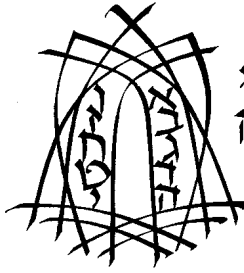


"You shall be holy
for I Adonai your
God Am holy"
Lev. 19:2



קדש'ים תהיו כי
קדוש אני יהוה
אלהיכם

CONFIRMATION CLASS COVENANT B'RIT KEHILLAH

As a member of the Temple Israel Confirmation Class, I, _____, will promote the creation of a religious youth community based on mutual respect and a sense of personal well-being. I will treat others with *Kavod* (honor and respect) because we are created *B'tzelem Elohim* (in the image of God). I understand and agree to follow "*Derech Eretz* and our Confirmation Community" (see reverse) as we build a spiritual Confirmation class community dedicated to Jewish learning and to strengthening and affirming our Jewish identities.

My personal goals for the Confirmation Class year are:

I would like to learn:

I would like to grow spiritually in the following ways:

I would like to contribute to my class in the following ways:

I understand that I will have the opportunity to periodically review these goals with the clergy so that I can fulfill them before the Confirmation Service.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

"You shall be holy
for I Adonai your
God Am holy"
Lev. 19:2



Temple Israel Confirmation Class 5770 *Derech Eretz* and our Confirmation Community

Derech Eretz: *Derech eretz* is a Hebrew term which literally means, “the way of the land.” However, the phrase goes far beyond its literal meaning. *Derech eretz* means the proper way to conduct ourselves and treat each other, so that we build a caring and constructive community. When people follow *derech eretz*, the most amazing and positive things happen in our world.

As Confirmation Faculty, Students and Parents, we agree to keep the value of *derech eretz* foremost in our minds as we together join to create a fantastic Confirmation experience. This requires some agreed upon guidelines, and consideration of what will happen if the *derech eretz* in our Confirmation community is lost.

Classes and Courtesy: The Confirmation Faculty promises to make the classes interesting, challenging, fun and engaging. They promise to treat students with courtesy and respect. Students also should treat the other students, classes, Faculty and Temple facilities with courtesy and respect. If students ignore requests from the Faculty, or engage in distractions during class such as having side conversations, doing school homework or using cell phones, pagers or other electronic equipment, *derech eretz* is lost.

Attendance: Attendance in class is an essential part of *derech eretz*, and for students to receive all that they can from the Confirmation experience. The Confirmation Faculty understands that perfect attendance is an ideal, and that family emergencies, illnesses, and other commitments sometimes require the student to miss class. Therefore, students may miss no more than four classes, and make-up assignments will be required for each missed class. Students must attend each of the Confirmation Service Rehearsals, the Erev Shavuot Consecration Service and dinner, and the Shavuot Confirmation Service.

Lateness/Leaving Early: Just as attendance is essential for Confirmation, being present for the entire session is also essential. Lateness or leaving early means that a student misses important information, and disrupts the flow of a class. The Confirmation Faculty understands that occasional lateness or leaving early is sometimes unavoidable. However, repeated lateness or leaving early destroys our community’s *derech eretz*. Arrival after 7:15 or leaving before 8:45 will be counted as an absence.

Leaving Temple Premises: For the safety and security of our students, students must remain in the Temple building after arrival for class until class is over. Students may not leave the Temple building to go to the surrounding restaurants or shops, or hang out in the parking lot or around the building.

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco & Weapons: The use of these by students is against the law, and is contrary to the *derech eretz* of our community.

Class Trip: The class trip to Washington, D.C. will be an amazing experience for our community. There will be special requirements and expectations for this trip, which will be discussed at the Trip Orientation.

Special Needs: *Derech eretz* means treating those with special needs with care and respect. Any of the students’ special needs should be brought to one of the rabbis as soon as possible.

Loss of *derech eretz*: We all fully expect that all of us will act according to *derech eretz*. Should any student act in a way contrary to the *derech eretz* of our Confirmation community, consequences may include warnings, removal from a particular class, clergy meetings with parents, parents attending class with their child, or permanent removal from the class and his/her inability to participate in Confirmation.

Should any *derech eretz* issues arise that the Faculty does not know about, we invite parents and students to bring these issues to the Faculty’s attention. We look forward to all of us working together in Confirmation this year.