

TEMPLE BETH TORAH
MORRIS NIRENBERG RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

CURRICULUM
5772 / 2011-2012

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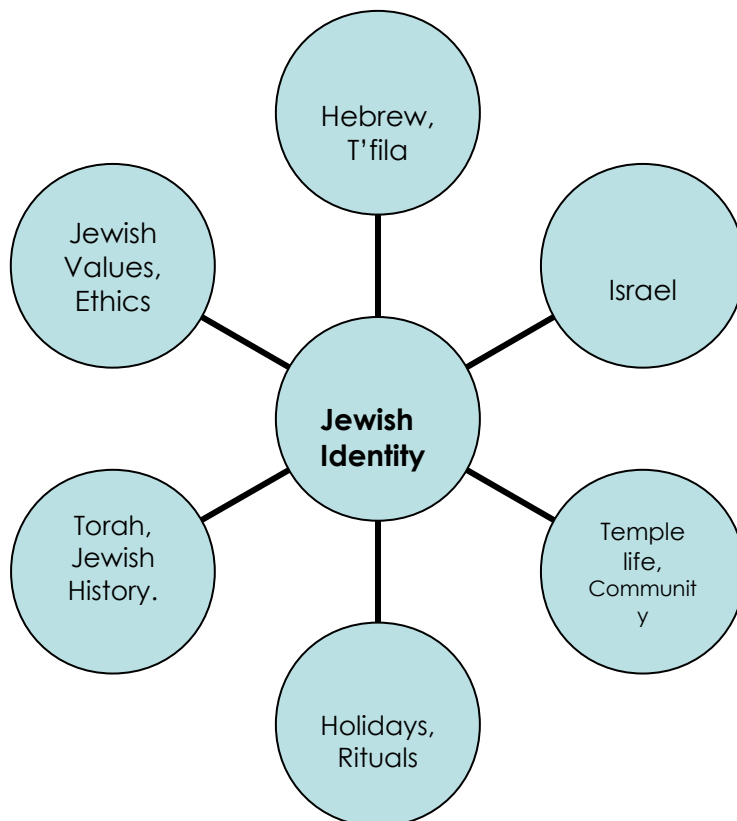
September 15, 2011

PHILOSOPHY OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Religious education at our school is aimed at developing and embracing one's personal Jewish identity as the foundation of leading a Jewish life. We believe that by truly understanding and internalizing the various areas of Jewish education, children embrace Judaism. We strive to connect with Judaism with joy through music, art, drama, debate, and multi-sensory experiences.

Our students from age 2 to 16 engage regularly in Jewish experiences as they celebrate Shabbat, Jewish holidays, participate in prayer services and rituals, and take part in temple life. Fulfilling Mitzvot, and being concerned citizens of the Jewish and secular world are integral part of our program. Hebrew is studied both as a prayer language as well as a modern lively tongue, and Israel is experienced as a historical homeland as well as a modern vibrant state. We encourage our children to actively pursue *Tzedek* (justice), *Chesed* (deeds of loving-kindness), and *Shalom* (peace).

Curriculum Design



Curriculum goals

Hebrew Language and T'fila (Prayer)

Students can accurately read and decode Hebrew for participation in synagogue worship and home ceremonies. They have varied Hebrew vocabulary knowledge pertaining to holidays, mitzvot, life cycle, moral and ethical values, family, and community. Conversational Hebrew is experienced through the creation of a Hebrew cultural environment in the classroom and the school. Students are comfortable with the Siddur and the structure of the various services and ceremonies.

Torah, Jewish History

Students understand the Torah's central importance in Jewish life and become familiar with the five books of Torah through its literature, law and historical events. They develop the skill of Torah and Haftarah reading, and proper Torah scroll handling. Students understand the covenantal relationship between G-d and the Jewish people in the unfolding of Jewish history. They become familiar with the great personalities and events, which were involved in the shaping of religious, national, and cultural destiny of our people. Our religious education contributes to a growing sense of pride in the Jewish heritage, creating positive associative values in being Jewish. Students understand Jewish history in the context of world history and recognize the achievements and contributions of Jewish people.

