

School Vision and Philosophy

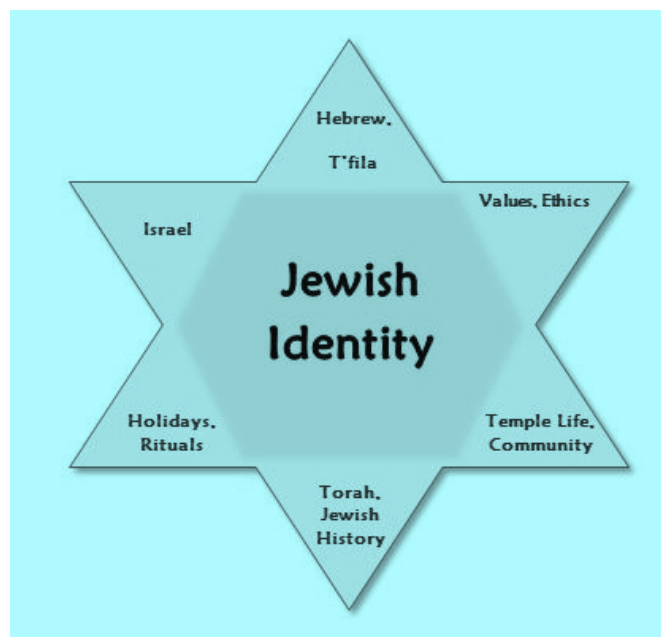
Temple Beth Torah's Religious School Vision

At Temple Beth Torah, we wish to create an ever-growing variety of engaging and well-planned educational programs for students and their families in order to provide a foundation for building strong and lasting Jewish identities.

Philosophy of Jewish Education

We believe that children and adults learn best by doing. Experiential Jewish Education is the process of teaching Jewish life, and Jewish values, by building meaningful Jewish experiences – creating programs that combine traditional methods of text study, learning, and service, with physical and emotional interaction between learners. Experiential Jewish education works to inspire learners to embrace meaningful Jewish lives.

(Adapted from: <http://jewishethi.com/what-exactly-is-experiential-jewish-education/>)



Curriculum Overview

Our curriculum encourages the development of Jewish identity in a personal and meaningful way.
Please check the Temple website for grade specific curriculum goals.

Hebrew

By the end of my Jewish education at TBT:

- I know that Hebrew is the language of the Torah, most of our prayers and is the spoken language in Israel
- I know that Hebrew is read from right to left,
- I can read and decode Hebrew print with vowels from the Siddur and other text
- With practice, I can read Hebrew from the Torah with no vowels
- I recognize, can say and can translate about 30 Hebrew words
- I may recognize some Trope notes and the sounds they make



Holidays / Rituals

By the end of my Jewish education at TBT:

- I know the background for each Jewish holiday celebration – the story behind it and the reasons for celebrating
- I know how to celebrate each Jewish holiday with its customs and traditions
- I can name all the artifacts and items used for each Jewish holiday
- I can recite the blessings and prayers specific to each Holiday
- I know some songs that are relevant to each Jewish holiday.



Jewish values

- Kavod – respect
- Savlanut – Tolerance
- Kabbalah – Acceptance
- Todah – appreciation, gratitude
- L'shon hara – speech/bullying
- Kehila – teamwork, community
- Tikun Olam – repairing the world,
- Chesed – charity, caring for others
- Vahadarta pnei zaken – caring for elderly
- Mishpacha – family
- Gvura – inner strength
- Savlanut – patience
- Achrayut – responsibility
- Tzedakah – helping the less fortunate



Students in the Hey Class of 5779 organized a temple-wide book drive for students in the Jewish community of Uganda – January 2019

Israel
<p>By the end of my Jewish education at TBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know what Zionism is • I understand that Israel is the only Jewish country in the world • I understand the importance of Israel to the Jews as the Jewish homeland • I have learned about the conflicts and challenges Israel faces politically and with security. • I know the basic geography of Israel, its location and neighbors • I can name main cities and regions in Israel • I know that Hebrew is the official and spoken language of Israel



Torah/Tanach	Jewish History
<p>By the end of my Jewish education at TBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand the Torah is central to Jewish life as a book of our Jewish history, Jewish law and is considered to be the word of God • I know the Torah is a parchment scroll, hand written, and is carefully handled • I know that Tanach is made out of three parts – Torah, Prophets and Writings. • I am familiar with many Bible stories • I understand the connection between the Biblical people of Israel and today's Jewish people • I know about major events in modern Jewish history such as the Holocaust, Zionism, and the birth of the state of Israel. 	



Community / Temple

By the end of my Jewish education at TBT:

- I know who the key members of the Temple community are
- I understand the function of a Temple as the center for the community Jewish life
- I have participated in celebrating holiday festivities/events together with the TBT community
- I enjoyed musical T'fila on Sunday mornings
- I have attended a variety of Shabbat and holiday services
- I have participated in Family education programs
- I have taken part of Tikun Olam through various opportunities with the TBT community and in the real world



Hebrew Instruction

Hebrew instruction at TBT religious school begins with our youngest members.

During the early years (**Gan and Aleph**) we introduce Hebrew by:

- * General vocabulary that relates to holidays, Shabbat, and synagogue rituals.
- * Some conversational vocabulary words and terms.
- * First exposure to the Aleph-Bet letters through books, games, crafts, visuals and multisensory activities.
- * Singing Hebrew songs and chanting simple prayers and blessings in Hebrew.

Our students from Bet (2nd grade) to Vav (6th grade) attend sessions on Sunday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. On both days, students practice Hebrew reading skills and prayers in a logical progression during the first part of the session, and learn Judaics through project-based activities in the second part.

During Ivrit (Hebrew) instruction the students are divided into three groups:

- **Bet and Gimel:** Our 2nd and 3rd graders build on previous knowledge and develop the skills of decoding Hebrew letters, vowels and words. As they progress, students study reading and chanting of Hebrew prayers from the Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service.
- **Dalet and Hey:** Our 4th and 5th graders use a variety of materials: text books, siddurim, handouts, audio, video, peer and teacher support to build fluency of reading and chanting prayers. They continue to master decoding skills as well as understand the meaning and purpose of each prayer. Dalet students will learn key prayers from the Friday evening service, i.e. V'ahavta, Kiddush and Aleinu. Hey students will learn key prayers from the Saturday morning service.
- **Vav:** Our 6th graders continue on the path of self-paced prayer study as they also study Haftorah trope and learn the prayers of the Torah service.

Our K'Sharim students (7th graders) practice their Hebrew reading skills by reviewing prayers. This also supports the students in their preparation for their b'nai mitzvahs.