

Kadima @ B'nai Jeshurun Booklet

What is Kadima?

Kadima@BJ is BJ's supplemental religious school program for elementary age students who attend public or private secular schools.

As a signature program of Family Life and Learning, Kadima focuses on community and builds Jewish identity, ensuring that our children feel ownership and excitement over who they are as Jews. Through our program, students engage, connect, and become active participants in our community.

We place an emphasis on community building. Our hope is that children see Kadima and BJ as a safe, warm place that they consider their Jewish home.

For questions about Kadima, please contact the Associate Director of Family Life and Learning, [Jess Glickman](#).

Who should register for Kadima?

Anyone who would like their child to engage in communal Jewish education. All students who will celebrate a B-Mitzvah at B'nai Jeshurun must be enrolled in communal Jewish education, either at Kadima or in a Jewish day school, at least from 4th-7th grade. If your child is in a Jewish Day School, you do not need to enroll in Kadima (but day school students are always welcome!)

When should I enroll my child in Kadima?

We highly recommend starting Kadima in Kindergarten or 1st grade. Students who begin their Jewish education in early elementary school form strong attachments to their peers, Jewish tradition and text. However, students begin at all ages, and it is never too late to enroll your child (or yourself) in Jewish learning. Children continue Kadima through their elementary school years, and continue into our Middle School program through the end of 8th grade. If your child is in private school, and their grade does not align with the DOE cut off age, please speak with [Jess](#) to discuss grade placement options.

How do I register for Kadima?

- The first step is to set up a phone call with Jess Glickman, Associate Director of Family Life and Learning. Jess runs Kadima and associated programs. Please email [Jess](#) to set up a phone call.
- After speaking with Jess, and you have interest in joining Kadima, you will become a [member](#) of BJ (if you are not one already).
- After becoming a member, you will be sent a Kadima registration form. (For additional questions about membership please contact [Matthew Davey](#))

- During the membership season and summer months, we send out the Kadima registration forms to members with children who are elementary school age.
- We allow for rolling admissions until a class/ grade reaches capacity. Admissions is first come, first serve - we strongly recommend enrolling your child before the beginning of the school year, as many classes will reach capacity once the school year begins.

What is the Kadima Curriculum?

Kadima students learn on a [spiral curriculum](#), encountering the same units every four years. This allows students to deepen their understanding of key Jewish concepts and texts as they get older, while also providing them a breadth of learning. Every year, we have unit focused on a book of the Torah (eg Genesis, Exodus, etc), a unit focused on a key spiritual practice (eg prayer, Shabbat), and a unit focused on a socio-cultural element of Judaism (ie Jewish history, Diaspora traditions and global Jewry).

We also cover Jewish holidays as they occur during the year, with a school-wide Tu B'shvat Seder, Hanukkah party, and matzah making. Prayer and spirituality are at the core of BJ, and we emphasize prayer learning in Kadima with dedicated *tefillah* time every week led by one of BJ's rabbis and a musician.

We teach through visual arts, music, theatre, movement, games, creative writing, literature, discussions, debates and more. Please read more about our creative approach to education [here](#).

For older students, we offer an elective, text-focused Beit Midrash style class. Students who choose the Beit Midrash class learn the same units as the rest of the school, but encounter the source texts more closely and engage in more traditional study than the project-based curriculum of the rest of the school.

When and How Will My Child Learn Hebrew?

We have a partnership with the JCC and use a program called [Hebrew Homepage](#). This is one-on-one online tutoring (they also offer a limited number of in person tutors).

Once a Kadima student is in 3rd grade we highly encourage you to enroll your child so that they have ample time to learn prior to their B'nai Mitzvah. If you choose to not enroll your child in 3rd grade, please connect with [Rabbi Deena](#) to discuss your alternative arrangements for accessing Hebrew language learning. Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are welcome to enroll.

Hebrew Homepage is a separate payment and not included in tuition. You can pay for a bundle, and a discount is offered to our families.

What does a typical day at Kadima look like?

