

TIRS

Curriculum Goals by Grade

General

- Each grade has goals in each of the subject areas.
- Each grade will have a milestone event or project
- Each grade will have a Judaica Art project
- All holidays will be presented in some form each year, but each grade will focus on three holidays.
- Each grade has a family Shabbat dinner and a chance to lead a portion of the services.
- As soon as children know all the letters and sounds, they begin Mitkadem.

GAN

Calendar/Holiday

- General understanding of themes and customs associated with Jewish holidays, presented as they occur.
- Participate in holiday activities and learn holiday related songs.
- Focus on Shabbat, Hanukah, and Passover.
- Begin to develop a concept of “Jewish Time” and life as American Jews using two different calendars.

Prayer/Ritual

Recite/understand: Shema (one line), Modeh/Modah Ani, Hanukah blessings

Understand Shabbat dinner practices: challah, candles, wine/grape juice and their blessings

Torah and Mitzvot

Understand and practice: derech erez (good manners), the ban on tza'ar ba'alei chayim (causing unnecessary suffering to animals), kibur av v'em (honoring your parents), and tzedakah (righteous giving).

Learn some bible stories in age appropriate language, including Noah's Ark

Modern Hebrew/Israel

Understand that Hebrew is the language of Israel.

Understand Israel as an important place to the Jewish people.

Understand the connection between American Jews and Israel.

Understand that Haifa is a city in Israel that is Sharon's sister city.

Understand basic weather terms and be able to apply them verbally to weather here and in Haifa.

Understand that the weather is different in Israel from the weather in Massachusetts

Understand that the time is different in Israel – that it is late afternoon/evening there during morning Hebrew School.

Recognize the flag and the map of Israel.

Recognize the Kotel.

Kehillah & Culture

Learn the name of the synagogue community.

Begin to understand etiquette for the sanctuary.

Understand meaning and importance of wearing a kippah.

ALEPH

Calendar/Holiday

Know blessings over candles, first line of Kiddush, and Hamotzi and how to apply them to Shabbos dinner.

Recognize the shofar as a symbol of Rosh Hashanah.

Understand the concepts of Yamim Noraim and Tshuvah.

Recognize and know what is done with: lulav, Etrog, sukkah, hanukiah, megillah, haggadah, seder plate

Participate in holiday activities and learn holiday related songs.

Know which Jewish holidays come in each season.

Focus on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Pesach.

Be able to sing the Four Questions, with assistance.

Prayer/Ritual

Know the basic blessings for Friday night dinner: Candlelighting, Kiddush (one line), Motzi

Recite/understand: Shechechyanu

Know which bracha goes with: bread, fruit, grape juice, non-bread grain foods, other foods. Be able to recite the appropriate blessing at snack.

Torah and Mitzvot

Understand and practice: (mitzvot from Gan plus) Tikkun Olam, Shalom Bayit

Learn some age appropriate stories associated with the patriarchs and matriarchs.

Modern Hebrew/Israel

Know some common classroom words in Hebrew.

Continue with weather words.

Learn letter and vowel sounds and be able to read two letter words, with vowels.

Learn Hebrew for major body parts.

Kehillah & Culture

Recognize major features of the sanctuary and know what they are called.

Know what age bar/bat mitzvah occurs and what it signifies.

Learn several Jewish songs, including Mah Tov, Zum Gali Gali, and Shalom Aleichem.

Be able to identify Hebrew, English, and transliteration in the siddur.

History

Understand American Jews and Israel as connected through a common Jewish history.

Understand Jewish history as beginning in Israel a long, long time ago.

BET

Calendar/Holiday

Know the calendar order of Jewish holidays.

Focus on Sukkot, Tu B'shvat, and Shavuot

Understand the connection of all three to nature.

Learn customs and themes of all three.

Participate in holiday activities and learn holiday related songs.

Be able to sing the Four Questions, without assistance.

Prayer/Ritual

Know the blessings over candles for holidays and how it differs from Shabbat.

Learn to sing Mi Chomocha, Adon Olam, Oseh Shalom and Psalm 150.

Understand the major words in prayers listed above.

Torah/Mitzvot

Understand and practice: (mitzvot from previous grades plus) Hachnasat Orchim.

Be able to articulate the main stories and themes in Breshit/Genesis.

Be familiar with the broad outline of the story of the Exodus from Egypt, and be able to relate it to the Joseph story.

Modern Hebrew/Israel

Know some common family words in Hebrew: father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son, grandmother, grandfather, uncle, aunt, cousin.

Be able to locate major regions of Israel on a map.

Identify some ways children in Israel live similar lives to those here, and some that are different.

Kehillah & Culture

Know where the Torah is in the sanctuary and when it is read.

Understand the difference between siddur and Torah.

Understand and practice appropriate behavior during prayer.

Learn several new Jewish songs (beyond those learned in Alef above)

History

Understand connection between modern Jewry and a history going back to biblical times.

Understand that the holidays they study were celebrated very differently in biblical times.

GIMMEL

Calendar/Holidays

Understand the biblical basis of (many) Jewish holidays.

Focus on High Holidays and Pesach

High Holidays – understand the basic themes and customs

- understand the biblical underpinnings
- understand the importance of teshuvah and forgiveness

Pesach – understand how the celebration of Pesach today is very different from that mentioned in the bible. Learn about the history and development of the holiday and how it is celebrated differently in different parts of the world. Learn how different haggadot differ and how they are the same.

Explain major themes, reasons and customs for Jewish holidays.

Participate in holiday activities and learn holiday related songs.

Begin to understand the biblical basis of Jewish holidays.

Know the appropriate blessings for the Hanukah menorah

Be able to sing the Four Questions, without assistance, and without transliteration.

Prayer/Ritual Focus

Read, chant, and understand the beginning of the Amidah

Understand the reasoning behind the “choreography” of the Amidah

Become familiar with the structure of Friday night and Saturday morning services

Chant Aleinu with appropriate bowing; understand main thrust of the prayer

Understand prayer as talking to G-d; explore question of whether G-d needs our prayers and, if not, why pray?

Understand minyan as ten Jews over the age of ritual adulthood

Understand the importance of communal prayer and minyan

Explore similarities and differences between solo and communal prayer, silent, spoken and chanted prayer and understand the place for each

Torah

Understand and practice: (mitzvot from previous grades plus) Shmirot Halashon.

Focus on how words can hurt and how to avoid hurting others through words and how to make amends if you do.

Understand the connection between Torah and Mitzvot.

Understand that Jewish tradition is interpretive and that law codes over centuries determine Jewish law and practice.

Modern Hebrew/Israel

Learn some Israeli dances, including understanding directions in Hebrew for right, left, forward, and backward.

Be able to sing some simple songs in Hebrew and say what they mean, including: David Melech, Mayim Mayim, Am Yisrael Chai

Be able to count to 20 in Hebrew. Count off the children in the class.

Kehillah & Culture

Understand the variety of backgrounds of American Jews.

Know where their family moved from and where extended family lives.

Be able to identify their family's countries of origin on a globe or world map.

History

Understand the role of Jewish immigration in American history.

Understand American Jewish history as going back to pre-Revolutionary times

Understand American Jews as having a variety of ethnic backgrounds and national origins.

Begin to learn some cultural variations in Jewish customs, using Pesach as an example.

DALET

Calendar/Holidays

Be able to identify the textual basis for Jewish holidays.

Focus on High Holidays, Tu B'Shvat, and Shabbat.

Understand all of the above holidays as coming from the Torah but being practiced very differently now.

Connect differences in modern High Holiday and Tu B'Shvat practice to transition from Temple-based religion to a "portable" Judaism.

