



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOURTH GRADE

JUDAICA

The overarching theme of our fourth grade curriculum is Jewish community and peoplehood. Throughout fourth grade, students engage in what it means to be linked to something larger than themselves and how we engage with other Jewish people, places and spaces.

For the first half of the year, our fourth grade classes will learn about Jewish lifecycle events. They will discuss what makes each one an important moment in the course of someone's life, as well as why and how Judaism chooses to spotlight that particular moment. They will get to think about all of these Jewish lifecycle moments as one continuum in order to see how they all work together to build and mark someone's life within a spiritual community.

During the Jewish Lifecycle unit, we will focus on the following goals:

- Introduce students to various Jewish lifecycle rituals and events.
- Give students an opportunity to participate in/experience Jewish lifecycle events.
- Place Bar/Bat Mitzvah within the larger framework of Jewish life.
- Help students think about how Judaism supports us in key moments of our lives.

For the second half of the year, our fourth grade will focus on Israel. Students will learn about the history of the Jewish state, the people who live there, and the amazing things that Israel has to offer us even today! Throughout the year, the students will create their own relationships with the land of Israel, and begin to gain a deeper understanding of why we have a Jewish state and how we can support it. As they learn about different aspects of Israel, students in the fourth grade will create posters, activities, and other things that will be on display at our Religious School's Israel fair in April.

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

- Help students form a connection to the state of Israel.
- Familiarize students with important moments and figures in Israeli history.
- Get students excited about the idea of visiting Israel in the future.

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.

In fourth grade, students will review the basic Hebrew reading skills they learned in third grade and continue working on their reading proficiency. Students will practice reading harder and longer prayers. Additionally, they will learn some of the important vocabulary in our liturgy and see how it relates to the Judaic themes they are learning this year. 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 Fourth Grade year, we expect every student to be able to:

- Decode simple words/phrases and short blessings at first sight
- Self-correct on shorter, simpler words
- Decode the following prayers: Barchu, Shema, Mi Chamocha, Chanukah blessings and Four Questions
- Be able to follow along with all prayers during Tefilah, and begin to be able to decode V'ahavta and Avot V'Imahot
- Identify and define the following vocabulary (plus additional not listed): *tefilah, baruch atah, melech, echad, yisrael, brit milah, ketubah, bar/bat mitzvah*