

Congregation Beth Israel Religious School Curriculum

PreK

Judaica: Students will be exposed to a broad range of topics in a preschool setting, using crafts, stories and activities, giving them a fun introduction to the Religious School experience.

Theme 1: Jewish Holidays - Using **Jewish and Me**, students will begin learning about the major Jewish Holidays occurring throughout the school year.

Theme 2: Mitzvot - Using **Jewish and Me**; units including Taking Care of Myself, Tzedakah, Being Kind, Shalom Bayit and Caring for Animals.

Students will also use the Sammy Spider book series

T'Fillah: Shabbat blessings over candles, wine and challah and The Shema.

Hebrew: Students will be introduced to the Hebrew language by looking at words and letters in the context of the lessons they are learning.

Family Education: Sunday April, 26th- Israel Independence Day

Kindergarten:

Judaica: Kindergarten will focus on a broad range of topics, giving students a foundation for the rest of their years in Religious School. They will focus on the following:

Theme 1: Holidays - Using the **BJL Jewish Holidays** series, students will learn about each holiday with an emphasis on Israeli Independence Day.

Theme 2: Bible Stories - Using the Bible series as well at **Torah Alive**, students will learn and experience some of the major Bible stories.

Theme 3: Mitzvot - Using the Mitzvot series, students will focus on mitzvot including Tzedakah, Visiting the Sick, Feeding the Hungry, Welcoming Guests, and Guarding the Tongue.

T'Fillah (prayers): Shabbat blessings over candles, wine and challah, The Shema and blessing over snack.

Hebrew: Students will be introduced to the Hebrew letters in a fun hands on way, giving them a basic understanding of what Hebrew is, how it looks and how it is different from English. In addition, they will begin build a basic Hebrew vocabulary.

Consecration: Kindergarten is the year students are Consecrated. This is a meaningful experience that will be held on Wednesday, October 15th during our Simchat Torah celebration.

Family Education: Sunday April, 26th- Israel Independence Day

Grade Level Shabbat: Friday, April 17th

First Grade:

Judaica: First Grade will begin a two year study of the weekly Torah portions and continue to study Jewish topics including the holidays and the Jewish world around them.

Theme 1: Torah Study - Using **Weekly Sidra** (Torah story), taking them through the first half of the Torah.

Theme 2: Holidays - Using **Aleph Celebrations**, students will explore the Jewish calendar and experiencing the Jewish Holidays with a special focus on Shabbat and Havdallah

Theme 3: Being Jewish - Using **Let's Explore Being Jewish** students will be introduced to the following units: the Bible, Welcome to the Synagogue, Israel, My Jewish Year and Life Cycle.

T'fillah: Shema, Shabbat blessings, Havdallah blessings and Mode Ani

Hebrew: **Now I know my Aleph Bet**-Students will work to learn the names of all of the Hebrew Letters and continue to build their vocabulary of Hebrew words.

Family Education: January 20th - Shabbat

Grade Level Shabbat: Friday, April 17th

Second Grade:

Judaica: Students will complete their two year study of the Weekly Torah Portions. In addition, they will spend time learning about Israel and the Jewish Holidays.

Theme 1: Torah Study - **Weekly Sidra**: Weekly Torah story will take the students through the second half of the Torah.

Theme 2: Israel - **Using The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt**, students will begin to learn about Israel focusing on the major places including: Haifa, Galilee, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, The Judean and Negev Desert and Eilat; giving them a look at a variety of cultures and life styles.

Theme 3: Jewish Holidays with a special focus on Purim.

T'Fillah: Students will review all previous blessings and begin the V'Ahavta

Hebrew: Students will study using the Hebrew Primer **Tiyulim**. They will learn their Hebrew letters and learn the vowel sounds allowing them to begin decoding and reading Hebrew words.

Family Ed: March 1st - Purim

Grade Level Shabbat: Friday, October 11th

Third Grade:

Judaica

Theme 1: Jewish Holidays - **Experience the Jewish Holidays**: Students will spend this year experiencing each holiday. Grades 4 and above do not focus as intensely on the holiday.

