

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR B'NAI MITZVAH MONITORING SESSIONS**

Candidates for Bar or Bat Mitzvah will be expected to begin lessons with the Cantor or a private tutor approved by Cantor 12 months in advance of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. For students with special needs or learning difficulties, it is urged that tutoring begin even earlier. Except in the case of special needs, **as an absolute minimum**, students are required to do the following:

- Friday night Kiddush (Siddur Sim Shalom, p.49)
- Blessings Over Tallit (p.62)
- Torah Service (both parts - pp. 139-141 and pp. 148, 153-154)
- Torah Blessings (before and after their aliyah)
- Maftir or other appropriate Torah reading
- Haftarah Blessings (before and after Haftarah)
- Haftarah
- Speech (*D'var Torah*) introducing the Torah or Haftarah

In addition, students are expected to learn and attempt to do as much of the Shacharit service as they possibly can. Instructions on the chanting of the Shacharit service are being given by the Hebrew School. Each student and each approved tutor should make use of the section of the Beth Shalom website of the Friday Evening and Shabbat Shacharit and Torah services, in order to help the student master the parts of the service he or she hopes to lead.

### **A special note for students who are doubling:**

The Congregation has taken much justifiable pride in the high level of accomplishment evidenced by our B'nai Mitzvah students. We want to ensure that such competency continues even during doubling. Therefore, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that all students still learn the entire Shacharit and Torah services, at a minimum.

To further this goal, students who are doubling are still expected to learn everything that students who are having a single Bar/Bat Mitzvah are learning. Decisions about how to divide sections of the service between specific doubling students will not be made until two weeks before the final rehearsal with the Cantor. This is for two reasons: First and foremost, our goal is that all our students develop a competency in the service which will give them the basis for a lifetime of meaningful Jewish identity and involvement. Second, there are any number of scenarios that might cause a planned double to become a single on the day of the event (e.g., one of the students may become ill or have to reschedule their date for other reasons) so that each student should be prepared to lead all the parts of the service normally reserved for students.

Sessions and performance goals remain the same whether or not a student is doubling. If you have any questions about the process for assigning parts during doubling, please refer to the service section of this guide and/or speak to Cantor.

The B'nai Mitzvah coordinator will provide you with a service "flow" chart. It helps to explain which family does what, when.

**For all students:**

The Shacharit service begins in Siddur Sim Shalom on page 105, top ("Shochen Ad") and proceeds through page 138 (Kaddish Shalem). Only if the student has mastered the entire Shacharit service will he/she be permitted to lead Friday night services (aside from the Kiddush).

In addition to lessons with their tutors, students will be provided with a series of monitoring sessions, 30-45 minutes in length, either on a Sunday after Religious School or a weekday after school hours, plus a complete rehearsal (normally 1 week prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.) If Cantor Apt is the student's tutor, these monitoring sessions do not need to occur as Cantor Apt will be working with the student all year. The sessions – which are shown on the Cantor's B'nai Mitzvah Training Schedule – will be spaced as follows:

- Session 1 - approximately 4 months prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Session 2 - approximately 3 months prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Session 3 - approximately 2 months prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Session 4 - approximately 1 month prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Session 5 - approximately 2 weeks prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Full Rehearsal - 1-2 weeks prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Cantor Apt will conduct, as a minimum, Sessions 1,3, 5 and the rehearsal. She may also conduct Sessions 2 and 4. [Because they have been tutors for many years, Debbie Wilcox, Jerry Sinay, and Cantor Yael Fishman have been permitted to monitor their own students for completion of goals for Sessions 2 and 4, and report back to Cantor via email regarding their students' progress. Such monitoring is done by them without the need for separate lessons. This protocol will also be used for other approved tutors, once Cantor is satisfied that monitoring of the students involved is being done properly by those tutors. Of course, for any students having difficulty, Cantor may opt to increase the frequency of involvement, either in person or over the telephone.]

**Monitoring Session Goals:** Tutors and students should know that Cantor is expecting the following as performance goals for each of the 5 Sessions:

For Session 1 (approximately 4 months prior):

1. Torah and Haftarah Blessings - complete
2. Haftarah chanting - 2/3 complete
3. Torah Service, Part 1, pp. 139-141; and Part 2, pp. 148, 153-154- complete
4. Shacharit, pp. 112-114 - complete

For Session 2 (approximately 3 months prior):

1. Haftarah chanting - complete
2. Shacharit, pp. 115-116 and 138 - complete

For Session 3 (approximately 2 months prior):

1. Maftir chanting - complete
2. Shacharit, pp. 110-112 - complete

For Session 4 (approximately 1 month prior):

1. Torah chanting, additional portion(s) - complete/in process
2. Shacharit, pp. 105-109 - complete

For Session 5 (approximately 2 weeks prior):

1. All Torah reading - complete
2. Shacharit -- All Shacharit (including pp. 117-120) - complete]
3. Speech completed with *D'var Torah* Tutor and checked by Rabbi
4. Blessing Over Tallit and Friday night Kiddush [Pesukei D'Zimrah and any other portions of Friday Service] - complete

**NOTE:** The above expectations are geared to the B'nai Mitzvah occurring during Shabbat morning services. For students opting to do Shabbat Mincha or Sunday morning services, a separate monitoring protocol will be arranged between the Cantor and the tutor. Also, the above expectation listing presumes the student's ability to undertake the entire Shacharit service, including the full repetition of the Amidah (i.e. continuing beyond the Kedushah on page 116 and doing pages 117-120). The expectations should be adjusted to accommodate students who will be doing less of the Shacharit. Tutors and students must know that, before any time is spent learning the Shacharit prayers, students should have completed the Torah and Haftarah blessings, both parts of the Torah service, and should have completed at least half of the Haftarah. **If students are having obvious difficulty mastering the Haftarah, tutors should defer teaching prayers until they are confident that progress with the Haftarah is well underway. (If tutors note special difficulties with a student, they are to advise the Cantor as early as possible in the training process, so that an appropriate plan may be devised for the student.)** Also, it is important for both students and their tutors to understand that, if any of the Shacharit is to be undertaken, the student must focus on and first be proficient in leading the Sh'ma and the Amidah – the central and more fundamental prayers within our service – before commencing to learn the earlier Shacharit prayers (e.g., Shochan Ad at page 105). Any questions regarding how to tailor a student's participation in leading services to the student's individual abilities must be addressed to and resolved by the Cantor and Rabbi.

**Scheduling Conflicts – IMPORTANT:** If a student has a conflict with the B'nai Mitzvah Training Schedule for a Monitoring Session to be conducted by Cantor, **please try to give Cantor at least 48 hours notice--this is especially important if the lesson is on Sunday afternoon. Please do not contact the Cantor by email or telephone on Shabbat.**