

Hebrew School Curriculum 2014-2015

Our curriculum focuses on:

- Hebrew language, primarily prayer based Hebrew, but also some modern vocabulary and grammatical structures
- Sacred texts, such as Torah, Prophets, and Writings (*Tanach*)
- Traditions, including holidays, *Shabbat*, and life cycle events
- Ethics and values, including *Tzedakah* and other *Mitzvot*
- History and Jewish identity

Our teachers make learning come alive through creative use of drama, arts and music, as well as through the group celebration of the holidays. We also engage our children and their families in *Mitzvah* projects.

The program involves the whole family in the learning experience. We invite families to participate in specific school programs and also encourage children, with their families, to participate in Beth El-wide programming. Talmud Torah children and their families also have a special role in designated children's Shabbat programs—Jr. Jr. Congregation, Junior Congregation, and designated Friday night services. The Talmud Torah also provides parents with ideas for incorporating Judaism into life at home.

Beth El is currently undergoing an evaluation process with regards to the curriculum. The curriculum was established fairly recently, with expressed goals for each year. For example, Kindergartners learn to recognize most Hebrew block letters. First graders will learn to read and write all Hebrew letters in block print and sight-read certain words. Fluency with reading and writing increases yearly so that by the time students are in the seventh grade, they will have achieved the competency and confidence required for *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and participation in community services.

The Beth El curriculum presents a course of study which engages our students and equips them with the skills they need to become thoughtful, socially conscious and Jewishly literate members of the greater Jewish community.

Our curriculum is always a rough draft. Talmud Torah believes that this state is the best in which to be constantly revising, reflecting and evaluating the process. We welcome feedback from parents and rely on faculty input in order to best meet the needs of our students and families.

Curricular Components

The following components (and their definitions) are the basic “units” that each teacher will incorporate into his/her lesson plans for each week.

- Hebrew language: Both the reading and writing of block Hebrew.
- Prayer: The reading and chanting of specific prayers with the goal of fluency and participation in synagogue services. In -depth analysis of selected *T'fillot* with the goal of understanding the meaning and when the prayer is recited.
- Tanach (Bible)/History: The details of the stories and characters in the 5 books of the Torah as well as Nevi'im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings) and how we transition from biblical stories to Jewish History.
- Israel: Culture, history and geography.
- Ethics/*Mitzvot*/Jewish Identity - The importance of *Tzedakah* in Jewish Life, as well as values, ethics and theology as they relate to Judaism. The traditions that are commonly practiced during Shabbat, the Holidays and Life-Cycle events, including methods of how we worship.

Kitah Gan (PreK/K)

Subject	Objectives	Specific Content
Holidays Pre-K/K	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the major holidays as they occur throughout the year and discuss how each holiday is celebrated; • Identify and become familiar with the symbols associated with each holiday; • Understand the main principle of each holiday; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shabbat ○ Rosh Hashanah ○ Yom Kippur ○ Sukkot ○ Simchat Torah ○ Chanukah ○ Tu B'Shevat ○ Purim ○ Passover ○ Yom Ha'atzmaut ○ Shavuot
Prayers Pre-K/K	Students will be introduced to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shabbat dinner blessings • Blessing over Chanukah candles • Modeh Ani • Shema • Oseh Shalom • Ma Nishtana (chorus) • Mah Tov
Tanach (Bible) Pre-K/K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will be introduced to the various biblical figures in the following stories: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation ▪ Noah's Ark ▪ Abraham/Sarah welcoming guests to their tent ▪ Rebecca at the well and meeting Isaac ▪ Jacob and Esau and the selling of the birth right ▪ Baby Moses ▪ Moses liberating the Jewish people from Egypt ▪ Receiving the 10 Commandments from Mount Sinai
Ethics/Mitzvot Pre-K/K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will learn to be a M.E.N.S.C.H. ▪ Students will be encouraged to give Tzedakah weekly ▪ Students will be introduced to the 10 Commandments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Caring and Helpful
Israel Pre-K/K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be aware of the country of Israel. • Students will be able to identify the Israeli flag and the Jewish star. • Students will listen to Hatikvah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel is a country where Jews live, built on Jewish laws, customs and celebrations.
Jewish Identity Pre-K/K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will identify themselves as a Jew. • Students will be able to identify ritual items • Students will know their Hebrew name. • Students will learn that God is one and God is everywhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes your home a Jewish home?
Hebrew PreK/K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be introduced to the Aleph Bet. • Students will be introduced to new vocabulary words/phrases. 	

