

# CONGREGATION BETH EMETH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL GOALS

These are the Educational goals for our students upon completion of Grades K – Confirmation.

## I God/K'lal Yisrael (The Jewish People)

- A. Understand the Jewish covenant with God.
  - 1. Know the covenantal experience at Sinai.
  - 2. Understand the “chosen” people concept.
  - 3. Understand and identify the 3 symbols of the Brit:
    - a. Rainbow,
    - b. Shabbat (V'sham'ru),
    - c. Brit Milah
- B. Develop a personal relationship with God (prayer)
  - 1. Understand the concepts of God as they developed through our history.
  - 2. Know the terms for God and what they mean.
  - 3. Develop a personal theology.
  - 4. Develop an ability to communicate with God.
- C. Understand the peoplehood of Israel – Am Yisrael.
  - 1. Know the history of the Jewish people after Sinai and how to view oneself as part of the continuum.
  - 2. Understand the diversity of the Jewish people through out the world.
  - 3. Understand the modern state of Israel, Zionism and our connection as Jews to Israel.
  - 4. Identify with K'lal Yisrael (all Jewish people).

## II Torah Teachings

- A. Understand the primary texts.
  - 1. Know the vocabulary of Jewish texts such as Tanach, Torah, Chumash, Prophets, Writings, Talmud (Mishnah-Gemorrah), Commentaries, Midrash/Aggadah, Halakhah.
  - 2. Understand the structure, order and notation of Tanach and the annual cycle of Torah-Chumash reading.
  - 3. Know Torah narrative, themes, characters and places.
  - 4. Apply values from sacred literature to our own lives.
  - 5. Understand the Torah narrative (its relevancy, morality, ethics, psycho-social lessons, Halakhah)

## III Tikun Olam (The Betterment of Our World)

- A. Understand the concept of tikun olam.
  - 1. Know the vocabulary such as tzedakah (charity) gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness).
  - 2. Understand the unique place that social action has in the Reform Movement.
  - 3. Understand the communal and personal obligation of performing mitzvot that lead to Tikun Olam.

## IV Develop Skills for Jewish Living

- A. Know and understand:
  - 1. Holidays
    - a. Understand the structure of the Jewish calendar.
    - b. Understand the sources of the Jewish holidays.
    - c. Know the components of the holidays such as: rituals, symbols, foods, customs, practices, ceremonies, lore, vocabulary, music.
  - 2. Festivals
  - 3. Rituals
    - a. Know the spectrum of Jewish practice and customs.
    - b. Understand the concept of mitzvot as they relate to daily living (ethical/ritual).
    - c. Appreciate the philosophy of the Reform movement vis a vis choice in ritual practice.
  - 4. Customs
  - 5. Hebrew
    - a. Read Hebrew fluently.
    - b. Master the primary prayers used in our service.
  - 6. Prayer
    - a. Participate in any Jewish prayer service.
    - b. Integrate their own prayers into the service.
    - c. Know the structure of a worship service including:
      - 1. types of prayers – such as praise, petitionary, etc.
      - 2. the formula of a Bracha and the system of Brachot.
      - 3. the concept of kavannah as it relates to prayer.
      - 4. the unique liturgy related to holidays and festivals.
  - 7. Life cycle events
    - a. Understand the celebration of life cycle events from a Jewish perspective.
    - b. Know Reform Judaism's approach to these practices.