



Grade 1 Curriculum

בראשית ברא אלהים - *Bereshit Barah Elohim-* In the Beginning God Created

The Community Synagogue's curriculum uses a value-based approach to Jewish education. In addition to the components of teaching Jewish festivals and Hebrew, Jewish studies are organized in order to enable our students to embrace seven key values that we see as central to Judaism. These key values are:

- קדשה - *Kedushah* - Holiness
- תלמוד תורה - *Talmud Torah* - Importance of Study
- קהילה - *Kehillah* - Community
- משפחה - *Mispacha* - Family
- תקון עולם - *Tikkun Olam* - Repairing our World
- אהבת עולם - *Ahavat Olam* - Love of Israel
- כלל ישראל - *Klal Yisrael* - Unity of the Jewish People
- עברית - *Ivrit* - Hebrew Language & Prayer

During the first grade year students discover the realm of Jewish living. The child's world will expand through an investigation of Jewish practices, beliefs and holidays. We seek to stimulate our students through the use of a variety of mediums including stories, music, art and hands on projects. Our objectives with this age group are not only to instill a basic sense of understanding and familiarity with various aspects of Judaism, including Hebrew, Torah and the Jewish life cycle, but to also help develop a sense of community belonging. The first grade curriculum focuses on an introduction to Jewish life and *mitzvot*. In addition, our first grade students will engage in our Hebrew Through Movement program which introduces Hebrew language in a playful and meaningful way.

Key Goals of the First Grade Curriculum:

- ✧ To develop in students a foundation in the Hebrew language and knowledge of a core of vocabulary of Hebrew words.
- ✧ To provide students with a basic understanding of Jewish practices, beliefs and living.
- ✧ To introduce students to the Jewish concept of *mitzvot* and teach them key *mitzvot* that can be observed in their lives.
- ✧ To expand the students' understanding of the Jewish holidays, their symbols and their rituals.