

I. SCHOOL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

OPENING DAYS:

Sunday Religious School	(Grades Pre-K to 6)	September 14, 2008
Tuesday Religious School	(Grades 3 to 6)	September 16, 2008
Tuesday Confirmation Academy	(Grades 7 to 10)	September 9, 2008

An OPEN HOUSE for all Religious School parents will be held Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. All parents are invited to observe their children's classes that day.

A PARENTS' NIGHT for the Confirmation Academy parents will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. beginning with dinner, followed by a chance to observe and participate in your child's core and elective classes.

Please review the school calendar and note all school days, family days and special Shabbatot.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

Room assignments are mailed to each school family before the start of the school year. On the first day school will begin with an opening community time in the sanctuary. Students should bring their assignment sheet with them to class the first day. Classes will be dismissed from the sanctuary. Classes are divided based on educational needs and parent requests. *Once the school year begins students can only change classes because of educational needs.*

Classrooms are located on all three (3) levels of the building.

Lower level: (Preschool, Kdg., 1st and 2nd grades) - Rooms 1-12 and the Youth Lounge

Main level: (3rd and 4th grades) - Rooms 104-110, offices, auditoriums, board room.

Upper level: (5th – 10th grades) - Rooms 201-209 and the Library.

SCHOOL HOURS:

Sunday Religious School (Grades Pre-Kdg. – 6) 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Tuesday Religious School (Grades 3-6) 4:30 p.m to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Confirmation Academy (Grades 7-10) 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Please make every attempt to have your child/ren here on time and to schedule other activities around school hours.

The office number is 215-887-8704 and our fax number is 215-887-1070. In case of an emergency after school hours, call 215-887-8700 and follow prompts to Rabbi Stacy Rigler (x112) or Lindsey Heller (x113).

ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance is essential to any school program. We expect students to be present and on time for each session. If there is a problem, please let us know. Students are responsible for all work done by the class and for all assignments. Because we assign minimal homework, attendance at school is the major vehicle for success. If your child is absent, you will receive an email describing what he/she has missed.

CARPOOL INFORMATION/ STUDENT DIRECTORY:

Class lists are available in the school office for your convenience to help you set up carpools. A student directory will also be organized for you with similar information. If you do not want your information printed in the school directory please let us know.

EARLY ARRIVAL and KI KAFE and CLASS SNACKS:

On Sunday morning, the KI Kafe is open for bagels, donuts and coffee at 9:00 a.m. The Sunday KI Kafe is located in the Rothschild Lobby and is run by parent volunteers. Students are to report to class at 9:25 a.m. and parents are welcome to stay and “schmooze.” *Please note students arriving after 9:25 a.m. will not be able to purchase food to bring to class.*

On Tuesday afternoon, students who arrive early should report to the Youth Lounge. Students will be supervised from 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. The Tuesday KIFTY Kafe will sell soft pretzels, pizza and juices only.

If your child arrives more than 5 minutes early to school he or she must report to the Youth Lounge. This is the only location in the building where children will be supervised.

SNACKS: Because of allergies, we must request that the only snacks that are brought to the school are challah, fresh fruit or vegetables (without dips). If you would like to send in a snack for the entire class besides challah and juice, please contact the teacher in advance or the Religious School Office to determine what allergies are in that classroom.

Keneseth Israel’s food policy, as adopted by the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Religious Practices Committee and in keeping with the teachings of contemporary Reform Judaism, states that “no pork or shellfish products are to be brought to KI.” Please keep this in mind when sending snacks with your children or preparing for synagogue events.

DROP OFF, PICK UP and PARKING:

On Tuesdays, please drop students off in the Circle. On Sunday morning, please use the Rothschild entrance. Please do not park at any entrance to the building; it is a fire hazard. If you are entering the building with your child, you must park your car. Please obey and respect the volunteers who assist in the parking lot. They are there for the safety of the students.

LATE ARRIVAL and EARLY PICKUP:

Please be on time --- students who arrive late will find it difficult to catch up with the class. If you need to pick your child up early, you must report to the school office and sign your child out. You will then be given an "Early Dismissal" slip. Your child will not be allowed to wait for you outside the building nor will you be allowed to call the office and request your child be sent outside. If, in an emergency, you are going to be late picking up your child, please notify the school office so that someone can be there until you arrive. You may need to dial X113 to reach someone.

