Purpose of Torah Corps

Torah Corps is an intensive program of communal study, integrated into lifelong Jewish study preparing students for Bar or Bat Mitzvah, as well as planting firm roots for healthy Jewish lives.
Goals of Torah Corps

- Elevated preparation
- Taking responsibility for one’s self and work
- Working with peers and teachers
- Shared objectives of group
- Creating Community
Torah Corps provides:

**Important Jewish life skills and opportunities**

- Importance of community and shared experience - consistency within the same group.
- Instruction in Torah cantillation (chanting) system, to facilitate learning with varied tools and pathways
- Jewish ritual skills - Using a *chumash* (Torah with Hebrew & English), wearing a *tallit* (prayer shawl), using a *yad* (pointer), prayer choreography
- Deciphering meanings of Torah text – Jewish study is a prism for living
- Communal exploration of Mitzvah work
The Jewish Bullseye for student success

**Students**-
- Practice!
- Come to class!

**Parents**-
- Create opportunities
- Curiosity, not nagging!

**Clergy/temple** -
- Provide exciting and supportive learning
Timeline for Torah Corps

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

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

Mitzvah conversations - begin usually after 1st month

Learning Torah Portion - beginning 3rd month

Review Haftarah Blessings

Haftarah Portion - by 3 months out

Meetings with Rabbi Holzman or Rabbi Wainer

D’var Torah

D’var Mitzvah

Six-month Check-in Meeting with Cantor Caro

Torah Corps begins one year prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Torah Corps Class Design

- Peer-based *chevruta*-style learning environment
  - Group of 12-15 students study together in supportive community, preparing for *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*.
- Cantor/Rabbis/Youth Educator are Mentors and teachers
- *Madrichim* help to facilitate and support one-on-one learning and guide peer-*chevruta*
- Encompassing multiple modes of learning
- Torah Corps lasts approximately **one year**.
  - One-hour sessions, choice of time based on availability.
    - Sunday 8:30-9:30
    - Sunday 12:00-1:00
    - Tuesday 4:45-5:45
  - **NOTE:** Summer (June-August) are Tuesdays: 5:00-6:00, 6:00-7:00 or 7:00-8:00 p.m., based on availability.
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
• Sharing with each other messages from the meanings of their Torah portions
• Service leading practice
• Discussion and framing of Mitzvah 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
Attendance in Group/class time as well as practice and preparation are keys to your success

- Prayer recordings – download from our website, http://www.nvhcreston.org/learn/bnai-mitzvah/torah-corps
- Parashah Torah and Haftarah study booklet
- Listening device and earphones for class
- Recordings of prayers, Torah and Haftarah verses (downloaded on listening device)
- Siddur
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
• Monthly newsletter
• Website - links, handbook
• Coffee with The Cantor!
  • Sundays, 10:45-11:15 a.m. – 9/22, 11/10, 12/15, 1/26, 3/15, 4/26
• Parent support/learning classes
  • Clergy – Sunday mornings: values, prayer and family connections
  • Judith Naiman – B’nai Mitzvah Parent’s Class –
    • Sundays: 9/26, 10/6, 10/20, 10/27, 11/10
Success is.....

• Success is measured by student experience rather than by outcome.

• Success is interdependent between student efforts at home, which are then supported in class.

• Best success is positive Jewish identity, growing up healthy.
Mazel Tov on this wonderful experience and moment in the life of your child and your family!