**The Zelda & Herman Schwartz Hebrew School Curriculum**

**Materials for each subject will be determined before the start of the new year in collaboration with the principal and teachers of each class.**

**Kitot Pre-Alef – Alef (4-6 year olds)**

**Hebrew Reading and Sight Vocabulary:**

Students will learn to identify consonants of the Hebrew alphabet. They will begin to associate letters with the sounds they make. Students will also begin to build a basic Hebrew sight vocabulary.

Materials: *Let's Discover the Alef Bet*, Magnetic Hebrew letters, clay, and other manipulatives to make and duplicate Hebrew letters.

**T’filah/Prayer:**

Students will participate in weekly prayer and songs. Students will learn and explore the meanings of basic prayers. Students will begin to learn and practice b’rachot (blessings) for foods, rituals, and holidays.

**Holidays:**

Students will learn about Jewish holidays through stories, hands-on activities, art projects, music, and celebrations. Students will identify and understand the purpose of ritual objects connected to each holiday.

**Torah:**

Students will be introduced to Bible stories and the lessons we learn from them.

Material: *My Weekly Sidrah*

**Israel:**

Students will gain an understanding of Jewish traditions and identity while learning about the people and places of Israel. Students will recognize the Israeli flag and other national symbols.

**Jewish Values and Ethics:**

Students will be introduced to the concept of Tzedakah. Students will learn about the values of home, family, and community.

**Kitah Bet (7 year olds)**

**Hebrew Reading and Sight Vocabulary:**

Students will learn to identify all letters of the Hebrew alphabet. They will begin to associate consonants and vowels with the sounds they make. Students will learn that Hebrew is read from right to left. Students will develop simple decoding skills.

**T’filah/Prayer:**

Students will participate in weekly prayer and songs. Students will learn and explore the meanings of basic prayers. Students will continue to learn and practice b’rachot (blessings) for foods, rituals, and holidays.

Materials: Flash cards

**Holidays:**

Students will learn about Jewish holidays through stories, hands-on activities, art projects, music, and celebrations. Students will identify and understand the purpose of ritual objects connected to each holiday.

**Torah:**

Using the “Teach me Torah” series students will build on their prior knowledge of Bible stories and characters through games, discussion questions, vocabulary words and background information.

**Israel:**

Students will be introduced to Israel while gaining an understanding of core Jewish values such as conservation, peace in the home, and a love of Israel. Students will recognize the Israeli flag and other national symbols.

**Jewish Values and Ethics:**

Students will be introduced to the concept of Tzedakah. Students will learn about the values of home, family, and community.

**Kitah Gimmel (8 year olds)**

**Hebrew Reading, Writing, and Sight Vocabulary:**

Students will recognize and name Hebrew letters and vowels. Students will sound out simple letter/vowel combinations and learn to decode simple Hebrew words. Students will increase their Hebrew sight vocabulary. Students will begin to learn scrip writing.

**T’filah/Prayer**

Students will participate in weekly prayer and songs. Students will learn and explore the meanings of basic prayers. Students will build on their knowledge of prayers and will recite and chant prayers as well as learn their meanings. Students will continue to learn and practice b’rachot (blessings) for foods, rituals, and holidays.

**Holidays:**

Students will increase their knowledge about Jewish holidays through stories, hands-on activities, art projects, music, and celebrations. Students will identify and understand the purpose of ritual objects connected to each holiday. Students will understand the customs and traditions of Judaism and the Jewish holidays celebrated throughout the year. Students will understand the Jewish values learned from each holiday.

**Torah:**

Using the “Let’s Discover the Bible” series students will build on their prior knowledge of Bible stories and characters through games, discussion questions, vocabulary words and background information.

**Israel:**

Students will learn about the major cities and extraordinary sites of Israel, the diversity of Israel's people and cultures, our biblical and modern ties with the Jewish homeland, and the geography of Israel. They also learn key Hebrew terms, such as Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel), Ivrit (Hebrew), shalom (hello, goodbye, and peace), and they learn about important Jewish values, such as rodef shalom (pursuing peace) and ahavat Tzion (love of Israel), that are linked to chapter content.

**Jewish Values and Ethics:**

Students will discuss the value of relationships in the home and community. Students will learn about compassion and our relationships with others and will discuss the importance of healthy communication.

**Kitah Gimmel & Daled (8 and 9 year olds)**

**Hebrew Reading and Sight Vocabulary:**

Students will recognize and name all Hebrew letters and vowels. Students will sound out Hebrew words by increasing their decoding skills. Students will increase their Hebrew sight vocabulary and recognize basic Hebrew words and their meanings. Students will write in scrip.

**T’filah/Prayer**

Students will participate in weekly prayer and songs. Students will learn and explore the meanings of basic prayers. Students will build on their knowledge of prayers and will recite and chant prayers as well as learn their meanings. Students will continue to learn and practice b’rachot (blessings) for foods, rituals, and holidays.

Materials: *Siddur Shema Yisrael*

**Holidays:**

Students will increase their knowledge about Jewish holidays through stories, hands-on activities, art projects, music, and celebrations. Students will identify and understand the purpose of ritual objects connected to each holiday. Students will understand the customs and traditions of Judaism and the Jewish holidays celebrated throughout the year. Students will understand the Jewish values learned from each holiday. Students will learn and master prayers and blessings for each holiday.

**Torah:**

Students will learn about bible stories from Creation to Exodus. Students will associate the text to core Jewish values while being able to connect the lessons learned to their personal lives.

**History and Current events of Israel:**

Students will learn about important places and landmarks in Israel through the eyes of boys and girls who live there.

**Jewish Values and Ethics:**

Students will gain an understanding of community and the Jewish people's commitment and pledge to God. Students will learn the importance of performing mitzvot such as giving tzedakah, studying Torah, and observing Shabbat.

Students will also learn about important Jewish figures who serve as examples to the Jewish community.

**Kitah Daled (9 year olds)**

**Hebrew Reading and Sight Vocabulary:**

Students will increase their recognition of Hebrew vocabulary words and their meanings. Students should have mastered decoding skills and increased sight vocabulary to begin reading fluently. Students will improve their Hebrew writing skills.

**T’filah/Prayer**

Students will build on their knowledge of prayers and will recite and chant prayers as well as learn their meanings. Students will recite the Shema and other prayers as well as learn their meanings and concepts behind each prayer. Students will learn how to pray. They will continue to learn and practice b’rachot (blessings) for foods, rituals, and holidays.

**Holidays:**

Students will increase their knowledge about Jewish holidays through stories, hands-on activities, art projects, music, and celebrations. Students will learn about the feasts, fasts, and festivals that mark the Jewish year. Students will compare and contrast modern customs to ancient traditions. Students will understand the Jewish values learned from each holiday and be able to connect mitvot to holidays throughout the year.

**Torah:**

Using “The Explorer’s Bible” students learn about bible stories from Creation to the Nation of Israel. Students will associate the text to core Jewish values while being able to connect the lessons learned to their personal lives.

**History and Current events of Israel:**

Students will learn about the history, geography, political, commercial, and cultural life of Israel. They will learn what life is like for people who live in Israel today. Students will also understand the struggle of Israel to coexist peacefully with its neighbors.

**Jewish Values and Ethics:**

Students will understand how the jewish values learned from holiday stories and traditions can guide them in making good decisions every day.

**Kitah Hay (10 year olds)**

**Hebrew Reading and Sight Vocabulary:**

Students continue to increase their recognition of Hebrew vocabulary words and their meanings. Students continue to practice decoding skills and increase their sight vocabulary and fluency. Students continue to improve their Hebrew writing skills.

**T’filah/Prayer**

Students will build on their knowledge of prayers and will recite and chant prayers as well as learn their meanings. Students will learn the Shabbat Amidah and other prayers as well as learn their meanings and concepts behind each prayer. Students will learn how to pray and understand the movements associated with prayers. They will continue to learn and practice b’rachot (blessings) for foods, rituals, and holidays.

**Holidays:**

Students will understand the customs and traditions of Judaism and the Jewish holidays celebrated throughout the year. Students will understand how Jewish values are connected to Jewish Holidays. Students will build a strong Jewish identity and feel a connection to the Jewish community as a whole.

**Torah:**

Students will study the Bible Stories and the values they represent. Students will connect the values demonstrated to their own lives.

**Israel Past and Present:**

Students will learn and debate about Israel’s challenges past and present, including the challenges it has today in its struggle for peace. Students will understand what it is like for people in the IDF and learn about life on a Kibutz.

**Jewish Values and Ethics:**

Students will put what they have learned into action by discussing Jewish values and thinking of creative and innovative ideas about how to bring these values into practice in their everyday lives. Students will collaborate to plan a social-action project in the community.

**Kitot Vav & Zayin (11-12 year olds)**

**Hebrew Reading and Sight Vocabulary:**

Students continue to increase their recognition of Hebrew vocabulary words and their meanings. Students continue to practice decoding skills and increase their sight vocabulary and fluency. Students continue to improve their Hebrew writing skills.

**T’filah/Prayer**

Students will build on their knowledge of prayers and will recite and chant prayers as well as learn their meanings. Students will learn the prayers in the Torah Service, Aleinu, and the Mourner’s Kaddish. Students will continue to learn and practice b’rachot (blessings) for foods, rituals, and holidays.

**Holidays:**

Students will learn about the rich Jewish history that our customs and traditions come from. Students will understand how Jewish values are connected to the Jewish Holidays we celebrate throughout the year. Students will continue to develop a strong connection to their Jewish identity.

**Torah:**

Students will learn about and discuss weekly Torah portions. Students will show understanding by answering questions related to the weekly parsha. Students will write a D’var Torah for the weekly portion for the week of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration.

**Current Events of Israel:**

Students will understand the importance of Israel and its connection to all Jewish people today. Students will learn about the political, cultural, and historical forces facing the Jewish state. Students will debate about Israel and will be able to advocate for a balanced view of Israel that is fair to the Jewish state.

**Jewish Values and Ethics:**

Students will continue to discuss the value of relationships in and outside the home and community. Students will discuss moral and ethical issues using lessons from the Torah.

Students will learn both ethical and ritual mitzvot as well as practical and creative suggestions on how to observe them. Students will consider moral and ethical issues using lessons from the Torah and discuss the kind of adults they want to become.