

The Brandeis School

***Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Parent Guidelines**

Mazal Tov! Your child has reached a milestone in the Jewish tradition as he/she becomes *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and accepts the obligation/responsibility of following in the ways of Torah and keeping *mitzvot*.

With this milestone come invitations to and participation in many *semachot* in varying venues. These events are highlights in the families' lives and appropriate, respectful behavior is expected of all students.

Just as parents model and teach proper behavior and etiquette at home, so too must the school impart appropriate values and standards of conduct. Classmates and friends make up our Middle School community and because a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is ultimately a *simchah* involving the greater community, we offer these guidelines for parents and students.

For Parents:

- Please complete the online form on the school website to provide us with relevant information regarding your *Simcha*
- Adhere to the school-wide standard of *kashrut* when hiring a caterer (Please speak to Rabbi Haimoff about any questions regarding a caterer's level of *kashrut*)
- Invite either the entire grade or only all male/female students to the party
- Parties on Saturday night must begin **at least** 1-hour after *shabbat* ends, to allow for travel time for guests
- Encourage your child to RSVP in a timely fashion and to notify the host if there is a need to cancel.
- Enforce expectations of your child when he/she is a guest at another *Simcha* (see Student Guidelines and Expectations contract)
- It is the hosts' responsibility to ensure that no child has access to alcohol.
- If you are hiring a bus, it is the hosts' responsibility to hire someone, both on the bus and at the party, to adequately supervise the students.

A few quick reminders while planning the celebration:

It is difficult for children at this age to remain at parties week after week when each party extends into the early morning hours, therefore:

- A party on a school night should not extend past 10pm.
- A Saturday night party should not end past midnight.

Keep this in mind when you are planning the hours and theme of the party. Children will be less unruly when the party is timed and geared towards them.

If a child behaves in a manner that is not appropriate for a Brandeis School student, the administration will consult with the parents and take an appropriate course of action. Students who misbehave will be precluded from future *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebrations.

This is a special time for all of us. We enjoy celebrating occasions with family and friends. We are proud when our young men and women enter the adult community. Our cooperative effort in making our *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebrations meaningful for all will be greatly appreciated by all involved.

Sincerely,

The Brandeis School Administration

I/we fully understand that if my/our child does not follow these guidelines, that he/she will be precluded from attending future *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebrations.

Parent's signature

Student's name

Anticipated date of your *simchah*

The Brandeis School

***Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Student Guidelines and Expectations**

Mazal Tov! You have reached a milestone in the Jewish tradition as you become *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and accept the obligation and responsibility of following in the ways of the Torah and keeping *mitzvot*.

With this milestone comes invitations to and participation in many *semachot*. These events are highlights in the families' lives and appropriate, respectful behavior is expected of all students.

Classmates and friends from school make up our middle school community and because of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is a community *simchah*, we have certain expectations of you.

- RSVP in a timely fashion and notify the host if you have a need to cancel.
- Meet and greet the family and wish them a *mazal tov!*
- Demonstrate respect for the synagogue and the service. Arrive on time, participate in the service and refrain from talking.
- Remember that you represent not only yourself, but your family and your community, so please maintain a dress code that is in keeping with the occasion. Boys should always keep a *kippah* on their heads and girls should dress modestly.
- Behave appropriately during the party. Respect the guests and hosts. Do not damage property or decorations.
- At the meal, take your food in a respectful manner, allowing adults to take theirs before you. If there is limited seating available, offer the seats to adults.
- You may not request or drink alcoholic beverages.
- Do not leave the party room.
- Thank the host/family when leaving.

If you behave in a manner that is not appropriate for a Brandeis School student, the administration will consult with your parents and take an appropriate course of action. Students who misbehave will not be allowed to attend future *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebrations.

This is a special time for you. You will enjoy celebrating occasions with family and friends. We are proud to see you enter the adult community. Your cooperative effort in making *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebrations meaningful for all will be greatly appreciated by all involved.

I fully understand that if I do not follow these guidelines, I will not be allowed to attend future *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebrations.

Student's signature