

Daniel Rothman Religious School

at Congregation Kol Shalom

Mission Statement

The mission of the Daniel Rothman Religious School is to create a learning environment that supports our students in developing a positive Jewish identity preparing them to participate fully as Jews at home, in the synagogue, in the larger community, and in the world. We will accomplish this through creative instruction in Hebrew language, Torah, prayer, holidays, Israel, Jewish culture, philanthropy, literature, and music. In conjunction we will have special programming, guest speakers and field trips to enhance the learning experience. We encourage and expect that our parents and family members will be active participant in their child's Jewish education.

Curriculum for Grades K- 2nd

The objectives of the curriculum in K through grade 2 are taught with the emphasis on a love of being Jewish. This will be accomplished through a hands-on approach that will bring the topics to life through the use of age-appropriate activities. The Kindergarten year will be an introduction of Judaism through stories, games, art, music, movement and hands-on activities.

Kindergarten - Kitah Gan

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Be exposed to the 22 letters of the Hebrew Alef-bet, one letter at a time
- Repeat the sound of each letter
- Begin to develop visual recognition of letter symbols and auditory discrimination of letter sounds (letter to sound)
- Recognize that Hebrew is read from right to left
- Be provided with pictorial reinforcement to link letters and sounds
- Be introduced to primary Hebrew vocabulary such as greetings, parts of the body, language pertaining to holidays and the prayers that are associated with each holiday

Prayer – T'filah

Students will:

- Be introduced to the idea that as Jews, we bless food before we eat
- Learn that there is a special blessing for each category of food

- Listen and repeat each word of the blessings, then each line, then the entire blessing
- Repeat and feel comfortable saying parts or all of: the Shema, the Motzi, Shabbat Candle blessing, Modeh Ani, and Mah Tov
- Be introduced as to when each prayer is said and why

Torah

Students will:

- Be introduced to the word and concept of Torah
- Learn that Torah is the central scripture of Judaism
- See the Torah Scrolls and look at the Torah in book form comparing and contrasting the differences between the two forms
- Be exposed to the following stories in the Torah: Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers, Baby Moses, Let My People Go, Moses on the Mountain, Samson, Ruth and Naomi, David and Goliath, Solomon, the Wise King and Jonah and the Great Fish

Holidays – Chagim

Students will:

- Be exposed to the richness of the major Jewish holidays
- Learn the simple meaning and basic stories of these holidays
- Become familiar with the symbols associated with each holiday
- Become familiar with the main aspect of home and synagogue observance for each holiday and the times of the year associated with each
- Sing songs associated with the holidays in Hebrew and English
- Use their 5 senses to experience the holidays more fully

Jewish Culture – Tarbut

Students will:

- See and be able to say their Hebrew name
- Teachers will begin to address the children by their Hebrew names
- Become familiar with different objects associated with Jewish home and synagogue life
- Learn about Tzedakah (sharing with others as an ongoing responsibility) and the concept of Mitzvot
- Be exposed to the Jewish concept of Hashem

Israel

Students will:

- Learn that Israel is our ancestral Jewish homeland
- Learn that Israel exists today as a thriving country and find it on a map

Mitzvot

Students will:

- Learn what mitzvot are and that they are foundation of Judaism
- Learn what Tzedakah is and that it is the mitzvah for K

First Grade - Kitah Alef

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Name, print and associate the sounds of the Alef-bet
- Associate several words with each letter
- Hear stories which personify the letters and link them to Jewish ideals
- Recognize their name written in Hebrew
- Begin to count in Hebrew
- Hear and begin to use common Hebrew words and phrases
- Some spoken words and phrases:

Shalom	hello/good bye
Boker Tov	good morning
Todah	thank you
Slicha	excuse me
Ken	yes
Lo	no
L'Shana Tova	happy new year
Beit ha Knesset	synagogue
Beit HaSefer	school
Iparon	pencil
Sefer	book
Siddur	prayer book
Chaver	friend
Rav	Rabbi
Morah	teacher
Makhzor	holiday prayer book
Chag	holiday

Chagim holidays

Plus ritual words such as Bimah, kipah, Torah, Ner Talmid, and holiday words such as: lulav, etrog, chanukiah, etc

Prayer – T'filah

Students will:

