

# Requirements for Becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Beth Am

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Students become eligible for Bar/Bat Mitzvah upon:

1. Reaching their 13th birthday (in either the Jewish or Gregorian calendar).
2. Completion of three years of Hebrew in our Hebrew program
3. Continuous enrollment in one of our age appropriate Judaica programs for at least three consecutive years (this enrollment may start before Hebrew School, but **must also** be concurrent with the years of Hebrew School attendance). In addition, attendance in one of our Judaica programs is required for the entire school year in which a child becomes Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**Jewish Day School students** may waive our Hebrew and Judaica requirement, although Judaica attendance helps students make friends in the Beth Am community.

**For families new to the area**, enrollment in another accredited Hebrew and Judaica program (in another synagogue) for the requisite years will be accepted toward Beth Am's three-year requirement.

## PLEASE NOTE

**Students who become Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Beth Am are expected to continue their Jewish education here at least through Confirmation. By participating in a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service they are understood to be committing to do so.**

### *Securing a Date for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony*

Approximately 18–24 months prior to your child's 13th birthday, you will receive a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date packet containing the following items:

1. A letter notifying you of your child's eligibility, to date, for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. This letter will explain the complete process for securing a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.
2. A list of all students at Beth Am who are eligible to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the same calendar month as your son or daughter. This list will include birthdates and phone numbers.
3. A form to fill out and return to us, letting us know your preferences as to partnering your son's or daughter's ceremony with another student at Beth Am (find your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah partner or ask us find one for you).
4. Instructions explaining how to fill out the forms and what happens after you have filled them out.

All children become Bar or Bat Mitzvah in a congregational worship service — no service is a private event. Therefore, when two young people become Bar/Bat Mitzvah together, the joy of our community is increased.