

Congregation Albert Judaic Curricula at-a-glance

Religious School – Sundays 9:30 to Noon

Gan Katan Ages 2-5

Our littlest learners will celebrate with *Sammy Spider* all year round! Sammy, a young spider, watches the Shapiro family as they celebrate the Jewish Holidays and more. He always manages to join in - in a surprising way. We also use the *Shalom Sesame* series featuring the globe-trotting Muppet, Grover, and explore Jewish identity and traditions. *Shalom Sesame* was filmed on location at several Israeli sites, including the Western Wall. Film, books and interactive characters will delight our young learners. This fun, hands-on class is sure to delight!

Kindergarten

This class uses *Now I Know My Alef-Bet*. This Curriculum integrates the study of Jewish holidays, home, synagogue and family with Hebrew reading readiness. *Now I Know My Alef-Bet* vividly introduces the letters of the Alef-Bet and corresponding vocabulary in 22 full-color student activity folders.

Now I Know My Alef-Bet is a Hebrew reading readiness program. Each lesson begins with a photo of a key Hebrew word that introduces the Hebrew "letter-of-the-week" and a large version of the letter for students to color. Real-life photographs introduce other Hebrew words beginning with the letter. Students learn to trace the letter's form and complete a letter discrimination exercise. The lesson concludes with a creative experience.

First Grade

This class will use the simple, concrete, and beautiful book, *I Can Celebrate the Jewish Holidays*. Each ritual and each celebration is presented in a clear and compelling way. The artwork and graphics are inviting, making each holiday something that students will be motivated to celebrate. Students will also be introduced to the weekly Torah Portion while using the age-appropriate, *My Weekly Sidrah*.

Second Grade

Our Second Graders will join Daniel and his Israeli cousin, Rivkah, as they learn together about the Jewish holidays in *The Jewish Holiday Treasure Trail*. In this fantasy adventure Daniel and Rivkah learn from Elijah the prophet as they travel through time and space and encounter people and places as old as the Bible and as new as modern Israel. At the ancient Temple, they witness the Chanukah miracle of the oil. Right before Passover, they cross the Sea of Reeds with the Children of Israel. Seven weeks later, they stand at Mount Sinai as the Ten Commandments are given to the Israelites. This class has an online component at www.elijahrocks.net so adults and students can extend the learning at home.

Third Grade

This class brings Jewish values to life with an engaging blend of mitzvot, middot, and timeless Jewish wisdom using *A Kid's Mensch Handbook*. At an age when students are thinking critically about right and wrong, the importance of the choices they make, and the role that Judaism will play in their lives, *A Kid's Mensch Handbook* provides a wealth of Jewish advice, experience, and answers. Presented in a modern format designed to engage students' interest and imaginations, *A Kid's Mensch Handbook* provides each student with a unique and lasting connection to core Jewish values. Real-life examples, midrashic and historical vignettes, and lively narrative make Jewish values tangible, understandable, and applicable to our students' everyday lives. Thought-provoking exercises, intriguing questionnaires, and fun surveys allow each student to draw a personal connection to each Jewish value, and to imagine the role he or she can play in the Jewish and global communities.

Fourth Grade

This class is an adventure that begins in Jerusalem in the first century and ends, hundreds of years later, in modern-day Israel. The text, *The Atlas of Great Jewish Communities*, includes colorful maps, intriguing sidebars, personal tales and primary texts. This is much more than a class. It's an interactive experience in Jewish history. Students will meet such famous figures as Rabbi Judah ha Nasi, who collected the writings that make up the Mishnah, Bruriah, a Talmudic sage, Rambam, one of the greatest Jewish philosophers, Maria Nunes, who saved a group of her fellow conversos, and Eliezer Ben Yehuda, who wrote the first modern dictionary of the Hebrew language. In becoming acquainted with such people, students learn of the Jewish past and come to see it as very much their own.

Fifth Grade

This class will use the text, *The History of The Jewish People Volume One*, Winner of the 2007 Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Educational Publishing awarded by The Association of Educational Publishers and is a rich presentation of Jewish history from our earliest ancestors in the Land of Israel to our dispersion in the Diaspora through the Jewish experience in America in the 1880's. Each class will help students consider how their lives compare with the lives of our ancestors, how each generation adapts Judaism to its time and place, and how the decisions of previous generations influence our own lives and decisions. History will come alive through a dynamic array of famous personalities, diverse source material, clear and concise charts, engaging activities, thought-provoking questions, and exciting graphics.

Class topics include: The Early Israelites, The Age of Hellenism, Roman Domination of Judea, Rabbinic Judaism, Judaism and Christianity, Babylonia, Sepharad and Ashkenaz, Medieval Europe, The Sephardic Diaspora, The Polish Kehillah and German Enlightenment, Revolution and Emancipation, Judaism and the Modern World, The Rise of Antisemitism and U.S. Jewry, 1820-1890.

Each Class will Contain:

The Big Picture: Presents an overview and sets the stage for the chapter theme and content; **Investigate:** Poses questions for students to explore as they read; **Key Vocabulary:** Highlights core words and phrases that are critical to understanding the chapter; **Map:** Helps students place the historic period in geographic context; **Famous Figures:** Spotlights a famous person from the historic period; **Then and Now:** Encourages students to reflect on what they have learned and compare and contrast the chapter's historical period with our own time

Sixth Grade

This class is a continuation of our fifth grade curriculum and is a rich presentation of Jewish history from the turmoil and strife of Russia in the 1880's to the great migration to the United States, the creation of the modern State of Israel, modern American Jewish life, and life in the Diaspora. Using the text, *The History of the Jewish People Vol II*, each class will help students consider how their lives compare with the lives of our ancestors, how each generation adapts Judaism to its time and place, and how the decisions of previous generations influence our own lives and decisions.

Class topics include: East European Jewry, 1881-1914 The Great Migration, Jewish Nationalism and Zionism, World War I, At Home in the U.S., 1920-1940 The British Mandate, Europe Between the Wars, The Holocaust, The Birth of the Modern State of Israel, "Making It" in America, 1945-1965 The Diaspora Consolidates, Israel in Our Time, and American Jewry Today.

Each Class will Contain:

The Big Picture: Presents an overview and sets the stage for the chapter theme and content; **Investigate:** Poses questions for students to explore as they read; **Key Vocabulary:** Highlights core words and phrases that are critical to understanding the chapter; **Map:** Helps students place the historic period in geographic context; **Famous Figures:** Spotlights a famous person from the historic period; **Then and Now:** Encourages students to reflect on what they have learned and compare and contrast the chapter's historical period with our own time.

Hebrew Curricula at-a-glance

Religious School – Sundays 9:30 to Noon

Our 1st through 3rd grade Religious School classes also use the Hebrew Primer *BJL Beginnings Alef to Tav Activity Book* to supplement their regular Judaic curriculum. *BJL Beginnings Alef to Tav Activity Book* is a coloring/activity book of Hebrew letters teaching Hebrew letter recognition and vocabulary building. In this forty-four-page coloring book, students master the twenty-two initial letters of the Alef-Bet, as well as a vocabulary word for each letter. By the end of the year students will master twenty-two Hebrew letters and key vocabulary words of Jewish life.

Hebrew School – Wednesdays 5:30 – 7 PM

Our Wednesday Hebrew School is level-based, meaning students work at their own level regardless of their grade. We offer three levels: Alef, Bet and Gimel. An additional Dalet class is added if needed to accommodate advanced learners. Each class begins with *La'asok B'divrei Torah*, the blessing for the study of Torah. Special moments are recognized with recitation of *Shehecheyanu*. Students are given opportunities throughout the year to lead *T'filah*.

Each of our Hebrew School classes approaches prayer with the same four key questions in mind. These questions are discussed in an effort to deepen student connection to prayer.

1. What is it? The name of the prayer – both Hebrew and English
2. When is it? The place the prayer appears within the order of the service
3. Why is it? The meaning of the prayer
4. How is it? Special choreography (if any) and how modern day Jews can relate

Alef

This class uses *Journeys Through the Alef Bet*. This Hebrew pre-primer offers Hebrew letter recognition skills and the beginnings of blending sounds.

Each *Journey Through the Alef-Bet* lesson includes: (1) the introduction of the letter; (2) engaging, age-appropriate exercises that help students review letters and vocabulary, drill letter discrimination and practice writing the new letter; (3) letter searches in real-life situations; and (4) an introduction of vowels.

In addition to learning the Alef-Bet, students will master the following prayers:

Barchu

Sh'ma Adonai S'fatai

Erev Shabbat Kiddush (first line)

Yotzeir (first line)

Mi Chamocha (first part)

Oseh Shalom

Etz Chayim (first line)

V'shamru (first line)

Bet

This class uses *Mishkan T'filah Journal Edition*. This non-transliterated siddur invites students to create their own commentary, questions, poetry, and responses to the prayers in *Mishkan T'filah*. Some pages have creative, challenging prompts to stimulate thoughts, and other pages will be entirely blank, allowing users space to explore and reflect. Students will master the following prayers:

Chatzi Kaddish

Yotzeir (full)

V'ahavta

Mi Chamocha – Tzur Yisrael (¶1 and 2)

Avot v'Imahot

Gevurot

Aleinu/V'ne'emar

V'shamru/Kiddush (full)

Erev Shabbat Kiddush (full)

Gimel

This class continues with *Mishkan T'filah Journal Edition*. In addition, students will receive an engraved siddur when they begin their Bar/Bat Mitzvah studies. Students will master the following prayers:

Tallit Blessing

Mi Chamocha – Tzur Yisrael (¶1,2, 3)

Kedusha

Ein Kamocha

Av Harachamim

Ki Mitzion/Baruch Shenatan

Sh'ma/Echad/Gadlu

L'cha Adonai

Torah Brachot

Etz Chayim (full)

Kaddish Yatom