



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW SECOND GRADE

Our second-grade curriculum focuses around Israel. These students will learn about Israel's geography, its famous sites and the people in Israel while trying to answer the question of what makes Israel special for the Jewish people. They will discover the richness of Israeli culture, the unique geography of Israel, and the amazing contributions that Israel has made to our world. Second Grade classes will "meet" important figures from Israel's past and present, will recreate Israeli foods and experiences, and even explore the country itself through various activities. The second-grade students are challenged to use their new knowledge of Israel to create an itinerary for our synagogue's next mission.

During the Israel Unit, we will focus on the following goals:

- Helping students to experience Israel through their all of their senses;
- Introducing students to Israel's long history and help them begin to see how important Israel has been to the Jewish people throughout time;
- Developing a personal relationship with Israel through the study of history, culture, people, geography; and
- Determining the essence of Israel that one must experience on a synagogue mission.

In addition to learning about Israel, each week our second grade will spend a little time revisiting the stories of our ancestors in the Tanakh. Students will discuss the lessons we learn about relationships, responsibility, and being our best selves. We will create character profiles of Adam, Eve, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and more.

Throughout the year of Torah, we will focus on the following goals:

- Studying important Torah stories and have students engage with the text;
- Exploring Torah using multiple creative approaches; and
- Teach Jewish values through Torah stories.

While we do not begin formal Hebrew study until third grade, we recognize that for language acquisition and reading skills to be successful, a child must first engage with a language on an auditory and oral level. Our students will begin to interact with Hebrew words that are core to our Jewish lexicon and show Hebrew as a living language. Additionally, throughout the year, students will participate in Hebrew immersion games and activities that will begin to acclimate them to the Hebrew language.

During our pre-K to second grade program, we will focus on the following goals in Hebrew:

- Introducing students in our pre-K through second grade classes to the Hebrew language – both orally and some written;
- Helping students become comfortable using Hebrew words and phrases that are common in our school/community (*brit*, *Shabbat*, *tefilah*, *tikkun olam*, *tzekadah*, etc.); and
- Having students start to see Hebrew as a living language, and begin to connect to it.