Kitah Aleph (1st grade)

Subject	Objectives	Specific Content
Holidays 1st Grade	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the major holidays as they occur throughout the year and understand the main objective of each holiday; • Identify the symbols associated with each holiday; • Discuss how each holiday is celebrated at home and in the synagogue; • Participate in a Family Education program where they take a tour of a Torah and the ark; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shabbat/Havdallah ○ Rosh Hashanah ○ Yom Kippur ○ Sukkot ○ Simchat Torah ○ Chanukah ○ Tu B'Shevat ○ Purim ○ Passover ○ Yom Ha'atzmaut ○ Shavuot.
Prayers 1st GRADE	Students will be introduced to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing over mezonot • Blessing over fruit from a tree • Shechechyanu • Blessing over fruit from the earth • Blessing over shehachol • Ma Nishtana (verses)
	Students will practice:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shabbat dinner blessings • Blessing over Chanukah candles • Modeh Ani • Shema • Oseh Shalom • Ma Nishtana (chorus) • Mah Tov
Tanach (Bible) 1st Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will be introduced to the various biblical figures in the following stories: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jonah and the Whale/Big Fish ▪ Jacob and Rachel/Leah ▪ Joseph and his brother ▪ Burning Bush ▪ Golden Calf
Ethics/Mitzvot 1st Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will learn to be a M.E.N.S.C.H. ▪ Students will be encouraged to give Tzedakah weekly ▪ Students will review the 10 Commandments ▪ Students will understand that Mitzvah means "commandment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Caring and Helpful
Israel 1st grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be aware of the country of Israel. • Students will be able to identify the Israeli flag, the capital, Israel's map, and the Jewish star. • Students will listen to Hatikvah and sing along with the first line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel is a country where Jews live, built on Jewish laws, customs and celebrations. • Compare and contrast the Israeli and American flags.
Jewish Identity 1st grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn about the meaning/use of the various ritual items. • Students will know that there is one God and that people can talk to God through prayer. • Students will learn that the Torah is the holiest ritual item for Jews. 	
Hebrew 1st grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be able to name all of the letters of the Aleph Bet and identify the sound each letter makes. • Students will be introduced to the shapes and sounds each vowel makes. • Students will be introduced to new vocabulary words • Students will learn to count from 1-10 in Hebrew 	

Kitah Bet (2nd grade)