Explore the two revivals of Tu B'Shvat: as a mystical holiday and as a conservationist holiday. Learn about the custom of a Tu B'Shvat seder in both revivals.

Connect biblical treatment of Shabbat with current practice.

Explore different ways to view Shabbat – a palace in time, a day to connect with family and friends, home and shul practices, the radical concept of a day off.

Prayer/Ritual

Be familiar with the Torah service, including chanting opening and closing prayers and the choreography of taking out the Torah.

Understand the symbolism of parading the Torah and raising it at the end.

Be familiar with the Shabbat Amidah and understand why it is repeated.

Be able to lead the congregation in Shir Hakavod.

Be familiar with and able to follow along with all prayers during children's services.

Be able to articulate a personal view of prayer.

Torah/Mitzvot

Understand the Torah as divided into books and parshayot.

Be familiar with the Torah reading cycle.

Understand the Jewish view of seeking forgiveness

Learn some Torah laws concerning the environment and explore how they relate to our world today

Understand the role of the Mishkan and of the Temple as its successor
Understand the role of the Cohanim in the Torah, understand the division of Jews into Cohanim, Leviim, and Israel
Understand modern Judaism as the result of the move from sacrifice-based to prayer-based religion.

Modern Hebrew/Israel

Begin to learn Hebrew Script.

Understand that Modern Hebrew is generally written without vowels.

Recognize some common words without vowels.

Recognize the Israeli national anthem and understand its main themes

Kehillah & Culture

Know that Temple Israel is a Conservative congregation and understand some of the differences and similarities between the major Jewish movements.

Be able to participate appropriately in adult services

Recognize and understand the role of “prayerwear” – kippah, tallit, tefillin.

Learn the significance of tzitzit and the techelet thread.

History

Begin to understand Jewish history in relationship to world history – what else is happening in the world at key times in Jewish history?

Understand the concept of Diaspora and American Jews as part of it. Explore how different Diaspora communities developed different traditions and customs.

Begin learning about the Holocaust and its effect on world-wide Jewry.

HAY

Calendar/Holidays

Introduce Tisha B'Av. Learn about customs associated with it and understand it as a sad holiday commemorating the destruction of the Temples and other disasters.

Learn about other calamities traditionally associated with Tisha B'Av.

Explore why we continue to mourn when we have for 2000 years had a non-Temple based religion.

Focus on Pesach, Simchat Torah, and Omer/Shavuot.

Pesach – compare and contrast different haggadot, ancient and modern

- Learn about the five grains that are hametz and about Pesach preparation
- Understand the seder as a ritual reenactment of the Passover story, and as a time traveling exercise
- Know the differences between Pesach as practiced in Israel and in the Diaspora
- Explore the lighter side of Pesach through a chocolate seder

Simchat Torah - understand Simchat Torah as a “new” holiday – i.e. only several hundred years old

Understand it as a holiday of the Diaspora and explore customs associated with it.

Understand how it is practiced in Temple Israel.

Omer/Shavuot – learn the biblical basis and ritual for counting the omer.

Explore ways to understand omer spiritually.

Learn the major customs and biblical basis of Shavuot.

Participate in a (mini) tikun leyl Shavuot.

Prayer/Ritual Focus

Be familiar with Psukei d'Zimra.

Understand how Torah is divided into parshiyot, and what is read each week.

Learn blessings before and after Torah reading.

Begin to learn Torah trope. Understand the Trope system and recognize V'Ahavta as being sung in Trope. Stretch goal for some kids: read Torah in Junior Congregation.

Know full Hebrew Name and be able to write it.

Be able to sing Birkat Hamazon. Understand when a meal is considered a meal.

Torah/Mitzvot

Understand the three divisions of biblical texts: Torah, Nevi'im, Ktuvim.

Understand the use of selections from the Nevi'im for Haftarah.

Learn some stories from the books of the Prophets

Understand the role of rabbinic texts in mitzvot.

Focus on mitzvot of Tikun Olam and Tzedakah.