A sample schedule:

- 3:00-3:50 PM: Early care- (for students who are enrolled)- students can do homework or use games, art supplies, and have quiet time to decompress after the school day

- 3:50-4:00 PM: Rolling arrival—students meet with their class
- 4:00-4:30 PM: Opening ritual—a musical tefillah experience combined with community building and Torah learning with our music educators and BJ Rabbis
- 4:30-4:45 PM: Snack time (including food-based berakhot) and zeman kehillah (class- or grade-based [social-emotional learning](#) activities)
- 4:45-6:00 PM: Learning block—students will cover various topics such as prayer, God, or Jewish holidays through shared source material, and will have time to work on projects that allow them to gain a deep understanding and personal experience of the material
- 6:00 PM: Dismissal
- 6:00-6:30 PM: Late care- (for students who are enrolled)- late care will include pizza- students can do homework, relax, socialize or play games

Our Kadima Staff

Our staff includes:

- Associate Director of Family Life and Learning / Head of Kadima- [Jess Glickman](#)
- Director of Family Life and Learning- [Rabbi Deena Cowans](#)
- Curriculum Coordinator & BJ Theatre Director- [Emma Miller](#)
- Inclusion and Classroom Coordinator
- Family Life and Learning Program Administrator- Jeremy Allen
- Additional Family Life and Learning Staff
- Music Educators (Song leaders)
- Teaching Staff: Lead Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Floater Teacher (permanent substitute), and Substitute Teachers
- Ozrim (Teen Helpers)

Shabbat Attendance

We consider Shabbat to be part of Kadima. We offer a monthly Friday evening learning, prayer and dinner experience and expect Kadima families to attend throughout the year. Kadima students are also required to attend Shabbat morning services AT LEAST as many times as their grade level (As an example, a 5th grader needs to attend a minimum of 5 times throughout the year.) Students are strongly encouraged to attend more frequently, as the Kadima curriculum is designed to complement, but not replace, the prayer and Torah learning of Shabbat morning.

We offer an elementary service most Saturday mornings throughout the school year. Students are invited to participate via leading prayer, collaborating in song, bringing in instruments and undressing and dressing the Torah. [Saturday Morning Elementary Services](#) are from 11a-12:15p. Kindergarten age students can also choose to attend our [Early Childhood Services](#).

Retreat

Access to Family Retreats is included in Kadima tuition for the student and one adult (additional family members are invited to join for a fee). Join us as we spend a weekend outside of the city enjoying Shabbat services, meals together, and children and family programming.

Parent Learning

During the majority of Kadima sessions, we offer parent learning. Taught by various rabbis at BJ, parent (and grandparent!) learning sessions cover the same subjects the students are learning that week in Kadima. Parent learning is a wonderful way to model Jewish learning as a lifelong practice, and to deepen your ability to engage your student(s) in conversations about what they learned at Kadima.

Tuition

Every year, BJ invests significant resources to support the cost of Kadima, and tuition rates reflect this significant communal subsidy. Rates are comparable to many after-school programs. If the cost of Kadima tuition would cause financial hardship (having to go without paying other essential bills) for your family, you can apply for financial assistance. Please see the FAQ section of our [website](#) for the latest information on tuition and financial assistance. Financial assistance is first come, first serve, so we recommend applying early if you anticipate you will need assistance.

Family Shabbat Dinners

In addition to Kadima, our department offers monthly Shabbat dinners for students of all ages and their families. [Tot Shabbat](#) is for families with children ages 5 and under, [Likrat Shabbat](#) is for Kadima-aged students (Kinder-6th grade), and [Hitoreri](#) is for students in 8th-12th grades.

What happens after Kadima?

Our 7th-grade program, [Haverim](#), integrates both secular and Jewish day-school students to develop their personal connection to Judaism as they prepare for their [B-Mitzvah](#) and beyond. Our 8th-grade program, [Bogrim](#), builds on the foundation of [Haverim](#), deepening Jewish learning and community connection through lively discussions and interactive sessions and exploring what it means to step into Jewish adulthood. BJ also offers a [teen program](#).

For any questions about [Bogrim](#) or [Haverim](#), please contact the Director of Family Life and Learning, [Rabbi Deena Cowans](#).

Will Kadima prepare my child for their B-Mitzvah?

Yes and no. The Kadima@BJ curriculum is designed to give students a firm grounding in Jewish life, with emphasis on community, belonging, and spirituality. While Kadima@BJ is a great way for kids to build their Jewish identity and find a Jewish home, it is not meant to be a one-stop shop for everything Jewish. Shabbat attendance helps students learn the prayers that they will eventually help lead, and we strongly encourage you to

celebrate holidays and make Jewish life a part of your home. The BJ staff is invested in supporting you and your family in building a rich Jewish life. Check out our [calendar](#) to see what events are coming up soon, or reach out to Rabbi Deena to talk about how your family can get more plugged into the BJ community.

Please see our B'nai Mitzvah booklet [here](#).

For questions about the B'nai Mitzvah track, please contact our B'nai Mitzvah coordinator, [Abigail Langer](#)