



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Early Childhood

PreK children (3- and 4-year-olds) participate in a monthly Jewish Adventures class on Sunday mornings with adults that introduces them to holidays through songs, stories, and snacks.

Kindergarten

The foundations of Hebrew are introduced through Hebrew Through Movement, a program that introduces Hebrew in a playful and meaningful way, creating a positive initial connection between children and the language. Children learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to commands in modern, spoken Hebrew with a goal of making the prayers in our siddur, as well as synagogue and Jewish vocabulary, more easily accessible.

Students are exposed to an overview of Israel and of the people and places within the synagogue. The holiday focus is Shabbat; children create ritual items for welcoming Shabbat on Friday evenings and Havdalah. They begin their study of Torah with the stories of Bereishit/Genesis. Learning occurs through hands-on, engaging projects and experiences.

Kitah Aleph/1st Grade

The foundations of Hebrew are further developed through Hebrew Through Movement, a program that introduces Hebrew in a playful and meaningful way, creating a positive initial connection between children and the language. Children learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to commands in modern, spoken Hebrew with a goal of making the prayers in our siddur, as well as synagogue and Jewish vocabulary, more easily accessible.

Students continue learning about Israel and its culture and lifestyle, exploring similarities and differences to our lives. Children focus on the holidays of Hanukah and Purim, building understanding of the history and customs of each day, while making appropriate ritual items. Their Bible study focuses on the stories of the Maccabees and Queen Esther.

Kitah Bet/2nd Grade

The foundations of Hebrew are further developed through Hebrew Through Movement, a program that introduces Hebrew in a playful and meaningful way, creating a positive initial connection between children and the language. Children learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to commands in modern, spoken Hebrew with a goal of making the prayers in our siddur, as well as synagogue and

Jewish vocabulary, more easily accessible. They are introduced to the letters of the Aleph-Bet in hands-on activities.

2nd graders will participate in a Name Project where they learn about how they were given their Hebrew and English names and share their stories with families and friends. They will study the holidays of Simchat Torah and Rosh Hodesh, including a visit with a sofer/scribe. They will learn about our matriarchs and patriarchs, exploring their stories and associated values from the Torah.

Kitah Gimel/3rd Grade

In the elementary grades (3rd through 5th), students learn to proficiently read Hebrew. Once they have mastered fluent decoding at their own learning pace, they move into the Sulam Tefillah program where they learn Shabbat prayers and progress as they are comfortable. Once a week, each student has a 1:1 online half-hour Hebrew lesson with a teacher, scheduled at the convenience of the family.

3rd graders will receive their congregational siddur in the fall to begin formal prayer study. They will continue their Torah study with the stories of Joseph, Moses, and the Exodus, building an understanding of important values derived from the text. The holiday focus is Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, including an opportunity to make their own shofar.

Kitah Dalet/4th Grade

In the elementary grades (3rd through 5th), students learn to proficiently read Hebrew. Once they have mastered fluent decoding at their own learning pace, they move into the Sulam Tefillah program where they learn Shabbat prayers and progress as they are comfortable. Once a week, each student has a 1:1 online half-hour Hebrew lesson with a teacher, scheduled at the convenience of the family.

The holiday focus is on the Shalosh Regalim: Sukkot, Pesach, and Shavuot. Children continue learning about Israel, focusing on the different geographic regions and the diverse groups of people that call Israel home. Torah study continues with the journey through the wilderness and life values taught in the 3rd and 4th books of the Torah. Students also study the history of the 1st and 2nd Temple periods. Kashrut is taught from both historic and modern understandings.

Kitah Hei/5th Grade

In the elementary grades (3rd through 5th), students learn to proficiently read Hebrew. Once they have mastered fluent decoding at their own learning pace, they move into the Sulam Tefillah program where they learn Shabbat prayers and progress as they are comfortable. Once a week, each student has a 1:1 online half-hour Hebrew lesson with a teacher, scheduled at the convenience of the family.

5th graders focus on the holidays of Tu B'Shvat, Lag B'Omer, Tisha B'Av, and Tu B'Av. Their Torah study is based on the commandments, laws, and rituals explained in the 3rd and 4th books of the Torah. Israel learning focuses on art, culture, and technology, with a special emphasis on the

environment in this Shmita year. Children will explore the rituals associated with life cycle events and gain an overview of American Jewish history.

Kitah Vav/6th Grade

Focusing on their approaching b'mitzvah, students learn how to chant Torah with Cantor Lorna Wallach. They practice their skills by leading Shabbat services for youth and taking part in synagogue services to develop comfort on the bimah. They continue to progress at their own pace in the Sulam Tefillah program. Once a week, each student has a 1:1 online half-hour Hebrew lesson with a teacher, scheduled at the convenience of the family.

Learners explore the Prophets, with an emphasis on the individual Haftarah that aligns with their b'mitzvah date. They will develop an understanding of the timeline of Jewish texts (Tanach) and with it a deeper knowledge of ancient Jewish history. Israel study focuses on the founding of the State of Israel and its modern history. Students learn about the modern Israel holidays: Yom haShoah, Yom haZikaron, Yom haAtzmaut, and Yom Yerushalayim. They will create their own Yad to be used at their b'mitzvah.

Kitah Zayin/7th Grade

Seventh graders study the Torah portion of each week with Rabbi Ari Isenberg as they explore how to connect these ancient words to their lives. An exploration of Judaism's great debates exposes students to the value conflict at the core of each historic debate and prepares them to apply Jewish values to similar conflicts in our society. In this b'mitzvah year, they focus on the values and ethics, the mitzvot and middot, in our tradition. Once a week, each student has a 1:1 online half-hour lesson with a teacher, scheduled at the convenience of the family, to continue developing proficiency in prayers.

Students learn about the Holocaust in an age-appropriate curriculum from the stories of young people who survived and those who helped them. Through first-person videos and engaging activities, learners gain a personal connection to history and explore issues of ethics and personal responsibility. They also learn about Jews around the world and their differing rituals, customs, and traditions, even as we share a basic history. As they take on the obligations of Jewish adulthood, students will design their own mezuzah case to mark this transition.