

# San Diego Jewish Academy Golda Meir Lower School First Grade Judaic Studies Curriculum

## Ivrit / Hebrew

### Philosophy of Hebrew Language and Literature at SDJA

Our Hebrew language program is an integral part of the curriculum. Hebrew is a key that opens the doors of Jewish learning and connects us with Jews past and present. It is both the language of classical Jewish texts - from the *TANAKH* (Bible) to the *SIDDUR* (prayer book) -- and the modern, living language that unites us with Israel.

We seek to have our students develop facility in reading, speaking, and understanding both written and oral Hebrew, as well as some ability in writing. Our Hebrew program is taught through the immersion process (*ivrit b'ivrit*) wherein the teacher speaks in Hebrew and the goal is for students to do the same. The ability to speak Hebrew with confidence will enable our students and graduates to feel at home in Israel and to communicate with Jews around the world.

Literary units of study are organized along four inter-related tracks including:

***Ariot (books 1-4)*** focuses on the development of Hebrew reading, writing and language skills through these 4 thematic tracks. The students learn and experience concepts, values, children's literature, prayers, blessings, laws and customs in Hebrew, and develop Hebrew literacy and language skills.

In addition, each class has interactive posters for prayers and blessings, CDs with songs, stories and dictations to develop listening and comprehension skills, graded library books for literacy development, big books that connect to topics mentioned above, and DVDs, computer games, and games for acquisition, reinforcement and enrichment of content and skills.

Students will:

- Master phonics ability (e.g., letter and vowel sounds and blends).
- Develop reading skills.
- Develop oral comprehension and verbal skills through class conversations and activities.
- Develop Hebrew vocabulary.
- Develop writing skills of alphabet in print and then building up to writing words.
- Begin to distinguish between singular and plural words.
- Begin to distinguish between masculine and feminine words.
- Begin to conjugate verbs (e.g. Moshe *OMER*, Sarah *OMERET*).
- Be introduced to the infinitive verb form (e.g. to write – *LIKHTOV*).

# **Tanakh / Bible**

## **Philosophy of Bible Study at SDJA**

An integral part of the Judaic Studies curriculum at San Diego Jewish Academy is the study of the *TANAKH* (Bible)\* because it is the source of the spiritual history, literature and values of our people. It is the foundation of our Jewish civilization and the source of the ethical and ritual *MITZVOT* (commandments), which have been central to Jewish life throughout the ages. It is the record of what the Jewish people have understood as the basis and meaning of the covenant between G-d and the Jewish people.

We teach both the simple, literal understanding of the text as written (*pshat*) and the interpretive understandings of the text (*drash*) at appropriate grade levels, always maintaining the distinction between the two. While both are integral to the study of Torah, teachers are expected to distinguish between them when teaching Torah to their students. Through the study of classical and modern day commentaries and interpretations, alongside the literal text, we are encouraging our students to analyze, interpret and internalize the original text as it relates to their lives today and as a guide for their lives in the future.

As a pluralistic school, we recognize that our students and their families reflect a range of perspectives on Torah. As a community school, we acknowledge a variety of perspectives in our teaching and share this with our students in age-appropriate ways. We concentrate our studies on the content and meaning of the text.

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\*The *TANAKH* includes the *TORAH* (Five Books of Moses) as well as the *NEVIIM* (Early and Latter Prophets) and the *KETUVIM* (Writings).

Utilizing A richly illustrated Bible program for young children, Teach Me Torah introduces 16 classic Bible texts, from Genesis to the Book of Esther, and the Jewish values that can be drawn from them, such as taking care of G-d's world and asking for forgiveness. Each story is told in simple, yet dramatic language and is presented in its own four-page, full-color folder. The back page of the folder includes an "Ask at Home" section with discussion questions based on the biblical story or Jewish value for students to explore with their parents.

The units we will cover:

- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. God and Creation               | Taking Care of the World     |
| 2. Adam and Eve                   | Accepting Responsibility     |
| 3. Noah                           | Doing the Right Thing        |
| 4. The Tower of Babel             | Remembering to be Humble     |
| 5. Abraham                        | Standing up for Others       |
| 6. Rebecca                        | Showing Kindness             |
| 7. Jacob and Esau                 | Keeping Peace in the Family  |
| 8. Joseph                         | Asking for Forgiveness       |
| 9. Miriam and Moses               | Protecting Life              |
| 10. Moses and Pharaoh             | Trusting in God              |
| 11. The Israelites and God's Laws | Serving God                  |
| 12. Ruth and Naomi                | Feeding the Hungry           |
| 13. David and Goliath             | Being Brave                  |
| 14. Solomon                       | Seeking Wisdom               |
| 15. Jonah                         | Caring about Others          |
| 16. Esther                        | Loyalty to the Jewish People |

## **Jewish Holidays**

San Diego Jewish Academy strongly believes that observing the Jewish holidays enhances Jewish life on a consistent basis. To that end, each year students are engaged in studying the meaning and observances of *Shabbat*, *Rosh Hodesh*, *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, *Simhat Torah*, *Chanukah*, *Tu B'Shvat*, *Purim*, *Pesach*, \**Yom Hashoah*, *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, *Lag Ba'Omer*, and *Shavuot* through a variety of teaching methods and practices. In addition to this, and through the assistance of our PTO, we are able to provide unique opportunities for our students to mark these special occasions on the calendar.

Students will be able to:

- Explain key concepts associated with each of the Jewish holidays in Hebrew and English.
- Read and recite basic prayers in Hebrew associated with each of the Jewish holidays.
- Identify key terms and symbols associated with each of the Jewish holidays.
- Identify rituals and customs associated with each of the Jewish holidays.

## **Tefilah (prayer)**

*Tefilah* links Jews from the past to the present. Students participate in prayer services on a regular basis. During this time, students learn both the *kevah* (fixed words and times) and *kavannah* (meaning and intention) of the prayers for the weekday and Shabbat service. Every Friday afternoon, students participate in a grade-wide *Kabbalat Shabbat* service to anticipate the arrival of Shabbat.

## **Israel**

Recognizing the significance of the State of Israel, its national institutions, and our strong bonds to the land and the people of Israel, we seek to instill in our students a connection to Israel as well as a sense of responsibility for its future.

## **Jewish Life & Thought**

Building a foundation for Jewish ethical living is integral to the curriculum of San Diego Jewish Academy. We teach these values through a unique approach that includes a wide range of Jewish perspectives about our relationship with one another, our relationship with G-d, and our responsibility as Jewish individuals. Embedded in this curriculum are projects that help our students put these Jewish values into action.

Students learn the importance of a variety of different Jewish values and *mitzvot* including:

- *Talmud Torah* (The study of Torah)
- *Hakhnasat Orhim* (Hospitality)
- *Derekh Eretz* (Respectful attitude and actions)
- *Tzedakah* (Charity)
- *Bal Tash'hit* (Ecology)
- *Shmirat Halashon* (How we speak about others)
- *Bikkur Holim* (Visiting the Sick)
- *Kashrut* (Jewish dietary laws and practices)

## **Special Jewish Events Include:**

- SDJA Celebrates Integration
- Ongoing *Tikkun Olam* Projects
- Chanukah and Passover programs
- Special grade wide event that culminates a unit of study – *Mattan Siddur*.