

# Grade-by-Grade Curriculum:

## Preschool

This interactive class for 2-5 year olds meet once a week on Sunday mornings from 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM. The class facilitates an exciting entry into our Religious School with a focus on Jewish holidays featuring regular visits from our music specialist. This class is open to non-members. The early childhood curriculum provides young children with multi-sensory experiences that display their knowledge through age-appropriate means. The big idea of this grade is an exposure to Jewish life and community promotes students' love for Judaism.

## Kindergarten: Gan

Children are introduced to Hebrew language and reading, Jewish values and stories, the holiday cycle and Shabbat, and ways in which they can make a positive difference in the lives of others. Following the first Jewish experiences offered in the Preschool program, our Gan program primarily focuses on Jewish holidays and stories from the Torah. Using those two content areas as a backdrop, other areas like mitzvot (sacred obligations) and middot (Jewish values) are introduced, insofar as they pertain to the focal subjects. For the first time, students are exposed not only to what Jews do, but also the principles that guide us. Students will be expected to demonstrate understand of the selected holidays and stories throughout the year. The major project for this class includes a comprehensive scrapbook each student will design throughout the year as a cornerstone of their educational experience in Gan. The big ideas of this grade include the following: Celebrating Jewish holidays is an essential aspect of Jewish identity; Stories in the Torah teach us how to live our lives; Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people.

## 1st Grade: Kitah Alef

As students continue to grow, so does their understanding and appreciation of Judaism. In this year, students learn about mitzvot and how they can impact everyday lives. They will begin their exploration of God through a variety of activities and experiences. Their continued study of Jewish holidays will be orientated around certain mitzvot associated with each one. The big ideas of this grade include the following: Mitzvot are commandments that can be applied to our everyday lives; God is a central part of Judaism and we are all explore God in our own way; Judaism is filled with many celebrations; Hebrew is made up of letters that make different sounds.

## 2nd Grade: Kitah Bet

As students mature, they will delve deeper into their exploration of Jewish life, gaining greater skills and knowledge. This year students will explore the Jewish community and their role within it. They will be exposed to a variety of activities that demonstrate the synagogue community through holiday celebrations, life cycle events and symbols associated with Jewish people and places. The students will also begin their exploration of Israel as the Jewish homeland.

Highlights of the year include a special Chanukah play all in Hebrew and a unique Mother's Day performance by the 2nd graders. The big ideas of this class include the following: The role of the Jewish community can be seen in the synagogue and through Jewish holidays, life cycle events, and symbols; The Jewish homeland is Israel which is part of the world-wide Jewish community; Hebrew can be deciphered by using Hebrew decoding skills.

### **3rd through 5th Grade: Kitah Gimmel – Kitah Hay:**

The Frankel Religious School offers the "B'yachad" ("together") program for 3rd through 5th grades, which is a unique opportunity for parents and students in these grade levels. The B'yachad program combines twice per week classroom learning which includes Sundays and your choice of one afternoon on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, with a family commitment to participate in once-a-month Sunday and adult learning programs. We will make every effort to accommodate your weekday school request, please know it is subject to change upon availability. The students continue in their Hebrew reading and prayer skills, and learn more deeply about the festivals, Jewish History and Israel. Five B'yachad Shabbat Friday night dinners for the whole family are rolled into tuition. This is a great way for both parents and children to learn, build community, and gain religious growth.

### **B'Yachad Family Service for Students and Families in 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

This practicum Shabbat experience is a chance for the whole family to come together to experience and learn what Shabbat is all about both in theory and practice. We will study, pray, and eat together all in the asserted effort to bring the essence of Shabbat more fully into our lives. Grandparents and extended family are welcome to join us! Some of the questions we will explore will include: Why is Shabbat the only day of the week that has an actual name? What does "recharging our internal batteries" mean to each of us and how do we implement this essential letting go into our weekly routine? How can we make Shabbat more special so we can fully embrace the meaning of this sacred time? Our time together on these five Friday nights will be filled with an attempt to answer these questions and more as we begin to encounter Shabbat on a personal and profound level. Please RSVP at [h-nt.org/calendar](http://h-nt.org/calendar) the Wednesday before the Friday night so we're sure to have enough delicious Shabbat dinner for your whole family! For the dates of B'Yachad Shabbat services and dinner, please refer to the [FRS calendar](#).



Etgar Yesodi is a 3rd —5th grade curriculum developed by the Jewish Theological Seminary. It is designed to connect powerfully with students because it:

- Builds on student's prior knowledge and current experiences
- Empowers students to articulate positive Jewish identities
- Builds breadth and depth in students' understanding and observance of Judaism
- Incorporates findings in educational research, such as the power of cooperative learning; the value of addressing multiple intelligences and the importance of differentiating instruction whenever possible.

