

**Sha'are Shalom Bar/Bat Mitzvah Requirements  
(Effective as of the 2009 – 2010 Religious School Year)**

**Goals as defined by the Board of Directors**

1. The student is able to fully participate in a service.
2. The student has knowledge of Jewish customs, culture, and history.
3. The student is able to read Torah portion in Hebrew.

**General Requirement for Bar / Bat Mitzvah**

- 1) Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidate must be a member of Congregation Sha'are Shalom in good standing at the time of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony.
- 2) Student must attend Religious School at Sha'are Shalom the school year prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**Requirements to achieve Goals**

**GOAL 1. Student is able to fully participate in a service.**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- a) Student reads (or sings) designated material in a regular Sha'are Shalom Saturday service to the satisfaction of the Religious School Principal.
- b) Student must attend 6 Shabbat services at Sha'are Shalom the year prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, of which at least 4 must be Saturday morning services.

Note: Under extenuating circumstances, Religious School Principal can approach the Board and request approval to waive the Saturday service attendance requirement.

**GOAL 2. Student has knowledge of Jewish customs, culture, and history.**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- a) Student attends Religious School regularly (defined as no more than 4 absences in any one year – latenesses of greater than 30 minutes will count as ½ absence) for at least three of the five school years prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

OR

- b) Student passes, to the satisfaction of the Religious School principal, an assessment to be developed based on the Religious School curriculum.

**GOAL 3. Student is able to read (or chant) Torah portion in Hebrew and Haftarah portion for Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Hebrew or English.**

**REQUIREMENT:**

- a) Student reads (or chants) Torah portion in Hebrew and Haftarah portion in Hebrew or English to the satisfaction of the Religious School Principal. Length of portions is determined in consultation with Religious School Principal and commensurate with the student's ability.

**NOTES:**

- Any exception to the above requirements must be approved by the Religious School Principal.
- In absence of a Religious School Principal, competency can be determined by a Para-Rabbi or other individual as designated by the Board of Directors.

**Suggested prayer requirements:**

Sabbath Candle Lighting

Barechu

Reader's Kaddish

Shema / Ve'ahavta

Torah Blessings

T'filah (pages 122 - 124 and 59-61 in Gates of Prayer for Young People)

Haftarah Blessings

Aleynu

Kiddush (long version, page 106 in Gates of Prayer for Young People)

Motzi

**Appeal Process:**

In the event that a student or a student's parents believe that a student has met a requirement for Bar / Bat Mitzvah but the Religious School Principal (or other individual designated to assess competency) does not, the student will attempt to demonstrate to the Religious Affairs Committee Chair that the requirement has been met. If the Religious Affairs Committee Chair agrees with the Principal, the appeal will be denied. If the Religious Affairs Committee Chair does not agree with the Principal, the President of the Congregation will serve as the final arbiter. The student will attempt to demonstrate to the President that the requirement has been met. The President's decision will break the tie between the Principal and the Religious Affairs Committee Chair.

**Future tasks for implementation:**

- develop Religious School assessment
- develop and maintain attendance records for Religious School
- Provide the parents of each student enrolled in Religious School with the above document and create a tear-off to be signed that indicates that the parent acknowledges receipt of these requirements.