

# Shelanu's Student Handbook



## SCHOOL HANDBOOK

### *Mission Statement*

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Shelanu means "ours"- A community designed by Teens. We bring together teens from 6 synagogues in Cincinnati: Adath Israel, Northern Hills, Rockdale Temple, Temple Shalom, Valley Temple and Wise Temple. Rabbis from all synagogues teach at Shelanu in addition to a talented teaching staff. Together we stimulate and challenge teens as they begin their independent Jewish lives.

Shelanu empowers individual teen exploration and Jewish pathways Students will be inspired to:

- Think critically, creatively, and compassionately as active contributors to the local Jewish
- Community and caring citizens of the world.
- See Judaism as a lived and applied experience
- Respect and appreciate diversity and nuance

## *Shelanu Coursework*

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Shelanu recognizes that each student comes to us with different interests and backgrounds. Many are seeking to increase their knowledge of Judaism academically; some search for spiritual answers; some through social action; and, others find connection in cultural studies. We as a Jewish community, also feel the need to explore our relationship to Israel and learn about her people and culture. Our goal is that our graduates will have a foundational picture of how Judaism is a part of their lives. We work to provide them with a broad and relevant Jewish educational experiences.

## *Policies and Procedures*

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### **Drop Off and Pick Up Policy**

We would like to stress the importance of pick up and drop off times. It is important that students plan to arrive NO EARLIER than 10 minutes prior to class time. And, just as important, all students should be picked up NO LATER than 10 minutes after dismissal. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

### **Enrollment**

Enrollment in Shelanu is open only to full members (as determined by the individual congregations) of the participating congregations.

### **Withdrawal**

If a student withdraws from Shelanu for any reason, the student's parent or legal guardian must contact Nina Loftsprung. She will then notify the educational director and the senior rabbi at the student's home congregation. We can not guarantee a refund for student's who withdrawal.

### **Discipline**

The disciplinary policy is intended to deal with serious infractions. Shelanu has the right to impose appropriate sanctions for serious infractions including vandalism, drinking or drug use on school premises, leaving school grounds during school hours, reckless driving, fighting or any other act warranting review of a student's tenure at Shelanu.

The policy regarding a serious infraction is:

- 1) An initial meeting will be arranged with the parent(s) of the student, the Shelanu Director, the student's rabbi, the student and any other relevant parties. Disciplinary action will be discussed by the group.

2) The Shelanu Director may impose a probationary suspension of the student at the end of which the student's case will be reviewed.

3) Should the student's behavior be deemed untenable, the Shelanu Director may expel a student from Shelanu. A confirming letter will be sent to the student's parent/legal guardian.

4) An appeal of an expulsion may be filed in writing within 30 days with the director. The appeal will be heard by a committee comprised of the director, the student's congregational rabbi and members of the Shelanu Executive Board.

### **Early Dismissal**

We are concerned about the safety of our students. In case of an emergency situation we must have accurate information regarding the names of students who are not in the building. For this reason, students may not leave the building at the break or any other time prior to 7:00 PM without consent of the director.

If a student needs to leave early the director must receive a written note or email signed by a parent or legal guardian. If the student turns 18 before or during the school year, a note or email from a parent is still required.

Any student being dismissed early will need to let the director know before they leave the building.

Please be aware that until there is confirmation from a parent or guardian of the student's early dismissal, Shelanu is not able to release the student.

### **School Closings**

In the event of inclement weather, check the [www.ShelanuCincy.com](http://www.ShelanuCincy.com) for updates. In the fall, parents and students will be given the opportunity to opt-in to receive text alerts about a school closure. School closing information will also be available on most local television and radio stations when time permits.

### **Substance Abuse**

Shelanu is an institution that cares deeply about its students. Consequently, we cannot tolerate any form of substance abuse: alcohol, drugs or smoking. Any student found using drugs or alcohol on school premises will be immediately suspended and their parent(s) will be called and asked to pick up their child. The student and his/her parents will then be required to attend a meeting with their congregational rabbi, and the director. Shelanu is a smoke-free institution, as are the grounds on which it stands.

### **Guests**

All guests must gain permission from the Director in writing before attending Shelanu. Guests and their guardians will be asked to sign a liability waiver before joining Shelanu. Guests who do not have permission in advance will be asked to leave.

**Cell Phones**

Cell phone usage is not allowed during class time.

**Tuition**

Students entering the program in the middle of the school year shall be required to pay 50% of the annual tuition. Any exceptions to this policy shall be by special arrangement with the director and the congregational rabbi. Families are billed directly by their home congregation. Tuition is payable to individual congregations.