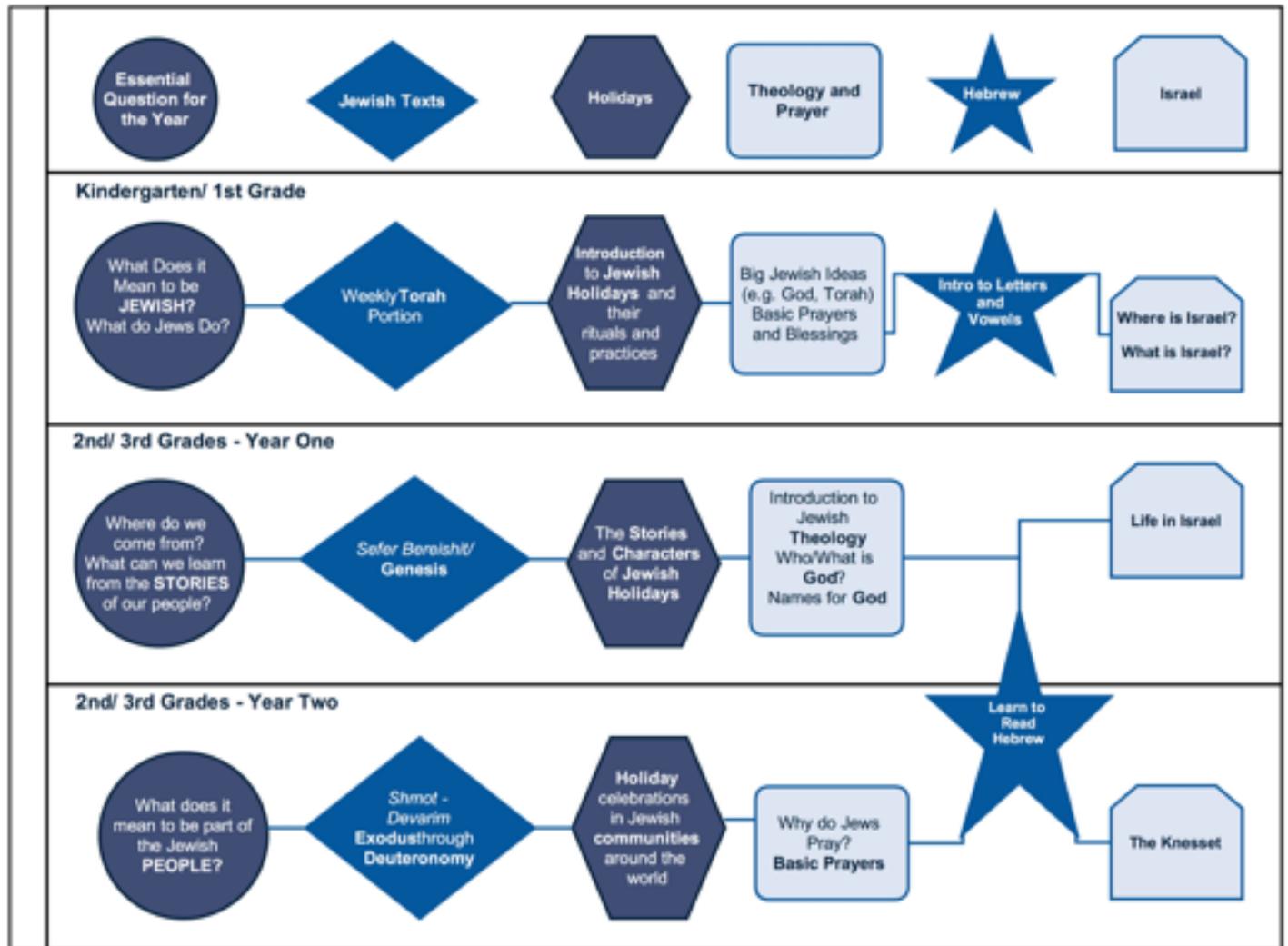


TBZ Beit Rabban Curriculum Overview

Kindergarten through 3rd Grade



Kindergarten/ 1st Grade:

Our goal for our youngest group is to introduce them to foundational aspects of Jewish learning. Learners explore core Jewish practices such as Shabbat and holiday ritual and narrative, berachot/ blessings over food and experience, and basic Hebrew. Every week we will learn about parshat hashavua/ the weekly torah portion in order to introduce learners to basics Torah narratives, characters and themes. Together, we will sing, make art, move our bodies and play games as we learn what it means to be Jewish.