Israel

Students appreciate the historical bond between Jews and the Land of Israel and recognize the importance of Israel as an independent state. They understand the centrality of Israel to our religious ideas and practices. Students experience the diverse culture of modern Israel in a multi sensory way through foods, music, dance, guest speakers and pen pals. Through these experiences and establishing a live connection with Jewish students in Israel, our students are motivated to visit Israel with the Passport to Israel program.

Jewish values, Ethics, Mitzvot

Students develop multi-layered understanding of the central ideas, expectations and observances of the Jewish tradition through conversations, debates, literature and the practice of Mitzvot and G'milut Chassadim (acts of loving kindness).

Holidays, Rituals

Students actively participate in holiday services and celebrations throughout the Jewish calendar year and develop a meaningful and personal understanding of life cycle events, holidays, and various rituals observed in Jewish life. Students become familiar with blessings, songs, traditional foods and ritual objects in a personal and meaningful way as they relate to the various Jewish holidays and rituals.

Temple life, Community

Students appreciate the importance of community in Jewish living. They gain and maintain a respect and proper use of the temple building, its furnishing and ritual objects as well as for all people of the Temple community. Students interact with various people and entities within the TBT community and the larger Jewish and secular community in a proper and respectful manner.

GRADE SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

BETH TORAH TOTS - MONTHLY PROGRAM

This is an early childhood program for young children (age 1-2) and their parents. Beth Torah Tots is a special place where families can experience Jewish traditions, values and holidays together with other families and their young children. This program uses stories, crafts, songs and other developmentally appropriate activities to help develop young children's Jewish awareness and identity. (Meets Sundays, 11:00am – 12:00pm)

BETH TORAH TOTS - WEEKLY PROGRAM

Beth Torah Tots is an early childhood program for preschool age children (age 3-5). We believe that children learn through play and meaningful interactions with the world around them. Through an interactive, developmentally appropriate program Beth Torah Tots students experience Jewish traditions, values and holidays and so begin to develop their personal Jewish identities. (Meets Sundays 8:25am-10:25am)

IMMA V'ANI

This new and exciting program for young children (18 to 33 months) offers a warm, nurturing and enriching environment to learn, explore and socialize with others. With the guidance of our expert Early Childhood teacher, young children are encouraged to develop a love of Judaism as they learn about the world around them accompanied by their adult care givers.

Imma v'Ani meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 – 11:00am.
15 week session starts September 14, 2011.

These programs are open to members and non-members alike.

GAN - KINDERGARTEN

Through warm, interactive and fun experiences Gan students continue the journey of developing their Jewish identity.

Hebrew

Gan students learn to recognize all 22 Hebrew letters - what they look like, what they sound like, how to tell them apart, and how to scan a page from right to left. Using a combination of hands on multi sensory experiences and literacy based activities students are introduced to the Hebrew Aleph Bet. Using multi sensory experiences and From Aleph to Tav books.

T'fila

Blessings for Bread, Wine, and Shabbat Candles

Introduction to Siddur Sim Shalom:

Page 21 L'Cha Dodi (Chorus—Ruach melody)

Page 30 Shema

Page 34 V'Shamru (Chorus)

Page 38 Oseh Shalom

Page 30 Shema

Page 34 V'Shamru (Chorus)

Page 38 Oseh Shalom

Torah

Text: Teach me Torah (Set 1) – First set in a two set series (to be completed in Kitah Aleph) teaching the bible stories from Creation to Joseph. Stories are interconnected with Jewish values.

Jewish values / Mitzvot

Are derived from the above mentioned torah stories, as well as experienced through hands on opportunities throughout the year.

Holidays

Text: Let's Discover the Holidays – students will gain an introduction to the various Jewish Holidays through this text and other experiences.

