

JRC B'nai Mitzvah Timeline

2 Years Prior | B'nai Mitzvah Dates Assigned

B'nai Mitzvah dates are assigned to families during a student's 5th grade year.

1 Year Prior | Decide on Your Celebration at JRC

JRC's Director of Engagement and Programming will reach out and share information regarding celebration options at JRC including a lobby kiddush, extended kiddush, luncheon, and more.

8 Months Prior | Family Meeting with Rabbi Rachel

At this meeting Rabbi Rachel will talk with you about your family, the ways Judaism is meaningful in your lives, and what becoming a B'nai Mitzvah means. This is an opportunity for Rabbi Rachel to get to know your entire family more personally, and a place to bring any questions, concerns, and ideas about the B'nai Mitzvah service and rituals. Parents and the B'nai Mitzvah are required to attend the meeting, and we highly encourage siblings to join as well! You will receive an email with a scheduling link.

6 Months Prior | B'nai Mitzvah Tutoring Begins

B'nai Mitzvah students work with a tutor to learn Torah trope and Shabbat prayers/liturgy. Cantor Howard will reach out to your family to begin the tutoring process by assigning a tutor and scheduling tutoring sessions. Students have weekly 30-minute sessions with their tutor. Students will receive a folder with print outs of their Torah portion, Haftorah, and prayers. If the B'nai Mitzvah student will be away during part of this time or if the student needs additional tutoring, arrangements can be made to the schedule directly with your tutor and/or Cantor Howard. If the B'nai Mitzvah student has an IEP or other learning needs, please let us know.

3 Months Prior | D'var Torah Preparation Begins

JRC's D'var Torah process involves a combination of the B'nai Mitzvah student, Rabbi Rachel, and the D'var Torah tutor (a volunteer from the congregation). The tutor and student will study the B'nai Mitzvah parsha (portion) together and develop an initial draft. There is then an opportunity for Rabbi Rachel to meet with the student and dive deeper into the text before finalizing the D'var.

1 Month Prior | Day-Of Logistics Meeting

JRC's Director of Engagement and Programming will schedule a meeting to discuss logistics for the day of the B'nai Mitzvah and any celebration taking place at JRC.

1 Week Prior | B'nai Mitzvah Rehearsal

On the Tuesday immediately preceding the B'nai Mitzvah date, the family will have a rehearsal with Rabbi Rachel and Cantor Howard. At the rehearsal the student will read their Torah and Haftorah portion as well as their D'var Torah. Final aspects of the service, including honors and readings will be reviewed. As photography is not allowed during the service on Shabbat, some families choose to have their photographer join to photograph the rehearsal (student reading from the Torah, etc). Let us know if you plan to have your photographer present so the clergy can wear Shabbat attire as well.