

Dear Bet Mitzvah Student and Family,

We, at B'nai Jehudah, are excited that you have chosen to celebrate your bet mitzvah with our community! This is an important milestone in a Jewish person's life and we are eager to help you mark this special moment as a family.

Included in your bet mitzvah folder are materials that will help you navigate this journey. We hope that this packet of information will serve as a useful resource as you plan and prepare for this special day. As you read through your materials, please know that we are here to answer any questions you may have!

We understand that there are many moving pieces in planning for a bet mitzvah, and we want to be as helpful as possible! While this packet contains lots of helpful details, here are a few tips that we would like to highlight as our top advice for achieving a successful bet mitzvah experience:

1. **Attend services as much as possible!** Coming on Friday nights and Saturday mornings to pray with our community is the best way to learn the prayers and the *minhag*, the customs, of our community. Students who regularly attend services with their family report a much easier time preparing for their bet mitzvah.
2. **Practice, practice, practice!** We understand that students are very busy these days with lots to juggle. Yet, in the same way that one cannot play in the championship without coming to practice each week, bet mitzvah requires that you put in the work to get ready for the big game! This means setting aside time, daily if possible, to go over your materials. Students who make regular time to practice their liturgy and Torah report a much less stressful experience overall and a deeper sense of preparation and confidence when the day arrives.
3. **Be a mensch, invite everyone to your celebration!** Our tradition teaches that we are to treat others as we would like to be treated, and to lead with compassion and kindness. One way that we model our Jewish values is to invite every member of your bet mitzvah class to your service AND any celebrations you plan afterwards. Leaving classmates out only serves to create heartache and is not a reflection of our Jewish values. We firmly direct all bet mitzvah families to invite their entire class to all celebrations for the bet mitzvah.
4. **Talk about the “why” as a family!** Bet Mitzvah is not just something we do mindlessly, it is a meaningful piece of our Jewish tradition that connects us to the millions of Jews who have come before us. To become a bet mitzvah is to take your place among the Jewish people, to show your commitment to our tradition, to take on a tough task and model perseverance and determination and to celebrate your Jewish heritage with friends and family. Talk about why bet mitzvah is important as a family and help one another understand why this work and effort is meaningful and valuable to your family and your Jewish identity. Knowing your ‘why’ helps students feel motivated to tackle the work and helps deepen the meaning of this special day.

If we can be of any help in the coming months, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to sharing in your family's joy when your child is called to the Torah as a bet mitzvah.

Rabbi Kramer, Rabbi Brazner, Rabbi Rothstein, Michelle Adler-Wexler – Bet Mitzvah Coordinator