

Temple Israel Religious School

Curriculum Goals Overview 2018-2019

The guiding educational philosophy at every grade level is to instill in the students a love of Judaism and a desire to celebrate their Jewish identity. To accomplish this, we want the students to have an understanding and knowledge of prayers, holidays, history, ethics and to become an active participant in our community. Our program incorporates art and music for all students. The concepts targeted at each grade level are outlined below and serve as a guide. In addition, each grade level prepares and leads a special Shabbat service for the congregation. As students move through the school they continue to learn new *tefillot* each year (while working to master the *tefillot* from the previous year.)

Kindergarten (Gan)

Basic introduction of some letters of the Aleph-bet (games and crafts with Aleph-bet letters).

Basic Hebrew vocabulary – classroom objects, body parts, numbers 1-10

Introduction of holiday celebrations and related vocabulary

Their Hebrew name

Basic *tefillot*

Shabbat – order of Friday night rituals and reciting the basic dinner table blessings

Aleph (1st Grade)

Introduction of names and sounds of Hebrew letters. Recognizing simple, common words in Hebrew (Shabbat, Shalom, etc.).

Additional basic Hebrew vocabulary

Introduction of Bible Stories (*Bereshit* – Genesis)

Continuation of learning about and experiencing the holidays

Mastering basic *tefillot* (from Gan) and introducing new *tefillot*

Bet (2nd Grade)

Development and mastery of Aleph-bet and vowels

Development of reading readiness

Introduction of additional blessings/*tefillot*

Explore aspects of the synagogue

Bible stories – *Bereshit* (Genesis)

Gimel (3rd Grade)

Development and further mastery of entire Aleph-bet

Decoding and reading Hebrew

Bible -Jewish values in *Bereshit* (talking about God, family relationships & lessons learned from the stories)

Hands on projects related to holidays (braiding challah, making an Elijah cup for Passover, baking hamentashen, etc.)

Learning the meaning of the *tefillot*

Dalet (4th Grade)

Further development of decoding and reading skills

Mastery of writing Hebrew

Special Unit of study is Israel and what it means to be a mensch

Introduction of additional *tefillot*

Hey (5th Grade)

Mastery of Hebrew reading skills

Bible/Siddur – Navigating through the Bible and the siddur

Special unit of study on the Jewish Lifecycle

Introduction of additional *tefillot* and further exploring their meaning

Vav (6th Grade)

Mastery of Hebrew reading skills

Introduction of additional *tefillot* and further exploring their meaning

Bible – Jewish values in *Shemot* (Exodus)

Special Unit of study is Jewish history/Jewish community: Relationships with family, friends, Jewish community and Israel

Zayin (7th Grade)

Mastery of Hebrew reading skills

Through both debate and open-ended dialogue, discussing the way laws in the Torah, The Book of Life, is *still* relevant in the lives of our teens!

Introduction of advanced *tefillot* and discussing them within the context of our lives

Analyzing the weekly *parasha* (Torah portion)

History – The Holocaust

Journaling