- Recite blessings over each kind of food, listening and repeating Ha Motzi Lechem Min HaAretz (bread) Borei Minei M'zonot (cake, cookies, crackers) Borei Peri Ha Etz (fruit) Borei Peri Ha Gafen (grape juice)
- Explore the meaning of mitzvah/mitzvot and that there are many different kinds
- Learn to recognize and recite: the Shehecheyanu, Le Hadlik Ner Shel Shabbat/Chanukah, the Shema Oseh Shalom, and other less difficult prayers

Torah

Students will:

- Learn that the Torah is an actual book
- Learn that the Torah is read in weekly portions and that each portion has a different lesson that can be learned in it
- Through the use of stories, music, manipulatives and games, begin to identify the people in the Torah

Holidays – Chagim

- Become familiar with the stories, meanings, customs and rituals of Jewish holidays
- Learn the cycle of the Jewish calendar and the holidays
- Begin to learn about the phases of the moon

Jewish Culture – Tarbut

- Learn that Judaism teaches and expects us to be charitable, behave properly, and treat all others with respect
- Understand when each holiday comes in reference to the secular and religious calendars
- Begin to learn the days of the week and the months of the year in Hebrew

Israel

Students will:

- Simulate a flight to Israel and “visit” major cities emphasizing: Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv

- Be introduced to the Israeli flag, map of Israel, key sites
- Taste foods from Israel such as: dates, figs, falafel, oranges, and hummus

Mitzvah:

Derech Eretz: not hurting and being sensitive to others' feelings

Second Grade - Kitah Bet

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Build on the foundation of Grade 1
- Recognize, name, identify, and associate sounds of the letters of the Alef-bet
- Begin working on the vowels
- Read letter – vowel combinations
- Associate more words with each letter
- Increase functional vocabulary
- Continue to review and build a core of Hebrew vocabulary
- Prepare for more advanced Hebrew reading and decoding, as well as prayers that will occur in grade 3
- Be encouraged to find new letters in the blessings being studied
*Hebrew will be integrated into the curriculum and used in an authentic way to demonstrate concepts, teach blessings, and introduce more Mitzvot.

Prayer –T'filah

Students will:

- Be exposed to prayers studied in 1st grade and add: Mi Chamocha, Modeh Ani, Aleinu, Barchu, Kiddush and Motzi, and Sim Shalom
- Continue to review Shabbat and Holiday blessings

Torah

Students will:

- Learn that the Torah contains the 5 Books of Moses plus the Writings of the Prophets
- Learn examples of these stories and begin to study how our ancestors lived
- Begin to understand that there are lessons in each of the Bible stories and discuss how they apply to everyday life
- Begin to use higher level thinking skills to discuss value issues

Holiday – Chagim

Students will:

- More deeply explore the meanings of the holidays
- Learn the connections between the holidays and the values taught in the Torah
- Learn the historical places and the Hebrew month in which each holiday takes place
- Learn to recite the blessings and vocabulary associated with the holidays
- Be able to identify objects associated with the holidays

Jewish – Tarbut

Students will:

- Compare and contrast Jewish and secular calendars
- Discuss the books of the Jewish people and when each is used- 5 Books of Moses, Torah, Tanach, etc
- Become more familiar with Jewish ritual objects by sight such as: Torah, mezuzah, tallit, kippah, tefilin, yad, shofar, etc
- Practice mitzvot and put extra emphasis to Gemilut Chasadim: doing good deeds for others, the mitzvah for 2nd grade

Israel

Students will:

- Discuss the idea that Israel is the home of the Jewish people
- Learn that all Jews have the option of living in Israel and/or calling Israel their home
- Learn that the Jewish people once lived in Israel, were exiled, and returned to their land, Israel
- Discuss the meaning of Independence
- Become familiar with Israel's flag, map, language, and typical foods
- Become familiar with a few places in Israel, as a review to 1st grade, and additional locations

Third Grade - Kitah Gimmel

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Review the Hebrew letters and vowels and the skills studied in Grade 2
- Learn to distinguish between similar looking and sounding letters
- Practice letter vowel combinations, decoding and using phonics

- Become more proficient writing block letters
- Begin to understand that words can be male and female
- Continue to enlarge their Hebrew sight word vocabulary
- Practice their Hebrew writing skills

Prayer – T'fillah

Students will:

- Learn that Judaism has fixed prayers and fixed times to worship and hear the basic structure of a prayer (Baruch atah Adoshem Elokeinu Melech Ha'olam) Blessed are you, Lord our G-d, King of the universe...
- Discuss the meaning of the previous prayer and other commonly used prayers
- Learn to read the blessings for each category of food
- Learn to associate the food with the appropriate blessings
- Become familiar with the Friday evening service and the melodies associated with the prayers
- Read and recite the following prayers: Shabbat and Chanukkah Candle blessings, Mi cha mocha, Ein Kelohenu, Shema, Modeh Ani, Barchu, Ha Motzi Lechem Min HaAretz (bread) Borei Peri Ha Etz (fruit), Borei Peri Ha Adamah (vegetables), Borei Peri Ha Gafen (grape juice), Oseh Shalom, Shehechyanu, Sim Shalom, V'Shamru

Torah

Students will:

- Continue to learn stories and lessons from the Torah
- Use the Torah pointer (yad) to find letters that students recognize
- Learn that the Torah takes one year to read and one section, Parsha, is read each week
- Show understanding of the Torah portions through reading, acting, illustrating, or other creative method
- Be asked what they think each story teaches and how it applies to their lives

Jewish Culture – Tarbut

Students will:

- Learn the names and roles of the people involved in Jewish life
- Learn that Jewish life takes place in the synagogue, the home, and everywhere a Jew finds him/herself
- Become comfortable with synagogue and learn to engage in learning and prayer in the sanctuary

Israel

Students will:

- Look at the map to see where the US is in reference to Israel
- Learn about the modern State of Israel
- Understand our connection with Israel and why it is important to us as Jews
- Begin to develop a connection with the land and people of Israel through imaginary trip to Israel

Fourth Grade - Kitah Dalet

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Through the use of decoding skills, decipher and read more complex Hebrew words, building upon the knowledge of Grade 3
- Be able to read and write simple Hebrew words and phrases
- Recognize that Hebrew is written in print and script

Prayer – T'fillah

Students will:

- Study the structure of the Siddur and the daily prayers
- Begin to translate, understand the meaning of, and recite: Barchu, Ma'ariv Areivim, Yotzer Ohr, Shema, V'ahavta, Ein Kelohenu, Shalom Aleichem, Ahavat Olam, Me Chamocha, Brachot, Kiddush, v'Shamru, Sim Shalom, 4 questions

Torah

Students will:

- Recognize the words “parsha” and “sidra” as names for the Torah portions
- Use the Chumash to locate each Book of the Torah and learn how to find a Torah portion and a particular sentence
- Be able to read the name of the weekly portion in Hebrew
- Discover that each name came from the initial words of that portion
- Be able to read the Hebrew names of biblical personalities
- Create a family tree for the families of the Avot and Ima'ot (Fathers and Mothers)

Holidays – Chagim

Students will:

- Know core Hebrew vocabulary associated with each holiday
- Learn the important laws and customs associated with each holiday
- Understand that the Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar
- Construct their own Jewish calendar and discuss Hebrew dates vs. secular dates
- Be able to identify important characteristics of each holiday when given the name of the holiday
- Recite blessings associated with each holiday

Jewish Culture – Tarbut

Students will:

- Discover who they are named after and study the source of the name while creating a family tree
- Explore how they are alike and different from the people they are named after
- Learn about Life Cycle events in the life of a Jew
- Discuss how our observances differ from other religions
- Understand what it means to become a B'nei Mitzvah
- Understand each of the life cycle events, adding layers to the understanding
- Learn the mitzvot and vocabulary associate with each life cycle event
- Be able to put the life cycle events in chronological order

Mitzvot

Baal Tash'cheet: Caring for the environment

Fifth Grade - Kitah Hey

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Expand on reading and writing in Hebrew
- Recognize familiar written Hebrew words; learning the meaning of key passages in familiar prayers

Prayer – T'fillah

Students will:

- Read the English translations and summarize as well as recite and sing in Hebrew: Avot V'imaot, Kiddush, V'shamru, Oseh Shaom, Ki Metzion, Shalom Rav, Yotzer Ohr, 4 questions, Sim Shalom
- Increase comprehension of spoken Hebrew through more intensive classroom use
- Learn to lead the reading of singing of selected prayers
- Continue to study and develop facility in reading the major prayers from the Shabbat worship services

