallitot

The wearing of kipot is required for boys/young men and encouraged for girls/young women.

Scholarship Assistance

Religious School scholarship assistance is available for families who are members in good standing for one year prior to their application.

Beth Shalom families can obtain scholarship forms from the school office for both religious school and summer programs. They should be completed and returned to the school office, along with your most current W-4.