



Parents Handbook

# Ottawa Talmud Torah





# **Greeting!**

# **Hello OTT parents!**

This handbook is designed to answer questions you might have about OTT including our goals for you and your family as members of our school. For 100 years now, Ottawa Talmud Torah has been dedicated to providing Ottawa families with a traditional and comprehensive Jewish educational experience. Today, OTT@KBI remains a community-minded program that is designed to instill students with a firm sense of pride in their Jewish identities while making our rich heritage relevant to today's modern world.



# Meet the team!

### Director

Sasha Kathron is our new Director of Youth Education and Programming at KBI. She will be responsible for all things youth and family programming as well as Running OTT at KBI. Sasha is originally from Ottawa, having grown up in Kanata. She moved to Kingston for university where she received an Honours Bachelor of Behavioural Psychology. Sasha then moved to Israel where she spent a year teaching as part of the Masa Israel Teaching Fellows program. Sasha extended her stay in Israel to pursue her own independent Jewish learning and attended Neve Yerushalayim seminary for the summer. Since returning to Ottawa in 2018 Sasha has been working at Hillel Ottawa. As director of Hillel Ottawa Sasha helped foster and grow a Jewish community for university students. She also spent time teaching Jewish learning classes and fighting anti-Semitism on campus.

### **Lead Teacher**

Corinne Baray was born in Montreal and raised in the Nation's Capital. Corinne is a PhD candidate and graduate of the OJCS (Hillel Academy), and the former Yitzhak Rabin High School. Corinne has a particular passion for Jewish education and pedagogical theory. She has been teaching for more than 12 years in many facets within the Ottawa Jewish Community. Corinne is also an Instructor and Course Developer in the Legal Studies Department at Carleton University. For more than 90 years the Ottawa Talmud Torah has been dedicated to providing Ottawa's families with a community-minded program that is designed to instill students with a sense of pride while connecting a rich heritage that is relevant to today's modern world. Corinne looks forward to continuing a shared ethos of inclusion and community with Kehillat Beth Israel, to continue to inspire Jewish youth of all identities for many years to

# Meet the team!

### **Cantor Green**

Cantor Jason Green grew up in Montreal, singing in and conducting synagogue choirs since his youth. He studied to become a Cantor at the London School of Jewish Studies (UK), and has led synagogues in the USA and the UK before coming to Ottawa, where he proudly took up the position of Cantor at Kehillat Beth Israel in May of 2018. Cantor Green is passionate about teaching and inspiring youth to take leadership roles in synagogue services, connect spiritually through prayer-wear (tallit, t'filin, kippot, etc.), and understand the musical systems for reading Torah and Haftara. Cantor Green enjoys engaging with the youth in OTT@KBI during weekly T'filah, Havdallah, and holiday programming, and is the key KBI leader for B'nei Mitzvah students and their families.

# **Teacher by grade**

Gr.JK/ SK & Gr.1 – Mora Mali

Gr.2 & Gr.3 – Mora Miriam & Moreh Oren

Gr.4 & Gr.5 – Mora Brittany & Mora Corinne

Gr.6 & Gr.7 - Mora Marina



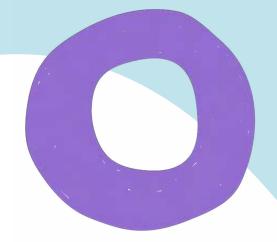
# **Schedule**

Our school year calendar (<a href="https://www.kehillatbethisrael.com/learn/ott-at-kbi/">https://www.kehillatbethisrael.com/learn/ott-at-kbi/</a>) which lists dates on which there will be no Hebrew School classes, Chagim.

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Sunday	3:30pm - 5:30pm	KBI 1400 Coldrey Ave
Tuesday	4:15pm -6:00pm	KBI 1400 Coldrey Ave



# Schedule



Our Sunday program will focus on Judaism as a religion. On Sundays, our students will delve into the weekly Torah portion, explore Jewish values, celebrate Jewish holidays together, and study Hebrew language. Additionally, every Sunday our community will gather together for Havdalah and a brief prayer service to revel in the arrival of a new week together.

Our Tuesday program will focus on Judaism as a people. Tuesdays will largely focus on Hebrew language instruction at all levels to assure that Hebrew literacy can be achieved for all students. The students will focus on both modern as well as prayerbook Hebrew so that a student can be comfortable traveling to Israel as well as prepared for their B'nai Mitzvah. Additionally on Tuesdays, our students will explore Israel together and become more connected with the broader Jewish community.

# For our older students, we are proud to offer B'nai Mitzvah prep on both Sundays and Tuesdays.

On Sundays, our students will have the chance to learn about and engage in Mitzvah projects as they begin to take their place as Jewish adults and take responsibility for our world. On Tuesdays, our students will learn together with Cantor Green the components most essential for their B'nai Mitzvah to provide them with tools to thrive when the big day arrives.

# Communication

In order for our teachers to provide an inclusive and meaningful learning environment for your child, any information such as IEP (Independent Education Plan), OT(Occupational Therapy) diagnosis (Autism Spectrum, ADHD, LD) or any Neuro Divergence reports can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. Any information or reports can be emailed directly to OTT@kehillatbethisrael.com alternatively, a paper copy can be given to the Director and teachers, or by private conference with the Director/ Teacher.

Please know that all conversation and correspondence will remain confidential.

### **Expectation**

At OTT we strive to create an atmosphere that reflects our Jewish values. We take pride in our student body that understands the importance of respect for teachers, respect for each other and each other's property, and respect for ourselves are essential for a successful learning environment. Our school has zero tolerance for bullying of any kind (physical, verbal or cyber/digital). Problematic behavior will be addressed accordingly, with conference and communication between parents educators and Director.



# Communication



### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. We do understand that attendance is not always an option due to illness or travel. If you know your child will be absent from class we ask that you please reach out to Director at OTT@kehillatbethisrael.com

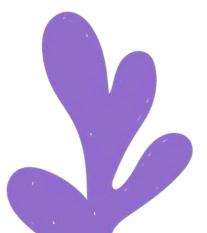
### Sick

If your child has symptoms such as a runny nose or sore throat, fever or diarrhea they should not attend school. We thank you for your cooperation. Homework

We do not assing homework or have tests at OTT. If at any time students or families would like additional exercises or lessons, please let your students' teachers know and they will be happy to send home more material.

## **Safety**

A number of our teachers are First Aid Certified. First aid kits are located in the school. Please note that we cannot administer any medication, topical or otherwise without medical consent. If your child has a life-threatening allergy please be sure to provide the director with any additional information or medical intervention (EPI-PEN), and a recent photo of your child.



### Additional information sheet - Please return to OTT

Student Name: Student Grade:

Parents Name: Emergency contact:

We periodically send out information by e-mail including our new monthly OTT e-mail blast coming soon! In order to not miss any communication please provide us with an e-mail address you check regularly.

Parents e-mail address:

Other information: