

Religious School Halutzim-5th Grade Curriculum Overview 2022-2023

A note on our community: Our school aims to develop a community among religious school students and families. We support students in building friendships by: offering organized games during recess times, grouping students for partner and group learning activities, organizing youth group activities and providing opportunities for students in different grades to learn from each other. We hope that parents will take part in our community as well by celebrating our learning with us, regularly attending Sunday morning *Tefillah*, and participating in special religious school events. Teachers make an effort to get to know each child, their interests and their learning styles and to plan learning activities that build on this knowledge. This helps children see themselves as valued members of the community and encourages them to engage more actively in their learning.

Strands of Study Explained- As you read through this document, you will notice that the following strands of study are found in each grade.

Special Events: Each grade level has a special event related to their topics of study. Many special events involved inviting parents into the classroom to see and celebrate their learning. Other special events are put on by that class for the whole school such as a *Hannukah* Party of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) celebration.

Units: Each grade has 1-2 units that focus on one important topic within Jewish education. These units are built to provide students with opportunities for experiential and project-based learning. Additionally, **special events** in each grade directly connect to the core units of study in that particular grade.

Holidays: Our *chalutzim* (pre-K) and Gan (kindergarten) classes learn about the Jewish holidays as they come up throughout the year. Each of the other grades have one or two holidays that they focus on. These holidays are selected because they connect to the other units of study in that grade.

Mitzvah: Each grade level has one *Mitzvah* or a group of related *Mitzvot* that connects to the learning in that grade. The students will study in depth about that *Mitzvot* and have a variety of opportunities to practice their *Mitzvah* in the community.

Hebrew: Beginning in kindergarten, students work one-on-one or in small groups with our Hebrew Reading Team to learn the Hebrew Alef-Bet, vowels, and reading skills. Starting in *Kitah Gimmel*, students are split into small Hebrew groups based on their ability for Tuesday afternoon classes as well. This year our 3rd-5th Grade Mid-week Hebrew classes will focus on the prayers in the Kabbalat Shabbat Service and they will use this to learn vocabulary, practice reading, find root words, and learn about prefixes and suffixes in Hebrew.

Tefillah: Each grade level focuses on a few key prayers that connect to the other learning in their curriculum. For example, first grade focuses on *Hannukah* and the blessings for lighting *Hannukah* candles.

Music and Songs: In each grade students will learn Jewish and Hebrew songs connected with their units of study.

Tanakh/Torah: PoP (Pedagogy of Partnership, a Jewish Educational Initiative through Hadar, in New York) will be the Torah/Tanakh component of our program in kindergarten-7th grade classes this year. PoP is based on the principle that "How We Learn is What we Learn." It sets students up to engage deeply, ask questions, and make meaning of texts they study in a Hevruta or a partnership learning model. How does it do this? Teachers are guided in helping each of their students build a partner stance. Students practice and learn how to listen closely to their partner, ask clarifying questions, challenge them, revisit the text to find alternative interpretations, find support in the text, wonder out loud, and articulate their own ideas. Through this process students build community, deepen their own knowledge of Jewish text, develop active listening skills, and much more. We divide the year of PoP learning into 3 units- listening and articulating, focusing and wondering, and supporting and challenging.

Halutzim

Special event: Class mock Shabbat Dinner where the families have a chance to get to know each other over a small meal with the students helping to lead the Shabbat blessings.

Core Shabbat Unit: Students will be able to explain different ways of celebrating Shabbat, braid challah, and sing Shabbat songs and blessings. They will be able to share how they celebrate shabbat, finishing the sentence: on Shabbat my family...Some classes also choose to make Shabbat boxes to use at home.

Holiday: Students will understand that Judaism has holidays that come up every year and will celebrate them as they come up.

Hebrew: Students will know that Hebrew is a language that is important to the Jewish people. They will listen to the *aleph bet* song.