Subject	Objectives	Specific Content
Holidays 2 nd Grade	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the major holidays as they occur throughout the year in class; • Understand and share how holidays are celebrated personally at home vs. in synagogue; • Recognize symbols which represent each holiday/Shabbat; • Identify ritual items associated with each holiday, comparing and contrasting items used at home vs. in the synagogue; • Recite the chorus to Ma Nishtana; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shabbat/Havdallah ○ Rosh Hashanah ○ Yom Kippur ○ Sukkot ○ Shemini Atzeret ○ Simchat Torah ○ Hanukkah ○ Tu B'Shevat. ○ Purim ○ Passover ○ Yom HaAtzmaut ○ Shavuot
Prayers 2nd GRADE	Students will be introduced to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing over hand-washing • V'ahavata • Adon Olam • L'Cha Dodi (chorus) • Ein Keloheinu
	Students will practice:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing over mezonot • Blessing over fruit from a tree • Shechechyanu • Blessing over fruit from the earth • Blessing over shehachol • Ma Nishtana (chorus & verses)
	Students will review/master:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shabbat dinner blessings • Blessing over Chanukah candles • Modeh Ani • Shema • Oseh Shalom • Mah Tovv
Tanach (Bible) 2 nd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will be able to recite the names of the 5 books of the Torah in Hebrew and English. ▪ Students will be introduced to biblical figures in these stories: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cain and Abel ▪ Tower of Babel ▪ Binding of Isaac ▪ Burning Bush
Ethics/Mitzvot 2 nd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will learn to be a M.E.N.S.C.H. ▪ Students will be encouraged to give Tzedakah weekly ▪ Students will learn that there are 613 Commandments, specifically focusing on and providing modern examples of: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Caring and Helpful ▪ <i>Tzedakah, Derech Eretz, Ba'al Taschit, Kibud Av v'Em</i>
Israel 2 nd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will listen to Hatikvah, learn the general theme and sing along with the first and second lines. • Students will be able to identify the map of Israel and will locate the general region where Israel is on the globe. • Students will locate major cities on the map and learn a significant fact about each one. 	
Jewish Identity 2 nd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn that Jews are made B'tzelem Elohim (in God's image) • Students will discuss reasons for why we pray. 	
Hebrew 2 nd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will master recognition, recall and writing of all of the letters and vowels, including final letters. • Students will read 2, 3 and 4 letter/vowel combinations • Students will be introduced to new vocabulary words. 	

Kitah Gimel (3rd grade)

Subject	Objectives	Specific Content
Holidays 3rd Grade	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the progression of Shabbat from Kabbalat Shabbat to Havdallah; • Understand that Shabbat is the central holiday in Judaism; • Identify the key practices/traditions of each holiday; • Recite holiday-specific <i>brachot</i> and songs; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shabbat/Havdallah ○ Rosh Hashanah ○ Yom Kippur ○ Sukkot ○ Simchat Torah ○ Hanukkah ○ Tu B'Shevat ○ Purim ○ Passover ○ Yom Ha'atzmaut ○ Lag B'Omer ○ Shavuot
Prayers 3rd GRADE	Students will be introduced to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shalom Aleichem • Havdallah • Mi Chamocha • Barchu • Aleinu • Eitz Chayim Hi
	Students will practice:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blessing over hand-washing ▪ V'ahavata ▪ Adon Olam ▪ L'Cha Dodi (chorus) ▪ Ein Keloheinu
	Students will review/master:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessing over mezonot • Blessing over fruit from a tree • Shechechyanu • Blessing over fruit from the earth • Blessing over shehachol • Ma Nishtana (chorus & verses)
Tanach (Bible) 3rd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will understand the concept that the Torah is broken down into weekly parshiot and discuss the weekly parshiot. ▪ Students will review the life of Moses from birth to receiving the 10 Commandments. 	
Ethics/Mitzvot 3rd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will learn to be a M.E.N.S.C.H. ▪ Students will be encouraged to give Tzedakah weekly ▪ Students will define and provide examples of Mitzvot, Tikkun Olam and Gimilut Chasadim and will review that there are 613 Commandments, specifically focusing on and providing modern examples of: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Caring and Helpful ▪ <i>Bikkur Cholim, Tzaar Ba'alei Chayim, Hachnasat Orchim.</i>
Israel 3rd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will listen to Hatikvah and sing along with the first half and will read and learn the translation of Hatikvah. • Students will locate the sites of specific biblical events such as: • Students will begin to explore Israeli culture. • Students will identify the other countries in the general region of Israel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai, Leaving Egypt, crossing the Sea
Jewish Identity 3rd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn some of the different names for God, including: • Students will know their Hebrew name. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adonai, Hashem, Elohim, El, Shadai, Yaweh. Etc. • Explore who they are named for, and their full Hebrew name including "ben/bat"
Hebrew 3rd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will increase fluency in reading 3, 4 and 5 letter/vowel combinations. • Students will be introduced to new vocabulary words. 	

