



# Or Shalom J<sup>2</sup> (Jewish Journeys) Learning Options

## 2023-2024\*

*\* This reflects what our program looked like during the 2023-2024 school year. We are constantly learning, growing, and adapting our curricula to better engage our students and move with advancements in Jewish education. We look forward to growing together!*

Class Names	Description and Options
<b>Preschool</b>	<p>Preschoolers and their parents learn about the Jewish holidays and symbols through arts and crafts, stories, music, food, and games. Relationship building for preschoolers and their adults is embedded into every aspect of the curriculum. At each session, preschool parents spend time learning with Or Shalom clergy while their children engage with teaching faculty.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 8:45-10:30 am, One Sunday per month</p>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<p>Kindergarten students explore what being Jewish means to them. Students are introduced to the beauty of Jewish life, customs, and traditions through our Jewish calendar and Torah stories. Students begin to develop their own Jewish identity and pride in being Jewish. Through stories, games, crafts and music, students will experience and understand Jewish life.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 8:45-10:30 am, Sundays</p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<p>First-grade students understand Jewish traditions in our families and at home, with a focus on Shabbat and holiday celebrations. Students are introduced to the concept of being created in God's image, which leads into discussions about mitzvot and how to treat others.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 8:45-10:30 am, Sundays</p>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Second-grade students learn about what it means to be part of a Jewish community. Throughout this exploration, they become knowledgeable about the synagogue as a place where Jews gather to pray, study, and meet other Jews, and about other ways Jews gather and support each other outside of synagogue walls.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 8:45-10:30 am, Sundays</p>
<b>Alef – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Third-grade students begin to explore what it means to feel and behave as a Jew by studying <i>middot</i>, Jewish values, that can enrich their personal and public lives. By studying <i>middot</i>, third-graders gain spiritual tools to become <i>mensches</i>, righteous people who live by Jewish values. On one weekday, either in-person (Wednesdays) or online (M/T/Th, times TBA), third-graders engage in a Hebrew-rich curriculum to learn about the texts of our tradition and how to become a pray-er. Students in <b>every grade of our program, Prek-6</b>, develop aural Hebrew language skills through Jewish Life vocabulary – learning letters and words of the week. Students are immersed in Hebrew language in our Hebrew Through Movement program and weekly <i>tefillah</i> (prayer) services.</p> <p><b>Options</b> Sundays, 8:45-10:30 am <b>or</b> 10:45 am-12:30 pm  Choose one Hebrew learning option: 1) In person on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 pm  <b>or</b> 2) 45-minute small-group Hebrew online (cohorts meet M/T/Th, times TBA)</p>