Tefillah: Students will be able to recite and explain the key concepts of the following *Tefillot*: *HaMotzi*, blessing for *Hannukah* candles, blessing over *matza*, and blessings for Shabbat. They will practice the key words in the blessings, *yaday* (hands), *lechem* (bread), *pri* (fruit), *ner* (candle).

Music and Songs: Students will learn and sign Shabbat Shalom, Bim Bom, and other favorite Shabbat songs.

Tanakh/ Torah: Students are introduced to the big ideas of the following biblical stories: creation, Shabbat, *Betzelem Elohim*, Garden of Eden, and Noah. They will also look at the Torah up close and see what it looks like (scrolls, parchment, read it with a *yad*, Hebrew writing, etc.)

- **Mitzvah: Tzedakah-** The Halutzim students collect money for *Tzedakah* throughout the year. They talk about how they can make a difference and that there are people in the world that don't have what they need. At the end of the year they decide how to use the money to make a difference. Many classes go to the grocery store and use their *Tzedakah* money to purchase canned goods for the JFS Food Bank.

Gan

Special event: Biblical figures museum where each student learns about a Biblical figure and tells about their character's life from the perspective of that Biblical figure. Parents and/or other religious school classes will be invited to attend this event.

Core Biblical Figures Unit: Students will be able to retell key stories from *Breishit*, share ideas about what we can learn from *Breishit*, and create a museum of Biblical figures including Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Rebecca.

Holiday: Students will understand that Judaism has holidays that come up every year. They will celebrate them as they come up.

Hebrew: Students will be able to recite or sing the *aleph bet* and identify some Hebrew letters and their sounds.

Tefillah: Students will be able to recite and explain the key concepts of the following *Tefillot*: blessings for food, blessings for Shabbat and holiday candles, blessing over *matza*, and *Modeh Ani*. They will practice saying the food blessings each Sunday when they have snack.

Songs and Music: They will practice singing *David Melech Yisrael* and *Shalom Chaverim*.

Tanakh/Torah: Abraham and Sarah, more in the Biblical Figures unit above. Texts from Exodus and Leviticus will be explored through PoP.

- **Mitzvah:** *Hachnassat Orchim*- Kindergarteners practice welcoming parents and students to religious school and synagogue events. They are able to explain that it is a mitzvah to have people over for shabbat and holidays. They will draw a connection between Abraham and Sarah welcoming guests in the Torah and themselves being able to welcome guests today.

Kitah Aleph and Bet

Special event: First grade classes will host a special *Hannukah* event.

Core Israel Unit: Students will be able to explain why Israel is special to the Jewish people and to people of other religions, name key cities and sites in Israel, and identify the Israel flag.

Core *Hannukah* Unit: Students will focus on the holiday of *Hannukah*. They will study the story of *Hannukah* in an age-appropriate way focusing on the miracle of the oil as well as the idea of struggling to keep Judaism and Jewish identity alive and that it is okay to be different. They will also play dreidel, eat latkes, learn *Hannukah* songs, and practice singing the blessings over the *Hannukah* candles.

Hebrew: Students will be able to identify more than half of the Hebrew letters and their sounds

***Tefillah*:** The first grade class will focus on blessings for Jewish holidays. Students will practice reciting and explaining the key concepts in the *shehechianu*, blessing for dwelling in the *sukkah*, blessing for lighting *Hannukah* candles, and blessings for *matza* and *maror* at the *seder*. They will also learn the *misheberach* for *cholim* (the prayer said for those who are sick).

Music and Songs: First grade students will practice singing *oseh shalom*, *ma tovu*, and *siman tov u'mazel tov*. In their study of *Hannukah* they will also learn favorite *Hannukah* songs.

***Tanakh/Torah*:** PoP- Exodus and Leviticus

- **Mitzvah:** Students will learn that *bikur cholim* means visiting the sick. Together they will think about ways they can make someone sick feel better and develop empathy towards those who are sick. This ties into the Biblical texts mentioned above. Each year the first grade class will look for a way to practice visiting the sick whether it is visiting the Summit, speaking with a visitor going through an illness or injury, or creating a plan for how to take care of each other if one of their classmates is out sick.

