

San Diego Jewish Academy Golda Meir Lower School Fifth 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.

In fifth grade, students will continue in the *Haverim B'Ivrit* (Friends in Hebrew) book series. This program uses stories that students can relate to and places a greater emphasis on everyday conversational Hebrew used in Israel. This textbook will prepare students for entering the Maimonides Upper School Hebrew Program. *Haverim B'Ivrit* exposes students to the everyday life and culture in Israel.

Haverim B'Ivrit

Literary Units of Study:

1) Ma Ma'ayen Ohti? Ohe! - What Interests Me? Food!

This unit of study focuses on food. Using stories from our tradition, including both Biblical and rabbinic sources, students will learn how food has played an important role throughout Jewish history. Israeli songs about food are an integral part of the learning in this unit of study. Students will have an opportunity to practice speaking about food so that they can go into an Israeli restaurant and be able to order something off the menu. This unit will culminate with a special Israeli Restaurant Program that parents are invited to attend.

2) Haverim Be'Ivrit 7 – Ma Ma'ayen Oti? Musica! - What Interests Me? Music!

This unit of study focuses on music. Using stories from our tradition, including both Biblical and rabbinic sources, students will learn how music has played an important role throughout Jewish history. Israeli songs, poetry, jokes, and selections from the internet are an integral part of the learning in this unit of study.

Based on the above unit of study, students will:

- Place a strong emphasis on conversational Hebrew through class conversations and activities.
- Be able to describe their feelings, give opinions, and to have a conversation on a specific given topic.
- Continue to strengthen writing skills through compound sentences, usage of paragraphs, short stories, and descriptive themes.
- The *Nifa'l* verb form in present tense is introduced (e.g., *Nichnas*)
- The *Nifa'l* verb form in past tense is introduced (e.g., *Nichnasti*)
- Continue to practice past tense of I have and I don't have (*Yesh Li – Haya Li*)
- Expand Hebrew vocabulary and practice different types of sentences such as I care I don't care, reasoning sentences (e.g., *Echpat Li, lo Echpat Li, Mipney she...*)

Based on the above unit of study, students will:

- Place a strong emphasis on conversational Hebrew through class conversations and activities.
- Be able to describe their feelings and give opinions.
- Continue to strengthen writing skills through compound sentences, usage of paragraphs, short stories, and descriptive themes.
- The *Pa'al* and *Hitpa'el* verb form is introduced in the past tense.
- Be able to make comparisons of things (e.g. *K'eleh, K'zeh*)
- Continue to conjugate verbs in the present tense in the *Pa'al, Pei'el, Hiph'il* and *Hitpa'el* verb forms.
- Expand Hebrew vocabulary.
- Use a Hebrew/English dictionary.
- Become familiar with reading Hebrew without vowels.
- Continue to distinguish between masculine and feminine, singular and plural nouns, and adjectives.
- Easily identify Hebrew root of words (e.g. *LoMeD*).
- Easily identify the Infinitive verb form (e.g. TO read).
- Easily identify definite article (e.g. IN THE school).

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.

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

Students will explore and analyze the Book of Prophets and the Book of Writings. They will learn about the key figures during these Biblical time periods, understand their historical significance, as well as discover how these Biblical figures contributed to the Jewish people.

In addition, students will:

- Continue to do a close reading of text.
- Continue to use critical analysis to have deeper understanding of text.
- Continue to identify biblical patterns in the text.
- Continue to find personal meaning from the text.
- Continue to identify basic key terms in Hebrew.

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 B'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:

- Engage in critical analysis of the Jewish holidays.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the historical context to the Jewish holidays.
- Continue to develop personal meaning of the Jewish holidays.
- Continue to read and recite prayers in Hebrew associated with each of the Jewish holidays.
- Continue to identify key terms, symbols, rituals, and customs in Hebrew and English.

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 will embark on a journey that takes them through the Jewish life cycle. They will explore how the Jewish people mark major life cycle events through Jewish rituals, customs, and ceremonies. Students will also have an opportunity to research their own family customs and practices as they encounter each milestone.

- Birth
- *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*
- Marriage
- Death and Mourning

Students will learn about the Holocaust in an age-appropriate manner. They will understand the historical context of Hitler's rise to power as well as the impact of this man's vision. In addition, students will understand that there were people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who showed courage and resistance.

- Life for Jews in Germany before Hitler came to power
- The Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht)
- Wearing a Yellow Badge
- The Final Solution
- The Warsaw Ghetto
- The Resistance Movement
- The Righteous Gentiles

Fifth grade students will also visit the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance as part of their Holocaust studies.

My Family Story – Roots Project

My Family Story, an international initiative offered by *Beit Hatfutzot*, the Museum of the Jewish People, in Tel Aviv, Israel. ***My Family Story*** offers an opportunity for our students to learn about their family history and delve into the past of the Jewish people – creating a sense of belonging between the students and the Jewish People.

Through this program students will:

- Research his/her family history
- Produce extensive family trees online
- Produce creative projects representing his/her family history
- Participate in an in-school exhibit displaying all student Roots projects
- Have the opportunity to engage with Jewish students from around the world
- Have a chance to participate in ***My Family Story*** international award ceremony to be held in Israel.

Special Jewish Events Include:

- SDJA Celebrates Integration
- Ongoing *Tikkun Olam* Projects
- *Yom Hashoah* ceremony
- Special grade wide event that culminates a unit of study – A *Shaharit* Service.
- *Misadah Yisraelit* - “The Restaurant Program”