



Chayaya

2021-22 Sunday Curriculum

We incorporate learning about the Jewish holidays into every class in our program. The content is based on a spiral design, building on the foundation of previously learned information and adding new, age appropriate elements. Informal programming is available for grades 8 and up, with everyone considered a member of the Shaare Tefila Youth Group!

A *tzedakah* (justice)/*mitzvah* (commandment) curriculum, connecting organizations to each class' Jewish Studies focus, is part of the children's education every year, also using a spiral design.

Children of all ages are expected to participate in Shabbat Services to put their learning of prayers into practice, especially Junior Congregation designed for children up through 7th grade. Teenagers are invited to be full participants in the main sanctuary services and are given opportunities to lead the congregation from the Bimah.

Kitah Alef, Grades K-1

Students relate personally to each section, *Torah* (Bible), *Avodah* (Spirituality), and *G'milut Chasadim* (Acts of Loving Kindness) through the theme of "discovering myself in the Jewish story." By learning about the stories of *B'reishit* (Genesis), Jewish holidays, celebrations and heroes, children will develop a personal connection to the Jewish community.

Hebrew learning will include familiarity with the Alef-Bet, as well as songs and Brachot in music with our Music Specialist.

Kitah Bet, Grades 2-3

Students learn about more about the three strands and the personal relevance and power of *Torah* (Bible), *Avodah* (Spirituality), and *G'milut Chasadim* (Acts of Loving Kindness). The focus for this class is 'I Am Part of The Jewish People'. In the stories of *Shemot* (Exodus) children learn about the transformation of the Israelites from slaves into a people eternally connected to each other and to God. Children begin to understand and express their relation with God through learning about

Jewish celebrations and rituals in conjunction with the stories of Jewish history.

Hebrew learning continues with building on their knowledge of the Alef-Bet to add vowels and learn to read syllables.

Kitah Gimel, Grade 4

Students will consider their relationship between being a member of the community and their behaviors within it with a focus on 'Striving for Holiness'. When learning the structure of the *Tanakh* (Bible), and using text, they will think about God's promise (*B'rit*) to the Jewish people (*Am Yisrael*); an understanding will develop regarding their obligation as members of a community to perform acts of loving kindness (*G'milut Chasadim*).

Hebrew learning will continue with work on decoding and *t'filot* (prayer) during weekly online tutoring sessions.

Kitah Dalet & Kitah Hay, Grades 5-7

Students in the middle school grades move beyond their individual story as a young Jewish person into a focus on communal Jewish living while using the Etgar Yesodi curriculum, based in the Conservative Movement. The scope of topics may include: *Kehilla Kedosha* (Sacred Community): Developing Our Classroom Community; *Mikdash Me'at* (Small Temple): Creating our Sacred Spaces; *Arakhim* (Values): Living Our Values Together; *Piyyutim* (Poetry): Connecting Our Communities Through Poetry and Song; *Yisrael* (Israel): A Modern Look at Our Ancient Home; *Ahrayut* (Responsibility): Our Responsibility Toward Others; *Mi Dor l'Dor* (Generation to Generation): Our Dinner Party Across Time. Students in 6th & 7th grades also meet with Rabbi Layman twice a month.

**Kitah Dalet & Kitah Hay,
Grades 5-7 (continued)**

Hebrew learning will continue with work on decoding and *t'filot* (prayer) during weekly online tutoring sessions.

**Kitah Na'ahroot Echad,
Grades 8-9**

Students attending the first class in the Shaare Tefila Upper School have the opportunity to learn about the world around them outside of Conservative Judaism, as well as Jewish history during the 20th Century with a unit on the Holocaust. They will develop respect for other communities through the study of Comparative Religion & Comparative Judaism. In the latter part of the year children will learn the history of the Holocaust using primary sources, including interviews within the Echoes & Reflections curriculum from the ADL, Shoah Foundation and Yad Vashem. These studies will culminate with a visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

**Kitah Na'ahroot Sh'tayim,
Grades 11-12**

Students drive their curriculum as they share what topics they would like to explore through a Jewish lens. The year also includes lessons from the "Packing for College" curriculum, which allows older teens to consider: how Judaism will figure into their college choice; explore beliefs about God; and predict potential challenging questions they may get as part of their college experience. These teens also meet with Rabbi Layman for the last half hour of their twice a month sessions.

