



# MACHANEH SHAI

מחנה שי • CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

## Curriculum and Course of Study

The following pages include grade level grids for our Machaneh Shai curriculum. We have created a curriculum based on “essential questions.” An essential question is a commitment to focus learning on a bigger picture, and helps to form a structure for learning. What understanding, what meaning will emerge from a child’s learning in our school? What will be the enduring understanding? What is the big picture that we want our students to come out of here knowing? Our essential questions will refine our students’ learning, and our objectives and content will always focus back to these larger questions. The essential questions are found within the description of each grade’s course of study.

A Jewish education must be rooted in a certain set of core concepts and values, and every student should develop a kind of Jewish “literacy.” In addition to a comfort with the Hebrew language, both in prayer and in core Hebrew terms.

A curriculum is a fluid document. Meaning, we believe that we are constantly revising, reflecting and evaluating our curricular process. We welcome feedback from parents and rely on feedback from our faculty to continually retool our curriculum to meet the changing needs of our students, our families and our synagogue.

Our students will:

- Express the **Jewish values** they learn in their personal behavior as well as their communal behavior, as they learn, identify, and apply various core values in each class.
- Learn **Hebrew** as the language of the Jewish people; develop reading and comprehension skills, as well as a feeling of comfort with the siddur.
- Regularly participate in **prayer experiences**, Shabbat services and delve into the meaning of our prayers.
- Experience **holiday celebrations** as a class and with families
- Discover the meaning of **community** and become actively involved in living Jewishly.

Our curriculum is centered around nine core Jewish values: *tzedek*-righteousness, *mishpat*-justice, *emet*-truth, *emunah*-faith, *Torah*-learning, *mitzvot*-commandments, *chesed*-kindness, *rachamim*-compassion, and *ahavat tzion*-love of Israel.