Kitah Dalet (4th grade)

Subject	Objectives	Specific Content
Holidays 4 th Grade	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify each holiday, the significance and how it celebrated: Recite holiday-specific <i>brachot</i> and songs; Identify ritual items associated with each holiday; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shabbat/Havdallah Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur Sukkot Simchat Torah Hanukkah Tu B'Shevat Purim Passover Yom HaZikaron Yom HaAtzmaut Lag B'Omer Shavuot
Prayers 4th GRADE	Students will be introduced to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birkat Hamazon (abbreviated version) Ashrei Yedid Nefesh L'Cha Dodi (verses) V'Shamru (Carlebach melodies) Kiddush for Friday night
	Students will practice:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shalom Aleichem Havdallah Mi Chamocha Barchu Aleinu Eitz Chayim Hi
	Students will review/master:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing over hand-washing V'ahavata Adon Olam Ein Keloheinu
Tanach (Bible) 4 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will discuss the weekly parshiot. Students will identify the three parts of Tanach. Students will study biblical heroes, heroines, and prophets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories in Numbers/Bamidbar. Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim
Ethics/Mitzvot 4 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will learn to be a M.E.N.S.C.H. Students will be encouraged to give Tzedakah weekly Students will compare and contrast examples of <i>Mitzvot</i>, <i>Tikkun Olam</i> and <i>Gimilut Chasadim</i>. Students will focus on and provide modern examples of: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Caring and Helpful <i>Lashon HaRah, Talmud Torah, Kashrut</i>
Israel 4 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will listen to Hatikvah and sing along with it as well as read and discuss the translation. Students will study about the people of Israel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jerusalem is made up of four quarters which represent the four main religions in Israel (Eastern Orthodox/Armenia, Jewish, Muslim and Christian).
Jewish Identity 4 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will discuss and discover their beliefs about God. Students will learn about the rules and regulations of Kashrut, according to the Conservative movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What role does God play in their personal life? What role does God play in their family's life? What makes something kosher or not kosher?
Hebrew 4 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will continue to increase their reading fluency. Students will be introduced to new vocabulary words. 	

Kitah Hay (5th grade)

Subject	Objectives	Specific Content
Holidays 5 th Grade	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the cycle of the lunar/Jewish calendar vs. the Gregorian calendar; • Compare and contrast customs of Sephardic vs. Ashkenazic Jews on each holiday; • Recite holiday-specific <i>brachot</i> and songs; • Identify ritual items associated with each holiday; • Compare and contrast customs of American Jews vs. Israeli Jews on each holiday; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shabbat ▪ Rosh Chodesh ▪ Rosh Hashanah ▪ Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur ▪ Sukkot/Simchat Torah ▪ Hanukkah ▪ Tu B'Shevat ▪ Purim ▪ Passover ▪ Yom Hashoah ▪ Yom HaZikaron/Yom HaAtzmaut ▪ Lag B'Omer ▪ Shavuot ▪ Tisha B'Av
Prayers 5 th Grade	Students will be introduced to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yigdal
	Students will practice:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birkat Hamazon (abbr. version) ▪ Ashrei ▪ Yedid Nefesh ▪ L'Cha Dodi (verses) ▪ V'Shamru (Carlebach melodies) ▪ Kiddush for Friday night
	Students will review/master:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shalom Aleichem • Havdallah • Mi Chamocha • Barchu • Aleinu • Eitz Chayim Hi
Tanach (Bible) /Jewish History 5 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will study additional biblical heroes, heroines, and prophets. • Students will understand the challenges of being a stranger in a strange land. • Students will be able to determine if they are Ashkenazi and Sephardi and determine which regions each settlements occurred in the Diaspora. • Students will discuss broad historical events and effects of the Holocaust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on survival and assistance given by righteous gentiles. Read age-appropriate stories.
Ethics/Mitzvot 5 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn to be a M.E.N.S.C.H. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will be encouraged to give Tzedakah weekly • Students will discuss how being Jewish impacts their daily decisions and involvement in the Jewish community and that their behavior in the greater community is associated w/being Jewish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Caring and Helpful • Compile a collection of Mitzvot in which students are able to participate in regularly.
Israel 5 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will define Zionism. • Students will compare and contrast the life of a 5th grade in Israel vs. the USA. • Students will study some major figures in Israel's early history, including: • Students will understand that Israel is a democracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, David Ben Gurion, Yitzhak Rabin.
Jewish Identity 5 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn about different metaphors for God, such as: • Students will learn that there are 613 Commandments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makom, Rock and Redeemer, Melech, etc. Students can create their own personal metaphor for God.
Hebrew 5 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will continue to increase their reading fluency. • Students will be introduced to new vocabulary words. 	

