



Handbook 2024-2025

Shalom School is a supplementary religious school jointly sponsored by Congregations Agudath Achim and Mickve Israel. The purpose of Shalom School is to provide a comprehensive Jewish education for its members' children from pre-kindergarten through high school. Programs are designed to meet the needs of all students and to help them achieve the goals set by the Shalom School Board and the Congregations.

Shalom School is supported financially by Congregations Agudath Achim and Mickve Israel, the Savannah Jewish Federation, tuition paid by parents, and funds raised through special events.

A Board of Directors made up of an equal number of members from each Congregation, the Rabbis of each congregation, both congregational Presidents, a teacher elected representative and the Principal, governs the school.

Philosophy of Shalom School

- Religious education is a partnership between the family, the School and the synagogue. The school program is designed to enhance the Jewish experience in the home, synagogue, and community.
- Shalom School promotes an atmosphere where the love of Jewish learning is fostered and passed on to our children by a committed staff, who are eager to share their knowledge and passion for Judaism.

Goals/Objectives of Shalom School

Shalom School will support and strengthen the family's effort to have a rich Jewish home experience by:

- Inspiring in its students the love of God and Jewish values.
- Developing informed and committed participants in the "B'rit", the covenant between God and the Jewish people, as interpreted in historic and contemporary thought.
- Teaching the observance of celebrations and commemorations of Jewish life and history.

- Providing opportunities for ethical action.
- Teaching Hebrew reading, the language of modern-day Israel and the language of classical Jewish prayer.
- Instilling a sense of identification with the Jewish people through knowledge of its classical texts and history and a desire for its welfare and survival.
- Instilling understanding, appreciation, and respect for the diversity of Jewish life.

Shalom School admits students that are members of Congregation Agudath Achim or Congregation Mickve Israel of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and other school administered programs.

Requirements:

School Attendance

Students are required to attend a minimum of 80 percent of all classes. If these requirements are not met, parents might be contacted to make arrangements for appropriate tutoring or make up work.

Absence notification: Please inform your child's teacher via email or text if your child will be absent.

We ask that students arrive on time, as late entrances tend to disrupt the classroom and/or the service.

Synagogue Attendance

Regular synagogue attendance is essential to the thoroughness and lasting effectiveness of our program.

By attending Shabbat and Holiday services regularly, our students reap a number of benefits, not the least of which is exposure to Jewish thought and discussion, the sense of unity and purpose that communal prayer inspires, the opportunity to become familiar with the synagogue for B'nei Mitzvah and, perhaps above all, a chance for the family to share a Jewish experience.

Shalom School encourages service attendance as a standard for family practice.

Snacks, Kashrut and allergies

Snacks will be provided by the school during Sunday school and on Wednesday prior to class. **Please do not send any food or drinks with your child.** We also ask that children finish all drinks or food items before entering the school at both locations.

For special occasions such as birthdays, parents might bring food or treats for the class after prior approval of the principal. If permission to bring food is granted, only Kosher-certified food will be allowed.

Peanut-Free: In order to create a safe learning environment for every student, the Shalom School floor/wing is a peanut-free zone. We ask that each parent strictly follow this policy as we do have students with peanut allergies.

Door Duty

Parents are asked to help with security by covering door duty on Sunday at CMI at **least one time per family**. Door duty is from 9:15am to 9:40am and 12:15pm to 12:40pm

Vaccination

In an effort to ensure the safety of each and every one of our students, we are requiring immunization for all children registering at Shalom School.

On the first day of school, **you will be required to present a copy of your child/ren immunization record.** If you are unable to get an immunization appointment with your child's health care provider, the local health department will provide those shots and records for you.

Electronics and cell phones:

If brought to school, electronic devices should be turned off until class is over or otherwise instructed by the teacher. Please do not ask your child to leave a phone on to receive a message, as that is distracting and disruptive to learning. If there is an emergency, please contact the Shalom School office and we will relay the message to your child.

