

Purpose of Torah Corps

Torah Corps is an elevated preparation program of individual and communal study preparing students for *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, as well as planting firm roots for lifelong Jewish learning and leading healthy Jewish lives.

Goals of Torah Corps - Preparing for *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* through:

- ❖ Taking responsibility for oneself and work
- ❖ Experiencing varied learning modalities
- ❖ Sharing group objectives
- ❖ Creating Community
- ❖ Developing important Jewish life skills

Torah Corps Class Design

- *Chevruta*- style learning environment
 - Groups of 5-8 students study together in supportive cohort together based on date of *B'nai Mitzvah*.
- Cantor/Rabbi/Youth Educator are Mentors and teachers
- *Madrichim* help to facilitate and support one-on-one learning, guiding peer learning as well as encouragement.
- The program encompasses a variety of learning modes
- Torah Corps begins within a year before *B'nai Mitzvah*.
 - Students commit to ongoing practicing and maintaining their knowledge and skills
 - This length of time accomodates normal amount of absence for vacation, illness, and even summer camp!
 - Built into Kehillat Limmud day, during *Chalutzim* program
 - There will be opportunities for continued learning support through the summer.

Torah Corps Class Content

- 1st 2 months, during individual work time:
 - Month 1: Orientation and Prayer assessment and practice
 - Month 2: Introduction to Torah Cantillation (trope)
- Ongoing Practice of individual assignments
- Deciphering meanings of Torah text – Jewish study is a prism for living
 - Students choose the particular focus from within their Torah portion
 - Sharing with each other messages from the meanings of their Torah portions
- Service leading practice
- Jewish ritual and sanctuary skills
- Discussion and framing of *MitzvahMatters!* work
- Discussions around developing Jewish identity
- Monitoring of student progress
 - Occasional Individual sessions with Cantor as needed and determined by Cantor.
- Weekly, individual assignments are given to each student for them to keep up

MitzvahMatters!

- Sacred texts are relevant in our lives
 - High stakes for how we act in the world
 - Connecting with God, with each other and with the best part of ourselves
 - Bringing meaning from our ancient teachings to our lives
- Doing *mitzvot*
 - Connecting sacred texts with important Jewish values from The Prophets
- Passage of *Haftarah* assigned will connect directly with the *mitzvah* value that the student chooses
 - **Nine** *mitzvah* values – student will choose one for focus
 - Chosen *mitzvah* value becomes the focus of **three** actions/activities in which student will engage
- Student give a short, spoken introduction to *Haftarah* about this work at the Shabbat service when student becomes *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*

Torah Corps Class Materials and Requirements

Attendance in class as well as practice and preparation
are the keys to success!

***Please remember – Torah Corps is part of KL!**

- Prayer recordings – download from our website: www.klcc.org/klcc/torah-corps-class-materials-and-requirements
- BINDER: includes *Torah* and *Haftarah* study booklet and papers
- Listening device
- recordings of prayers, *Torah* and *Haftarah* verses (download onto listening device)
- *Siddur*

Come to Shabbat services – this will be of great benefit to you in becoming familiar with services, and it will make you feel better, too!

Parent Resources

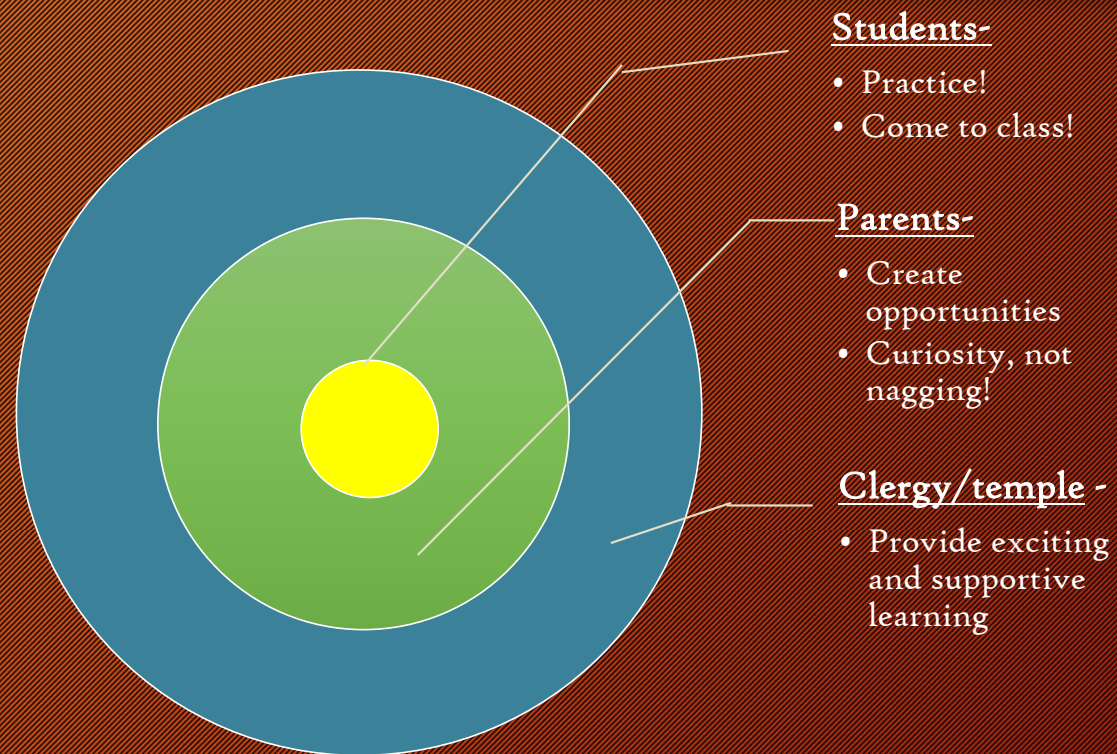
Study Guidelines

- Weekly assignments are written in each student's book - you can find it each week.
- Expectation of daily study time
- Build this time and this journey into your family

Communication

- Weekly KL communication with families
- Torah Corps Website – links for all documents and materials
- Parent support/learning classes

The Jewish Bullseye for Student Success



Review of Timeline for Torah Corps

Torah Corps begins KL in the year prior to *B'nai Mitzvah*

Orientation, prayer assessment and review,
and Trope lessons - 1st 2 months
[Prayer review continues throughout]

Conversations about doing *mitzvot* and Jewish
identity- ongoing in *Chalutzim*

Learning Torah Portion

Six-month Check-in Meeting with Cantor Caro -
Mitzvah conversation and assignment of Haftarah
based on *MitzvahMatters!*

Review Haftarah Blessings

Learning Haftarah Portion by 2-3 months
out/continue Torah and prayer practice

Meeting with Rabbi Holzman

D'var Torah - work with mentor.

Write about *Mitzvah* work

There is a lot of time and effort needed to devote to this process!

We measure success by.....

- Student experience of the journey.
- The solid partnership between student efforts at home, combined with work in class.
- Each child's development of a positive Jewish identity, developing strong roots and bonding with our supportive community.

מזל טוב!!!

Mazal Tov on this wonderful experience
and moment
in the life of your child and your family!