



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW TASTE OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (PRE-KINDERGARTEN)

Our Taste of Religious School program seeks to foster a community of learners who can reflect deeply on Jewish narratives at a developmentally appropriate level. The content of each session follows the Jewish Calendar with lessons that are planned to meet the needs, interests, and prior knowledge of the specific children in the class. Hands-on ritual and holiday experiences are essential for provoking questions, and inspiring a sense of wonder and joy in Jewish practice.

Students in our Taste of Religious School class join with our Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades at the end of each session for *tefilah* (prayer services) specifically framed for our youngest students. This last period of the day allows the children to engage in Jewish prayer, learn Jewish music, and meet the larger community.

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 PreK-2nd Grade program, students will focus on the following goals in Hebrew:

- To introduce students in our PreK-2 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.