Curriculum and Programs

Shalom School teaches both Hebrew and Judaic studies. Hebrew is taught through seventh grade as it relates to liturgy and synagogue skills. Our Judaic studies curriculum through seventh grade includes Bible stories, Israel, prayer, history, holidays, tzedakah, contemporary Jewish issues, Jewish current events, ethics and values, and life-cycle events. Some of these areas are covered with different

emphasis and intensity each year, while others are assigned only to certain grades. Art is integrated into the program for grade levels Pre-K to 6th.

Most of our curriculum has been developed by **Behrman House** and is used with great success in combined Reform/Conservative religious schools throughout the United States. These materials form the cornerstone of our instructional program through the eighth grade. Our curriculum groups its material according to three cornerstones of Judaism: Torah, Avodah (worship) and G'milut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness) and combines text learning with classroom-based experiential activities in order to convey to our children those "Enduring Understandings" of the tenets of Judaism that will stay with them to adulthood and encourage lifelong learning.

For our **little ones, (pre-K - Kindergarten)** Kabbalat Shabbat, Jewish holidays and Bible stories will be the focus of their Sunday morning. Hebrew letter introduction and basic vocabulary will be organically integrated into the classroom. Hebrew decoding will be introduced every week starting in first grade.

For our older students, two programs are offered:

- **7th grade** will meet at Mickve Israel every Sunday morning to study with a curriculum based on History, Israeli modern history and current events.
- **8th-10th grade (and Confirmation Plus):** students will learn on a rotating three-year curriculum, which will include a basics of Judaism year, a year of Jewish leadership training, and a year of Holocaust studies.
- **Madrichim Program: 8th-12th grade** students are encouraged to participate in our Madrichim (teacher in training) program.

Wednesday program (3rd-6th grade)

The Wednesday program will be split in 4 levels based on the student's knowledge and ability rather than by grade level: Level Alef, Level Bet, Level Gimel, Level Dalet. Returning students have been evaluated by their teachers at the end of the previous year and will be placed accordingly.

Every Sunday and Wednesday students in grades 3 -6 participate in a short prayer service.

Hebrew Tutoring alternative (3rd grade and up)

Shalom School is offering a tutoring program for those children not attending Wednesday Hebrew classes but wishing to have supplemental Hebrew instruction. Students who apply must be enrolled in the Sunday program. Parents will be able to choose their tutor from a list of approved tutors.

- **Schedule**

The tutoring program is based on the completion of 22 sessions for the full year – fall and spring semesters. Students should aim to complete the first half (11 sessions) by December 31 and the second half (11 sessions) by June 1st. Missing sessions can be made up over winter break and by June 30.

Prior to starting tutoring, parents will meet with the tutor to establish a set calendar schedule that will be submitted to the principal.

Sessions will be arranged between the family and the tutor at a mutually convenient time, but not during Sunday or Wednesday Shalom School hours.

Supervision during tutoring sessions will be the responsibility of the family.

- **Dynamic**

Tutoring is based on a one-on-one education. However, if desired, parents may opt to have two children of similar abilities taught together in a session.

Tutoring fees are per student per session. The fee per student will still be the same even if two students are in the same session.

- **Hebrew Tutoring Fees:**

- Tutoring fees are per student.

- Tutoring fees are to be paid to Shalom School in one or two installments (at registration & January 15).

Tzedakah

We encourage students to give tzedakah every Sunday. We do not encourage large sums, but rather small amounts on a regular basis. The students determine which charitable organization will receive the tzedakah funds. Please send your child with some money each week so that they can take part in this important mitzvah.

Parent Communication:

Parent Facebook group:

Shalom School posts updated information such as school reminder, special events and pictures on the Shalom School Facebook parent group.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent to parents in December and in May. If you have questions about your child's progress, please contact their teacher.

Complaint Policy

Shalom School encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints whenever possible. Many issues are best resolved by discussions between the parties involved. As such, a student or parent who has a complaint should:

- first bring the matter to the appropriate teacher.

