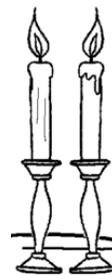


**Neve Shalom
Religious School
Curriculum**



NEVE SHALOM

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

Miriam Dobin, Religious School Director
Curriculum - Revised Summer 2019

NEVE SHALOM Religious School

Curricular Goals

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INTRODUCTION

Education from the youngest years establishes the foundation for all future learning. A Jewish education from the earliest years solidifies the foundation for the continuity of the Jewish people. Our curriculum is a guide for children, parents and teachers to lead us on the path to solidifying our beliefs and ethics in Judaism and living a Jewish life. We are quite fortunate to have choices in our lives. One major choice is the schooling and type of modeling we want to provide for our youth. The laws of church and state are very clear and distinct; no religion or religious practices are permitted to be taught in any public school setting. This is understandable being that all children, notwithstanding race or religion have a right to a secular education. There are few societies left in the world where choice is not an option.

There are numerous Jewish families who share this belief, but feel the desire to want that "extra" level of education in a Jewish environment while combining this with a sound secular education. Our Religious school offers a variety of subjects in its curricula to whet the appetite and interests of its students. As young as the *Gan*, kindergarten, we begin with basic *tefillot*, prayers, adding concepts such as *Shabbat*, Sabbath, *Chagim*, holidays, and vocabulary such as colors in Hebrew. By the time the *yeladim*, children become *talmidim*, students entering 7th grade, they will be able to read with some fluency a *siddur*, prayer book and write in Hebrew print. They will also be in the midst of preparing to accept the responsibilities of a *Bar/ Bat Mitzvah*, coming of age to accept and fulfill the commandments from the *Torah*, Bible. Every child is an individual and as such, materials will be presented in a variety of ways. Each teacher has a different means of communicating these concepts to the class. In our world of technology, music, media, videos, and art, combined with text and discussion, will present a well- rounded methodology of educating these young minds. These are our long term goals. The most effective and productive way to achieve these goals is with the cooperation and participation of the families. With your support, we can achieve what we all desire for our children; to be trained in the skills and knowledge of what is needed to live a Jewish life.

Miriam Dobin
Religious School Director

Kindergarten & First Grade/Gan & Aleph classes

Aleph bet - Introduction to the Aleph bet, Hebrew alphabet. Through singing and crafts, the *yeladim*, children will learn about the Hebrew letters and the direction (right to left progression) it is read. They will also begin to recognize their name written in Hebrew. We will continue to use Sam The Detective Reading series as a follow up supplement.

Omanute, Crafts – Learning the aleph bet will not only be fun, but crafty, as well. Through art and creativity, the children will prepare a craft correlating to the letter of that week.

Yisrael, Israel – Introduction to our Jewish Homeland by celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut through song, dance, crafts and stories.

Torah, Bible – Through discussion and role playing, the weekly Torah portion will come to life.

Tefilla, Prayer – Our youngest children have sharp minds. They are inquisitive and full of questions about *Hashem*, G-d. Through basic *tefillot*, prayers, the children will begin their journey of discovery of what it means to believe as a Jew.

Second Grade/Bet class

Aleph bet - Review of Aleph bet plus adding vowel sounds for decoding and beginner reading. We will transition from Sam The Detective series to Ready, Set, Go Aleph Bet!

Torah, Bible – We will continue to learn about and wonder what life was like for our biblical matriarchs and patriarchs while using A Child's Bible as our guide.

Tefilla, Prayer – While reviewing all the *tefillot* the children have previously learned, now they will add to their knowledge with some Shabbat *tefillot* and common melodies.

Third and Fourth Grades/ Gimmel & Daled classes

Torah, Bible – The students will learn about biblical personalities through stories and discussion. The text book Explorer's Bible 1 will be used as a guide.

Historia, Jewish History – Using Explorer's Bible 2, we will learn about Prophets during biblical times.

Yisrael, Israel – Great Israel Scavenger Hunt – This fun and educational book will take us to different cities in Israel while learning about Israeli culture.

Tefilla, Prayer – Kol Yisrael Level 1 – Discussion about numerous *tefillot*, prayers and connecting to *Hashem*, G-d.

Ivrit/Kriah, Hebrew/Reading – Practice makes perfect! In this class, reading out loud as a whole and reading one-on-one will strengthen verbal skills and listening skills instilling confidence in the beginning reader. The students will learn definitions of many words in the process.

Chagim/Omanute – Holidays and Crafts – While learning about our cyclical Jewish holidays, personalized crafts will enhance the family setting while bringing more tangible meaning to the students understanding.

Fifth Grade/Hai class

Tefilla, Prayer – This recently published series of Hineni has the basic *tefillot* which we say on Shabbat and some from the weekday service. The teacher of this class will have a variety of ways to teach these *tefillot* through the *siddur*, prayer book, writing in journals, recorded music of the individual *tefillot*, and reading from text for deeper understanding..

