

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OVERVIEW

- **Gesher**, our Pre-K program, meets **monthly** on **Sunday mornings from 9am-11am**.
- Our **Kindergarten** and **First Grade** programs meet **weekly** on **Sunday mornings from 9am-11am**.
- Students in **Second through Sixth Grade** attend school **twice a week: Sunday mornings from 9am-11:15am AND either Tuesday OR Wednesday afternoon from 4:05pm-6:05pm**.
- Our **Seventh Grade** students attend Religious School on **Tuesday evenings from 6:15-8:15pm AND Wednesday afternoons from 4:05-6:05pm**.

## CURRICULUM

Our Religious School curriculum covers a variety of topics in Judaism, including (but not limited to) holidays, middot (Jewish values), Torah, Israel, prayer, theology, and lifecycle.

Students explore Torah, Avodah and G'milut Chasadim through a different lens in each grade level. Our Gesher program meets monthly to allow students to become accustomed to the Religious School experience and to learn about the Jewish holidays throughout the year.

- Our **Kindergarten** students meet weekly to learn about the different aspects of the Jewish experience: they will learn the who, what, where, when, and how of being a Jew.
- Students in our **First Grade** class explore Torah as a guide to understand our responsibility to the earth, each other and ourselves.
- **Second Grade** students explore the stories of Genesis and Exodus.
- **Third Grade** class students explore the theme of Kadosh/Holiness as a way to frame their learning as they learn about the third book of the Torah, Leviticus.
- Students in our **Fourth Grade** class explore the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy through the lens of Kehillat Yisrael/Community of Israel.
- **Fifth Grade** students focus on the characteristics of strong individuals utilizing the stories from the second section of the TaNaKh, Nevi'im/Prophets.
- **Sixth Grade** students will explore the different forms of expression from the their component of the TaNaKh, Ketuvim/Writings and throughout the Jewish immigrant experience.

- Our **Seventh Grade** students will learn more in depth about the State of Israel and the responsibilities of becoming an adult in the Jewish community as Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**Hebrew** is an important aspect of our Religious School curriculum. Our Gesher Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First Grade students are exposed to the Hebrew letters through games and activities. Our formal Hebrew reading program begins in the Second Grade by studying the letters and vowels, and eventually reading letter-vowel word combinations. Our goal is that each year students will improve their Hebrew reading skills and feel more comfortable reading any Hebrew text that is shown to them. Students then build upon their knowledge of these letter-vowel word combinations to identify, understand, and recite prayer Hebrew. Our hope is that students will feel comfortable reciting, understanding, and participating in weekday, Friday night, and Shabbat morning prayer services as they move through the Hebrew program.

For the Jewish holidays, students in every grade will review the basics of each holiday and continue to explore the holiday through the grade level's theme.

### **TEFILAH**

Students join together each week for community tefilah/worship; this time together not only reinforces the Hebrew learning, but allows our students to build community among our students, teachers, and parents. Our Gesher Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First Grade students join together at the end of each Sunday session. Students in Second through Sixth Grade will have the opportunity to join together at the end of their weekday session. Students will learn how to behave in a sanctuary, feel comfortable in this sacred place, and begin to take on leadership roles by leading different prayers, and become familiar with the essential prayers of our service. Ultimately, these moments together will ensure that the transition into leading community worship as Bar/Bat Mitzvah will be seamless and less anxiety provoking. During our community tefilah/worship time, we will also explore music, create ruach and reinforce the learning done in the classroom.

Our Seventh Grade students will join together with the larger community once a month to participate in the daily minyan.