

Dear Bar and Bat Mitzvah Families,

Believe it or not, you're now about a year away from your child's bar/bat mitzvah ceremony! We look forward to beginning the formal process of study that will engage your child in connecting to Jewish community, study, and spirituality. This journey takes several steps, so please take the time to read and plan for the experience ahead. Please note this is a separate study path from Religious School, and throughout bar/bat mitzvah preparations, students continue with their Religious School classes as well.

PATHWAY 1: B'NEI MITZVAH SEMINARS

Most of our students take advantage of our **B'nei Mitzvah Seminars**, one of the paths toward becoming bar/bat mitzvah. This innovative program has enhanced the lives of our students and families in the last several years and has been met with great success. The seminars all meet on **Wednesdays, from 4PM TO 5PM***. Seminars are taught by our cantorial team, and contain small groups of students, who inspire and engage each other in the learning process. This has been very successful in connecting our students to their Jewish identity and community.

PRAYER SEMINAR:

Students attend Prayer Seminar with Rabbi Cantor Lily Blum. In this class, students review and solidify their knowledge of the prayers and blessings your child will lead at the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony.

TORAH SEMINAR:

Following the Prayer Seminar, students proceed to Rabbi Cantor Wissot's **Torah Seminar**, in which they learn to chant their maftir (concluding segment of Torah, reserved for the person of honor in any service) as well as discussing the narrative of their Torah portion. They also gain skills for learning other segments of Torah, which they will go on to do later in this process.

HAFTARAH SEMINAR:

Following the Torah Seminar, students attend Cantor Kliger's **Haftarah Seminar**, and they learn to chant and understand their Haftarah portion.

MENTORING:

After that, your child will receive 8 private 30 minute lessons with Rabbi Cantor Lily Blum, where they will continue to work on their Torah chanting as well as any other materials.

MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS WITH RABBI AND CANTOR

Believe it or not, this leads you up to the final weeks before your child's big day! In those last few weeks, there will be final meetings and rehearsals with the officiating rabbi and cantor.

PATHWAY 2: Independent Study Path

Some students either need more individualized attention or cannot attend classes on Wednesdays. These families choose an independent study path with private tutoring at the temple with one of our qualified tutors, on a schedule that will fit your needs throughout the bar/bat mitzvah year. There is a small additional fee to the regular training fees. If for some reason you think your child cannot be a part of the seminars, please talk with Rabbi Cantor Wissot or Cantor Kliger.