Kitah Vav (6th grade)

Subject	Objectives	Specific Content
Holidays 6 th grade	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ritual items associated with each holiday; • Recite holiday-specific <i>brachot</i> and songs; • Understand God's role or presence in each holiday; • Identify the source/origins of each holiday in historical or ritual texts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shabbat • Rosh Hodesh • Rosh Hashanah • Yom Kippur • Sukkot • Simchat Torah • Hannukah • Tu B'Shevat • Purim • Passover • Yom HaShoah • Yom HaZikaron • Yom HaAtzmaut • Lag B'Omer • Shavuot • Tisha B'Av
Prayers 6 th GRADE	Students will be introduced to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to have an aliyah + appropriate brachot • Lechu Neraneneh • Tov L'hodot • Tzaddik Katamar • Ahavat Olam • Ufros Aleinu • Hatzi Kaddish • V'yichulu • Ein Kamocha • Bei Ana • Yotzer Mor • Ahava Rabah • Blessings before/after Haftorah
	Students will practice:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to have an aliya + appropriate brachot • Yigdal
	Students will review/master:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birkat Hamazon (abbr. version) • Ashrei • How to have an aliya + appropriate brachot • Yedid Nefesh • L'Cha Dodi (verses) • V'Shamru (Carlebach melodies) • Kiddush for Friday night
Tanach (Bible) Jewish History 6 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will compare and contrast the major Jewish movements. • Nevi'im (Prophets) • Holocaust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 4 main movements of Judaism: Orthodox, Reform, Conservative & Reconstructionist. • Understanding that Haftarah portions are writings from Nevi'im • Students will learn more about Jewish life in Europe prior to the Holocaust and how things changed during the rise of Hitler; with a preliminary introduction to concentration camps and liberation.
Ethics/Mitzvot 6 th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn to be a M.E.N.S.C.H. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will be encouraged to give Tzedakah weekly • Students will list and give modern examples of Maimonides 8 levels of Tzedakah. • Students will identify ritual Mitzvot and debate ethical dilemmas given the parameters of the learned Mitzvot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Caring and Helpful

Israel 6th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will compare and contrast daily Israeli life to daily American life. • Students will create a timeline documenting the events leading up to the establishment of the country Israel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the definition of “Zionist”? • Is it possible to be a Zionist and disagree with Israel’s various governmental policies/actions? • Plot the wars between 1948-present day on the timeline.
Jewish Identity 6th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will identify the 3 types of prayer: Praise, Petition & Thanks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items necessary for a Jewish adult to pray: kippah, tallit, tefillin. • Where can you pray? • Where are you most comfortable praying? • When do you personally use each of the 3 different types of prayer?
Hebrew 6th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will continue to increase their reading fluency, specifically with the prayers listed in the prayer section of the curriculum. • Students will be introduced to new vocabulary words: 	