Torah, Bible – Using our forefathers and mothers to exemplify the proper ways to act, we will glean lessons from the first two books of the five books of the Torah, *Sefer Bereisheet*, Creation and *Sefer Shemot*, Names, to teach us to emulate *Hashem*, G-d.

Chagim, Holidays – In this class, we will explore *chagim* through art and artistic expression.

Mussar, Ethics – Using the text The Kids Mensch Handbook as our guide, we will discuss and role play what it means to act like a *mensch*, a person of integrity and honor.

Sixth Grade/Vav class

Yahadut, Judaism – Using the text titled Why Be Different, we will explore what sets us apart as Jews from other cultures and religions while taking pride in who we are as a Jewish nation.

Shoah, Holocaust - Through using text, technology, video, articles, writing essays, discussion, and creative expression, we will grapple with this most tragic period in recent Jewish and world history.

Tefilla, Prayer – Using the *siddur*, prayer book along with a new guide book titled Making Tefilla Meaningful, we will explore our feelings towards our daily and Shabbat prayers and how to connect to them on a more personal level to make these *tefillot* more meaningful to us collectively and individually. This is also the beginning of Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation where these young adolescents will learn to take their rightful place in the synagogue service and in the community.

Chagim, Holidays – Through a recent publication titled Make, Create, Celebrate Jewish Hollidays Through Art, the students will use this text to interact with each *chag*, holiday through art. This method lends itself to self-expression in an attractive way.

Torah, Bible – Lessons from the weekly *Parsha*, Torah portion, will be gleaned from the text itself. The students will focus on *Bereisheet* and *Shemot*,_Genesis and Names, the first two books of the five books that compile the Torah. How can we emulate our matriarchs and patriarchs in today's world?

Seventh Grade/Zayin class

ENRICHMENT CLASS - Cooking for the *chagim*, holidays. The Seventh grade will begin their mornings with cooking for the *Chagim*, holidays!

Whether it's apple muffins or honey cake before Rosh Hashanah or hamantaschen before Purim, you can be sure these students will be cooking up a storm in the Neve Shalom kitchen. Imagine their excitement as something delicious will be accompanying them home for the *chagim* - recipes included.

Arim B'yisrael, Cities in Israel – In this new class we will be using the *Torah*, Bible as our guide. During the first semester, we will focus on specific cities mentioned in the Torah while studying the weekly *Parsha*, Torah portion. The second semester we will explore several modern day cities in Israel.

Global School Twinning Network –This is an exciting new venture we are working on in conjunction with our class on Israeli cities. We will be partnering and collaborating with this Israeli organization to “twin” or match our school with an Israeli school. We will both have an opportunity to “peek” into each other’s world through videotaping and see what a day of school is like for us and the students in Israel will reciprocate. We will have the opportunity to ask questions about what subjects they are learning, how *chagim*, holidays are celebrated and the similarities that bind us together.

Inyanei Hasha’a, Current Events – Through engaging and lively discussion and participation we will focus on daily events surrounding everything Jewish going on in the world. Topics may include: Israel, anti-Semitism, Israeli elections and sports.

Mitzvot U'middot, Commandments and Attributes – Through discussion, example, and action we will learn about the many mitzvot and middot that we as a people have been guided by for thousands of years. They are our ethical and moral compass.

Tefilla, Prayer – As the students continue with the prescribed *tefillot*, they will have a new opportunity to express themselves and their emotions towards these *tefillot*. Using the *siddur*, prayer book and the Hineni booklet, along with a new guide book titled Making Tefilla Meaningful, we will explore our feelings towards our daily and Shabbat prayers and how to connect to them on a more personal level to make these *tefillot* more meaningful to us collectively and individually. This is also the second year of Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation where these young adolescents will learn to take their rightful place in the synagogue service and in the community.

Hashkafa, Jewish Philosophy – We will explore and analyze different facets of Judaism to bring clarity as to why we do what we do as Jews. This is pertinent at any age, but especially during the tumultuous teenage years of questioning and searching for meaning in their young lives.

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: Intermarriage and other current issues, Five *Megillot*, History of Jerusalem, History of the Jewish Middle Ages, Holocaust Films, Jewish Philosophy, What is a Jew? Seven Wonders of Jewish History, Shabbat, Meaning behind Jewish Holidays, Women & Jewish Values, Video Values, Moral Dilemmas, Comparative Religion, and Jews in Film. 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*, aide, will be assigned to help in grades K-7th depending on the needs of the class. At 11 AM, all *madrichim*, aides will then attend their Hebrew High class. In order to become a *madrich*, you must be enrolled and attend Hebrew High.