Israel

Children will be introduced to the State of Israel through discussion, visual aides and hands on experiences.

Temple life/ community

Children will grow to understand proper temple etiquette, the use and meaning of ritual objects and be introduced to community leaders. They will also begin to learn some of the prayers and some of the choreography of a service through participation at B'Yachad, Small World Shabbat and other services attended.

ALEPH, GRADE 1

Hebrew

Let's Discover the Alef-Bet: Children learn to name, print, and associate the sounds of all the letters of the Aleph-bet. In the spring, the letters are sequenced and the vowels are introduced. Hebrew words are given with an accompanying English explanation. Children participate in games and hands on activities to reinforce letter recognition.

T'fila

Blessings for Bread, Wine, and Shabbat Candles

Sim Shalom Siddur

Page 21 L'Cha Dodi (Chorus—Ruach melody) and **First Stanza**

Page 30 Shema

Page 34 V'Shamru (Chorus)

Page 38 Oseh Shalom

Torah

Teach Me Torah:

Text: Teach me Torah (Set 2) – Second set in a two set series (1 set taught in Gan) teaching the bible stories from Moses to Esther. Stories are interconnected with Jewish values.

Jewish values/Mitzvot

Are derived from the above mentioned torah stories, as well as experienced through hands on opportunities throughout the year.

Holidays

Let's Celebrate – students will study the various Jewish Holidays through this text and other experiences.

Israel

Children will be introduced to the State of Israel through discussion, visual aides and hands on experiences.

Temple life/ community – Children will grow to understand proper temple etiquette, the meaning of ritual objects and community leaders. They will also begin to learn some of the prayers and some of the choreography of a service through participation at B'Yachad, Small World Shabbat and other services attended.

BET - GRADE 2

Hebrew

Shalom Aleph Bet introduces the Hebrew Alef-Bet as well as vowels in a colorful and interactive book. Children participate in games and hands on activities to reinforce letter recognition and beginning decoding skills.

T'fila

Sim Shalom Siddur

Page 21 L'Cha Dodi, Chorus & First Stanza

Page 28 Barchu

Page 30 Sh'ma

Page 34 V'Shamru (chorus)

Page 38 Oseh Shalom

Torah

Let's Discover the Bible introduces children to 16 bible stories from Creation to Prophets.

Holidays

Let's Celebrate introduces children to the main Jewish holidays through colorful interactive booklets. Children will also experience the holidays through hands on experiences, classroom and school wide celebrations.

Jewish life, values/Mitzvot

Let's Explore Being Jewish: This text introduces students to Jewish life: mitzvot, Bible, synagogue, and key Hebrew vocabulary.

Israel

The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt: An interactive tour through Israel, complete with vivid pictures, puzzles, key Hebrew words and stickers.

GIMEL - GRADE 3

Hebrew

Tiyulim program: Tiyulim means "Journeys." This book is the path to a journey towards mastering the decoding skills for the Hebrew Language. It is punctuated with a journey through the state of Israel. Conversational Hebrew is introduced through everyday greetings and Holiday vocabulary.

T'fila

Sim Shalom Siddur

Page 12 **Shalom Aleichem**

Page 15 **L'chu N'ran'na**

Page 16 **Yism'chu HaShamayim**

Page 21-22 L'Cha Dodi (**First 2 stanzas and last stanza**)

Page 28 Bar'chu

Page 30 Sh'ma

Page 34 V'Shamru (Chorus)

Page 38 Oseh Shalom

Page 182 **Ein K'Eloheinu**

Page 395 **Hatikvah**

Torah, Jewish life, values/Mitzvot

The Ten Commandments. The meaning of each Commandment is explained in simple terms and accompanied by hand-on activities to help internalize the moral lessons.

Holidays

My Jewish Year: The stories for each holiday are presented with the traditions that have grown around each one. Caring for the environment and responsibility toward others are emphasized. Blessings for each holiday are included with key vocabulary words.

