

**BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM**

<p><b>Kindergarten</b> Sunday class from 9:30-12:00 Student age 5 by September 1. The Topic for their curriculum will be holidays, Bible stories and Hebrew.</p>	<p>Holidays, Tzedaka, Havdala and Tikun Olam. Children will discover the joy of our holiday traditions through a series of booklets called "<b>Jewish and Me,</b>" crafts and folktales</p> <p>Bible stories- creation, Adam and Eve, Jonah, Noah and the flood, Joseph, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lion's den and the life of Moses- and Hebrew.</p> <p>The Bible stories, and the values drawn from them, will be introduced through lots of crafts, music, cooking, games, dramatic role playing and more. Basic Hebrew holiday vocabulary will be introduced. A Hebrew specialist will introduce the Hebrew Aleph Bet weekly for thirty minutes.</p>
<p><b>Grade 1:</b> Theme: Discovering myself in the Jewish story.</p> <p>I am part of the ongoing story of Torah and the Jewish people. My Jewish acts help me discover the beauty and order of sacred time and my place in the Jewish story.</p> <p>I am part of the ongoing story of the Jewish people when I perform acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p><b><u>Torah</u></b> - What Is Torah? Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Rebekah: Woman of Kindness and Courage. Jacob and Esau, Joseph (Lesson <i>Alef</i>): Trouble among Brothers, Joseph (Lesson <i>Bet</i>): Personal Char and Reconciliation, The Genesis Journey Map,</p> <p><b><u>Avodah</u></b> - Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Is a Blessing? , <i>Havdalah</i>, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, <i>Shehecheyanu</i>, Being a Jew Hero: An Introduction to <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> (Deeds of loving kindness) and <i>Tzedakah</i> <b><u>G'milut Chasadim</u></b> (Deeds of loving kindness) Being Kind with <i>Dere Eretz</i>, Do Not Do to Others..., Repentance: Is Saying Sorry Enough Welcoming Guests : <i>Hachnasat Orchim</i>, Helping Our Synagogue Community, T Care of the Earth, <i>Tzedakah</i>: A Different Way of Helping, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>.</p>
<p><b>Grade 2:</b> Theme: The personal relevance and power of Torah, Avodah, and G'milut Chasadim</p> <p>Studying Torah can teach me important lessons about how God wants me to live. Jewish stories, celebrations and rituals help me understand and express my relationship with God. We make the world a better place by performing acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> in our everyday lives.</p>	<p><b><u>Torah</u></b> - Intro to Torah, Intro to Book of <i>Sh'mot</i>, <i>Parashat Sh'mot</i>- Finding God in Small Places, <i>Parashat Bo</i>: Marking Our Freedom (Session alef), <i>Parashat Bo</i>: Marking Our Freedom (Session bet), <i>Parashat B'shalach</i>: Nachshon Comes to Visit, <i>Parashat Yitro</i>: Helping Hands, <i>Parashat Ki Tisa</i>: Hold On to Your Hat, God!, <i>Parashat Mishpatim</i>: Reaching Out to Strangers</p> <p><b><u>Avodah</u></b> - Why Can't I See God?, Shabbat Blessings, Morning Blessings, <i>Sh'ma</i>, Evening Blessings, How Do I Talk to God?, Why Does God Want Me to Grow?, How Does God Talk to Us?, Does God Know Me?</p> <p><b><u>G'milut Chasadim</u></b> - Making A Difference, Opportunities to Do <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, Torah Teaches Us, In God's Image, Being God's Partner, Welcoming Guests, Taking Action, Reflections on Doing <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Celebration</p>

