NOVA
Northern Virginia Congregational Educators
Kallah: November 1, 2015
Creating a Culture of Inclusion

Draft 2

Kallah Co-Chairs: Barry Smith & Cantor Allen Leider
Kallah Kommittee: Rabbi Jennifer Weiner, Dara Holop, Debra Beland (food coordination)
Additional Support: Meredith Polsky, 4-5 Matan staff, Barry Krasner

MATAN staff: Meredith Polsky (Dir of Training), Orlee Krass (Dir Ed), Lisa Friedman (Mgr Social Media), Chava Kadosh, LMSW (Mentor Supervisor), Rebecca Wanatick (Inclusion Coordinator, NJ), & possibly Dori Frumin Kirshner (Exec Dir)

Essential Question
How can our NOVA teachers create a supportive and inclusive atmosphere in their classrooms?

Kallah Goals
- Kallah will foster a sense of being a community of learners.
- Kallah will encourage reflective practice.
- Kallah will present a variety of best practices and proven strategies.
- Kallah will provide teachers with techniques that they can apply to their own teaching.

Timetable
8:30-9:00	Registration/Morning Nosh/Meet & Greet
9:00-9:30	Launch/Opening with Meredith Polsky "Creating a Culture of Inclusion"
9:45-11:00	Session One: Differentiated Instruction (by grade level)
11:15-12:45	Session Two: Choice
12:45-1:00	Pick up lunch
1:00-1:30	Wrap Up and Eval during lunch (Matan staff)
	a staff member will also speak to the madrichim

Workshops
A. Session One: Differentiated Instruction (by grade level)
Through interactive activities and exploration of learning differences, participants will gain an understanding of how to teach to different types of students in their classroom. By the end of the session, you will have concrete strategies and tools for implementation in your religious school classroom.

B. **Session Two: Choice**

Behavior Management
This workshop will provide educators with practical behavior management techniques to enhance learning as well as maximize student participation. It will also teach practical planning to enhance positive classroom management.

Active Engagement
Information retention rates rise when students are engaged in their learning, which in turn promotes positive interaction within the classroom. In this session, participants will gain the tools necessary to allow students to personalize their learning and take ownership of it through a concept known as Active Engagement.

Common Special Needs in the Religious School Classroom
Participants will gain an understanding of the four most common "special needs" seen in religious school classrooms: ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, Sensory Processing Disorder and Learning Disabilities. By the end of this session, you will have concrete tools for addressing challenges related to these 4 learning challenges and will better understand how small accommodations benefit every member of your classroom community.

Post Kallah
- Evaluation at NOVA meeting
- Individual discussions with Meredith on implementing an inclusive culture