



L'hitraot Chaverim (We Shall Meet Again)

Hold a Siyyum

A *siyyum* (literally “end” or “completion”) is a celebration traditionally held when a group of students completes a tractate of the Talmud. The celebration often includes presentations on what has been learned as well as a *se'udat mitzvah*, a celebratory meal.

Hold a class *siyyum* in which students present something they've learned during the year. (You might want to assign these in advance or devote class time to putting them together the week before school ends.) Eat a simple, celebratory meal. You might choose to invite parents.

Say Words of Farewell

Instead of saying goodbye, Judaism has two ways of saying, “I’ll see you again.” You can teach them to your students.

- *L'hitraot* is the reflexive form of the root *resh-alef-heh*, meaning to see. Literally translated it means *we will see one another*.
- *Hadran Alach* is a phrase usually said at the completion of studying a tractate of Talmud. It is understood in two different ways: a) “I will glorify you” – coming from the root *heh-dalet-resh*, meaning to beautify, and b) “I will return to you” – coming from the Aramaic usage of the same root letters. Both translations assume that the person or people reciting those words will come back to study.

Plan What You'll Learn Next

Hadran Alach can be interpreted as “I will return to you.” Ask students what they would like to learn when they return to religious school the following year. Collect these and give them to the principal or the teacher of the next grade. Maybe they can incorporate some of the students' ideas.

Recite a Prayer

In traditional Jewish practice, *Kaddish D'rabbanan* (The Rabbis’ or Teachers’ *Kaddish*, one of five *Kaddish* prayers) is recited after learning Jewish text together, particularly after hearing someone teach a passage of Talmud.

Consider learning a piece of Jewish text that teaches a value you would like your students to carry with them into the summer and then recite *Kaddish D'Rabbanan*. *Pirke Avot* is a great place to look for a text. You can also go to your synagogue library and look through books by Francine Klagsbrun and Joseph Telushkin.



L'hitraot Chaverim (We Shall Meet Again)

If you would rather sing, you can find Debbie Friedman's interpretation of the prayer here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-eLdnfXAEk>

You might also choose to say a *shehechianu* for having reached the milestone of finishing a particular grade. Please note that, in traditional circles, this prayer is associated with beginnings, not endings.

Sing a Song

Music often captures emotion in a way that is difficult with words alone. Teach one of these songs to your students and sing it as class ends on the last day.

"Bless this House" (Cantor Steve Sher)

"*Shalom Chaverim*" (folk)

"*Kaddish D'Rabbanan*" (Debbie Friedman)