

OVERVIEW OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Hebrew words are italicized then translated

Gan-Bet (Kindergarten-2nd)

These beginning years will be devoted to learning the *Aleph bet*, the Hebrew alphabet, through singing, crafts and writing. The children will also learn to recognize and write their Hebrew names from right to left. Through the exploration of basic *tefillot*, prayers, the children will begin their journey of discovery of what it means to believe as a Jew. Through discussion and role playing, the weekly Torah portion will come to life. The children will also be introduced to our annual cycle of *chagim*, Jewish holidays.

Gimmel-Daled (3rd-4th grades)

Moving up a level, vowels will be introduced to aid our beginning Hebrew readers and writers. Discussion and explanation of *tefillot*, prayers are meant to bring a connection between the children and their relationships with G-d. Jewish history will be introduced with discussion about the *Nevi'im*, the prophets during Biblical times. We will go further into text when learning about Biblical personalities through stories and discussion. We will also travel to different cities in Israel while learning about Israeli culture.

Vav-Zayin (6th-7th grades)

New topics are introduced to the upper grades: focusing on Biblical cities while reviewing the Torah portion, exploring modern cities in Israel, and current events about everything Jewish. Our pre-Bar and Bat Mitzvah students will explore what sets us apart as Jews from other cultures and religions while taking pride in who we are as a Jewish nation. While learning about the *Shoah* or Holocaust, the students will grapple with this most tragic period in recent Jewish and world history. Using the *siddur*, prayer book, and through journal writing, the students will explore their feelings towards our daily and Shabbat prayers and how to help them connect on a more meaningful and personal level with G-d. This culmination of Religious school studies will prepare these young adolescents to take their rightful place in the synagogue service and in the community.

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL

Our Hebrew High classes from grades 8 -12 meet every Sunday from 11 AM- 12PM and every second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 -8 PM at the Veterans Memorial Home in Edison. We offer the teens a variety of choices each year. Topics may include, but are not limited to: Current Events, Five *Megillot*, History of Jerusalem, History of the Jewish Middle Ages, Holocaust Films, Jewish Philosophy, 7 Wonders of Jewish History, Shabbat, Meaning behind Jewish Holidays, Video Values, Moral Dilemmas, Jews in Film and similar possible subjects. The courses are rotated so that over several years students will have the opportunity to study from various areas of text, history, values, Israel and religion.

MADRICHIM PROGRAM

Mazal tov! You are old enough to be a Teacher's Aide and receive compensation. Between the hours of 9 AM-11 AM on a Sunday, a madrich will be assigned to help in grades K-7th depending on the needs of the class. At 11 AM, all madrichim will then attend their own Hebrew High class. In order to become a madrich, you must be enrolled and attend Hebrew High.