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<b>Bet – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Fourth-grade students begin the year with their fourth-grade classmates to develop a <i>kehillah kedosha</i>, a holy learning community, as they revisit themes of the High Holy Days and Jewish traditions from a developmentally-appropriate lens. In the winter and spring trimesters, fourth and fifth-grade students chose <i>derachim</i>, learning pathways, which offer different modalities for learning about Jewish tradition and values based on students' interests. Some examples from past years include <i>Ha-Mitbach Ha-Yisraeli</i> (The Israeli Kitchen), <i>Teva</i> (Nature), <i>Yehudim B'Sport</i> (Jews in Sports), and <i>Nativ HaShir</i> (The Pathway of Music).</p> <p>On one weekday, either in-person (Wednesdays) or online (M/T/Th, times TBA), students engage in a Hebrew-rich curriculum to learn about the texts of our tradition and how to become a prayerer. In all their learning, students' aural Hebrew language skills are developed through Jewish Life vocabulary – learning letters and words of the week. Students are immersed in Hebrew language in our Hebrew Through Movement program and weekly <i>tefillah</i> (prayer) services.</p> <p><b>Options</b>     Sundays, 8:45-10:30 am <b>or</b> 10:45 am-12:30 pm  Choose one Hebrew learning option: 1) In person on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 pm  or 2) 45-minute small-group Hebrew online</p>
<b>Gimmel – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Fifth-grade students begin the year with their fifth-grade classmates to develop a <i>kehillah kedosha</i>, a holy learning community, and participate in Hebrew Boot Camp, an 8-week introduction of Hebrew reading skills. Hebrew Boot Camp will set them up for success for the year ahead, as fifth-grade is the year in which our students begin decoding Hebrew prayers. In the winter and spring trimesters, fourth and fifth-grade students chose their own <i>derachim</i>, learning pathways, which offer different modalities for learning about Jewish tradition and values based on students' interests. Some examples from past years include <i>Ha-Mitbach Ha-Yisraeli</i> (The Israeli Kitchen), <i>Teva</i> (Nature), <i>Yehudim B'Sport</i> (Jews in Sports), and <i>Nativ HaShir</i> (The Pathway of Music).</p> <p>On one weekday, either in-person (Wednesdays) or online (M/T/Th, times TBA), students in fifth-grade begin to learn how to decode Hebrew prayers. Throughout their Hebrew education, students explore how the prayers of our tradition relate to Jewish history and to their own lived experience.</p> <p><b>Options</b>     Sundays, 8:45-10:30 am <b>or</b> 10:45 am-12:30 pm  Choose one Hebrew learning option: 1) In person on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 pm  or 2) 45-minute small-group Hebrew online</p>
<b>Dalet – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Sixth-graders spend the year exploring the Jewish life cycle. They enjoy learning about the ritual objects, traditions, and texts surrounding our most meaningful life moments. This year is imbued with a deep sense of curiosity and application to their own lives. All sixth-graders will meet during late session (10:45 am-12:30 pm) to build their <i>kehillah kedosha</i>, their holy learning community. We know this feeling of connectedness and belonging is a key component of building Jewish lives in the pre-teen years.</p> <p>On one weekday, either in-person (Wednesdays) or online (M/T/Th, times TBA), students in our Hebrew program continue to gain fluency with their Hebrew prayers, with focus on the prayers of the Shabbat morning service and their meanings.</p> <p><b>Options</b>     Sundays, 10:45 am-12:30 pm  Choose one Hebrew learning option: 1) In person on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 pm  or 2) 45-minute small-group Hebrew online</p>

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<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Students start the evening with <i>tefillah</i> (prayer service), pizza dinner, and spending time together as community. Seventh-graders spend a third of the year learning about the Holocaust in preparation for secular school study of the Holocaust (part of the eighth-grade mandated curriculum in Illinois), another third of the year learning about Active Mitzvot, and the last third of the year students will have a choice of electives with a variety of topics, such as Rated “T”: Torah For Teens and Cooking: Not Your Bubbe’s Kitchen. Seventh-grade is required to become B'nai Mitzvah at Or Shalom and there is no refund if a student does not complete the year.</p> <p><b>Options</b> 6:00-8:00 pm, Wednesdays  OPTIONAL – 5:30-6:00 pm before class: Hebrew Reading Review class designed for students with late spring-summer 2024 b'nai mitzvah dates to keep Hebrew reading skills sharp. (Class meets Sept.-Dec. 2023)</p>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Students start the evening with <i>tefillah</i> (prayer service), pizza dinner, and spending time together as community. The curriculum is developed based on students’ interests and questions. A multi-week Israel unit serves to prepare students who are participating in the JUF eighth-grade Israel trip.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 6:00-8:00 pm, Wednesdays</p>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Students meet bi-weekly to discuss Jewish ethics and dilemmas. Classes are taught by Rabbi Ari and are designed to create memorable experiences in the lives of teens to enable them to discover what being Jewish means on a personal level.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 11:15 am-12:30 pm, Two Sundays per month</p>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>Students explore and challenge their values, philosophy, and belief in God. The goal for each student is to leave our program with a deeper understanding of not only what Judaism is, but more significantly, why Judaism is important in their life.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 11:15 am-12:30 pm, Two Sundays per month</p>
<b>11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Post Confirmation</b>	<p>Rabbi Ari leads a monthly discussion-based class with our eleventh and twelfth-grade students, and well as joining in tikkun olam and social justice events in our community.</p> <p><b>Option</b> 9:15-10:30 am, One Sunday per month</p>