



September 15, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Talmud Torah. It was wonderful to meet all of the 8th grade students and parents that were able to attend on Wednesday for Welcome Week.

On Wednesday students took home 4 important papers:

1. The **STUDENT ENROLLMENT FORM** for the DC trip, which includes the roommate request page
2. The **IMPORTANT INFORMATION DC trip sheet**
3. **WAIVER OF LIABILITY, IDENTIFICATION, AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**
4. **MOVIES IN CLASS /ALTERNATE LEARNING OPTION LETTER**

Please review all these papers with your students this weekend and return them as appropriate.

If you are interested in being considered as a chaperone for the DC trip. Please send me an email at KRosenwald@TalmudTorahMpls.org and I will send you information on chaperoning the trip.

Your child is about to begin a unit of study that focuses on the Holocaust, this unit will fill our first semester. As part of this unit, students will learn:

- About Anti-Semitism, that there are different kinds and what they are rooted in.
- To see and begin to understand the timeline of events from right before WWII up until the end of the war.
- That both in history and in current times there are heroes among us, some that stand out and some that we might never know about.

Students will discuss and reflect upon the challenges of Jewish identity; brainstorm ways that the Jewish community supports us; learn the power that people have when they believe in something; explore the stories of heroes and martyrs of the Holocaust; and study historical facts so they have a better understanding of why it is important to be proud of their culture and community.

This week in class we watched a short film called The Tribe:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGVxToFPafw>

Please ask your student about this film. The students were attentive watchers and very engaged in our class conversation after we watched the video. I have included the link so you can watch it, maybe with your student, and be able to discuss it together.

IMPORTANT REQUEST: Phones can be a big disturbance during class. *If students have their phones out I will ask them to move them to the counter until break.* If you need to contact your student, please *do not* text/call/email them during class time. If you need to get a message to your student, please call the TT office and a message can get delivered at our class breaktime. Thank you.

Please note: There is no class September 20th in celebration of Erev Rosh Hashanah. Our next class meets September 27th.

Shanah Tovah to your entire family.

Sincerely,
Kara