

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 their larger community, and in the world.

Key Values

These key values are the basis of our curriculum: Kedushah - Holiness, Talmud Torah- Importance of Study, Mishpacha- Family, Ivrit- Hebrew, K'lal Yisrael- Unity of the Jewish people, Ahavat Olam- Love of Israel, Kehillah- Community, and Tikkun Olam- Repairing our World.

Hebrew Program

Our Hebrew curriculum seeks to offer our children an engaging, exciting path to reading, understanding, and communicating in the living language of Hebrew and mastering and understanding the meaning of Hebrew prayer. We will provide our students: reading/decoding skills, engagement in and about their Hebrew studies, skills to help increase their vocabulary and communicate in Hebrew, ability to participate in and eventually lead Jewish prayer.

Curriculum for grades K-2

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 experiential learning.

Kindergarten - Kitah Gan

Kindergarten is the year of discovery. Learning about mitzvot-how to interact kindly with other people, and the celebration of holidays and daily life, are the basis for this first year of religious school. The introduction of Hebrew letters and sounds, along with brachot associated with foods and holiday celebrations, will be woven together with music, art, and hands on activities to create a strong, engaging foundation of our students' Jewish identity. A special emphasis will be placed on Shabbat, its rituals, prayers and celebration.

Key Learning Tool: Torah Aura Primary Curriculum

First Grade - Kitah Aleph

First grade will be based on three units of study. The children will be introduced to Bible heroes, through the weekly Torah Parasha, Hebrew language, and the celebration of Jewish holidays. Hebrew letters and sounds, brachot, and conversational Hebrew will continue to be intertwined in their everyday class. Shabbat and festival ritual items and brachot will be of special emphasis. As often as possible, the study will take place through experiential learning.

Key Learning Tool: Torah Aura Primary Curriculum

Second Grade - Kitah Bet

Through the celebration of the holidays and the study of Hebrew, the second grade students will continue to explore their Jewish identity. Students will learn Hebrew concepts through movement, art, music, and games. Our students will build on their Hebrew vocabulary through conversational Hebrew, blessings, naming items found in the classroom and in home, and by practicing phrases and words in class. Bible heroes will be more deeply explored through the weekly Torah Parasha as well as basic Jewish values of honesty, responsibility, justice, and by helping others. Students will begin to learn about the land and people of Israel.

Key learning tool: A time to Read Hebrew, Shalom Learning, Judaic Curriculum

Curriculum for Third - Sixth grades

Students will come to religious school on both Sunday and Wednesday. On Sunday, all students will participate in group or classroom T'fillah, Jewish Culture - Tarbut, Holidays – Chagim, Current Events, Torah, and Mitzvot. Wednesday will be primarily Hebrew. The focus will be on prayers and Brachot, in English and Hebrew, conversational Hebrew, reading and writing in Hebrew, and Hebrew vocabulary and music.

Key Tool: Siddur Hadash

Third Grade - Kitah GimmeI

The curriculum for third grade is based on the Jewish calendar. Students will learn blessings for Shabbat and Jewish holidays, deepen their understanding of customs, prayers, songs and significance of the Jewish calendar, and will learn how the Torah has a direct correlation with the Jewish calendar. Authentic learning as well as music and art activities will reinforce the learning process. The central theme of the third grade is the exploration and experience of the mitzvah of gemilut chasadim – acts of loving kindness.

Key Tools: A Time to Read Hebrew Basic Judaism for Young People-Israel, Welcome Israel

Fourth Grade - Kitah Dalet

With the land and history of Israel as its basis, the curriculum of fourth grade will guide the children through: the different lifestyles of Israelis, comparing life in cities to those in a Kibbutz, the connection of the land of Israel to the American Jewish community, and current events which help us understand the political issues in the Middle East and the world. Through food tasting and celebrations, the fourth grade students will get a real feel for life in Israel. In Hebrew, the students will continue to grow their Hebrew sight word vocabulary, have more meaningful conversations in Hebrew, improve their reading skills and expand their study to work on more challenging t'fillot. Ending their studies, fourth grade students will be introduced to the Jewish Life Cycle.

Key Tools: Parasha Plays, Shhh!! A curriculum based on Pirke Avot

Fifth Grade - Kitah Hey

With increased work in prayer reading, the fifth grade students will expand their Hebrew reading and writing skills, necessary for B'nei Mitzvah preparations. Students will learn the meaning of key passages in familiar prayers, helping to bring meaning to the Shabbat evening and morning services. Students will continue with conversational Hebrew and increase their Hebrew vocabulary, recognizing items in the classroom and at home in Hebrew. Through Torah study, fifth grade students will learn about the Prophets and the major themes of their writings and then apply this learning to everyday life. Fifth grade students will more deeply study the Jewish Life Cycle.

Key Tools: Shalom Learning Judaic Curriculum based on Pirke Avot, Journey of a Lifetime, Fifty Four Pick ups, 15 minute Inspirational Torah Lessons

Sixth Grade - Kitah Vav

Sixth grade is the year that students' Hebrew work is primarily focused on B'nei Mitzvah preparation. There will also be a continuation of conversational Hebrew through the use of activities, games, and real conversations. Sixth grade students will focus on Jewish history, their family's history, and their own Jewish identity. In an age appropriate manner, sixth grade students will learn about the Holocaust and other historical events that give them a greater understanding of the past and ideas to help solve religious, philosophical, and political problems of today.

Key Tools: You be the Judge, Jewish Life Cycle, A Bridge to Our Tradition: Pirke Avot, Journey Through the Siddur, Of Many Waters

Seventh Grade - Kitah Zayin

Seventh grade students will have religious school on Sunday only, and work with their Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor during the week. Students will gain skills necessary to chant from the Torah and Haftorah. During this pivotal year, our goal is to keep our students engaged through meaningful outreach activities. Students will learn about other faiths and through discussion and activities will be better able to explore their own place in Judaism. Through activities like tutoring younger students, helping with the outside upkeep of the synagogue landscaping and helping throughout our building, these students will bring Jewish values to life and frame the foundation for their life as Jewish adults. Our seventh grade students will meet with Rabbi Pohl several times each month to gain a better understanding of what it's like to be part of a Jewish and world community.

Key Tools: You Be the Judge, Shalom Learning Judaic curriculum