



Congregation
B'nai Israel
CONGREGATION WITH A CONSCIENCE®
Barry Ira Graff
School for Living Judaism

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CURRICULUM

Pre-K

Our Pre-K curriculum sets the foundation for our students' Jewish education! Students develop a love for Judaism with an introduction to Torah stories, Jewish values, and begin learning Hebrew through song with Miss Susan.

Kindergarten

Along with building on their knowledge of well known sections of the Torah, Kindergarten students learn about Giving to Charity (*Tzedakah*), Peaceful Home (*Shalom Bayit*), Acts of Loving-Kindness (*Chesed*), Protecting Animals (*Tsa'ar Ba'alei Hayim*), and Repairing the World (*Tikkun Olam*). They are formally welcomed to Religious school and mark the beginning of their formal Jewish education at our Consecration ceremony.

First Grade

First Grade Students will learn about all the major Jewish holidays. They will also discover and explore important ideas regarding how we impact different parts of our community, including the ideas of *Tzedakah*, Torah and Israel.

Second Grade

Second Grade students continue to grow their knowledge of the Hebrew language and Judaism. They explore the physical Jewish symbols within our synagogue and discuss ideas about God.

Third Grade

As our Third Grade students work towards their B'nai Mitzvah, they focus on the first book of the Torah, Genesis. Third Graders are formally introduced to the Hebrew Alef-Bet. Students begin learning the letters and decoding small words. A pivotal moment for our Third Graders is the B'nai Mitzvah Date Selection Party where students and their families receive their child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade students focus on Exodus, the second book of the Torah. The students also learn about famous Jews in Israel, their strengths, and what we can learn from them. They share their learnings with their families at the end of the year with the Jewish Hero Puppet Project.

Fifth Grade

Fifth Graders study the third book of the Torah, Leviticus, through the lens of personal responsibility. Students will delve into topics like Jewish history and Israeli art and culture in a fun and engaging way.

Sixth Grade

Sixth Grade students focus on values through a Jewish lens and the responsibilities of being a Jewish adult, such as actions have consequences and using our language carefully. Sixth Graders study the Holocaust, including Kristallnacht, Righteous Among the Nations, and Children of the Holocaust. In addition, students and families will have the opportunity to participate in a 3-session program on the B'nai Mitzvah experience.



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Fourth - Sixth Grade Hebrew

Our goal is to provide our students with the best Hebrew learning based on their individual learning level. Students in Fourth - Sixth Grade are taught Hebrew in groups according to their proficiency. Students learn to read text and prayers, including (not limited to): *Barchu*, *Shema*, *Vehavta*, *Mi Chamocha*, *Amida*, *Aleinu* and Mourner's Kaddish. Students will reinforce their prayer skills with the clergy in Tefillah.

Seventh Grade

As Seventh Graders become B'nai Mitzvah and progress into Jewish adulthood, the curriculum embodies the questions and values on which our faith is based. Questions like, what is my responsibility as a Jewish adult? What does it mean to pray and does how I pray matter? Where did my ancestors come from, and how does that impact my perspective today? Students also transition to learning Modern and Conversational Hebrew.

Eighth - Twelfth Grade

Our Eighth - Twelfth Grade curriculum has been redesigned, providing the opportunity to participate in 4-week long electives throughout the year. Starting in the spring, Tenth Grade students will join Clergy to identify the importance and deepen their understanding of what it means to confirm and take this step in their Jewish journey.

Electives include, but are not limited to:

- Jewish Leadership
- Addressing Antisemitism
- Thinking Theology
- Holocaust
- Tikkun Olam
- Jews in the News
- Jewish Cooking
- And more!

HIGHLIGHTS

Tenth Grade

Tenth Grade students have the option of participating in Confirmation. The Confirmation Class studies Great Jewish Thinkers, Being a Jewish Adult, the Ethical Teaching of Jewish Tradition, and ends with the Confirmation Service.

Twelfth Grade

Our Graduating Seniors, who are saying farewell, not just to adolescence, but also their religious school and faculty that has been a home to students for years, are recognized at a Friday Night Shabbat Service.

For more information, contact Myriam Rofrano, Religious School Director
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