

## B'nai Chaim Curriculum by Grade Level

Due to our multi-aged classrooms, we will teach the odd years and even years with the curriculum. As an example this year is 2018-9, so we will follow the even year curriculum. Next year will be 2019-20 so we will follow the odd year curriculum.

The following categories should be included each year:

Holidays and Symbols, Prayer and God, Jewish Values, Hebrew, Jewish Customs and Practices, Torah/ Bible and History and Mitzvot

Pre/K-K:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah with an introduction to each of the holidays and their symbols.

Prayer and God: Introduction to God and to prayers through song.

Jewish Values: The value of books and the Hebrew language and giving tzedekah

Hebrew: Introduction to the Alef-Bet and Shabbat blessings: candles, wine, and challah

Jewish Customs and Practices: Introduction to God and Prayer and how we celebrate.

Torah/Bible and History: Creation, Adam and Eve, Garden of Eden, Noah, Patriarchal and Matriarchal Stories, Jonah, and Moses.

Mitzvot: Tzedekah, Shabbat and welcoming guests, guarding our tongue, Shalom Ha Bayit (Peace in the home)

First Grade:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Chanukah and Tu B'Shevat, Home celebrations of the holidays, the Jewish home and symbols.

Prayer and God: Discussions about God, the wonders of nature, the Shema and beginning prayers.

Jewish Value: Tzedekah...How we give.

Hebrew: Continuation of the Alef-Bet, Holiday blessings, blessings over foods.

Jewish Customs and Practices: God and Nature

Torah/Bible and History: Jerusalem, the story of the Maccabees, the Parsha of the week for the next Shabbat. Focus: Noah and the Tower of Babel

Mitzvot: Visiting the sick, guarding the Earth, honoring our parents, not stealing or lying, guarding our tongue

Second Grade:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Purim, Havdalah, Holidays in the synagogue, and symbols of the synagogue.

Prayer and God: Nature of prayer, communal worship

Jewish Values: Jewish values through stories and legends.

Giving tzedekah.

Hebrew: The Four Questions

Jewish Customs and Practices: Prayer and Communal worship

Torah/Bible and History: Bible heroes and heroines in Genesis : Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, The story of Esther

Mitzvot: Studying of Torah, enjoying nature and Tikkun Olam saving the Earth or repairing the world, being created in the image of God, and how to do mitzvot

Third Grade:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Tu B'shevat, Yom Ha Atzma'ut and Shavuot, Holiday blessings

Prayer and God: Holiday blessings

Jewish Values: The Ten Commandments, The Jewish family around the world. Being a mensch. Giving tzedekah.

Hebrew: The Alef-Bet, some simple vocabulary, Blessings , the Four Questions

Jewish Customs and Practices: Holiday blessings

Torah/Bible and History: The Land of Israel and the Story of Ruth

Mitzvot: Tikkun Olam, Shalom Ha Bayit (Peace in the home), Helping the sick.

Fourth Grade:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Pesach and Rosh Hodesh, holiday symbols

Prayer and God: The prayers for Passover

Jewish Values: The Story of the Exodus and the value of retelling the story each year. Giving tzedekah.

Hebrew: The beginning of reading, emphasis on vowels, some general vocabulary, conversational Hebrew and Pesach blessings in Hebrew.

Jewish Customs and Practices: The Haggadah and the Seder

Torah/Bible and History: Bible heroes and heroines focus on Exodus-Deuteronomy, The story of the Moses and the Exodus, Judges and Prophets

Mitzvot: Faith, believing in God, acceptance of things we don't understand, fulfilling a brit or a covenant

Fifth Grade:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Sukkot and Simchat Torah, Holiday worship and blessings

Prayer and God: The nature of prayer, The Sh'ma, Amidah, Kiddish, reviewing blessings for holiday worship

Jewish Values: The Jewish community and ethical dilemmas. Giving Tzedekah

Hebrew: Review of Blessings, the Sh'ma, V'ahavtah, Amidah, Kiddish

Jewish Customs and Practices: Life cycle events: Brit, naming, consecration, B'nai Mitzvah, Marriage, Death, the Jewish calendar

Torah/Bible and History: Sukkot in the Bible Exodus 23: 14-16  
Leviticus 23 : 39-42

Mitzvot: Elevating ourselves, helping in the community, Jewish survival, L'dor va dor; the product of our past, history of the future.

Sixth Grade:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Yom Ha Shoa, holiday origins, concepts, and vocabulary

Prayer and God: Torah Service and the concluding prayers

Jewish Values: Tzedekah and all of the components. Ethical dilemmas

Hebrew: The Amidah, the Torah Service and the concluding prayers. Conversational Hebrew

Jewish customs and Practices: Tzedekah ...Why and how.

Torah/Bible and History: American Jewish History, The Holocaust, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the Bible, Parsha Ha'Shavuah...The weekly portion for the next Shabbat.

Mitzvot: Specific responsibilities that Jews have to people and the world based upon the Torah, Talmud, Reform Judaism and the practical applications of Torah.

B'nai Mitzvah:

Holidays and Symbols: Focus on Shabbat concepts, Shabbat and God, Chanukah, Purim, Yom Ha Atzmaut , and ritual objects

Prayer and God: God and spirituality, Jewish denominations

Jewish Values: God, Death, Burial and mourning practices, ethical dilemmas, ethical wills. Discussion on: Marriage, divorce, Jewish identity, Relationships, the Jewish Family. Giving tzedekah.

Hebrew: Preparing for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah

Jewish Customs and Practices: God, Death and mourning practices, Gemilut Chasadim...acts of Lovingkindness

Comparison of different forms of Judaism...Reform, conservative, Reconstructionist, Orthodox, etc. Similar and different views.

Torah/Bible and History: Study of Torah specifically for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, study of ancient times to the Golden Age in Spain, Modern day Israel. Role of women in Judaism.

Mitzvot: How Judaism provides an entire framework for living a righteous life through the performance of Mitzvot and choosing a Mitzvah project