

Limmud: Temple Beth El's Youth Education Program
Curriculum
5780 ~ 2019-2020

The major curricular foci of the Gan class are:

- Holidays: As they study the major Jewish holidays as they occur, they will review the basic customs, prayers and symbols associated with each holiday.
- Develop a relationship with God as protector, provider, everywhere and identify prayer as an opportunity to connect with God.
- Introduction to the Alef/Bet. Students will begin to recognize letters and the sounds associated with each letter. They will be able to sing the Alef-Bet song.
- Prayer Hebrew: Opening Blessing: Modeh Ani, Food blessings, Torah Blessings, Shema, Four Questions, Shabbat Blessings

The major curricular foci of the 1st grade are:

- The Jewish Year, including the holidays, months and Rosh Hodesh
- Holidays: As they study the major Jewish holidays as they occur, they will review the basic customs, prayers and symbols associated with each holiday.
- Tanach: In 1st grade, children should deepen their knowledge and connection to the key stories of the Torah. They should review the stories of holidays, Creation, Adam and Eve, and Noah.
- Hebrew letter recognition (letter name and sounds), begin to learn to write the letters and some vocabulary associated with each letter, such as Lulav for Lamed and Shema for Shin.
- Prayer Hebrew: Review Gan goals, Add to opening blessings: Ma Tov, Add Holiday blessings: Shehecheyanu, Add to shema: v'ahavta, mi chamocho, Add closing hymns: Ein Keloheinu, Add Israel: Hatikvah

The major curricular foci of the 2nd grade are:

- Learning to read Hebrew. Students will be able to recognize all Hebrew letters, identify their names and sounds, recognize and vocalize all vowels and read any combination of letters and vowels. This is the major focus of 2nd grade and the majority of class time is devoted to this task. Also heavy use of the Shalom Learning Judaic values curriculum.
- Holidays: 2nd grade focuses on the story of each holiday and, when appropriate, the biblical references
- Prayer Hebrew: Review above
- Add to Holiday blessings: Hanukah candles, lulav, etrog, Add to closing hymns: Adon Olam Aleinu, Add Shabbat Hymn: introduce L'cha Dodi, Add home ritual
- Family Learning: 2nd grade should have a family learning opportunity connected to one of their mitzvot of focus. For example, a family fieldtrip to Lollypop farm as a culmination of their unit on kindness to animals.
- Israel: People and Places (Unit #3); Shinshinim

The major curricular foci of the 3rd grade are:

- Holidays: 3rd grade will cover each holiday as it occurs, with a focus on how the holiday is celebrated differently in different parts of the world. Shabbat – observance and home blessings (erev and havdallah)
- Also use of the Shalom Learning Judaic values curriculum.

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- Prayer Hebrew: Review previous years, Amidah: Kedusha responses, Add to opening blessings: Birchot Hashachar, Add to Shema: Barchu, and blessings: birkat yotzer (evening only), Birkat Torah, Ga'al Yisrael, Hashkiveinu, Add to Holiday: Selections from Hallel (TBD), Add to home ritual: Saturday morning Kiddush (with v'shamru), Havdalah blessings
- Solidifying ability to read Hebrew and write in script.
- Israel: Jewish Holidays and the Jewish State (Unit #8 in CIE); Shinshinim

The major curricular foci of the 4th grade are:

- 4th grade will study the holidays as they occur, with a focus on the foods of the holidays, and Kashrut. 4th grade has a special focus on the holidays of Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, and Shavuot. Also the Shalom Learning Judaic Values Curriculum.
- Prayer Hebrew: Review above, Add to opening prayers: Psalm 150, Add to Shema: Barchu, and blessings: birkat yotzer (morning), Birkat Torah (morning), Ga'al Yisrael, Add Amidah: Birkat M'ein Sheva, Add to Friday Night: L'cha Dodi (all), Psalm 29, Add to Holiday: Selections from Hallel (TBD), Add to home ritual: Kiddush (with Vaychulu), Birkat Mazon, Add to learning: Kedusha d'yotzer
- Israel: Culture: (Unit #5 in CIE); Shinshinim

The major curricular foci of the 5th grade are:

- Holidays: Special focus on Pesach. The Pesach study will include an in-depth study of the Haggadah. 5th grade will lead special programs for all of Limmud for Pesach and Lag B'Omer. Also the Shalom Learning Judaic Values Curriculum.
- Prayer Hebrew: Review above, Add to opening prayers: Shirat Hayam, Add Amidah: Focus on first 3 and last 3 blessings (Kedusha from Shabbat Shacharit), Add opening of Torah service (Ein Kamocha, Av Harachamim, Vayhi Binsoa, L'cha Adonai), Add Ashrei, Add Kaddish, Add to Holiday: Selections from Hallel (TBD), Adding to home ritual: complete Havdalah, Add learning: prayer terms and structure
- B'nai Mitzvah Preparation:
 - Torah Trope and blessings before and after the Torah reading
 - Synagogue Skills: Chant and Read the Friday night and Shabbat morning service selected prayers and blessings; associated vocabulary
 - B'nai Mitzvah Family Programs: Solidify B'nai Mitzvah Dates and Torah and Haftorah portions, and make a gartel, sash, to tie the Torah; planning meeting to learn about the b'nai mitzvah process and curriculum; launch mentor program
- Israel: Institutions (Unit #4 CIE); Shinshinim

The major curricular foci of the 6th grade are:

- Holidays: 6th grade studies the holidays as they occur, with a special focus on Hanukkah as a case study in the 2nd Temple period and various historical figures as Jewish heroes and leaders.
- Life/Cycle: Bar Mitzvah
- Mitzvot the class will focus on include kol yisrael aravim zeh lah zeh (responsibility to the Jewish people) and ben adam l'havero (among each other).
- *TheirStory* Family Program to facilitate meaningful conversations between parents and their 6th grader(s) regarding the values and life-cycle events that are being studied in

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class. The goal is for students to develop a sense of ownership of their Jewish identity through self-reflection and engaging in prompt-based conversations with family members

- Life-cycle: 6th grade students will study the Jewish life-cycle. They will be able to identify Jewish traditions associated with each part of the life-cycle, include birth, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage (divorce), and death. Also Shalom Learning Values Curriculum.
- Prayer Hebrew: Review above, Add to Amidah: Kedushat Hayom for Shacharit, Add to Torah Service: Haftarah blessings, Add to Holiday: Selections from Hallel (TBD), Add to closing Hymns: Yigdal, Add to learning: different services (shema, Amidah, mincha, musaf, Kabbalat Shabbat)
- B'nai Mitzvah Preparation:
 - Friday night and Shabbat morning synagogue skills
 - Tallit and Tefillin
 - Haftarah Trope and fluency reading their Haftarah
 - Students will explore their Torah and Haftarah portions and begin composing their D'var Torah
 - Synagogue vocabulary
- Israel: Israel's Place in the World (Unit #6 CIE); Shinshinim

The major curricular foci of the 7th grade are:

- B'nai Mitzvah Preparation:
 - Read and chant Friday night and Shabbat morning prayers and blessings, parsha and Haftarah associated with their B'nai Mitzvah with confidence
 - Deliver a d'var Torah as part of their B'nai Mitzvah
 - Attend, participate in and lead Friday night and Shabbat morning services
- Students will explore Torah texts to learn to critically read them and uncover their hidden depth
- Explore the Machzor and Megilot to identify key themes and learn to read and chant prayers that are not included in the Friday night and Shabbat morning services (Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shavuot, Purim, Pesach)
- Lead prayers and special youth services
- Develop an understanding of the importance of performing Mitzvot and the responsibilities of Tikkun Olam. Participate in community service projects and activities such as Mishloach Manot, Asbury Dining, Limmud Days of Service and Mentoring of 5th grade students who are beginning to prepare for their B'nai Mitzvot
- Holocaust: 7th grade will spend part of the semester learning about the Holocaust. Their study will include:
 - Timeline of major events, including (but certainly not limited to): Krystal Nacht, Warsaw Ghetto uprising, outbreak of the war, the Final Solution, end of the war, U.S joining the war
 - Working knowledge of key terms and historical figures and statistics
 - Understanding the Jewish experience of the Holocaust
 - Jews were not the only group to suffer in the Holocaust
 - Aftermath of the Holocaust, including liberation, emigration, experience of those who returned to their homes, Israel
 - Ties to issues of bullying, bystander, etc.

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- Modern examples of other genocides and Jewish response
- They will also use Shalom Learning Judaic Values Curriculum.
- Israel: Zionism (Unit #2 CIE); Shinshinim