



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW KINDERGARTEN

Our kindergarten curriculum examines Jewish values and Jewish holidays.

Students will delve into values of *tzedakah*, *b'tzelem Elohim*, *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming the stranger), *hakarat hatov* (being appreciative), and more. Through arts and crafts, drama, games, and other activities, our students explore the ways that we live Jewish lives and act as God's partners in the world. As they engage with various Jewish values, our Kindergarteners will contemplate how we can make the world a better place and the ways that we should treat ourselves and others.

During the Jewish Values Unit, we will focus on the following goals:

- Students will uncover specific Jewish values and be able to articulate what they mean and why they are important.
- Students will explore different ways to act out Jewish values.
- Students will think differently about how to treat one another and themselves.

Throughout the year, our kindergarten class will learn about the Jewish Holidays as they occur throughout the year. The class will uncover the stories of each holiday and students will explore the ritual objects we use during these holidays through hands-on examination and creating some of these objects. Students will learn about the ways that we celebrate each holiday and participate in celebrations during class.

During the Jewish Holidays Unit, we will focus on the following goals:

- Students will learn the core concepts/story of each Jewish Holiday.
- Students will create objects that will help them to remember and observe various Jewish holidays.
- Students will share the ways that their family celebrates the holiday and learn new traditions from one another.

*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, students will focus on the following goals in Hebrew:

- To introduce students in our pre-K to second grade to the Hebrew language – both orally and some written.
- To have students become comfortable using Hebrew words and phrases that are common in our school/community (*brit*, *tefilah*, Shabbat, *tzedakah*, *tikkun olam*, etc.).
- To have students see Hebrew as a living language and begin to connect to it.