



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW THIRD GRADE

JUDAICA

Our third grade students will spend the year thinking about the concept of *kadosh* (holiness.) Through their examination of Jewish ritual objects, our students will confront questions such as: How do we decide what is sacred and holy? How do we treat holy objects differently than everyday objects? How do these ritual objects help us to engage in Jewish life? Third grade students will have the opportunity to touch, feel, find, and create various Jewish ritual objects throughout the year. They will learn about and create various Jewish ritual objects such as a *yad*, *mezuzah*, *kippah*, *tallit*, *siddur*, and Torah.

During the Ritual Objects unit, we will focus on the following goals:

- Defining the concept of holiness.
- Challenging students to think more broadly about what can be holy.
- Recognizing the ways that we treat holy objects different from ordinary objects.
- Learning about Judaism through our ritual objects.

*Towards the middle of the year, we will move from thinking about holy objects to thinking about holy living. Together, they will learn the Jewish people's traditions and customs for how to make each day special and holy. We will study Shabbat, Havdalah, *kashrut*, and more in order to determine if these rules enhance our lives, making each moment special, or if they detract from it.

During the Holy Living unit, we will focus on the following goals:

- Learning ways that we engage in holy behavior through regular Jewish practice.
- Broadening our concept of holiness.
- Challenging the students to think about ways they can live a holy life.

We will end the year by thinking about what it means for human beings to be holy. Our students will debate what it means to be created in God's image. Students will construct their own ideas about what it means to live a holy life – one where we are aware of our actions, of what we put into our bodies, and how we act in community. They will think about how we should treat one another and ourselves if we are truly created in the image of God.

During the We Are Holy unit, we will focus on the following goals:

- Broadening our concept of holiness.
- Showing the students that just as objects and time can be holy, people are holy too.
- Challenging students to think about the ways that we should treat others and ourselves since we are holy.

By the end of the year, we expect that every third grader will be able to define the concept of holiness and discuss what it means for them to engage in holy acts, describe how we treat holy objects, and share what it feels like to be holy themselves.

HEBREW

At Stephen Wise Free Synagogue's Religious School, we work to ensure that every child is capable of decoding (reading without full comprehension) Hebrew prayers and blessings, and that they know and can define common Hebrew words and phrases. We want our students to see Hebrew as a living

language of the Jewish people and to be able to use it to help them in prayer and in Jewish life. Our teachers strive to make Hebrew accessible and to ensure that every child's ability to decode improves each week.

Third grade is the beginning of our formal Hebrew program. During this year, students will focus on learning the Hebrew letters and vowels. Once students have mastery of the entire Aleph-Bet, we will work on their ability to combine letters and vowels to read basic Hebrew words and phrases. Students have the opportunity to reinforce their Hebrew skills and learn more about our prayers during *tefilah* (prayer services) each week.

By the end of the third grade year, we expect every student to be able to:

- Identify all Hebrew letters and vowels by their sound and name.
- Put together a few letters and vowels in order to read simple words.
- Follow along with prayers during *tefilah*, and able to recite Shema, Barchu, Mi Chamocha, and Oseh Shalom from memory
- Identify and define the following vocabulary (plus additional not listed): *shalom*, *siddur*, Torah, *adonai*, *mezuzah*, *kadosh*, Shabbat.