Israel

Through the Tiyulim workbook and other resources students explore places in Israel and learn about what life is like in modern Israel.

DALET - GRADE 4

Hebrew / T'fila

Journeys through the Siddur – Friday Evening. The student begins to understand prayers and recognize simple roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Children discuss the themes of simple prayers by focusing on key Siddur words. They build reading fluency by practicing complete prayer passages. Each student receives a textbook and homework book.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Page 12	Shalom Aleichem
Page 20	Mizmor L'David
Page 21-22	L'Cha Dodi (First 3 stanzas & last stanza)
Page 28	Bar'chu
Page 29	Ahavat Olam
Page 30	Sh'ma, V'Ahavta
Page 32	Mi Chamocha (up to "oseh fele")
Page 34	V'Sham'ru
Page 38	Oseh Shalom
Page 38	Shalom Rav
Page 49	Kiddush
Page 51	Aleinu

SATURDAY MORNING

Page 65	Birchot Hashachar
Page 83	Baruch She'amar
Page 106	Chatzi Kaddish
Page 115b	Avot v'Imahot
Page 182	Ein K'Eloheinu
Page 187	Adon Olam
Page 299	Havdalah
Page 395	Hatikvah

Torah

Torah and You. This book tells 36 Torah stories from Creation to the death of Moses. There are value related exercises for each story.

Holidays

Book of Jewish Holidays. This text provides cultural vocabulary and suggestions for preparing and sharing our holidays with the whole family. Interactive and hands on experiences are added to supplement.

Jewish life, values/Mitzvot

Studying about the Temple's sanctuary, it's furnishings and meaning. Culminates with a project.

Israel

Welcome to Israel tours around Israel with colorful pictures, stories and current information.

HAY - GRADE 5

Hebrew / T'fila

Journeys through the Siddur –Saturday Morning. Students practice word skills, recognize key Siddur words and their meaning, read prayers to encourage fluency, study more complex prayers, and analyze the concepts of commonly recited prayers. Each student receives a textbook, and homework book.

Sim Shalom Siddur

FRIDAY NIGHT

Page 12	Shalom Aleichem
Page 20	Mizmor L'David
Page 21-22	L'Cha Dodi (First 3 stanzas & last stanza)
Page 28	Bar'chu
Page 29	Ahavat Olam
Page 30	Shema, V'Ahavta
Page 32	Mi Chamocha (up to "oseh fele")
Page 34	V'Sham'ru
Page 38	Oseh Shalom
Page 38	Shalom Rav
Page 49	Kiddush
Page 51	Aleinu

SATURDAY MORNING

Page 65	Birchot HaShachar
Page 83	Baruch She'amar
Page 96	Ashrei
Page 106	Chatzi Kaddish
Page 107	Ba'rchu
Page 112	Shema, V'Ahavta
Page 114	Mi Kamocha
Page 115b	Avot, G'vurot
Page 116	Kedusha
Page 120	Oseh Shalom
Page 154	Eitz Chayim
Page 182	Ein K'Eloheinu
Page 183	Aleinu
Page 187	Adon Olam
Page 299	Havdallah
Page 395	Hatikvah

Torah

Manga Midrash explores the meaning and values of selected biblical and rabbinic texts. Each 16-page, full-color booklet uses manga, a cutting-edge, illustrated storytelling technique originally developed in Japan, to present a Bible story, a rabbinic midrash exploring that story, and a related Jewish value. Powered by manga's dynamic and motivating format, students actively participate in the tradition of interpreting sacred text while discussing Jewish values. In addition, each student researches the Torah portion

he or she will be reading on their own Bar/t Mitzva. They look it up in the Chumash, study the contents. They also locate the Maftir and Haftarah portion (prophet) they will be responsible for. Students locate their Hebrew dates and Birthdates using a multi year calendar.