WEATHER-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION:

Our school closing number is 324 on KYW-Radio (1060 AM)

Our Sunday Religious School closings will also be scrolled on the following TV stations: NBC-10; KYW-3; ABC-6; and the FOX-TV network.

On Tuesday, if the Abington and Cheltenham schools are closed or close early, KI will be closed automatically!

II. PARENT and CHILD EXPECTATIONS:

BOOKS and SUPPLIES:

Textbooks are supplied by the school and are included in the tuition payment. If lost, new books must be paid for at the time of replacement. Students should bring notebooks, folders, pencils and pens to each class session!! 4th to 6th graders will need a three-ring binder with 16 dividers and a box of pencils.

CLASSWORK and HOMEWORK:

As stated previously, minimal homework will be assigned, and it is expected that the child will complete the assignment. *Hebrew reading practice is necessary every week --- students always have prayers to practice!!* Often students can reinforce their Hebrew work using tools on the internet. Please note that even if you don't read Hebrew yourself, you can still listen to your child practice to hear if he or she is comfortable reading Hebrew.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR and DISCIPLINE:

Under no condition will behavior which prevents others from learning be tolerated in the Religious School. Minor discipline problems are handled by the classroom teacher. If these problems persist, the student will be sent to the school office.

FIRST REFERRAL: The first referral to the school office will be handled by the Director of Religious Education. Should the discipline problem warrant it, she will contact the parents.

SECOND REFERRAL: At the second referral, the Director of Religious Education will contact the parents to discuss the problem and steps needed to resolve it. If the problem is significant enough, the student may be suspended from class until the parents are able to confer with the Director of Religious Education. A written letter will then be sent to the parents outlining the agreement reached and the consequences should the agreement not be adhered to.

SUSPENSION: If the parents are unwilling to confer with the Director of Religious Education or the student is unable to satisfy the terms of the agreement, the student will be placed in individual instruction with a teacher/tutor selected by the school. It will be the parents' responsibility to compensate the tutor. Tutoring will not begin until the parent makes a payment.

If your child is having a minor classroom problem, the teacher may call to let you know what is happening and to ask for your help in solving the problem. You can reach any member of the faculty by calling the school office (215-887-8704). Your call will be returned promptly.

Many behavior problems are, indeed, learning problems. Please call Rabbi Rigler with any information about how your child learns best or any special learning needs that your child may have. This will help your child succeed in our program.

FAMILY EDUCATION:

Over the course of the year there will be several opportunities for parents to learn with their children or to learn on their own so that they will know about some of the topics their children are studying: Family education is the only way to ensure that what students learn at religious school is incorporated into a family's every day life.

Grade-level Family Education days: Each grade will have one **Family Education Day** this year. They are listed on the calendar at the back of this booklet. On those days, from 9:30 – Noon, students and parents will join together to study a specific subject. The subject will be based on the grade curriculum. The lessons will be designed so that children will benefit from their parents knowledge and families can work together to apply the Jewish values they are learning at religious school to their homes. **We urge every parent (both Jewish and non-Jewish) to attend these valuable sessions.** We hope that they will be meaningful moments with your child as a family. Even if you can not attend, please send your child to school for these sessions. We will match them with another family or a student aid so that they will not be working alone.

TZEDAKAH:

All students will have an opportunity to give *tzedakah* and perform *mitzvot* during the school year. Students should contribute each time they come to school – the amount does not matter. Each class sets goals and projects and decides where the collected funds will go. Students should be encouraged to give from their own money to teach them that each of us is responsible for giving of ourselves.

T'FILLOT and MITZVOT EXPECTATIONS:

In Jewish education, formal instruction can be no more than a foundation for life skills. In our classrooms, our children will be learning the prayers that compose the services in which our people have been participating for generations, which have established our identity and our historic connectedness. To learn prayers without seeing their place in our liturgy, without hearing the congregation sing them, without being a part of that congregation, is to miss the fundamental reason why we learn these prayers. The same can be said for learning about *mitzvot*. The learning, again, can be no more than a foundation for incorporating the *mitzvot*, our responsibility for each other, into our daily lives.

