

**MACHON BETH SHOLOM STUDY TRACK:  
FACT SHEET**

### Monday Schedule

6:45 – 7:30PM	<i>Perek Alef</i> (First Period) Core Class
7:30 – 7:45PM	<i>Hafsakah</i> (Break)/Minyan
7:45 – 8:30PM	<i>Perek Bet</i> (Second Period) Rotating Mini Courses

**Classes:** MBS classes are great! They are a combination of discussion, fun, activity and thinking all rolled into a 45 minute *perek* or period. You do not need to bring anything with you to class except for an open mind, an open heart and a willingness to share your thoughts and listen to the thoughts of others. We also do not assign homework!

On Monday evenings or time together is divided into two periods or *p'rakim*.

**Perek Alef – First Period** will be as follows from 6:45-7:30PM:

- **Grades 8 and 9 – Facing History and Ourselves taught by Gila Hadani Ward:** Through a rigorous investigation of the events that led to the Holocaust, as well as other recent examples of genocide and mass violence, students in a Facing History class learn to combat prejudice with compassion, indifference with participation, and myth and misinformation with knowledge. ([www.facinghistory.org](http://www.facinghistory.org)):
- **Grade 10 – Conservative Judaism, Comparative Judaism and Comparative Religion taught by Rabbi Jennifer Schlosberg:** Who are we? What does our movement stand for? How do we differ from other Jews? How do we differ from other religions? Join us for great discussion and thought provoking learning.
- **Grades 11 and 12 – Values You Need To Succeed In Life taught by Rabbi Alan B. Lucas:** The future can often be an exciting but scary road to navigate. How do we do this? How do I explore who I am? Where does being Jewish fit in? Rabbi Lucas, in a safe and open environment, helps us think about difficult situations and encourages and empowers us to think.

**Perek Bet – Second Period** will be a series of 4-5 week mini-courses. Each student will study with each teacher at different junctures during the school year

The 3 courses being offered initially are:

- Compu-Judaism – The Ethics of Technology taught by Rabbi Lucas
- Cinema Judaica – how film has impacted Jewish identity and vice-versa taught by Rabbi Schlosberg
- Bio-Medical Ethics – Look at modern science through a Jewish lens taught by Gila Hadani Ward

### Special Programs

- At different times during the year, we will have special programming at TBS. These are guest speakers or programs that are meaningful, engaging and only serve to supplement the MBS Curriculum. You will receive ample notification about these programs. *Please note that we do take attendance at these programs and consider them an integral part of our schedule.*
- **Rosh Hodesh Programming:** We have an incredible program which has become a big part of Machon. Once each month, on or near *Rosh Hodesh*, the beginning of the new Hebrew month, in place of classes the boys and girls will meet separately by gender and have a special Rosh Hodesh group, based on the Jewish tradition of women's new moon celebrations. This will be done in conjunction with Moving Traditions' Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl's Thing Program. The program is a values-based experiential program where our girls will experience issues relevant to them through a Jewish lens. While the girls are meeting, we will also have parallel special programming for the 8-12 grade boys, as part of a special pilot program for boys sponsored by Moving Traditions. Hopefully these programs will enable the boys to learn together, have a good time and address issues with which they grapple as well.

## General Information

**Derech Eretz:** *Derech Eretz* means “the way of the world,” the proper way to behave as individuals and as Jews. These include good manners, respect for people, and norms of good behavior.

We seek to create an engaging learning environment that is built on mutual respect. We ask that students approach all of the activities at MBS with an open mind and an open heart. While classes are filled with discussion and activity, we expect both students and teachers to conduct these conversations, debates and activities with proper decorum.

At MACHON BETH SHOLOM we expect our students to behave with a strong sense of *derech eretz*.

- ✧ Treating one another with kindness and respect
- ✧ Treating our Rabbis and teachers with respect
- ✧ Wearing a head covering out of respect to the synagogue
- ✧ Respect of the sacred texts which we will be studying
- ✧ Maintaining the property and physical space in as good a condition or better than when it was when entered

**Attendance:** Attendance is an integral part of participation at MBS. Attendance is taken and recorded during each class, MBS session and program.

**For students who have a 60% or greater attendance over their years in the MBS program, they will be eligible for the honor of**

**Confirmation with Distinction – At the end of 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Graduation with Distinction – At the end of 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This year the Confirmation and Graduation ceremonies will take place on the first day of Shavuot, which is on **Wednesday June 4, 2014.**

Students who attend the MACHON High School Program less than 40% in a given year may be asked to leave the program.

**Cell Phones:** The use of cellular phones is not permitted during school hours. Please understand the following procedure which is used in our classrooms. It will be explained to the students in class.

If a student uses his or her phone during class, the phone will be confiscated, given back to the student at the end of the school day and the parent will be contacted. If that student uses the cell phone a second time, the phone will be confiscated and the parent will have to pick it up from the MBS Director.

If you need to reach your child or your child needs to contact you, please do so through the telephones in our MACHON office. If for some reason there is no one in the school office and it is an emergency, please contact the main synagogue number (621-2288) and the MBS Director can be paged.

If you need to pick your child up early from MACHON, please let us know in advance (if you know in advance), either in writing, email or a phone call, or by calling the school office. Please do not call your child directly. As you know, we are trying to create a positive, meaningful and fun Jewish learning environment for your child and indeed, your family.

## Communication

Communication to our students and families is very important. To be most efficient, both parents and students will receive an email each week to keep students and parents apprised of events. Please make sure that your email address and that of your child are up to date. You may always contact Gila Hadani Ward, the MBS Director at (516) 621-2288 x129 or ghadaniward@tbsroslyn.org.