Holidays

The Book of the Jewish year is an introduction to the Jewish calendar and the Jewish holiday cycle with the rituals, foods, symbols, stories, and legends associated with each holiday as well as Hebrew and English blessings.

Jewish values/Mitzvot

Journey of a Lifetime. Bible stories and mitzvot examples highlight the ethical value of each life-cycle event, including brit milah, baby naming, consecration, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, confirmation, marriage, funeral and mourning.

Israel

Students will participate in a research project and presentation of the many areas and cities of Israel. Research will include everyday life and interesting facts in addition to basic facts.

VAV - GRADE 6

Hebrew / T'fila

Root words, vocabulary

Journeys through the Siddur – Torah Service and Concluding Prayers. Students refine grammar skills, use prayer vocabulary lists to translate complex prayers in the Shabbat Morning Service. Each student receives a textbook, class workbook, and homework book.

Sim Shalom Siddur

FRIDAY NIGHT

Page 12	Shalom Aleichem
Page 20	Mizmor L'David
Page 21-22	L'Cha Dodi (First 3 stanzas & last stanza)
Page 28	Bar'chu
Page 29	Ahavat Olam
Page 30	Shema, V'Ahavta
Page 32	Mi Chamocha (up to "oseh fele")
Page 34	V'Sham'ru
Page 38	Oseh Shalom
Page 38	Shalom Rav
Page 49	Kiddush
Page 51	Aleinu

SATURDAY MORNING

Page 65	Birchot HaShachar
Page 83	Baruch She'amar
Page 96	Ashrei
Page 106	Chatzi Kaddish
Page 107	Bar'chu
Page 112-113	Sh'ma/V'ahavta/ Vayomer
Page 114	Mi Chamochah (up to "oseh fele")
Page 115b	Avot, G'vurot
Page 116	Kedushah
Page 120	Oseh Shalom
Page 139-141	Torah Service
Page 142	Torah Blessings
Page 146	V'Zot Hatorah
Page 146-147	Hafarah Blessings
Page 151-152	Ashrei
Page 154	Eitz Chayim
Page 156b-157	Avot, G'vurot, Kedushah
Page 181	Kaddish Shaleim (goal for Vav trope service)
Page 182	Ein K'Eloheinu
Page 183	Aleinu
Page 187	Adon Olam
Page 299	Havdallah
Page 395	Hatikvah

Trope – begin learning *Taamei Hamikra* and put new knowledge into practice at the class participation Shabbat morning trope service.

Torah

Students will study major prophets and will explore their own haftorahs – Haftarah project.

Parashat hashavua (the weekly Torah portion), discussions, explorations and skills for locating chapter and verse,

Holidays

Selichot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Chanukkah, Purim, Pesach, Lag B'omer, Shavuot.

Rediscovering the Jewish Holidays.

Jewish life, values/Mitzvot

Tallit

Sanctuary roles, responsibilities and expectations.

Minyan

Yhartzheit, Yizkor, Zachor

Israel

"Jerusalem: The Center of the World"

Holocaust:

Watch and discuss: "Paperclips", "Dancing at Auschwitz".

ZAYIN - GRADE 7

Hebrew / T'fila

Prayers listed below are supplemented with Ulpan Alef – a cartoon-like text teaching modern Israeli Hebrew.

Sim Shalom Siddur

FRIDAY NIGHT

Page 12	Shalom Aleichem
Page 20	Mizmor L'David
Page 21-22	L'Cha Dodi (First 3 stanzas & last stanza)
Page 28	Bar'chu
Page 29	Ahavat Olam
Page 30	Shema, V'Ahavta
Page 32	Mi Chamocha (up to "oseh fele")
Page 34	V'Sham'ru
Page 38	Oseh Shalom
Page 38	Shalom Rav
Page 49	Kiddush
Page 51	Aleinu

