

# CBJ Curriculum Overview



B'ruchim Habayim! At CBJ you will find children learning and experiencing Judaism through prayer, study, projects, holiday celebrations and family workshops. Following the guidelines set by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), the umbrella organization for Conservative synagogues, our Religious School consists of Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through Second Grade, Hebrew School for children in Third through Seventh Grades and our Community Hebrew High School – jCo-op - for children in 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades.

## Kindergarten – Second Grade

We strive to instill and encourage a sense of excitement and pride in being Jewish. Through hands-on activities relating to Holiday and Shabbat observances, Jewish symbols, Torah and Mitzvot, students learn what it means to be a Jew through the lens of the home, the family and the synagogue. Jewish values are integrated in everyday lessons. Students are introduced to Hebrew letters, blessings and songs. Our program is designed to engage students in Jewish learning through music, study, drama, arts and much more!

## Aleph through Heh (3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Students are instilled with knowledge, respect and love of elements of the Siddur, Hebrew language, Torah, Jewish rituals and an understanding of God. Prayer during weekday sessions and classroom discussions are occasions to help students develop in their spiritual growth.

- **Hebrew** – Through “Hebrew by Achievement Level”, students will learn grade-level prayers at their own pace. Focused on the reading and understanding of a wide variety of prayers, students will learn important synagogue skills that they can use throughout their lifetime.
- **ShalomLearning** – [ShalomLearning](#) is an interactive, Jewish values-based curriculum that helps children develop a positive Jewish identity. It is built on the principle of creating relevancy between a student’s secular life and Jewish tradition. By using a Jewish values-based curriculum, students acquire important tools and learning skills that provide them with the ability to find relevancy in their life experience today. Rather than being a linear, content focused curriculum, ShalomLearning has a modern, integrated, and holistic approach that is appealing to 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. Throughout each value unit Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays and more are weaved and integrated so that each student explores his or her personal connection to our heritage.
- **Heh Class/7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – In this class, students will have the opportunity to learn intensively about Ethics and Values, Holocaust studies and Social Action.

## jCo-op: (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

jCo-op, a partnership between Congregation Beth Judea and Congregation Beth Am, is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders who are members at CBJ or CBA. We offer engaging study, informal social gatherings, and opportunities for experiential learning trips outside of our Chicagoland area. Students can sign for the entire year or by individual minimester as we want to make it more accessible to students with seasonal extracurricular activities.