This is the fundamental reason that we have established service requirements for the children in our program. By participating in our religious services, by giving of their time to participate in service projects, our children are investing themselves in the opportunity to experience the power, reality and beauty of what Judaism can mean to them.

T’FILLOT EXPECTATIONS:

All students are required to attend *Shabbat* services. Attendance at High Holy Day services does not count toward these expectations. **After each *Shabbat* service, the Rabbis and Cantor will have star stickers. Students should say “hello” to the Rabbis or Cantor and wish them a *Shabbat Shalom*. They will give the students a star which can be mounted on the chart in the hallway.** One credit is given for each service attended. If your child attends services at another synagogue, please advise the Religious School Office in order for him/her to receive the proper credit.

Grades K - 2	Two (2) <i>Shabbat</i> services per year
Grades 3 - 4	Four (4) <i>Shabbat</i> services per year**
	**All of the Grade 4 service credits must be fulfilled in order to secure a date for your child’s <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i>
Grades 5 - 6	Six (6) <i>Shabbat</i> services per year – (3) of which must be Jr. Congregation services
Grade 7	Six (6) <i>Shabbat</i> services for the year
Grades 8 – 10	Two (2) <i>Shabbat</i> services per year

An attendance record is posted in the hallway nearby, so you can easily determine your child’s progress. Reminders will also be mailed home. If there are any discrepancies, please inform Lindsey Heller so that corrections can be made.

MITZVAH SERVICE EXPECTATIONS:

Students in our Confirmation Academy (Grades 7-10) are required to do a certain number of *Mitzvot*. A mailing will arrive listing numerous events, dates of events and the number of credits the student can obtain while performing these *Mitzvot*. Some of the projects at K.I. are: *Sukkot* preparations, assisting in the classrooms as a Teacher’s Aide, helping in the Library, *Purim* Carnival, Israel Day program, and *Mitzvah* Day activities. Any volunteer work counts as a *mitzvah* credit. Simply inform Lindsey Heller of what your child did and the date, so we may give him or her credit.

Grade 7	students are required to earn 6 <i>mitzvah</i> credits
Grades 8, 9, & 10	students are required to earn 7 <i>mitzvah</i> credits

III. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

In Kindergarten through Confirmation Academy, one of our overall goals is to provide the education that will allow all of our learners to evolve into knowledgeable Reform Jews and provide the knowledge base that permits the informed choices that are the elements of our individual Jewish identities. We strive to engage the children through fun and exciting opportunities to learn about their Jewish tradition. Our curriculum balances Reform Judaism’s love of history with a desire for innovation and seeks to make Judaism relevant for our students in their lives. We hope to bring the learning home to our families where we know the real Jewish education is learned.

Formal Hebrew instruction in our program begins with children in our First Grade class and extends through the 7th grade. It starts with an aural-oral program, extends through a readiness program and leads to instruction that will permit our children to attain individual levels of fluency and comfort with prayer. The goal of the program is not limited to the ability to decode Hebrew letters to form known sounds. It also involves the children in a variety of methods that create the opportunity for personal relationships with and the understanding of prayer in general, and those specific prayers that are integral elements of our service. Children in 3rd through 6th grades will have formal Hebrew instruction on Tuesday AND on Sunday for 45 minute periods each day. This instruction, in order to be successful, must be reinforced at least one day a week at home. Your child's teacher can be helpful in suggesting fun ways to reinforce their Hebrew reading at home.

Each grade has a specific program of study which is summarized below:

SUNDAY PRESCHOOL: This program introduces our youngest students to Jewish stories and symbols. Using music, arts, crafts and story-telling, the children become familiar with the most basic customs of our people. The children learn about Jewish holidays, Bible heroes and Jewish worship through hands-on activities and creative experiences.

KINDERGARTEN: Students will focus on forming a strong foundation for their Jewish identity in the Kindergarten class. They will be introduced to some of the key aspects of Judaism by learning about the synagogue and the Jewish Holidays. Students will learn about the *Torah*, the Rabbis and the Cantor. An emphasis will be placed on learning that is emergent from the child.

FIRST GRADE: Bible study is introduced as well as a rudimentary consideration of Hebrew letters and sounds. Holiday study and its impact on Jewish life style continues. Students study the book of Genesis from Creation through Adam and Eve, Noah, the Tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Esau and it ends with the story of Joseph and his brothers. The first grade has several special annual programs including a unit on Jewish books and an exchange with Grace Presbyterian Church.