Modern Hebrew/Israel

Continue to learn Hebrew Script.

Learn 100 sight words in Hebrew.

Be able to sound out an unfamiliar text, with vowels.

Kehillah & Culture

Understand the Jewish concept of freedom and how it differs from a secular concept

Understand the Exodus as freedom from slavery to Pharaoh to become servants to G-d;

Understand why services are "avodah",

Understand the importance of being a positive influence.

History

Understand the relationship between the Holocaust and the founding of the State of Israel.

Identify some major contributions of Jews to American history and culture.

VAV

Holidays/Calendar

Understand how the Jewish and secular calendars function and why the holidays aren't on the same secular date each year.

Understand how and why the holidays float relative to the secular year.

Understand the limits on the float and how leap years accomplish that.

Understand how the calendar functioned in Temple times versus in the Diaspora

Understand the concept of Rosh Hodesh and why it's sometimes one day and sometimes two.

Focus on Yom Haatzmaut, Tisha B'Av, Pesach.

Prayer/Ritual

Be able to read all standard Shabbat morning prayers, from Psukei D'Zimra through Musaf.

Begin learning Haftarah Trope. Understand that it is a different system from Torah trope (minor key) but same cantillation marks.

Learn blessings before and after Haftarah.

Stretch Goal: read Haftarah in Junior Congregation

Torah/Mitzvot

Understand a variety of ways to analyze and discuss Torah.

Become familiar with some major sources for commentary.

Write and deliver a mini-dvar Torah at the Shabbat family dinner

Focus on mitzvot of Kavod Habriot and Bikor Cholim.

Understand the reason and practice of Talit and Tefillin.

Modern Hebrew/Israel

Continue to learn Hebrew Script.

Learn 100 sight words in Hebrew without vowels.

Be able to sound out an unfamiliar text, with vowels.

Be familiar with the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel.

Compare and contrast the U.S. Declaration of Independence, the U.N. Charter and the Israeli Declaration of Independence and understand how the latter was influenced by the former two.

Learn what was completely new to the world in the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

Kehillah & Culture

Understand the role in congregational life of Jewish lifecycle events from birth to death

Explore how lifecycle celebrations/commemorations have changed over time.

History

Understand the relationship between Zionism and anti-Semitism

Learn about rescuers and resistance during the holocaust.

ZAYIN

Calendar/Holidays

Understand the 19 year cycle of the Jewish calendar and be able to reconcile it with the secular calendar.

Know their Hebrew birthdays and be able to figure out when their Hebrew and secular birthdays will coincide.

Be able to explain how the holiday dates differ in Israel and the Diaspora and why.

Focus on Tisha B'Av, Yom Hashoah, and Yom Haatzmaut.

Understand them all as post-biblical holidays and explore how holidays get added to the Jewish calendar and how customs and rituals are developed for them.

Explore why Yom Hashoah was added rather than subsume the Holocaust into Tisha B'Av, as has happened with other calamities.

Prayer/Ritual

Be able to lead all standard Shabbat morning prayers.

Be able to identify the five megillot and the holidays associated with them.

Do a close reading of Megillat Esther. Explore both traditional commentary and historical insights.

Torah/Mitzvot

Understand bar/bat mitzvah as obligation to mitzvot.

Participate in minyanim after bar/bat mitzvah. Understand the obligation to make a minyan.

Understand Tanakh as a source of history and its limits as such.

Focus on bikur cholim, and comforting mourners.

Kehillah & Culture

Understand Temple Israel's approach to bar/bat mitzvah and the responsibilities associated with it.

Attend shiva minyan and know how to behave.

Visit the sick and know how to behave.

Participate in Telem.

History

Understand the effects of the Holocaust on world wide Jewry.

Understand the effects on American Jewry of suddenly becoming the world's largest Jewish population.

Understand the Holocaust as a motivation for Jewish anti-genocide activism.

