

## Curriculum

### **Kindergarten-First Grade**

Through the use of stories and hands-on arts and crafts projects, song, dance, foods, and video magic, we teach a love of Judaism, and a basic introduction to Shabbat, *tzedakah* and *mitzvot*, and the major Jewish Holidays and their symbols. The Hebrew Alphabet is introduced for familiarity, laying a foundation for future mastery.

Textbooks:

Let's Discover the Alef Bet  
Teach Me Torah Set I  
Let's Discover the Holidays  
Let's Discover Mitzvot

### **Grade 2**

Students continue their exploration of the Jewish holidays. They will be introduced to Jewish symbols that are found in the synagogue and at home, as well as continue with key concepts, such as *tzedakah* and *mitzvot*. Students will be introduced to the Jewish calendar, especially the months and the placement of the holidays within the months. The students will continue to learn the basic blessings for Shabbat and the holidays. Letter recognition, sound association, and the beginnings of a basic Hebrew vocabulary are taught in the second grade. Bible stories, Torah, and Israel are integrated into the curriculum as well.

Textbooks:

Shalom Alef-bet  
Let's Celebrate  
Teach Me Torah- Sets I and II  
Let's Explore Being Jewish  
What Can Five Dollars Do?  
JET Cards

### **Grade 3**

In Grade 3, building on the previous two years of Hebrew School education, Hebrew language is taught, this time with the expectation that students will master the Hebrew Alef-Bet and be able to blend letters and vowels to read words. Students will perfect basic Shabbat and holiday prayers. The Jewish community, the Synagogue, Shabbat, and the Jewish holidays are reviewed, as are *tzedakah* and *mitzvot*, with an emphasis on how to perform them. Third graders begin a more in-depth study of the Torah.

Textbooks:

Shalom Uvrachah  
The Bible from Alef to Tav  
My Jewish Year

#### **Grade 4**

Hebrew prayer study begins. Attention is placed on the meaning of each prayer and key prayer vocabulary words. Bible learning continues with the study of the Prophets and Sacred Texts in a way that addresses concerns and experiences of today's students. Students will study Israel in depth, both as the modern Jewish state and as the spiritual Israel of the Torah. The Jewish holidays are reviewed, as are *tzedakah* and *mitzvot*.

##### Textbooks:

Learning to Read Hebrew (Rabbi Liss)  
Hineni Book I- Textbook /Interactive CD  
A Child's Bible- Lessons from the Prophets and Writings  
Welcome to Israel  
The Ten Commandments  
The Book of Jewish Holidays

#### **Grade 5**

Throughout the year, students will explore the texts, meanings, and celebrations that accompany life cycle events. The concepts of mitzvah and covenant will be emphasized as birth, bar/bat mitzvah; marriage, divorce, conversion, and death are viewed through the past and the practices of today. Students will begin to explore periods of Jewish history and develop a sense of the vastness of Jewish history. Bible studies continue with an emphasis on the weekly Torah readings. Hebrew language and prayer study continues with greater awareness of the structure of the prayer book. The students will study social action in a Jewish context.

##### Textbooks:

Hineni Book II- Textbook /Interactive CD  
Parashah Plays/Sedra Scenes  
The Circle of Jewish Life  
Count Me In

#### **Grade 6**

Hebrew language and prayer study continues. Students are becoming fluent prayer book readers and are focusing on learning to chant the blessings and prayers that are part of the Shabbat service. Students will study and understand what it means to be a Reform Jew. Students will study the Holocaust through true stories of children who escaped on the *Kindertransport*. Students will study other points in Jewish history through the perspective of Jewish personalities.

##### Textbooks:

My B'nei Mitzvah Prayer Packet  
Hineni Book III- Textbook /Interactive CD  
Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values  
Ten Thousand Children  
Explaining Reform Judaism

#### **Grade 7**

Students are expected to be fluent prayer book readers and should be able to chant the blessings and prayers that are part of the Shabbat service. The class will be studying the Structure of the Shabbat Evening and Morning Services and focusing more deeply on the meaning of each prayer.

Following their study of Reform Judaism in sixth grade, students will study the similarities and differences between Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist Judaism. The ethics curriculum focuses on becoming a Jewish adult and the responsibilities associated with the milestone of Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Students will be looking at the Jewish holidays in more detail, studying their historical meaning, as well as modern day ways of celebrating each holiday.

Students will also begin to learn Modern Hebrew and will learn how to write in Hebrew script. In addition, students will learn how to read basic Torah Trope.

**Textbooks:**

My B'nei Mitzvah Prayer Packet  
A Spiritual Journey (Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook)  
The Many Faces of Judaism- Textbook/Workbook  
Making a Difference  
Rediscovering the Jewish Holidays  
Shema is for Real  
Let's Talk-Modern Hebrew for Teens

**Grades 8 and 9**

Eighth and Ninth graders have the unique opportunity for socialization over dinner for the first half hour of their weekly program. After dinner, students will be studying electives of their choice. Students will have the chance to choose different topics four to five times throughout the school year. There is a varied selection of elective topics for the students to choose from, such as teen issues, current events in Israel, or comparing Hebrew prayers to lyrics in modern day music. Students enjoy these two years of learning because they choose the subjects that they will study.

Textbooks

Selections from:  
Content of their Jewish Character  
Body Ethics

**Confirmation- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

During this year, Rabbi Liss explores the intersection of teen issues and Judaism. As students grapple with sex, body image issues, drugs, and ethics, they will learn what their tradition has to offer the modern teenager. Students will explore their own Jewish identity, while engaging one another in shared learning. This class culminates with the Shavuot Confirmation service, when the students will offer their own vision of what Judaism is and what it means in our lives.

**Textbooks:**

Sex in the Text  
The Rabbinic Driving Manual

**Post Confirmation- 11th and 12th Grades**

In Post confirmation, Rabbi Liss gives her students the opportunity to direct their own course of study, enabling them to find their own voice within our tradition. Learning experiences may include the use of film, field-trips, and guest speakers to help bring to life the issues at hand.