

Purpose of Torah Corps

Torah Corps is a unique preparation program of individual and communal study:

- Prepare students for ritual of *BMitzvah*
- Plant firm roots for lifelong Jewish learning
- Live healthy Jewish adolescence

Torah Corps works by:

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

Torah Corps Class Design

- *Chevruta*- style learning environment
 - Students study together in supportive cohort together, grouped around date of *BMitzvah*.
- Cantor is Mentor and teacher
 - Teen *Madrichim* help to facilitate and support one-on-one learning, guiding peer learning as well as encouragement.
- Variety of learning modes and tools
- Torah Corps begins approximately a year before *BMitzvah*.
 - Built into Kehillat Limmud day, during *Chalutzim* program
 - Student commitment to ongoing practicing and maintaining their knowledge and skills
 - Length of journey accommodates **expected** amount of absence from class for vacation, illness, and even summer camp! **NO ABSENCE FROM PRACTICING!**
 - **Learning continues through the summer prior to *BMitzvah*.**

Torah Corps Class Content

- 1st 2 months:
 - Orientation and Introduction to Torah Cantillation (trope)
 - Choosing Torah verses
- Weekly, individual assignments are given to each student for them to keep up
- Ongoing Practice of individual assignments – **cumulative and at home!**
 - Practice leading prayers
 - Jewish ritual and sanctuary skills
- Monitoring of student progress
- 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
- Discussions around developing Jewish identity
- *MitzvahMatters!*

MitzvahMatters!

- Relevance of Jewish prophetic texts
 - High stakes for how we act in the world
 - Connect with God, with each other and with the best part of ourselves
 - Bring meaning from our ancient teachings to our lives
- DOING *mitzvot*
 - Connecting sacred acts 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 shares short, spoken introduction to *Haftarah* about this work at the Shabbat service when student becomes *BMitzvah*

Torah Corps Class Materials and Requirements

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS:

- ❖ ATTENDANCE
- ❖ PRACTICE
- ❖ PREPARATION

RESOURCES:

- MP3 player and earphones
- BINDER: includes *Torah* and *Haftarah* study booklet and papers
- *Siddur*
- recordings of prayers, *Torah* and *Haftarah* verses (on listening device)
- Website: <https://www.nvhcreston.org/torah-corps/>

Attend 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

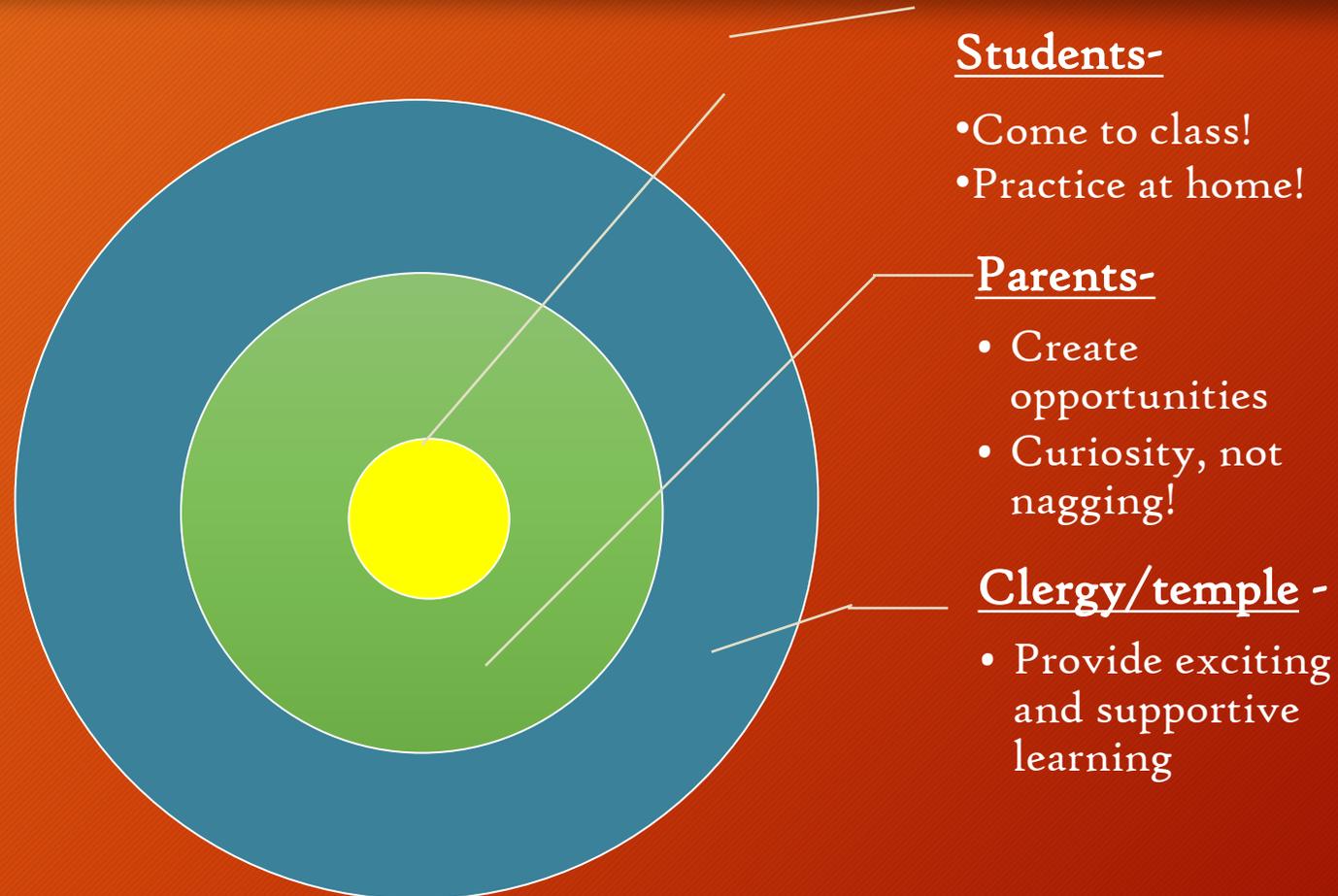
Study Guidelines

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

Communication

- Weekly KL communication with families
- Torah Corps Website – links for all documents and materials - <https://www.nvhcreston.org/torah-corps/>
- Parent support/learning classes

The Jewish Bullseye for Student Success



Review of Journey for Torah Corps

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

One
year
out

Conversations about doing *mitzvot* and Jewish identity- ongoing in *Chalutzim*
Orientation, prayer assessment and review, and Trope lessons - 1st 2 months
[Prayer review continues throughout, at home and in class]

Learning Torah Portion

Check-in Meeting with Cantor Caro 6 months before *B'nai Mitzvah* - doing *mitzvot* and assignment of Haftarah based on *MitzvahMatters!*

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

Meeting with Rabbi Holzman

D'var Torah - work with one of the rabbis and in class.

Writing about *Mitzvah* work

You need to devote a lot of time and effort to this process!

B'Mitzvah!

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!