

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutoring Timeline

The tutoring process begins 5-7 months prior to your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. Each student has individual needs and learning styles. We do our best to meet these needs. This overview is in chronological order.

Intake Meeting At this one hour meeting with the cantor, students and their parent(s) will receive their study materials. The entire process will be explained, including methods of home study. Therefore, it is very important that one or both of the parents attend. Both families of a double ceremony will come together at this meeting so that an atmosphere of cooperation begins. The cantor will provide a check list of prayers for the student to review in advance of the first torah tutor session.

Torah Sessions The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Coordinator will contact you to setup the weekly torah tutoring sessions. Sessions take place on Tuesday afternoons (with some options for Thursdays afternoon slots as well). These thirty minute lessons will take your child through the first few months of his/her preparation and are focused on mastery of Torah, Torah Blessings, and review of sections of worship your child will lead. Parent involvement in helping your child with time management and study strategies is encouraged.

Lessons with Cantor During these half hour sessions, the student will work with the cantor on Haftarah, Torah, and Prayer. When possible the student may have some shared meetings with their partner. The cantor will also help the students finish up their work on their Torah Portion and prepare them for the ceremony. These sessions take place on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons (outside of religious school hours).

The D'var Torah Your child will meet one time with each rabbi to work on the D'var Torah (the Torah commentary) which he/she will be sharing with the congregation. The first meeting which is with Rabbi Perlman will be scheduled approximately two months prior to the child's date. You are welcome to begin studying the portion with your child prior to this time.

Rehearsals During the last 3 weeks the student will have rehearsals with the cantor and both rabbis. It is important that parents attend the final rehearsal, generally (although not always) held on Thursday at 4 pm before the service. The student should bring study materials to all rehearsals including: the Bar/Bat Mitzvah notebook, the D'var Torah and his/her prayer book.

After the ceremony 3 – 4 weeks following the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service, students will be invited to meet with a rabbi to reflect on the student's experience, evaluate our program, and discuss the next steps of their Jewish journey.