Kitah Gimmel

Special events: Class *Havdallah*. Also students will share some of their learning about Purim, Jewish time, and/or Torah at the class special event.

Core Holiday Unit: Purim: Students will be able to name 3-5 people from the Purim story and be able to give a brief summary of the *Megillah*. They will also learn about the silly upside down part of Purim and why we wear costumes. Students will be familiar with the mitzvot of Purim- *mishloach manot* (gifts of food), *matanot l'evyonim* (gifts for the poor), *seudah* (festival meal), and *megillah*(reading Esther).

Core Shabbat and Jewish Time Unit: students will be able to explain the difference between *kodesh* and *chol*, explain the flow of Shabbat starting with preparing for Shabbat through *Havdallah*. Students will know the difference between the lunar and solar calendars They will be able to explain how the lunar calendar and Rosh Chodesh are related and find and mark holidays on the Jewish calendar. They will learn the blessings in *Havdallah*.

- **Mitzvah:** *Mitzvot* related to Shabbat and Jewish time- Students will design a project that helps the CBS community mark Jewish time. Could be a giant calendar, signs for when Rosh Chodesh is, Havdallah supplies, etc).

Hebrew: Most students enter third grade able to decode Hebrew words. These students will focus on reading *tefillot* and being able to recognize and translate key Hebrew words and phrases found in prayer. Those not reading Hebrew at the start of the year will work on Hebrew reading in a small group and will move up to the rest of 3rd-5th grade Hebrew as they are ready.

Tefillah (Kitah Gimmel- Kitah Hey): Students will be able to recite and explain the key concepts of the following *Tefillot*: *Barchu*, *Ma'ariv Aravim/Yotzer Or*, *V'ahavta*, *Mi Chamocha*, *Avot V'Imahot*, *G'vurot*, *Kedushah*, *Ein Kamocha/Av Harahamim*, *Ki Mitziyon*, *V'zot Hatorah/Etz Hayyim Hi*, *Aleinu*, *Ashrei*, *Birchat Hamazon*, pieces of *Kabbalat Shabbat*

Music and Songs: students will learn to sing *Eliyahu Hanavi* and *Shavua Tov*, both commonly sung right after *Havdallah*. Students may also learn parts of *Hallel*.

Tanakh/Torah: Exodus and Leviticus through PoP.

Kitah Dalet and Hey

Special Events: Students will help design and lead the religious school model seder.

Core Unit Jewish History: Students will each be assigned a country. As they progress in their history studies, they will follow what life was like for the Jewish people living in that place during each time period. Their learning will include the Rabbinic/Mishnaic Period, Medieval and Renaissance Period and Early Modern Era.

Holiday Focus: Tu Bishvat and Sukkot: Students will be able to explain what these two holidays have to do with agriculture. They will answer, why is Tu Bishvat celebrated in February when in Seattle everything is dead then and why do trees get a their own new year? They will learn about some trees and plants that grow in Israel. For sukkot they will discuss why is it the time of our happiness and how being in a sukkah reminds us that things are not always stable. Students will practice shaking the lulav and etrog, reciting the blessings, and learn midrashim surrounding the 4 species. This year Passover will also be a 2nd holiday topic of focus for our 4th and 5th graders.

Hebrew: Students will be able to decode Hebrew words. Students will be able to recognize and translate key Hebrew words and phrases found in *Tefillot*.

Tefillah (Kitah Gimmel- Kitah Hey): Students will be able to read or chant and explain the key concepts of the following *Tefillot*: *Barchu*, *Ma'ariv Aravim/Yotzer Or*, *V'ahavta*, *Mi Chamocha*, *Avot V'Imahot*, *G'vurot*, *Kedushah*, *Ein Kamocha/Av Harahamim*, *Ki Mitziyon*, *V'zot Hatorah/Etz Hayyim Hi*, *Aleinu*, *Ashrei*, *Birchat Hamazon*, pieces of *Kabbalat Shabbat*.