- If the outcome is not satisfactory, a conference with the principal may be requested.

- If the outcome of this conference is not satisfactory, the student or parent may file a written, signed complaint with the Shalom School Board, in care of the President of the Board, for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. A copy of the Board's decision and justification will be forwarded to the complainant within 10 work days of the Board meeting. Board decisions are final.

[Pictures and Video disclaimer:](#)

Shalom School reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at school or at any school event, without the expressed written permission of those included within the photograph. Photographs may be used in publications including, but not limited to, school website, e-news and Facebook, congregation newspaper, website and Facebook (student names will not be disclosed on the website).

Any person desiring not to have their child/ren's photo taken or published must notify the school in writing.

[Inclement Weather Preparation](#)

Shalom School will follow the Chatham County Public School recommendations. Should we need to cancel or close the school, we will contact parents via text. If the weather is threatening, please check your text messages.

[Guest Authorization Form](#)

While we do not encourage visitors outside of an occasional Open House, we do understand that sometimes an exceptional situation may lead your child to bring a friend.

When that is the case, we ask that parents contact the principal no later than three days preceding the visit and to fill the "Guest Authorization Form" that can be found on Shalom School website. Teachers and the principal will approve the request based on that class' upcoming programs and activities. We do want guests to the Shalom School to feel welcome, but we also need to think about minimizing disruptions to our classes.

B'nei Mitzvah

Congregations Mickve Israel and Agudath Achim B'nei Mitzvah requirement details must be checked with each congregation.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutoring:

10 hours of Bar and Bat Mitzvah lessons are provided at no cost to students who are enrolled in 7th grade and were fully enrolled in Shalom School for the years

preceding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Another 10 hours are provided to students who commit to enroll up to 8th grade. **Their tuition must be current, their synagogue dues must be paid**, and the student and his or her family must make a commitment to study at the Shalom School through 9th grade or Confirmation.

If a student is new to Shalom School (two years or less) and requires Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons, the parent(s) also must sign a letter of intent to keep the child in school through their respective (AA or CMI) Confirmation program or 9th grade, and will be asked to pay a portion of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring fee.

The school must approve all tutoring prior to the start of tutoring sessions. If approval is not obtained, the parent will be responsible for paying the tutor.

Tuition Policy

Tuition for Shalom School may be paid in one or two installments. You may pay in full or half at registration. If you choose to pay in two installments, the second payment is due **January 15, 2025**.

[Supporting while shopping at Publix.](#)

Register at PUBLIX.COM by clicking on *Sign Up* in the upper left-hand corner. Once you have an account, go to publix.com/partners and choose our school to earn rewards. You will need to enter the zip code 31405 or the name Shalom School for the school name to come up. Remember to enter your phone number when checking out at the cash register.

[Tuition Scholarship application process:](#)

No student will be denied enrollment into the school due to financial hardship. However, it is the family's responsibility to contact the Finance Committee regarding the need for any aid with tuition (scholarship) or change in payment schedule. All applications will be evaluated by the Finance Committee and awards will be made based on availability of funds and balancing the needs of all of our families. **Application for scholarship assistance must be made at the beginning of the school year.** An application form will be emailed to you upon request to the principal at theshalomschool@gmail.com. The form must be fully completed in order to apply for scholarship.

Tuition Fees

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| • Sunday only program (preK – grade 6) | \$ 480 |
| • Sunday and Wednesday midweek Hebrew (grades 3-6) | \$ 880 |
| • Private Hebrew tutoring in lieu of Wednesday sessions (grades 3-6) <i>–Including Sunday Program</i> | \$ 1,350 |
| • 7 th Grade Program
(Includes 10 Hours of Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation) | \$ 780 |
| • 8 th -10 th Grade Program | \$ 380 |
| • 11 th &12 th Grade | No Charge |

**Necessary school supplies and snacks will be provided*

Before proceeding with registration please confirmed that you have read Shalom School 2024-2025 Handbook and you agree to follow it's requirements.

Signature -