2nd/ 3rd Grades Year 1

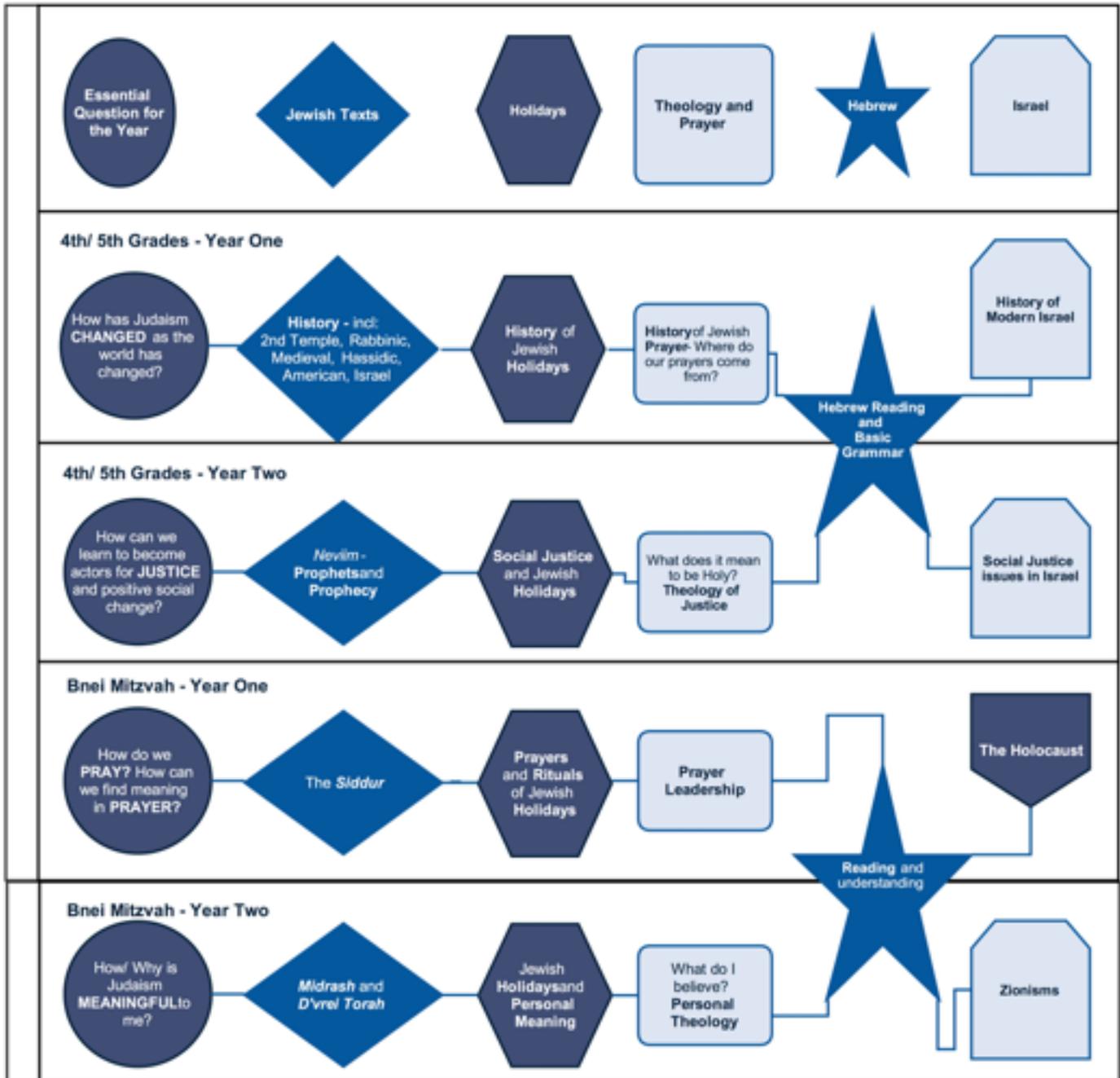
The focus is on the book of Bereishit/Genesis. Students read key stories, building their Jewish literacy and learning basics for reading and thinking about the Torah. We will bring in midrashim (rabbinic interpretations of the text) and create our own as we continue to learn important lessons from Jewish text and tradition. The secondary focus will be an introduction to Jewish theology. Students learn to read and decode basic Hebrew.