SECOND GRADE: The Reform movement's "*Chai Curriculum*" begins in the second grade. This curriculum is divided into three sections: *Torah*, *Avodah* (worship) and *Gemilut Hasadim* (acts of loving kindness). In the second grade *Torah* strand, students focus on their relationship with the *Torah* and the second book of the Bible, Exodus. In the *Avodah* strand, they explore ways to get to know God and in the *Gemilut Hasadim* strand, they learn that they can do acts of loving kindness. In addition, they continue to learn about the holidays, Israel and spend time preparing to be able to read Hebrew.

THIRD GRADE: Third grade Judaic studies continue with the "*Chai curriculum*". The third grade *Torah* strand focuses on the third book of the Bible, Leviticus, and how to live a life of holiness. In the *Avodah* strand, students focus on ways they experience God in their daily lives. Finally, they learn to take responsibility for doing acts of loving kindness in the *Gemilut Hasadim* strand. The students begin studying Hebrew twice a week as they add vowels to their knowledge of letters and begin to read words and master simple vocabulary words. They continue to learn about the holidays and Jewish values.

FOURTH GRADE: In the fourth grade “*Chai* curriculum”, students concentrate on Biblical history and the book of Numbers. They learn basic theological concepts focusing their worship discussions on how we pray and different types of prayer. In the *Gemulit Hasadim* strand, students learn Jewish values behind their actions such as honoring parents, the danger of gossip and making peace among friends. Additionally, a study of the Jewish life cycle will be introduced in this year’s fourth grade. In Hebrew studies students learn to master simple words and read longer sentences and prayers.

FIFTH GRADE: The fifth graders explore the American Jewish experience. Students learn about their roots in this country and, specifically, how Philadelphia Jewish history began. A highlight of the study is a trip to Center city to see Colonial Jewish Philadelphia. The *Torah* strand of the “*Chai* curriculum” focuses on the prophets and their strong relationship to Reform Jewish roots. They continue their study of Jewish values through the *Gemilut Hasadim* strand. Hebrew in the fifth grade focuses on an in-depth study of the prayers used in the Friday night service. Building on their existing knowledge, the students will learn about the meaning of the prayers, their basic vocabulary and they will master the reading of the prayers.

SIXTH GRADE: The focus of study in sixth grade is our relationship to our holy land, Israel. Its history and geography, its development and how we are connected to the land are all central to the year-long study. A special treat will be a new school-to-school exchange program with an Israeli class. Students revisit the holidays and learn how they are celebrated in Israel. Students will also study the third section of the Bible, the Writings through the *Chai* curriculum. They will also learn about the Torah service, its structure and meaning through the *Avodah* strand of the Chai curriculum. In Hebrew, the sixth graders focus on mastering the Saturday morning service. Many of these prayers will be the ones they lead during their *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

In addition to religious academic activities and Hebrew instruction, Music, Art and Library are regular components of the program. **Liz Sussman** is our Music teacher, **Aliza Herman** is our Art teacher, and **Ellen Tilman** is our Librarian.

LIBRARY and COMPUTER LAB:

The Myers Library is a great source for students and parents alike. Each Religious School class will have opportunities to do library projects or take part in a reading-hour program. Books can be checked out by any student or parent. Books include both popular fiction as well as Jewish resource books. During Religious School, parents are encouraged to grab a cup of coffee in the library, read a Jewish periodical or the newspaper, log on to free wifi or schmooze with other parents in our renovated library.

With thanks to the generosity of our congregant, the late Harold Rosenfeld, we have a computer lab in Room 202, next to the library.

Mr. Rosenfeld lovingly dedicated the lab to KI in memory of his wife, Audrey. All children in the Religious School can now take advantage of the many computer learning programs we have.

INDIVIDUAL or SPECIAL NEEDS:

Through the help of Barbara Greenberg, our Special needs Coordinator, we try to work with each family to insure that every child is able to learn. Even if you are sure that we know about your child's needs, it is helpful to give information to the child's teacher. Please let us know if your child is unhappy or having any problems at school so we can help resolve these issues with you. Our school is fortunate to have a group of tutors that are able to help students with individual or special needs throughout the year – especially in our Hebrew program.

