



Talmud Torah 1st Grade (Alef) Curriculum Guide

Hebrew & Tefillah

In *Kitah Alef* (First Grade), the students will expand their knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary and *tefillot* (prayers). Trained facilitators lead our weekly sessions of *Hebrew Through Movement* (HtM), and our students learn and practice Hebrew through HtM's aural and kinesthetic methods. Each student actively participates in *tefillah* (prayer), and they will add to their knowledge of prayers and keywords as the year progresses. In addition, the learning of key Hebrew words connected to Jewish holidays and daily activities at Talmud Torah are integrated into the lessons and conversations.

Hebrew & Tefillah Goals and Objectives

Each student will learn:

- Foundational Modern Hebrew vocabulary, keywords connected to prayer, and other terms used daily at Talmud Torah
- Selected weekday and Shabbat morning prayers and melodies by taking part in an age-appropriate weekly service led by our music teacher and clergy
- Recitation of key Hebrew prayers, Shabbat blessings, and blessings related to meals
- Familiarization with Hebrew letters and sounds

Prayer List for *Kitah Alef*

Students will add to their knowledge of prayer by learning and singing:

- *Shema, Baruch Shem & V'Ahavta*
- *Ohr Hadash*
- *Oseh Shalom*

Judaic Studies

Our Judaics curriculum, the Beverly Goldstick Curriculum for 21st Century Jewish Learning (Goldstick Curriculum), is based on the principles of knowledge, flexibility, diversity, and community. It is a robust curriculum that is carefully designed to enable students to actively engage in their learning and increase their knowledge each year by building upon the understandings they gained in prior years.

Students will:

- Learn about the *Jewish Calendar* with a focus on core stories connected to the Jewish holidays.
- Explore *Sacred Text* by engaging in the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah, and more.
- Discuss *Mitzvot and Values*, the ways people in the Torah stories and in their own life model *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests), and how they can put Jewish values and *mitzvot* into action.
- Engage in *Contemporary Jewish Life* by learning about the people in our synagogue, including maintenance and security staff, educators, clergy, and others.
- Experience the modern land of *Israel* by learning about the geography of Israel.
- Develop a rich, personal relationship with *Prayer, God, and Spirituality* through learning and discussion.