

# Welcome to Seventh Grade



June 2020

Dear Incoming Seventh Grade Families,

Mechinah is the Hebrew word for preparation. The seventh grade year is really about a preparation and a new beginning. Students are preparing to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah. But, really students are preparing to become Jewish adults, and with that comes the responsibility of thinking and feeling like a Jewish adult. The Mechinah Year is designed to help our young teens understand that Bar and Bat Mitzvah is not a culmination, but rather a launching pad for their Jewish life. Enrollment and completion in the seventh grade year is a required to have your B'nai Mitzvah at Temple B'nai Abraham. Our courses are designed not only to instruct, but also to encourage wrestling with great Jewish ideas. Students are given the opportunity to participate in both core content classes, mitzvah opportunities and community building. Occasionally, we offer "choice days" where they choose elective opportunities based on interest. In this packet you will see a sampling of courses that are offered. Choice day electives are chosen by students during dinner. In seventh grade, students are not placed in designated classes, but each week we do a combination of large group work and also different random groupings to strengthen our dialogue and encourage students to mix and mingle. Additionally, this is the year when we ask the students to explore their role in the larger Jewish community. What are their obligations to their synagogue, local community and country? Through a choice based mitzvah track, students are encouraged to find their passion and pursue helping to make the world a more whole place. This is done by choosing either Mitzvah Service Hours or a Mitzvah Service Project coupled with a few obligations to our synagogue. Detailed information about the Mechinah year can be found here in this booklet. Our goal is to launch your children into the next part of their Jewish journey. Through their dedication to this year, we know they will find a wonderful beginning to this next phase of Jewish living and learning.

B'Shalom,

Morah Melissa Weiner  
Director of Jewish Education  
Jewish Learning Program  
Temple B'nai Abraham