Tanakh/Torah: Exodus and Leviticus through PoP.

Prozdor 6th Grade

Mitzvot: Students will be able to explain different *mitzvot*, describe how they are performed, and divide them into categories. They will choose two *mitzvot* to take on as their *b'nai mitzvah* project.

Hebrew: All Tuesday Prozdor students will participate in a Hebrew and text study course. This year the learning will focus on the text of *Pirkei Avot*. To meet the diverse background, interests, and learning styles of our students, Hebrew is taught in small groups divided by level and learning style.

Electives: Students will be able to choose between elective based on their own interests. Offerings change each semester and may include: cooking in Hebrew, Israeli art and artists, text studies, Holocaust, comparative religions, and more.

Tefillah: Students explore the questions of: who is God, what is the point of prayer, and what makes our Tefillot conservative. 6th grade students and their parents participate in a *Tefillah* course aimed at deepening their knowledge about the meaning and origins of different parts of our liturgy and they will also experience how to *daven* in the sanctuary. Through their synagogue skills courses they learn to chant Torah and the blessings before and after the Torah reading, and how to lead the Shabbat morning *Kiddush*. Students may also choose to learn to chant *Haftorah* and recite the blessings before and after the *Haftorah* reading. Students may work towards leading various Shabbat services. Additionally, students spend time in the sanctuary each Shabbat morning so that they gain practice participating in Tefillah, observe the basic structure of Shabbat morning services, and familiarize themselves with what they will be expected to lead at their bar/bat mitzvah.

Torah: 6th grade students study the weekly Parasha with a peer chavruta during Partners and Parasha. They become familiar with different commentaries and participate in a conversation about the Parasha and commentaries with their peers and adults in the community. They also express their own opinions as they relate

Conservative Judaism: 6th grade students explore the theology, history, and practices of the conservative movement. They think about why they are a conservative Jew and why be a conservative Jew. They also learn what separates the conservative movement from other Jewish movements and are introduced to how to read and navigate a *teshuva*.

Special events: Following each semester of Prozdor parents will be invited to attend celebrations of learning where they are invited to learn from their children.

7th Grade Prozdor

Mitzvot: Students will be able to explain different *mitzvot*, describe how they are performed, and divide them into categories. They will choose two *mitzvot* to take on as their *b'nai mitzvah* project.

Hebrew: All Tuesday Prozdor students will participate in a Hebrew and text study course. This year the learning will focus on the text of *Pirkei Avot*. To meet the diverse background, interests, and learning styles of our students, Hebrew is taught in small groups divided by level and learning style.

Electives: Students will be able to choose between elective based on their own interests. Offerings change each semester and may include: cooking in Hebrew, Israeli art and artists, text studies, Holocaust, comparative religions, and more.

Tefillah: Students in 7th grade work at their own pace during synagogue skills to prepare for their upcoming b'nai mitzvah. Additionally, students spend time in the sanctuary each Shabbat morning so that they gain practice participating in *Tefillah*, observe the basic structure of Shabbat morning services, and familiarize themselves with what they will be expected to lead at their *bar/bat mitzvah*. They spend extended time in the sanctuary when someone in their cohort is celebrating their *bar/bat mitzvah*.

Israel: In 7th grade our students read Israeli current events and hear different narratives around Israel in this course led by our shinshinit. At the end of the study they are ready to answer “why should we be connected to Israel,” in their own unique ways.

Holocaust Unit: 7th grade students participate in a Holocaust unit designed in collaboration with the Holocaust Center for Humanity.

Special events: Following each semester of Prozdor parents will be invited to attend celebrations of learning where they are invited to learn from their children.