



# BETH HILLEL BNAI EMUNAH ACADEMY

## 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grades

### 2017-2018 CURRICULUM

Rather than a conventional spiral curriculum, which teaches the same thing each year but at a higher level, what if you spent a year learning only a few things but in real depth? As students move forward in their Jewish lives, we can assume that virtually all will be participating in Seders on Passover. Yet, other than the Four Questions, this is one of the key rituals for which they are least prepared. In the experience we are putting in place for the 2017-2018 school year, students in grades 4 - 7 -- and ideally their parents as well -- will be developing the skills to both participate in, and lead, a rich and musical Passover seder. This skill would be demonstrated toward the end of the year, when the students lead the community Seder at Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah!

Some of the advantages of a multi-grade curriculum:

- Builds community
- Parents can participate in the process by attending a monthly adult class.
- Members of the family develop a shared knowledge-base and frame of reference.
- The expertise of the faculty and congregational staff are efficiently tapped, and full resources provided in a concentrated and high-level manner.

#### Sunday Schedule

Time	4	5	6	7
<b>9:00 – 9:35</b>	Multi-Grade Passover Lesson			
<b>9:40 – 10:30</b>	<b>Electives:</b> Passover Press, Lego Architecture, Circus Seder, Haggadah Art, Shank Bone Singers, Four Cups Video. (Descriptions below.)			
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	Snack/Break			
<b>10:45 - 11:30</b>	Exodus, Jewish Lifecycle			
<b>11:30 - 12:00</b>	Academy Service			

## 4th-7th Grade Curriculum Components

### Passover:

- **Goal:** To learn to lead and participate in a rich and vibrant seder.
- **Multi-Grade Lesson:** Studying the Haggadah, a section at a time. Components:
  - Passover Jokes (7th Grade)
  - Haggadah content lesson
  - Learning new songs and reviewing songs already learned
- **Electives:**
  - **Passover Press:** Have you ever wanted to create a newspaper? Now is your chance! Stories and poems, puzzles, photos, and more. You can be the writer, the editor, the publisher! And while you are putting together your newspaper, keep your audience excited with a monthly podcast! Yes a podcast for family and friends, featuring some of the original work that will be in the paper! Are you a great writer, photographer, or poet? Do you have a good voice for broadcasting? This is for you!
  - **Lego Architecture:** Can one ever get enough Legos? If the answer for you is “no,” then join Sarah in Lego Architecture! Create Lego sculptures of scenes and ideas in the Haggadah! The crossing of the Red Sea, Moses with his staff, the Israelites building the pyramids! Matzo ball soup! How does one create a Lego sculpture of Matzo ball soup? Figure it out! How about the Four Questions? These Lego sculptures will be photographed and put together into a “Lego Haggadah,” which will be displayed in a special synagogue exhibit!!!
  - **Circus Seder:** Do you sometimes think your family Seder is just a circus! Grape juice flying through the air, horseradish on the cat, the dog dancing in a ring of matzo? Join Josh Feinstein to create circus-style routines based on key scenes and ideas in the Hagaddah! Can you find a way to demonstrate this thought: “All who are hungry shall come and eat” through movement, juggling, objects, music? How about the four children? The ten plagues? Keep your eyes and limbs nimble, learn about the holiday, and juggle a few Seder plates on the way!
  - **Haggadah Art:** When someone hands you a crayon do you go wild? Can a marker make you a guru of design? Now is your chance to create a Haggadah for the next century! What if your Haggadah was like a cross

between a 3D display and a Transformer - pages turning into boxes turning into robots? Turn the story of Passover into a comic book! You be the artist! You be the designer! The Exodus from Egypt never looked so real!

- **Shank Bone Singers with Cantor Pavel Roytman:** It's choir re-imagined! Do you like to perform? Sing like an angel? When you chant the Ma Nishtanah does everyone swoon and sigh? Come join a choir that meets right in the middle of the Academy morning!! Learn wonderful songs to perform both in and outside of the synagogue! Great atmosphere, good friends, amazing concerts -- including a special chance to back up Noah Aronson and his band! Cantor Pavel says: "Can't wait to see you and to make music together!"
- **Four Cups Video:** Do you dream of being a Youtube star? When someone holds up a camera, do you jump up and dance, start a stand up routine? Whether you like being in front of the camera or behind it, now is your chance to be the director, the writer, the cameraperson, the star! Banter with your co-host about all the wacky spots you've hid the matzo! Teach parents and friends about the holiday through jokes and fun stories! Film your fellow classmates as they sing or dance or juggle, and then put it all together into a monthly show that Netflix is bound to pick up for their bread-free spring season!

- **Culminating Experience:** Community Seder, led by the school.
- **All electives include 10 or 15 minutes practice of Passover Hebrew**

#### **Exodus:**

- Goal: Reading through the book of Exodus, and exploring key questions.
- Different grades will do this in slightly different ways.

#### **Jewish Lifecycle:**

- **Goal:** Develop a rich understanding of the key Jewish lifecycle ceremonies  
**Culminating experience:** School Wedding

**Exodus & Lifecycle components** will be on Sundays by grade from 10:45 - 11:30.

## Tuesday Schedule

Time	4	5	6	7
4:15-5:05	Hebrew	Judaica	Judaica	Hebrew
5:05 - 5:20	Snack			
5:20 - 6:15	Judaica	Hebrew	Hebrew	Judaica)

### **Tuesday Hebrew:**

- Tefillah-based, tied into Shabbat.
- Hebrew reading practice and games
- Cantor visits for 15 minutes to teach singing of prayers

### **Tuesday Judaica:**

- Shalom Learning values-based curriculum
- Torah portion of the week
- Games and conversation