Parent involvement signals to children the worthiness of the enterprise of Jewish study and enculturation. This curriculum provides opportunities for parents to participate in a variety of ways: by adding their wisdom of experience to the students' studies and sharing experiences that invite dialogue on significant issues. The curriculum also integrates Jewish life beyond the confines of the classroom through community service.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Kitah Gimmel**

Understanding the Jewish holidays is an essential part of 3rd grade. The holidays are experienced throughout the year with visual, auditory, and kinesthetic lessons that are age-appropriate to 3rd graders. In addition, the stories and values of the Torah are explored by studying the Torah throughout the year. The Torah is explored in depth throughout the year and by understanding the important stories of the Torah, students in the 3rd grade complete their year with a well-rounded and thoughtful experience of Torah study.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kitah Daled**

After a rich encounter with the holidays and stories of our tradition in 3rd grade, 4th graders then transition into exploring the personal relevance of the tradition on a profound level. By continuing their exploration of their spiritual connection, students begin to develop a personal relationship with something more than just themselves.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kitah Hay**

Upon emerging from the 4th grade with a meaningful relationship with Jewish spirituality, students in 5th grade then connect what they have learned to sacred spaces and community involvement. Our relationship with the group or klal is explored in great detail in this year as the students mature and begin to see themselves as contributing Jewish citizens in a global Jewish environment.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kitah Vav**

We continue our parent-teen learning partnership with our 6th grade middle school program. Our program for middle school students provides a balance between skill development in preparation for their B'nai Mitzvah, Torah Trope, and engaging discussion about relevant Jewish issues. Parent classes meet once a month. Students who do not attend a Jewish day school attend on Monday and Wednesday, to supplement the Shabbat learning.

The entire 6th grade year is spent focusing on the students' responsibilities on the day of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony while also preparing them to participate in Shabbat services throughout their lives. The class centers on prayer leadership, not only learning the prayers, but mastering them so students feel comfortable walking into any Jewish service. Students learn what the prayers mean and how they might be relevant to their lives during this class. 6th Graders and their families will enjoy one B'yachad Shabbat dinner included with their tuition. Date information will be provided later.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kitah Zayin**

Our program for 7th grade students provides a balance between skill development in preparation for the B'nai Mitzvah, God talk, an investigation into the siddur, and discussions about relevant Jewish issues. Classes meet Saturday morning, and for students who do not attend a Jewish day school, Tuesday classes are held to supplement the Shabbat learning. Parent classes meet once a month as well.

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony marks the beginning of our lives as a member of the Jewish community, and our 7th grade class on Tuesdays focuses on middot or Jewish values as well as participation in Jewish life cycle events. This part of our curriculum attempts to provide students with the necessary tools to fulfill the mitzvot, our most sacred obligations. This year we extend the focus to other aspects of Jewish life with this component of our program. Many of the students will become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah during the year, and by focusing this aspect of the class on life after the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year, we are aiming to make the learning relevant and meaningful so that students will continue to attend class after their ceremony.

On Shabbat mornings, the conversations we have with the 7th grade students focus on prayer leadership and an in-depth study of the weekly Torah portion. Our class leads the Torah service each week and learns what the prayers are all about and how they apply directly to our own lives. Developing a personalized relationship with the liturgy is what this class is all about. The students also lead the full Kiddush in class, and we spend time dissecting and learning the prayers they will be responsible for when they become B'nai Mitzvah at HNT.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kitah Chet**

- The 8th Grade Leadership Program meets for a total of 9 sessions throughout the 2016-2017 academic year.
- Sessions take place Sunday mornings, and that helps get our students who want to be Teacher Assistants when they are 9th graders into the habit of coming in on Sundays!

This special program is only for 8th graders, so it will be intimate; the students have for the most part spent many years together on their B'nai Mitzvah journeys. It will be an invaluable chance for them to stay in relationship with their class, get to ask deep questions, and receive specific leadership training to be able to work at HNT the year following. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Leadership Program is a great compliment to the Livnot Chai experience!

## **8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Livnot Chai**

Livnot Chai is the weekly Tuesday evening program from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM for all 8th to 12th graders, and its community wide - so your teen will meet other 8th graders from shuls like Congregation Beth Shalom, Temple De Hirsch Sinai, and Temple B'nai Torah, and will learn from a variety of great teachers. They have a core curriculum in the first hour and they get to choose electives in the second hour, and mingle with other kids during dinner, too. There are 26 sessions in total over the year, with a broad range of classes offered including artwork, music, Jewish culture, modern Israel, the difference between Jewish movements, etc. Over 150 teenagers participate in Livnot. Livnot Chai is a supplementary program for Jewish 8th through 12th graders. The program marks a new direction in Jewish education: one that creates an arc of relevance for participants. The program extends the reach of Judaism, moving religious practice from the synagogue toward communal organizations and extending learning from the classroom toward action. Please contact Morah Debbie at [debbie@livnotchai.org](mailto:debbie@livnotchai.org) for more information about Livnot. Check out the Livnot website at [www.livnotchai.org](http://www.livnotchai.org) for more information.