



B"ח

מזל טוב

You are cordially invited...

to review our Bar and Bat Mitzvah Policy

Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations are important, special occasions for our children and families. Due to the size of our *kehilla*, we have developed a number of protocols that aim to avoid conflicts between Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations so that our students can celebrate with each other for all of our *smachot*. Through thoughtful planning, follow-through and implementation of these protocols, we can help ensure that the celebrations add to the positive atmosphere within our Hillel community.

Enclosed you will find:

1. An updated list of our bar/bat-mitzvah protocols
2. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) for additional clarification

Please take the following into account as you prepare for your *simcha*:

In your child's 4th Grade year*:

1. Please contact Rabbi Eli Kenigsberg at ekenigsberg@hillelhebrew.org to reserve your dates. Please provide**:
 - a. Your child's Hebrew Birthdate date***
 - b. The date and *parasha* of your child's Shabbat celebration***
 - c. The date of your Sunday/weekday celebration
 - d. The day and *parasha* you would like to celebrate your child's first *aliyah* and/or first time putting on *Tefillin* in school

****If you join Hillel after 4th grade, please make sure to provide this information as soon as you register, and the school will contact you if there is a conflict.***

****If you do not have all of the information in 4th grade, please notify us of this information as you finalize your plans. Do not wait until all plans are set.**

(*** Use this link as a tool to assist you in identifying Hebrew dates in relation to our calendar:



1) Hillel encourages bar mitzvah boys to have their first *aliyah* at the school minyan with their friends. Some families like to celebrate the first day the boy puts on *Tefillin*, too. We encourage you to have this take place at school. Please contact Rabbi Kenigsberg to reserve the date. If you elect to do the first aliyah at your own shul, please do not invite classmates to this as we cannot supervise nor can we arrange supervision.

2) It is appropriate for every bar or bat mitzvah to take on a *chessed* project as they assume a role in the broader *kehilla*. If you need suggestions or ideas for a project please contact Rabbi Zach Swigard or Mrs. Chaya Kenigsberg for ideas and guidance.

3) We ask that you invite the entire grade level to your celebration. If a girl or boy includes invitations to the other gender, please then invite the entire grade including all the boys and girls. If you elect only to invite the same gender to the party, then boys should invite all the boys and girls should invite all the girls.

4) Parties or events that require transportation must end an hour before Shabbat or begin one hour after Shabbat, allowing time for students to leave and arrive while respecting the sanctity of the day.

5) Parties should confirm to Orthodox guidelines in *kashrut*. If the event is catered or food is ordered, it must come from a reputable establishment with an accepted *hechsher*.

6) If there is an open bar at your event, parents are expected to ensure the alcohol and bar are secure from minors having access to the bar. We encourage you to have a separate non-alcoholic bar for soft drinks to avoid any confusion or errors.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) How do I reserve/submit my dates?

Email Rabbi Kenigsberg at ekenigsberg@hillelhebrew.org with your requested dates.

2) How do I know my date is confirmed?

Rabbi Kenigsberg or his designee will correspond with you via email that your date is confirmed and that there is no conflict with a school event or another child in the grade.

3) How am I assured everyone will know I have reserved the date?

Rabbi Kenigsberg will add it to our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Calendar that will be publicized to all parents.

4) How can I check to make sure that the information on the calendar is correct?

The Bar Mitzvah Calendar will be added to the parent calendar weekly. You can also view the Bar Mitzvah Calendar at the QR code below:



5) Is there a way for me to check in advance prior to speaking with Rabbi Kenigsberg if a date is already reserved?

Check the Bar Mitzvah Calendar that will be added to the parent calendar weekly. You can also view the Bar Mitzvah Calendar by following the QR code above.

6) What guarantees that my *simcha* is on the calendar, and that no one will make an event on that same day?

There are no guarantees. However, this system will minimize the potential for conflicts. We are blessed to be part of a large and growing kehilla. While we encourage everyone to be considerate and thoughtful in their planning, we recognize that there are many factors that families must take into consideration when planning a *simcha*. Family schedules, birth dates, pre-planned events and other considerations may prevent families from reserving early or sticking to their original date. In addition, Hillel is blessed with many new families joining us in Middle School, and those families may have already reserved a date prior to their registering at Hillel. Please note, due to the size of our *kehilla*, families can expect that at times, there may be another student in a different grade celebrating his/her *simcha* on the same day/week.

If a new family has a conflict with an already reserved date, or if something causes a family already registered to change their date and cause a conflict, the school will try to mediate between the families. However, the school does not guarantee resolution. We do, however, expect our families to respect our protocols.

7. What should I do if my date has changed?

Please inform Rabbi Kenigsberg immediately of your new date so that he can adjust the calendar and make your original day available again.