Brit Kehilah

Mission Statement of Temple Shalom:
To inspire in our congregation an enduring relationship with God, Torah, and the Jewish people through worship, study, gathering and community service.

Rabbi Elazar ben Shamua said, “Let the honor of your student be as dear to you as your own, and the honor of your colleague as the reverence for your rabbi, and the reverence for your rabbi as the reverence for Heaven... (Pirkei Avot, 4:15)

Please review the Covenant of Community with your child and sign and return the attached form.

Students’ Responsibilities
The expectations of all students for building community and achieving a positive learning environment at Religious School include:

1. Exhibit respectful behavior that contributes to maintaining a positive learning environment and is consistent with the Temple’s Mission Statement and the teachings of the Torah;
2. Be prepared for each class with appropriate materials and assignments;
3. Attend all classes, be on time, and stay through the entire class unless excused by Religious School staff;
4. Cell phones, iPods and all unapproved electronic devices must turned off and put away upon entering the Temple until Religious School is over; and
5. Participate in the creation of a classroom brit and adhere to its community standards for each classroom.
6. Unless excused by Religious School administration, all students are expected to attend all classes each day that Religious School is in session. Parents are responsible for their child’s timely arrival at Religious School.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices
The use of cell phones and other unapproved electronic devices in the Religious School classes is prohibited. The devices are to be turned off and put away at all times during Religious School.

Discipline
Temple Shalom will partner with all students to develop and exhibit self-discipline based upon the guidelines of Jewish ethics and a positive self image. Students are expected to show respect at all times towards adults, teachers and all students. The teachers and Ozrim will make every effort to maintain considerate and appropriate behavior within their own classrooms. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to, defacing property, cursing, disrespecting staff or students, and dress code violations.

Students who choose not to meet the expectations of the Religious School will have the following consequences:
If inappropriate conduct cannot be resolved within the classroom, the child will be sent to the Religious School Office. Depending on the issue, parents may be contacted at this point, notified of your child’s behavior and may be asked to come to pick your child up from the Religious School Office. It is within the Religious School administration’s discretion as to whether or not the student will be allowed to return to his or her classroom on that day.

The following day of Religious School, you may be required to attend with your child to ensure a positive transition back to the classroom.

Parents will be required to pay the cost of any damages to the Temple or Temple property resulting from inappropriate conduct of his or her child.

If this becomes a recurring situation, you will be asked to conference with Director of Lifelong Learning to discuss further options for your child.
Learning at Temple Shalom is a key to living a full and meaningful Jewish life.

Dear Temple Shalom Families,

Our goal is to provide a positive learning environment by nurturing community and addressing behavior which interferes with a teacher’s ability to teach and a student’s ability to learn.

The goal of the Brit Kehilah, Code of Conduct, is primarily to build a positive and supportive learning community. We hope the Brit Kehilah helps students and their parents understand the expectations and consequences with regard to behavior in Religious School. Our children attend Religious School to build their spiritual lives and connect to the Jewish people, in order to be able to enhance their Jewish education, and deepen their connection with God which includes the treatment of their classmates and teachers in a positive, warm manner consistent with the teachings of Torah.

Each classroom will work together to create a Classroom Brit, a shared commitment to how each class will build community and create a positive learning environment. We have attached the school-wide Code of Conduct which delineates how disruptive behavior will be addressed on a school wide basis. Please sign and return the Code of Conduct to the Lifelong Learning Office.

Of special note the use of cell phones is not permitted during Religious School. All cell phones must be turned off and put away upon entering Temple. The use of cell phones, including receiving calls and texting, has caused disruptions and distractions in and during Religious School.

We all wish to provide a meaningful Religious School experience for our children. This is a community effort and we truly appreciate your cooperation and support. If you would like to help support these efforts to continue to raise the educational standards of our Religious School, please contact the Lifelong Learning Department at either 972-661-1362 or kthompson@templeshalomdallas.org.

B’Shalom,

Lifelong Learning Department