

What we hope a graduate of our School will Know, Do, and Feel Congregation Bet Haverim Community School (CBHCS)

As the Board of Directors for Congregation Bet Haverim was going through strategic planning, part of this process included community visioning work at the CBH Community school. While a mission statement is what we are up to now and our purpose, the vision is forward looking - what we want the world to be once we have executed the mission. The Board asked that parents, through facilitated feedback, articulate a communal vision for our children's education program. We know that with the limited time we have to learn together, we cannot teach *everything* we might like to. Given that, what do we want graduates of our program to know, do, and feel? In 2015 and 2016 we asked parents about their priorities, and the results of those conversations continues to guide our school curriculum and teaching.

Below you will find what came out of those visioning exercises- the various prioritized goals that parents desired for CBHCS. Each has been mapped to the curricula we are currently using: classroom work from the Institute for Southern Jewish Life, minyan with our shul's spiritual leaders, and values-based learning for each grade level specially designed with local partner organizations.

As a result of their Jewish education, in preparation to be participating adults in our community, CBHCS students will:

- demonstrate a broad knowledge of Judaism, Torah, Hebrew and prayer;
- be able to engage in Jewish rituals in community and at home; and
- feel belonging in the CBH community and a sense of identity as a Jew in the world community.

While we at the school strive to provide the richest experience possible for our students on Sunday mornings, participation in the life of our Jewish community provides a living context for the things that are taught on Sundays, and involvement in the congregation is an indispensable part of helping children develop strong, positive, individual Jewish identities. We want our parents to be involved! CBHCS families are encouraged to achieve these competencies below with their children and to practice them at home.

Specific Outcomes listed below.

Broad Knowledge of Judaism:

- The vocabulary used to describe holidays
- Jewish Stories
- Jewish Songs
- Traditions and customs for holidays including Shabbat and Havdalah
- Jewish Values – Know the Hebrew names and elements of major Jewish values “talk the talk” (tikkun olam, gimulit chadadim, chesed, tzdakah, salvanut...).

- Jewish Ethics- Menschlichkeit; PJ Library
- History: Israel, Holocaust (Spanning 2,000 years)

Content of Torah:

- Structure of how Torah is read (parsha each week, prayer before and after, alyiahs)
- Basic facts: 5 books, familiarity with stories and content of each
- Vocabulary for teaching the reading of Torah and engaging in Torah Study: d'var, Kavanah, Yad, Tallit, Aaron Kadosh, etc.

Hebrew fluency

- Vocabulary around holiday and ritual
- Letters, decoding, words
- Being able to read and follow prayer in Hebrew

Prayer

Understand meaning, order, structure and purpose of prayers daily in a Shabbat Services and holidays

- Shabbat- Prayers at home
 - Motzi
 - Hagafen
 - Havdallah
 - Shema
 - Modeh ani
 - Candle lighting
 - Shehechianu
- Shabbat- Prayers at Shul/Saturday Morning Service
 - Ma Tovu
 - Morning Blessings
 - Esa Anai
 - Shema/Veahavta
 - Mourner's Kaddish
 - Havdallah
- Holidays
 - Four questions

Be able to engage in the following:

- Hebrew – read/follow along in prayer book
- Read from the Torah – Have the background knowledge of custom and Hebrew basic to build on when it is time to learn troupe as part of the b'nai mitzvah process.

Feel a connection to/like a member of our CBH community:

- Think critically about Judaism and their place in it
- Torah is not in heaven; minority opinions

- Live Jewish values - Walk the walk (Live these values), engage in ongoing Jewish Learning
- Feel comfortable with Services
- Engage in Tikun Olam
- Positive Connection with Rabbi
- Connection to G-d – being able to talk about thoughts and feelings about God.
- Issues of today (gender, sexuality, race, ability, Israel, Holocaust)
- Engage in Social Justice work (Attend marches, write letters, understand Justice give tzedakah)

Parent Participation

Given that CBH community school is only one morning a week 28 times a year, and children learn at wildly different paces, parents should understand that learning will be strengthened by daily and weekly practice in the home and with the CBH community. Judaism is not a spectator sport! As mentioned in the beginning of this document, parents are encouraged to gain these competencies (along with their children) and model participation in Jewish life throughout their days and weeks between time at religious school. As a school we can teach them to talk the talk, as families you must teach them to walk the walk. Children learn best what we model for them. We typically offer some parent education at the school each year to help facilitate this learning. If there are areas you wish we were covering that you don't see, please let us know!

To support your child's engagement in Jewish Learning, we recommend:

- Attend Friday night services
- Attend Saturday Morning services
- Light Shabbat Candles
- Conduct or attend Havdalah Services
- Incorporate a Hebrew prayer into daily life
 - Saying shema before bed
 - Saying morning blessings
 - Saying Motzi before eating
- Incorporate Jewish Values and vocabulary taught into your discussions with your children.
 - Example: Instead of just putting your child in time out for hitting his sister, discuss kindness, empathy, humility, how to be more slow to anger.
 - When children earn money, talk about tzedakah and help them to practice giving.