Please inform your child's teacher of any learning issues EACH YEAR and provide us with an updated IEP if applicable.

CONFIRMATION ACADEMY (GRADES 7, 8, & 9):

The goal of the Confirmation Academy is to provide opportunities for our children to understand their identity as Reform Jews. Since we understand the needs of high school students social time is built into every school session. The core classes each year focus on a different aspect of being a Jew that had not been taught in earlier grades. The classes are designed to compare other religions and other branches of Judaism to our own to increase understanding about what we believe. Electives and special programs complement the curriculum. While the grade school curriculum focuses on teaching the "basics" of Judaism the Confirmation Academy helps our students develop into mature Jewish adults.

The Confirmation Academy's Tuesday night program takes the following format:

6:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner - during this half hour there will be time for both socializing and informal learning experiences.
7:00 – 7:45 p.m.	Core Curriculum Classes
7:45 – 8:30 p.m.	Elective Classes

The Core Curriculum Courses are as follows:

Seventh Grade: The 7th grade students study 3 or 4 different topics throughout the course of the year.

Hebrew: Those students who have already become *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and those students who will not become *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* until the late summer of their 7th grade or fall of their 8th grade year will study Modern Hebrew. Those students who are currently preparing for their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* will study *trope* and the prayers that students lead during the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* with Cantor Amy Levy. It is very important that students attend both their tutoring sessions and this *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* class with Cantor Levy. Additionally, all students must be attending Religious School in order to have a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. Please keep this in mind when scheduling tutoring appointments.

Judaic studies: During the second hour the 7th grade will study the events of the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism. This class focuses on what the Holocaust means to us as Jews and how we can incorporate the events into our Jewish identities. The Holocaust course is a semester long course. The Anti-Semitism course focuses on a history of Anti-Semitism, modern cases of Anti-Semitism and how the students might react to Anti-Semitism should they encounter it.

Eighth Grade: The 8th grade core course focuses on the World's Religions. Students study the emergence of Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism as well as their current practices and different sects.

They compare basic areas of faith, practice, belief and creed to their own Jewish rituals and beliefs. In this way they learn about themselves while learning about others. Highlights of the class include visits from area religious leaders where students and parents are encouraged to ask questions and learn from our neighbors. **The 8th grade is taught by Janet Luterman and Steffi Belitsky.**

Ninth Grade: The 9th grade core course focuses on the different branches of Judaism. Students study Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Orthodox Judaism. They often look at “controversial” issues such as the treatment of non Jews, conversion, abortion, the relationship and treatment of men and women, in order to understand and debate some of the differences in the movements. Students compare prayer books, worship styles, and leadership issues in order to understand the differences within our religion. Again in 9th grade, students learn about our own movement by comparing it to the other movements in Judaism. **The 9th grade is taught by Rabbi Peter Rigler.**

Tenth Grade: The 10th grade core course might be titled “What I need to know in the world as a Jew”. The course will begin with an exploration of the Arab Israeli Conflict. Building off of the knowledge students already know about Israel they will be given the tools to understand what they hear on the news and read in the papers about our Jewish homeland. Additionally they will learn how to react to people who may be Anti-Semitic or Anti-Israel, especially on a college campus. The second half of the year will focus on things the students need to know as they go out into the Jewish world. What are the resources of the Jewish community? How does a synagogue function? Why should they stay connected to the Jewish community? During the second half of the year students will also prepare for their confirmation service, working on original themes and writings to include in their service. **The 10th Grade Confirmation Class is taught by Rabbi Sussman.**

In the winter the Class will go to Washington, D.C. and attend the Religious Action Center’s *L’Taken* Seminar with students from all over the U.S. This Seminar focuses on Jewish values and social justice. It also stresses prayer, education and action. As part of the program students will visit Capitol Hill and the offices of their Senators and Representatives to lobby for various Jewish causes. **It is expected that all 10th grade students attend the Washington D.C. trip!**

The formal 10th grade program concludes with the Service of Confirmation on the morning of the Festival of *Shavuot*. The service is composed by the Class and will link our students to their ancestors as they express and affirm their evolving Jewish identity. A dinner and Service of Consecration takes place *Erev Shavuot*. *All students in Grades 7 through 9 are invited to attend both the Services of Consecration and Confirmation in anticipation of their own Confirmation.*

The Elective Courses are as follows:

In the first semester, the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades will choose an elective. In the second semester the 8th and 9th choose another elective and the 10th graders start preparing for their Confirmation Service.

