

Purpose of Torah Corps

Torah Corps is an elevated preparation program of individual and communal study:

- Preparing students for *B'Mitzvah*
- Planting firm roots for lifelong Jewish
- Learning and leading healthy Jewish lives.

Goals of Torah Corps - Preparing for *B*Mitzvah by:

- ❖ 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
 - Students study together in supportive cohort together, grouped around date of *BMitzvah*.
- Cantor is Mentor and teacher
 - Teen *Madrachim* help to facilitate and support one-on-one learning, guiding peer learning as well as encouragement.
- Variety of learning modes
- Torah Corps begins approximately a year before *BMitzvah*.
 - Built into Kehillat Limmud day, during *Chalutzim* program
 - Students commit 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:
 - Month 1: Orientation and Prayer assessment and practice
 - Month 2: Introduction to Torah Cantillation (trope)
- Ongoing Practice of individual assignments
- Practice leading prayers
- Jewish ritual and sanctuary skills
- 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
- 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

❖ ATTENDANCE
❖ PRACTICE
❖ PREPARATION
are the keys to success!

RESOURCES:

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

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

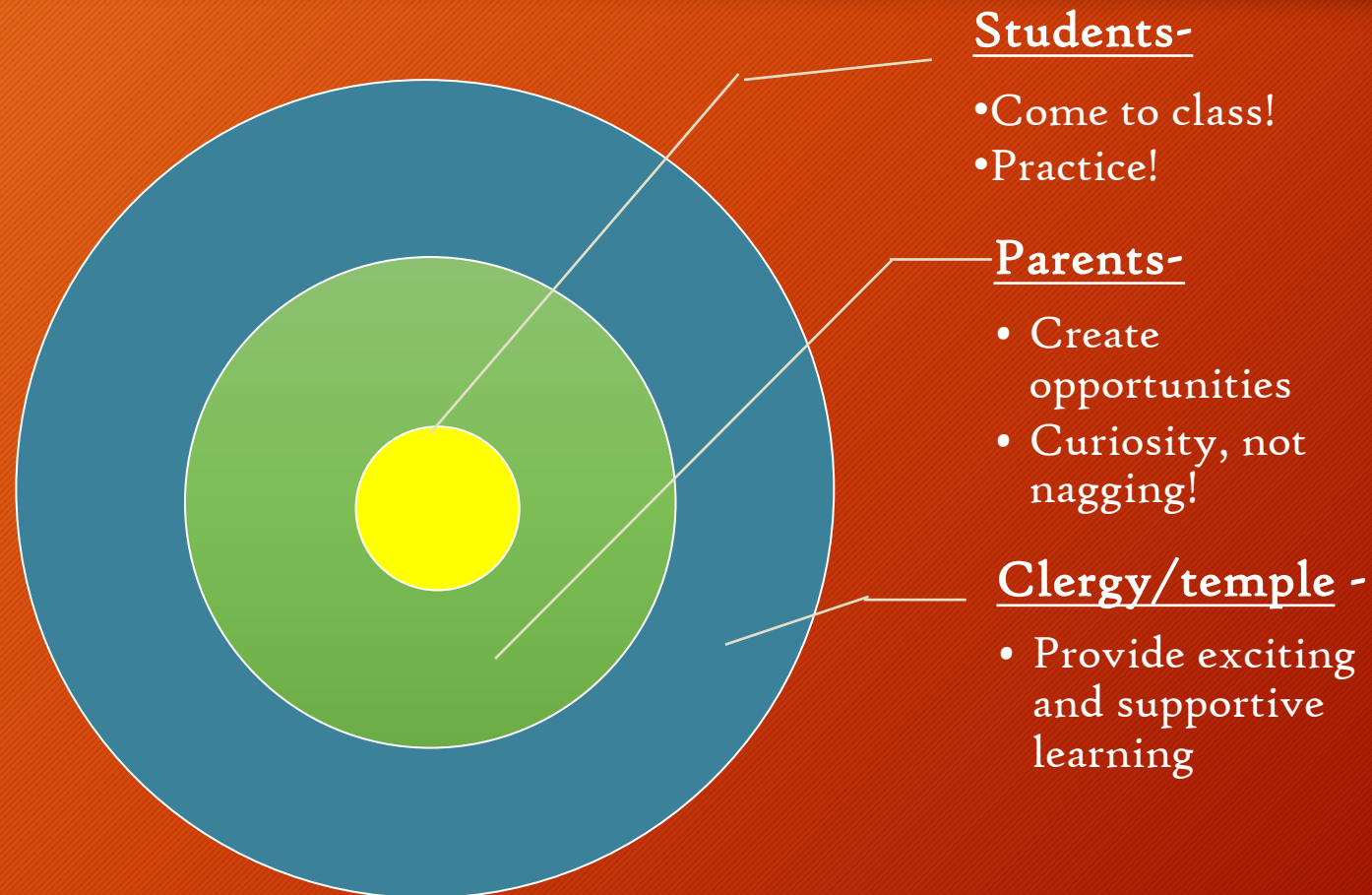
Study Guidelines

- 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
- 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 BMitzvah

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!

BMitzvah!

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!