

MBSHHS

בית הספר התיכון
ע"ש מרים וברנרד סוקול

Welcome to the
**Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol
Hebrew High School**
Parent Handbook & Program Catalog



5779 – 2018-2019



Artwork by Mark Fox

MIRIAM AND BERNARD H. SOKOL HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL
NORTH SUBURBAN SYNAGOGUE BETH EL, HIGHLAND PARK, IL

SHHS Semesters

Sokol Hebrew High School will be on a semester system this year,
with dates of classes listed below.

1st SEMESTER

September 16
September 23
September 30
October 7
October 14
October 21
October 28**
November 4
November 18
December 2
December 9
** These sessions will be a
combined session with NSSBE,
Moriah, and *B'nai Tikvah*

2nd SEMESTER

January 13
January 20
January 27
February 3
February 10
February 24
March 3**
March 10
March 17
April 14
April 28
May 5
May 12



Sokol Wednesdays is a HIT!

For those high-school students who cannot attend Sunday classes,
SHHS will offer SOKOL WEDNESDAYS!

This class, offered to students in grades 8-11, will be taught by Chuck Kahalnik
on select Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m., and will include a light dinner.
7:30 – 8 p.m. will be Conversational Hebrew for those taking that class.

Sokol Wednesday dates will be:

1st SEMESTER

September 12
September 26
October 3
October 10
October 17
October 24
November 7
November 14
November 28
December 5
December 12

2nd SEMESTER

January 16
January 23
January 30
February 6
February 13
February 20
February 27
March 6
March 13
March 20
April 3
April 10
April 17
May 1
May 8

Artwork by Mark Fox



Welcome to the Miriam and Bernard H. Sokol Hebrew High School. Please review this information carefully as it will help to familiarize you with the school and its programs.

Our Mission:

- To provide Jewish education to 8th thru 12th graders in preparation for college and beyond.
- To create a vibrant Jewish community for learning and social interaction.
- To set a foundation for informed and responsible Jewish leadership.
- To provide a supportive environment that advances the development of Jewish identity and commitment.
- To foster a love for Israel, Israel advocacy, and Israel travel.
- To encourage religious and spiritual growth through the many resources available at our Synagogue.

The SHHS Program:

- Our program offers a variety of course choices in Jewish studies and Hebrew language. Customized programs are available for students with different learning styles.
- Our dynamic curriculum engages students and encourages them to learn and grow as young Jewish adults. Both learning and doing are important goals in our school. Therefore, the curriculum integrates academic learning with a variety of enrichment programs, including field trips, integrated programs with Kadima/USY, and mentoring programs. Many of our students serve as *madrikhim* in the Cohen Religious School.
- Our teachers encourage the development of critical thinking skills through the use of stimulating discussions and questioning. Students will gain knowledge and a strong sense of Jewish identity that will be with them during their high school years and beyond.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Classes: The program offers classes on Jewish Studies and Hebrew language. Students choose classes on an interest basis. Jewish Studies classes focus on text study (*Tanakh*, *Tefilah*, and *Talmud/Halakah*) and general topics such as Jewish history, Jewish culture, and Israel. Each class is a semester long.

Hebrew Language classes are year-long, focus on conversational Hebrew, and utilize Ulpan learning techniques, promoting students to accurately speak the language. Students will build a working vocabulary while learning to speak Hebrew.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Completing 8th grade at the SHHS or in a Jewish Day School.
- Taking an additional three years of study at the SHHS in grades 9-11.
- Taking Hebrew at the SHHS or in public school is strongly encouraged.
- Completing the Rabbi's Supper Club in the 11th Grade.
- Maintaining good attendance. If a student is absent more than 3 times per semester, he/she WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT for that class.
- Completing an on-line evaluation for each course.

Curriculum Enrichment: Provides students with learning opportunities outside the classroom. Programs include Integrated Programming with USY, *mitzvah* projects, field trips, and participation in Synagogue-wide events.

Social Time: A bagel brunch and time to socialize is provided weekly.

Israel Advocacy: It is our hope that upon graduation, our high school students will travel to Israel, thus strengthening their ties to the land and its people.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Communication

School news-bites will be e-mailed weekly to SHHS families. Parents will be notified in the event of a class cancellation or class change.

Evaluation

Students will be asked to complete an anonymous evaluation form about the courses being offered.

Dress Code

Students should dress modestly and respectfully for class.