Torah

Students will:

- Learn about the Prophets, name of the Prophets and the major themes of their writings
- Apply what they have learned to their own lives

Holiday – Chagim

Students will:

- Continue to expand their knowledge of the Jewish Holidays

Jewish Life and Culture – Tarbut

Students will:

- Continue a more in-depth study of the life cycle events, by examining the source of each celebration
- Identify the major activities of each life cycle event
- Learn the idea of doing mitzvot and learn how to become an active members of the Jewish Community
- Discover the ways that their class can make a difference in our Jewish community and our world

Israel

Students will:

- Explore the many different faces of the modern Israeli people
- Learn about the different religions of Israel

Israel

Students will:

- Study the land and the issues of trees and water in Israel

- Discuss the challenges facing Israel and Israelis today
- Learn how to be discerning consumers of the news, internet, and other sources of media as it applies to Israel and the Jewish people

Sixth Grade - Kitah Vav

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Become more fluent in Hebrew reading by working on increasingly more complex prayers, building on skills learned in previous years
- Continue to develop prayer vocabulary by learning the definitions of several key words in each prayer
- Discover the meaning of unfamiliar words through the knowledge of word roots, prefixes and suffixes
- Review and study: The four questions, Mi Chamocha, V'shamru, Oseh Shalom, Tallit Blessings, Chanukah Brachot, Shalom Rav, Torah Brachot, Friday night Kiddush, Amida, Yotzer Ohr, V'ahavta, Aleinu, Kaddish, L'cha Dodi, Ki Metzion, Ayn Kamocha
- Begin study of the prayers needed to become a B'nei Mitzvah

Torah

Students will:

- Discuss the idea of prayers and their relationship to their lives
- Begin to learn the divisions of the Tanach and discuss passages from each
- Look at the Torah in a more mature matter
- Discuss value issues that the Torah teaches and how to apply them when interacting with others

Holidays – Chagim

Students will:

- Revisit the study of Jewish Holidays from a more mature perspective
- Use the study of the Holidays a springboard for the study of core Jewish values and beliefs
- Begin to learn and identify the following: Midrash, Minhag (a custom often becoming a practice), Sefer Torah, Aliyah, Aseret Hadibrot, Haftarah, Rashi, Talmud
- Utilize biblical texts as practical guidance to understanding of real life issues in their world
- Delve deeper into the Holidays and what they mean to us today

Current Events

Students will:

- Look at the news through the lens of Jewish values
- Recognize bias and learn how to balance the various viewpoints found in the media

Jewish Culture – Tarbut

Students will:

- Discuss the idea of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and learn how it relates to history and community
- Discuss and gain a basic understanding of Jewish History
 1. Shetel Life
 2. Holocaust
 3. Modern Israel and It's Foundation
 4. Modern American Judaism
- Develop class mitzvah project(s)
- Work with the Rabbi

Seventh Grade - Kitah Zayin

Hebrew – Ivrit

Students will:

- Master skills necessary to chant from the Torah and Haftarah
- Continue to work to achieve mastery of major prayers of the Shabbat worship service and lead them in preparation for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Prayer – T'fillah

Students will:

- Read an English translation of the prayers of the Shabbat worship service and gain an understanding of the prayers
- Be able to chant Shabbat prayers

Torah

Students will:

- Continue their study of the Torah and Tanach
- Read and discuss excerpts from as many of the sections of the Torah as possible

- Workshop with the Rabbi

Jewish Culture – Tarbut

- Discuss how becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah relates to history and our Jewish community
- Prepare to become a B'nei Mitzvah
- Develop a timeline of Jewish History
- Learn about our place in this history
- Explore their family lineage
- Discuss famous Jews and their contributions to our history and identity
- Understand the concepts of: Holocaust, Zionism, anti-Semitism and Jewish Identity

Holidays – Chagim

Students will:

- Build on past learning and continue study of our holidays, how they are celebrated and why we celebrate them

Current Events

Students will:

- Read and discuss articles about US/Israeli relations
- Discuss articles about Israel in reference to its neighbors and the world

Mitzvot

Tikkun Olam: Jewish Mandate to take direct action in repairing the world

Talmud Torah: Studying Torah as a lifetime commitment