2nd/ 3rd Grades Year 2

The focus is on the themes of Jewish peoplehood, holiness and covenant and what it means to be a part of the Jewish people. Our students continue their study of Torah with an emphasis on major themes in the books of Shmot.(Exodus), Vayikra (Leviticus), B'midbar (Numbers) and Devarim (Deuteronomy) Students learn more about tefillah, Jewish prayer and find personal meaning in the Jewish holidays. Students learn to read and decode basic Hebrew.

TBZ Beit Rabban Curriculum Overview

4th Grade through B'nei Mitzvah



TBZ Beit Rabban Curriculum Overview

4th/ 5th Grades Year 1:

The 4/5 class focuses on key moments and figures in Jewish history when Jews were forced to rethink what it means to be Jewish in order to better adapt to their changing world. Through delving deeply into the narratives and stories of interesting people in the Jewish past, we will explore what it means to “live Jewishly,” and we will discuss Jewish values, mitzvot (commandments) and community organizations at different times and in different places. Our goal is to give learners literacy of key Jewish moments in history, while learning interesting stories about real people, their choices and their communities. Some moments will include the 2nd Temple period, early rabbinic Judaism, medieval Jewry in the Middle East and Europe, early Chasidism, early American Judaism and the creation of the state of Israel.

4th/ 5th Grades Year 2:

What do we mean when we say “social justice?” How can 4th and 5th graders begin to learn how they can be actors for meaningful change? The 4/5 year two curriculum focuses on Jewish values, ethics and social justice through several lenses. First, we will provide a Toraitic basis for Jewish laws regarding social and environmental justice and examine the roots of our modern values. Next we will read and learn about the leadership and idealism of the biblical prophets. Our primary goal is to examine the role of prophecy in the Tanakh and draw practical conclusions that will inform the students’ growing Jewish identity and sense of themselves as budding leaders. Then, we will study modern “prophets” and Jewish justice leaders such as Abraham Joshua Heschel, Bella Abzug, and other environmental, feminist and civil rights giants. Finally, we will learn about modern tools for creating change and explore how we can become leaders for social change.

In addition to the prophecy curriculum, fourth and fifth graders also study texts, ideas and values relating to the holiday cycle, Jewish liturgy, Jewish practice and Israel that help them to find greater meaning in and facility with Jewish ritual and tradition. Throughout the year, the fourth and fifth grade students will learn about these different areas of Jewish tradition and practice through the lens social justice values and activism.

B’nei Mitzvah Year 1:

In the B’nei Mitzvah class (year 1) we will focus on prayer in two ways - practical skills that help us prepare for our b’nei mitzvah, and the history and theology of prayer, which can help us connect more meaningfully to prayer and Jewish community. Skills will include - leading prayers, chanting Torah and haftarah, and learning the Torah service. Through learning about a wide range of Jewish approaches to prayer, God and Torah, we will spend time thinking and talking about what we really think, and how we can live a Jewish life that is meaningful to us. We also will learn about the holocaust through the Facing History and Ourselves curriculum.

B’nei Mitzvah Year 2:

The B’nei Mitzvah year two curriculum is an integrated exploration of Jewish text, Jewish history, and Jewish identity. Throughout our different curricular focuses, we will be exploring the question of Jewish identity and peoplehood, giving the b’nei mitzvah students ample opportunity to explore their own Judaism and who they are as a Jew.

Also, as we explore the history and ritual of each holiday, special focus will be given to how we wish to celebrate each holiday and finding ways to make each holiday personally meaningful.

At the end of the year each student will learn how to write a d’var Torah. Also, all students will complete an independent research project that helps them build their skills and interest in a topic of their choice.