Visitors

We encourage non-enrolled high school students to visit. Current students who plan to invite visitors must get approval from the School Office first. All visitors must provide a written note from a parent or guardian indicating that they have permission to visit the school. Visiting students must provide their full names, their parents' or guardian names, and a phone number. Visitors are expected to follow the school rules.

Attendance Policy

For the security and safety of our students, parents need to notify the school by phone or by email if a student is absent or tardy. Students will not be allowed to leave the building early unless they have a written, signed note from the parent. In absence of a written note, the School Office will call home to verify that the student needs to leave. Only with a signed note or permission by phone will the student be allowed to leave. Without authorization, teachers may withhold class credit for absenteeism, tardiness, or early departure. Students are accountable for any missed work due to absences.

Behavior and Discipline

Students are expected to show respect for all synagogue leaders, teachers, staff, and fellow students, as well as respect for the building and property.

“If you will it, it is no dream” from Herzl’s book Old New Land

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

Through its Israel Scholarship program, the Synagogue awards qualified member graduates with a **merit monetary scholarship** for Israel travel on an approved teen Israel Travel program. [FYI: **Israel Scholarship dollars together with SKIP usually cover a substantial portion of the cost of an Israel trip.**]

Requirements for Full Israel Scholarship

- Students **must complete** 8th thru 11th grades at the Sokol Hebrew High School.
- Students **must complete** the Hebrew language requirements for all four years, at either the SHHS or by taking Hebrew classes at their public or private high school.

The logo for Israel Scholarships features the words "Israel" and "Scholarships" in a blue, serif font, stacked vertically. The text is centered between two horizontal blue bars.

Students who do not meet all of the requirements for a full scholarship may appeal for a partial scholarship.

The SKIP Program: SKIP monies are released to students who have successfully completed 8th grade at the Sokol Hebrew High School and who have also been active in Kadima/USY through the 9th grade. Students who do not fulfill these requirements risk being dropped from the SKIP program.

LaKol Study Option

The Sokol Hebrew High School is responsive to students with different learning styles. Parents should contact the Director of Formal Education to discuss a student’s needs. Students who successfully complete their LaKol programs are eligible for graduation and for the Israel Scholarship.

Ways for Students to Engage:

- Become *Madrikhim* (Religious School Aides)
- Join the *Va’ad Studentim* (Student Council)
- Participate in synagogue, classes, activities, and services

FIRST HOUR CLASSES Sundays, 11:15 am – 12:10 pm

First-hour Classes offer students a solid base in important Jewish topics such as Israel, *Tefilah*, *Halakah*, Responsa literature, History, and Holocaust. Students must take one (1) Foundation course each semester. This is a requirement for graduation.

SECOND HOUR CLASSES Sundays, 12:20 pm – 1:15 pm

Second-hour Classes offer students the opportunity to explore classes in Jewish culture, personalities, politics, media, and technology. Students must take one (1) elective course each semester. This is a requirement for graduation.

HEBREW

Students are required to take Hebrew either in the Sokol Hebrew High School or in public school for 4 years (in 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grade) in order to receive a full Israel Merit Scholarship.

If you have any questions about your Hebrew placement, please contact Alicia Gejman at 847-432-8900, Ext. 227 or agejman@nssbethel.org. The Hebrew class, which is a SECOND-HOUR CLASS, is yearlong.

Conversational Hebrew

Sundays – 12:20-1:15 p.m.

Sokol Wednesdays

Wednesdays – 6:00–7:30 p.m. with a light dinner.

Beginning in the fall of 2019, the three synagogues of NSSBE, Moriah, and *B'nai Tikvah* will combine their high school programs.

PLANNING AND SELECTING CLASSES

Course selection is online.

Students should select a foundation course and an elective courses for both semesters. **All foundation and elective courses are semester courses.** We will try to accommodate student choices as best as possible.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Alicia Gejman, Director of Formal Education
847-432-8900 Ext. 227 or agejman@nssbethel.org

Rayna Forman, Coordinator of School Administration
847-432-8924 or rsoffice@nssbethel.org

Supper Club

11th Grade Students

In this Contemporary Judaism course, you will eat dinner, schmooze, and study modern Responsa with Rabbi Kurtz and Rabbi Schwab.

Supper Club is a graduation requirement.

Supper Club will take place on Monday evenings in the Zell from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Dates for this year are:

October 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 26

December 3, 10

Attendance is strictly monitored. Only three absences are allowed.

College Bound

12th Grade Students

The focus is to prepare students for the challenges that lie ahead as they leave the comfort of home and the local Jewish community. College Bound sessions will take place with various clergy.

Dates for this class are TBD.