

Dear Parents:

As a new school year begins, I would like to share some of my thoughts on Jewish education with you. My approach to Jewish education is simple and straight forward; Jewish education, whether in religious school or day school, is a crucial factor in a child's development as a Jew and as a person . . . it comes second only to the Jewish education that a child receives at home. My vision for our students and their families is to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of their Jewish heritage, its traditions and practices.

Our Religious School faculty is dedicated to providing the most positive and creative Jewish educational environment possible. However, as you have heard from me many times, the task of Jewish education is a shared responsibility between the school and the home. Your involvement is the necessary key to the success of your child's Jewish education.

What can you do to help make this the most meaningful and rewarding Jewish experience for your children? First and foremost, Jewish education has to be relevant and real to your lives so that it will be relevant to your children's lives.

To assist you, here is my Top Ten List for success:

1. Children must attend Religious School on a regular basis
2. Bring your child to Religious School on time.
3. Participate in family programs at the synagogue.
4. Participate in adult education programs.
5. Visit your child's classroom and get to know your child's teacher.
6. Ask about your child's progress.
7. Discuss with me your thoughts and expectations concerning Jewish education.
8. Offer constructive ideas that will enrich our education programs.
9. Be here for us when we need help and even if we don't need help.
10. Experience Judaism first hand with your children.

I am committed to making your child's Religious School experience at Congregation Anshai Torah as rewarding and meaningful as it can be. I am aware that for some, this can be a period of anxiety and sometimes conflicts can arise; but hopefully it will be a time of intensely positive feelings. Please do not hesitate to call upon me for help in any way. Together, we can move forward to the goal of imparting Jewish knowledge and a love of Judaism to our children.

On behalf of Diane, Andrew, Jamie, Ella and Scott, I want to wish all of my Anshai Torah family our sincerest wishes for a Shana Tova Um'tukah

Bob