Theme 2: Jewish Values - **Jewish Values from Alef to Tav** - through these 24 Jewish stories about Jewish Values, students will begin to discuss what values are specifically Jewish including ideas such as: guarding your tongue, the environment, respect and welcoming guests.

Theme 3: Lifecycle – Using Journey of a Lifetime, students will focus on some of the Jewish Lifecycles events including Bris, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding and funerals.

T'Fillah: Review previous prayers and learn The V'ahavta.

Hebrew: Build on their Hebrew knowledge by adding the final letters. Students will begin deciphering Hebrew and reading words.

Family Ed: February 1st will focus on Tu B'Shevat.

Grade Level Shabbat: Friday, November 14th

Fourth Grade:

Judaica:

Theme 1: Israel-Using **Artzeinu, An Israel Encounter**, students will have a year long intensive focus on the State of Israel culminating in students presentations on cities around Israel.

Theme 2: **You Be The Judge-1** :A look at Jewish values through real life cases and their Jewish answers.

Theme 3: Jewish holidays with a more intense study of Chanukah

Hebrew/T'Fillah: Review previous and add Barchu, Mah Tovu, Mi Chamocho and Kiddush.

Yotair Ivrit, optional midweek Hebrew, begins this year

Family Ed: December 7th will focus on Chanukah

Grade Level Shabbat: Friday, February 20th

Fifth Grade:

Theme 1: Jewish Life Cycle - Using **The Circle of Life**, empowering students to meaningfully participate in the broad range of Jewish Life Events that occur throughout one's life.

Theme 2: Jewish Prophets - Students will learn about the part of the Tanach called The Prophets, Navi'im.

Theme 3: Values - **You Be The Judge-2**: A look at Jewish values through real life cases and their Jewish answers

Hebrew/T'Fillah: Continue with the prayers from the Shabbat Service: The Amidah, L'Kha Dodi, Shalom Alechem and Birkat

Yotair Ivrit, optional midweek Hebrew, is offered to 5th grade

Family Ed: November 9th will focus on Shabbat and Havdala

Grade Level Shabbat: Friday, January 30th

Sixth Grade:

Theme 1: Holocaust - Using **We will Remember**, students will take an intensive year-long look at the Holocaust.

Theme 2: Character - Using the series **The Content of their Character**, students will take a deeper look at Jewish Values through stories and class discussions.

Theme 3: Values - **You Be The Judge-3**: A look at Jewish values through real life cases and their Jewish answers

Hebrew/T'Fillah: Torah Service and concluding prayers.

Yotair Ivrit, optional midweek Hebrew, is offered to 6th grade

Family Ed: September 21st will focus on Rosh Hashana

Grade Level Shabbat: Saturday, February 28th

Seventh Grade

Judaica:

Theme 1: Parashah - Using **Experiencing the Weekly Torah Portions**, students will study the weekly parashah with a focus on the Jewish values that relate to it.

Theme 2: Jewish Role Models - Using **Eizehu Gibor-Living Jewish Values** , students will learn about different values and the stories of the Jewish role models living these values.

Theme 3: Israel and Palestine-Using **Matzav Units**, students will learn about the history of Israel and Palestine in the Middle East

Tfillah-students will be studying with their tutors in preparation for their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, so no Hebrew or T'Fillah will occur in religious school this year.

Grade Level Shabbat-Friday, December 12th

Passover Seder for a local church.

Eighth Grade

Judaica: Lessons will focus on different aspects of living a Jewish Life.

Theme 1: Living a Jewish life as well as Jewish Life Cycle events/rituals including Birth, marriage, Kashrut and death. Trips include: Kosher Restaurant, Kosher Hunts, Cooking Classes, Mikvah, and Jewish Burial rituals

Theme 2: Tzedakah and Community Service Trips include: Community service project at First United Methodist Church and Mitzvah Day

Grade Level Shabbat-Friday, December 12th