

Preparation in The Sixth grade Program

For Parents & Students:

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Workshops for Parents of Sixth Graders, led by the rabbis and educational staff, are an invaluable tool for families to address issues pertaining to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. These sessions meet on Sunday mornings during the sixth grade religious school hours. The series includes:

- Two parent-only sessions which focus on the history and significance of Bar/Bat Mitzvah and a walk through the Torah service (and related practical planning issues)
- A session on expectations and keeping the mitzvah in Bar/Bat Mitzvah in which the students join the parents for the second half of the session.
- A family workshop on Making Meaning: Exploring Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Torah Portion. With the support of our rabbinic and education staff, you and your child will study his/her Torah portion. This will be used as the basis for selecting the specific verses he/she will read at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service.

A family workshop on “Ritual in Action”

Judaism is a tradition of action. Whether these actions are ritual observances or acts of loving kindness they have been central to the passing of the tradition from Generation to Generation. We will use Jewish ritual objects from your family as a starting point to explore the significance of every day and lifecycle Jewish rituals and to create a temporary exhibit for the museum cases in the chapel. We will also look at how you can put the tradition of tzedakah into action as you plan for the upcoming Bar-Bat Mitzvah.

For Students Only:

- 6th Grade Kallah. During this retreat, the meaning of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is explored through discussion, prayer, art, and dramatics. As students deepen the knowledge of their Torah and Haftarah portions, they participate in a variety of activities. This will build community among the participants and create shared memories.
- Learning Torah Trope (cantillation). In the winter of the sixth grade year, students begin to learn how to chant from the Torah as part of the classroom curriculum. The students will lead a Shabbat morning service for the 6th grade families in the spring where each student will chant from the Torah