



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW TASTE OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (Pre-K)

The goal of our Taste of Religious School class is to introduce students to Religious School while fostering a community of learners who can reflect deeply on Jewish narratives at a developmentally appropriate level. To this end, our students will follow the Jewish calendar to ensure that they are learning about the various Jewish holidays. In addition, their curriculum will include highlights from the other kindergarten to second grade classes, including learning some Torah stories, Jewish values, about Israel and more! We strive to ensure that the content of each session includes hands-on activities and experiences that will provoke questions and inspire a sense of wonder and joy in Jewish life.

During our Taste of Religious School class, students will focus on the following learning goals:

- Acclimating to our religious school and synagogue community
- Developing a sense of love and connection with Jewish identity and ritual
- Being introduced to Jewish holidays, texts and values
- Asking questions and engaging in Jewish life

Taste students 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 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.