The elective curriculum complements the entire Confirmation Academy curriculum and was carefully selected to ensure that students have a balanced Jewish education and are able to have a choice in their educational curriculum.

Possible electives include:

- ❖ A Jewish Book Club
- ❖ Doing the Mitzvah
- ❖ Sexuality in the Jewish tradition
- ❖ “A Bintel Brief” – Jewish Ethical Dilemmas
- ❖ Hebrew Hammers – KI’s Youth Band

GRATZ COLLEGE’S JEWISH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL/THE ISAAC MAYER WISE PROGRAM:

The program is intended for outstanding Reform students in the congregational schools who are challenged to achieve an advanced and intense Jewish education. This is a two year course of Jewish studies for 11th & 12th grade students from Reform congregations. Future religious school teachers and leaders are trained here. As part of the program, these students are required to be Teaching Assistants in our Religious School on Sundays and Tuesdays. At the end of the two years, I.M. Wise students will have accumulated enough credits to be graduated with a Teaching Certificate in Reform Jewish Education. Scholarships are available from K.I. - forms can be obtained from the School Office.

**Other information can be obtained from Ross Levy at Gratz College,
215-635-7300.**

IV. K.I. KIDS ACTIVITIES:

YOUTH GROUPS – Club 34, Club 56, Jr. KIFTY and Sr. KIFTY:

A formal Jewish education is best complemented by informal Jewish education. The program coordinates activities for our young people in 3rd & 4th grades (Club 34); 5th & 6th grades (Club 56); 7th & 8th grades (Jr. KIFTY) and 9th to 12th grades (Sr. KIFTY). The goal of our youth program is to guide our youth toward a strong emotional attachment to Judaism, as well as a deepening commitment to K.I. that will last long after formal religious education. **Janet Luterman is our Youth Activities Advisor. Mollie Serdikoff is the Assistant Youth Advisor. They can be reached at 215-887-8704 ext. 133 or at kifty@kenesethisarel.org.**

****ALL KIFTY EVENTS ARE LISTED ON THE SCHOOL CALENDAR. WATCH FOR FLYERS WITH MORE DETAILS!!****

SCHOLARSHIPS and JEWISH PROGRAMS:

KI understands that our formal religious school is just one aspect of your child’s religious education. Children are strongly encouraged to attend the Union of Reform Judaism’s summer Camp Harlam and regional youth group events. The KI Scholarship Committee provides aid to students in need who wish to attend URJ Camp Harlam. Scholarships are available also for NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) events and Israel Programs. Applications are available in the School Office.

“SHIR JOY” – YOUTH CHOIR:

Children in grades 2 through 10 are encouraged to join the choir. The group takes part in Family *Shabbatot* and congregational services as well as in congregational and community programs. Choir rehearsals are Sundays after Religious School. All that is needed is the desire to sing!

The choir is under the able direction of Liz Sussman, our Music Educator. She can be reached through the Religious School office, 215-887-8704.

SPECIAL SHABBAT PROGRAMS:

There are many different types of services offered at KI. **Our goal is to have one family worship experience per weekend. They vary by time and day to offer your family the most flexibility.**

Family Shabbat Services – the FIRST Friday of each month. These services are traditional KI Friday night services with a special family friendly sermon. Many of the services are led by a specific grade (3rd - 9th) and there is often a dinner before the service. Please check the calendar to find out what dates your child’s class is leading this special service.

Tot Shabbat Services – on the SECOND Friday of each month we offer a special *Kabbalat Shabbat* program (to welcome *Shabbat*) at 6:00 pm. Geared toward younger children we welcome *Shabbat* with songs and our own KI puppets! A community dinner follows the service.

Blue Bell Shabbat Services – on the THIRD or FOURTH Friday of each month we will have a more informal, family friendly service in Blue Bell. The format of the service will be similar to our Blue Jeans *Shabbat* Service (dress is still to be determined). There will be a family *Shabbat* dinner before the service and the service will be held at an earlier time.