<p><b>Grade 3:</b> Theme: Kedushah (holiness)</p> <p>The laws and rules found in the Torah can help us to live a life filled with holy moments</p> <p>Through avodah, we can make our lives and the world more holy (kadosh). Each individual act of g'milut chasadim can make the world more kadosh (holy).</p>	<p><b>Torah</b> - Introduction to Vayikra/Leviticus - <i>Parashat K'doshim</i>: Holiness, <i>Parashat Vayikra</i>: Sacrifice, Gifts, Drawing Near, <i>Parashat Sh'mini</i>: Kashrut - Holy Eating, <i>Parashat K'doshim</i> Session <i>Alef</i>: Stumbling Block, <i>Parashat K'doshim</i> Session <i>Bet</i>: <i>Tochecha</i> (Rebuking Others), <i>Parashat Emor</i>: Shabbat - Holy Time, <i>Parashat B'har</i>: The Sabbatical Year - Holiness of the Earth, <i>Parashat K'doshim</i>: Love Your Neighbor, <i>Parashat B'chukotai</i>: Rules, Laws, and Teachings - Passing It On</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - Synagogue Helps Us Make Room for God, Road Signs to God, How Do We Relate to God?, Getting Connected, Acting Holy, Everything's <i>B'seder</i>, All Is in Order, Our Bodies Are a Gift from God, Ordinary Moments Can Be <i>Kadosh</i>, Taking God Home</p> <p><b>G'milut Chasidim</b> - Taking Responsibility: Doing <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>K'lal Yisrael</i>: Helping Jews around the World, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>: Helping Others and Helping Ourselves, Our Actions Make a Difference: Caring is Contagious, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Everyday, A <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Road Map, The <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Holiday Connection (Session <i>Alef</i>), The <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Holiday Connection (Session <i>Bet</i>), <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>: Review and Taking Action</p>
<p><b>Grade 4:</b> Theme: Me in My Community</p> <p>With the promise of a holy land (Eretz Yisrael), we as a holy people (Am Yisrael) have a responsibility to strive toward holiness by observing the brit (covenant)</p> <p>Keva and kavannah, the fixed order of worship and the personal intention we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to help us make sacred connections.</p> <p>We have a responsibility to perform acts of g'milut chasadim for the people we encounter in our daily lives.</p>	<p><b>Torah</b> - <i>Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and the B'rit, Am Yisrael</i>— Session <i>Alef</i>: All Jews are Members of <i>Am Yisrael</i>; I Am a Member of <i>Am Yisrael</i> , <i>Am Yisrael</i> - Session <i>Bet</i>: It Takes Twelve Tribes to Create a People, <i>Eretz Yisrael</i> - Session <i>Alef</i>: The Physical Land, <i>Eretz Yisrael</i> - Session <i>Bet</i>: The Land for Our Souls, <i>B'rit</i> - Session <i>Alef</i>: <i>Parashat Sh'lach L'cha</i>: Becoming Like Joshua and Caleb, <i>B'rit</i> - Session <i>Bet</i>: <i>Parashat Sh'lach L'cha</i>: Becoming Like Joshua and Caleb, <i>B'rit</i> - Session <i>Gimel</i>: Keeping the <i>B'rit</i>, Wrap-Up: We Are About to Enter the Land</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> – <i>Kavanah, Keva</i>: Why We Pray, Siddur Geography: Our Journey through the Prayer Book, The <i>Sh'ma</i> and Its Blessings: Finding <i>Kavanah</i> in <i>Keva</i> (Session <i>Alef</i>: <i>Sh'ma</i> and <i>V'ahavta</i>), The <i>Sh'ma</i> and Its Blessings: Finding <i>Kavanah</i> in <i>Keva</i> (Session <i>Bet</i>: Creation, Revelation, Redemption), <i>Kiddush</i>: Sanctifying Our Lives Through Fixed Prayer and Personal Feelings of Holiness, Communal and Individual Prayers, Blessings of Wonder, Silent Prayer: Creating a Moment for Ourselves, with Our Own Words</p> <p><b>G'milut Chasidim</b> - Making Peace Among Friends, <i>Sh'lom Bayit</i>: Peace and Harmony at Home, Accepting Differences: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself (<i>V'ahavta L'rei-acha Kamocho</i>), Show Honor with Action: Honor Your Parents (<i>Kibud Av Va-em</i>), Befriending the Lonely, The Danger of Gossip: <i>L'shon Hara</i>, Understanding the Elderly, Honoring the Elderly (<i>Kibud Z'keinim</i>) Session <i>Alef</i>, Honoring the Elderly (<i>Kibud Z'keinim</i>) Session <i>Bet</i>: Intergenerational Program</p>