SATURDAY MORNING

Page 62	Tallit Blessing
Page 65	Birchot HaShachar
Page 83	Baruch She'amar
Page 96	Ashrei
Page 106	Chatzi Kaddish
Page 107	Bar'chu
Page 112-113	Sh'ma/V'ahavta/Vayomer
Page 114	Mi Chamochah (up to "oseh fele")
Page 115b	Avot, G'vurot
Page 116	Kedushah
Page 120	Oseh Shalom
Page 139-141	Torah Service
Page 142	Torah Blessings
Page 146	V'Zot Hatorah
Page 146-147	Hafarah Blessings
Page 151-152	Ashrei
Page 154	Eitz Chayim
Page 156b-157	Avot, G'vurot, Kedushah
Page 181	Kaddish Shaleim (goal for Vav trope service)
Page 182	Ein K'Eloheinu
Page 183	Aleinu
Page 187	Adon Olam
Page 299	Havdallah
Page 395	Hatikvah

Torah

Students explore the weekly Torah portions through use of the Chumash and other resources.

Holidays

Through games and interactive learning, students review and add to their holiday knowledge and vocabulary. Students participate in holiday activities through school and temple wide events.

Israel and modern Hebrew Jerusalem Mystery - Contemporary Hebrew stories that involve students to learn about ancient and modern Jerusalem as well as spoken modern Hebrew.

Jewish life, values/Mitzvot

Values and ethics are explored through three main themes spanning the school year:

Across Generations during which we read Tuesdays with Morrie, do numerous journal entries and discussions, analyze Rabbinic quotes re elderly, do simulations and more. Students explore ethics and how they feel about life, values, Judaism, who they are and want to be as a person. We watch the movie as a culmination.

Anti-Semitism : Using ADL resources and booklets, Students research and present the myths behind anti-Semitism, we read first hand accounts and experiences of anti-Semitism from Baba GaNewz magazine or watch and discuss movies like School Ties, The Writing on the Wall and a PBS special called the Resurgence of Antisemitism in the 20th century.

Holocaust: We read Four Perfect Pebbles ,we have analyzed a timeline from the Holocaust Museum in DC, we read poems from I Never Saw Another Butterfly, looked at childrens artwork from Terezin, read survivors stories from True Stories of Children in the Holocaust, researched chapters from a history book about the Holocaust, we watch numerous movies like Devil's Arithmetic, The Wave, Miracle at Midnight, and read aloud picture books like Hilda and Eli and The Terrible Things, an allegory of the Holocaust.

All three themes are discussion based and centered around journal writing, to encourage both oral and written responses, therefore adding depth and meaning

they really feel their thoughts and opinions are heard and valued. And that these are topics they want to talk about and that interest them to learn about and so they continue to come after their Bnai Mitzvot.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Tuesday, 5:35 to 7:30 p.m.

At the completion of 2 years of study, students are confirmed at Shavuot services.

CHET - GRADE 8

TELEM - is an innovative program for Boston area Jewish teens that integrates community service, learning, and reflection—and provides opportunities to effect real change. In addition to helping others, teens learn about values that have guided Jews for thousands of years—and gain understanding of how you can work for change.

Hot Topics - Students will explore how various hot topics intertwine into their lives--through a Jewish lens—to help guide them on the right path. The common thread—if you follow what the Torah instructs us (for the most part) teen issues would significantly diminish. Topics covered: Dating, tattoos, drugs, alcohol, jelly bands and other fads, Anti-Semitism, prejudice and stereotypes, social networking (Facebook, etc.), bullying, friendships, gossip, relationships with parents and relatives. World Issues: Israeli/Palestinian conflict, African genocides.

Source Texts:

Making a Difference: Putting Jewish Spirituality into action one Mitzvah at a Time

TET AND YUD CLASS - GRADE 9 AND 10

Rabbi Kideckel teaches work with the confirmation class on Exploring One's Jewishness: This course will delve into Biblical, Rabbinic, and Modern sources to engage students in understanding their own Jewishness, Jewish practices, and how to find their own Jewish expression in today's world.

Films:

"Oh G-d!" "The Quarrel"