



Fourth Grade Curriculum – Etgar Yesodi: a curriculum developed by the Jewish Theological Seminary

The *Etgar Yesodi* curriculum links Jewish values, moral development and spirituality with experiential learning, technology and family involvement. The curriculum seeks to connect children with the textual, ritual and artistic sources of Jewish life, while encouraging their curiosity, imagination and expression. The goal is for children to emerge with a “vocabulary” of Jewish life that goes beyond words, and which informs their sense of what Judaism contributes to their lives, and what they can contribute to the world around them.

Subject	Essential Questions	Objectives	Content/Resources
Torah *Mitzvot *Emet *Emunah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do I develop my relationship with God?</li> <li>How do I relate to God in my own individual way and as a member of a larger community?</li> </ul>	Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate knowledge that asking and exploring questions is an important step in developing relationships, even when those questions remain unanswered.</li> <li>Demonstrate the knowledge that developing a relationship with God takes attention, appreciation, and action.</li> </ul>	Students will study biblical accounts of their earliest ancestors and will apply the lessons of these ancestors' legacies to their modern lives; they will create artistic renditions of a blessing said on Shabbat eve that refers to our biblical ancestors.
Jewish Identity *Emunah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does it mean to be part of the larger Jewish family?</li> <li>How does my family connect me to a Jewish past and present?</li> <li>How can I honor my family's memories?</li> </ul>	Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate knowledge that sharing family stories builds connections among family members and across families.</li> <li>See that the Jewish people find connections with a common genealogy.</li> <li>List some ways that Jewish tradition provides many ways to remember those who have lived before us.</li> </ul>	Family stories as starting points for deepened connections to their Jewish ancestors, family trees that depict their immediate families as part of a larger Jewish family that date back to matriarchs and patriarchs, they will consider the symbolism behind common Jewish remembrances, and creating a remembrance to celebrate a family story of their own.
Ethics/Mitzvot *Chesed *Rachamim *Mitzvot *Tzedek *Mishpat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do communal needs such as hunger and food insecurity affect me?</li> <li>What guidance can I take from Jewish texts in developing a proper response to specific communal needs such as hunger and food insecurity?</li> <li>How can I address a communal need using my unique talents and abilities?</li> </ul>	Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand the importance of incorporating acts of תְּצַדַּק (zedakah) into their personal narratives.</li> <li>practice <i>ma'akhil re'evim</i> - feeding the hungry -by learning about the plight of the food-insecure in America</li> </ul>	Empty Bowls Project, a program in which individuals arrange a minimal meal, create empty bowls for guests to take home as a reminder of those who are lacking in food, and donate the proceeds to a local charity.
Hebrew/Tefilla	What is my relationship with Hebrew as the language of the Jewish people? How does Hebrew help us form our Jewish identity? How can prayer connect me with my heritage? How do brachot help me with my awareness of my place in the world?	Students will be able to recite with proficiency and understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ma Tovu</li> <li>Birkot HaShachar</li> <li>Barchu</li> <li>Shema/V'Ahavtah</li> <li>The first three brachot of the Amidah</li> <li>Torah Service</li> <li>Expressions of gratitude</li> <li>Hebrew words embodied in the Etgar curriculum</li> </ul>	Siddur Shema Yisrael and tefilla games, Etgar curriculum