

2025-2026 Confirmation Assignments and Due Dates

ALL ITEMS DUE CAN BE SENT TO EDUCATION@BNAIJEHUDAH.ORG

If more than 3 classes are missed, a make-up assignment will be required.

All assigned projects and writing assignments must be completed by the due dates provided.

Due Dates for Students:

- December 3 - Favorite Jewish Memory
- January 1 - IJP Project Meeting with Rabbi
- February 18 - Tallit completed, artwork and tzitzit tied
- March 4 - Service lyunnim & Artwork
- March 6 - Brotherhood Essay Contest (500 words)

Meetings and Due Dates for Parent/Guardians:

- January 16 - Confirmation Trip paid in full
- February 20 - Casual students headshot, name listing of student and parents/guardians for programs.
- April 15 - Parent/Guardian meeting, 7:00pm

Favorite Jewish Memory in 50 words Due Date: December 3

Confirmation students are required to write about their favorite Jewish memory for the Confirmation announcement in our eNews and for the Confirmation Service Program. They will be given class time on November 20 to begin this assignment, which will be due on December 3.

Individualized Jewish Path (IJP) Project Completion Date: January 1

Confirmation means affirming your Jewish identity. Part of the process is figuring out what your Jewish identity is. At the end of the day, you decide who you are. But you can also learn a lot about yourselves by looking at yourselves through the eyes of others. This year's Individualized Jewish Path (IJP) Project will help you get to know yourselves better with the help of people you trust. First, you'll prepare for five conversations with people you trust with the goal of seeing yourself through their eyes. You'll have the five conversations, and then you'll have a final conversation with either Rabbi Brazner or Rothstein. The Rabbi will guide you through discussion and processing your experience, as well as envisioning your future. Finally, we will help you translate what you learned about yourself and your Jewish identity into artwork and text to adorn the tallit you will design and create as part of our Confirmation year together.

*There are **3 parts** to the IJP Project. Please read on for more information.*

Part 1 - Preparing for the Interviews

Suggestion: complete interviews before December 11

Please choose one person from each of the following 5 categories:

1. Parents, 2. Adult role model (not in your family), 3. Jewish role model, 4. Peer, 5. Anyone you choose

In each conversation, you should ask the following six questions; and for each answer, ask the person to illustrate their answer with a story about you:

What are my qualities that I should be proudest of?

What gets me "stuck"? (Or, what prevents me from being my best self?)

What do I value?

If you had to pick a character in a book or movie, who would I be most like and why?

How am I Jewish? (Or, how do you see me being Jewish?)

How is being Jewish important to me?

Also choose at least five questions from the list below for each person you talk with. They don't have to be the same for each person.

What do you think makes me excited to get up in the morning to get going?

What do you think I worry about? (What do you think keeps me up at night?)

What activities are most important to me?

What people are most important to me? What do you predict for my future?

Where do you see my Judaism leading me?

How do you see the Jewish life of my family from past to future?

In what skills and talents do I excel?

Which of my skills and talents are most important to me?

Who are my friends? Why do you think I'm friends with them?

Tell me about a time that you observed me being brave.

What should I ask you about me?

Once you've chosen all your questions, make some notes to yourself about how you would answer each one. This will help you compare how you see yourself with how others see you.

Individualized Jewish Path (IJP) Project (continued)

Part 2 - Conducting the Interviews

Suggestion: complete interview before December 11

Reserve at least 30 minutes for each conversation and be aware that you might want to spend longer. You may want to bring writing materials so you can take some notes. These interviews cannot be done through email.

After each conversation, review your notes and include a statement about what you learned about yourself from that person. You will need these notes for Part 3 - Reflection with a Rabbi.

Part 3 - Reflection with a Rabbi

Suggestion: schedule your meeting to be December 11 - January 1

You will be assigned to meet with either Rabbi Brazner or Rabbi Rothstein (the class is randomly divided up). Schedule a conversation with your assigned rabbi **ONLY AFTER** you have held your 5 interviews. The rabbis cannot meet with you until you have held your interviews.

Your meeting with either Rabbi Brazner or Rabbi Rothstein (whichever rabbi you are assigned) will help you reflect on what you've heard and envision your own Individualized Jewish Path. This will be a good first step for living as a Jewish adult post-Confirmation. As you reflect together, the rabbis will also help you translate that which you learned about yourself into artwork and text that you can then add to your tallit.

Tallit Project

Tallit Artwork Due Date: February 4

Tying Tzitzit Due Date: February 18

The reflection of the IJP project, with your assigned rabbi before January 1, will help prepare you for the Tallit project, which will be introduced on January 14.

Confirmation students will design and create custom Tallitot to wear for the Confirmation Service and beyond. Materials used include stencils, fabric markers, custom sewn tallit, painters' tape, iron on photos (must be done at home), etc. In addition to this process, students will learn to tie tzitzit.

Iyunnim and Iyun artwork

Due Date: March 4

An *iyun* (plural: *iyunnim*) is a writing about a prayer that expresses your own thoughts or interpretation in a creative style. This is not a translation of a prayer. If you open our prayerbook, Mishkan T'filah, you will find on the right-hand side translations, and on the left-hand side creative interpretations of the prayer, or *iyunnim*. There are many different types; some examples are included below. Students will be asked to create an *iyun* for our Confirmation Service in May. *Iyunnim* will be introduced in class on February 18.

Students will also be invited to draw, create, or photograph something that goes along with and represents their *iyun*. This artwork will be used during the Confirmation Service to help our community further connect to the liturgy of our service.

Confirmation 500 Word Essay Due Date: March 6

Confirmation students are required to write an essay for the RABBI SAMUEL S. MAYERBERG MEMORIAL CHAUTAUQUA ESSAY CONTEST, sponsored by the Brotherhood at the Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah. Generations of Confirmation students have answered the prompt below, and we are eager to add your reflections and thoughts to our community's collection.

There will be monetary prizes awarded for the winning essays, courtesy of our Brotherhood. The winner will read their essay aloud for our community during the Confirmation Service.

Prompt:

What does being confirmed mean to you? How has being part of the Jewish community and continuing your formal Jewish Education through confirmation year enhanced your life? (Your identity, spirituality, sense of self, commitment to ritual, connection to ancestors or family, connection to Israel or the Jewish People, etc.)

Essays must be a minimum of 500 words.