Jr. Congregation - For students in grades 3-7 and their families, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. usually on the THIRD Saturday of the month. This service is an opportunity for students to lead a *Shabbat* morning service on their own. Students will take turns leading prayers, acting out the *Torah* portion, and learning about the *Shabbat* morning service in a fun, interactive way. **Jr. Congregation is also great preparation for a child’s *Bar or Bat Mitzvah*.** Parents are welcome to attend or are encouraged to attend the regular *Shabbat* morning service held at the same time.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS:

In addition to the preparation for holidays done in the school the holidays are celebrated in many fun and exciting ways at KI.

Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 30) and Yom Kippur (Oct. 9) During the regular morning service on the High Holy Days, students in all grades are invited to our High Holy Day youth programs. This year we will feature again programs with classroom activities and a short service for our youngest students (under 2nd grade) and an age appropriate service for our 2nd - 6th graders. Our Jr. High and High School students can choose between helping out in the classrooms with the younger students or by attending the adult service.

At 3:00 p.m. on *Rosh Hashanah* and 2:00 p.m. on *Yom Kippur* there is a special TOT family service featuring our KI puppets and a special young children's prayer book. This service is open to the community - please invite your friends and family and join us.

At 4:15 p.m. on *Rosh Hashanah* there will be a community *tashlich* service and *oneg* at Wall Park in Elkins Park.

On *Kol Nidre* there is a family service at 6:00 pm. This service uses our regular High Holiday *Machzor* prayer book and is a shortened version of the 8:00 *Kol Nidre* service. It is also open to the community.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah – On *Sukkot* we have an annual brown-bag dinner before *Erev Sukkot* services. There are crafts for students to decorate the *Sukkah* and a chance for everyone to celebrate our harvest holiday. These will take place October 13, 2008, with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and at a service at 6:45 p.m. The start of a new *Torah* cycle brings a chance to formally welcome all of our new students. Children beginning their Religious School education are honored at our Consecration service on *Erev Simchat Torah* October 20, 2008, at 6:45 pm. Everyone is invited to join in this joyous celebration of our holy book!

Hanukkah – Join us for our annual *Hanukkah* candle lighting, dinner, service, and super *Oneg* extravaganza. This year we will celebrate on December 26, 2008 with the lighting of the “giant” *Menorah* at 5:45 p.m., a dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Service at 7:15 p.m. ending with an *Oneg* extravaganza at 8:30 p.m.

Purim - Come in costume for our *Purim* celebration. See our KI staff dressed up for a skit that is sure to make you laugh. This happening will take place March 9, 2008, beginning with a Brown-Bag dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by the *Megillah* reading. The *Purim* carnival will be held Sunday, March 8, 2008 from Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Shavuot - Each year we observe the giving of the *Torah* by witnessing a new generation accept the responsibility of our Jewish tradition. The entire congregation is invited to attend the Consecration service at 8:00 p.m. on May 28, 2009, and the Confirmation service at 10:30 am on May 29, 2009.

V. HOW PARENTS CAN BECOME INVOLVED:

P.T. A.:

The PTA strives to serve the needs of the students by fostering a partnership among the parents, clergy, faculty and the Director of Religious Education through communication, social and educational programming as well as financial support. The PTA organizes events for students and parents as well as the entire congregation during the year. It is a wonderful way to meet other families and to become a part of K.I. Ideally we would like two parent volunteers to act as Room Parents in each classroom. **Volunteers are asked to contact the PTA Co-Chairs, Barbara Azuelos or Rochelle Dobson Kim Manin** to see how you can be of help.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

The mission of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel's Religious School Committee is to participate in the development and refinement of the school's goals, objectives and programs. The Religious School Committee provides support and advocates for high quality Reform Jewish educational programs for students and families. The Committee works collaboratively with the Director of Religious Education and related educational staff and serves as a liaison between the school, the families of the school and the larger synagogue community.

Members of this Committee include a variety of congregants who have an interest in the school. Some have students currently enrolled; others have students who have graduated. Meetings are held monthly. We would be happy to have input from anyone who has ideas or concerns about the Religious School.

If you have concerns or you would like to join the Religious School Committee please contact Religious School Committee Co-Chairs Ellen Finkelstein or Lori Siegal.

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