<p><b>Grade 5:</b> Theme: Reform Judaism and the power of community.</p> <p>The words and messages of the prophets are at the heart of Reform Judaism. The practice of prayer can help me grow through personal reflection, can increase my connection to the Jewish people, and can strengthen my relationship with God. We are all part of klal yisrael and have a responsibility to actively support and sustain the Jewish community through acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p><b>Torah - Tanach:</b> Getting to Know You, Meet the Prophets, Joshua: Warrior Prophet, Deborah: Bringing Light to Her World, Jonah and Jeremiah: The Reluctant Prophets, Amos and Isaiah: The Intolerant Prophets, Elijah: Who Was He? Who Is He?, Reform Judaism: Response to Prophecy, Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophesy</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - The Prayer-to-Action Connection, Introduction to the <i>Amidah</i>, <i>Amidah</i> Section 1: <i>Brachot</i> of Praise, <i>Amidah</i> Section 2: <i>Brachot</i> of Petition, <i>Amidah</i> Section 3: <i>Brachot</i> of Thanksgiving, The <i>Aleinu</i> Prayer: Choosing God, The <i>Kaddish</i> Prayer: Remembering and Affirming God, Israel in Our Prayers, The Prayer-to-Action Wrap-Up</p> <p><b>G'milut Chasidim</b> - <i>K'hilah</i>: The Jewish Community, <i>Al Tifrosh Min Hatzibur</i>: Do Not Separate Yourself from the Jewish Community, <i>K'vod HaMet</i>: Showing Honor to the Dead, Conversion: Becoming Part of the Jewish Community, <i>Keruv</i>: Welcoming Jews-by-Choice into the Jewish Community, Justice in the Community, <i>Tzedakah</i> Session 1: How to Choose Where to Give, <i>Tzedakah</i> Session 2: Avoiding Embarrassment, Speaking Out and Speaking Up</p>
<p><b>Grade 6:</b> Theme: Revelation – What Does it Mean In Our Lives Today?</p> <p>Studying Jewish texts allows us to explore our relationship with God and reflect on the ways God is continually revealed to others and to ourselves. Avodah is the work we do, by exploring our personal and communal role in Revelation, to find sacred connections to God, to community, and self. We can experience God in our world, in others, and within ourselves, by engaging in acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p><b>Torah</b> - Introduction to <i>K'tuvim/Writings</i>, <i>M'gillat Rut</i>/The Book of Ruth: Mining the Text For Meaning, <i>Megilat Rut</i>/The Book of Ruth: Finding God in Moab and Canaan, Introduction to Wisdom Literature, <i>Mishlei/Proverbs</i>: Wise Words for All, <i>Kohelet</i>: Wise Man or Cynic?, <i>T'hillim/Psalms</i> Session <i>Alef</i>: Poetry and Liturgy, <i>T'hillim/Psalms</i> Session <i>Bet</i>: Images of God, God, How Are You Revealed in the World and What Is My Relationship with You?</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - Standing at Sinai: My Role in Revelation, The Torah Service as a Public Reading, The Torah Service and Community Building, Finding Our Way to Sinai: A Map of the Torah Service, Choreography and Etiquette of the Torah Service, The Blessings of Torah, What is the Haftarah?, The Role of <i>Sh'liach Tzibur</i>, My Communal Role in Revelation: Entering the Covenant as a Jewish Adult</p> <p><b>G'milut Chasidim</b> - Finding God in Our World Through Acts of <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>Bal Tashchit</i>: Protecting the Rainforests, <i>Bal Tashchit</i>: Recycling and Conserving Energy, <i>Tzaar Baalei Chayim</i>: Care and Protection of Animals, World Health Issues, Peace, World Hunger, Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights, <i>Hineini</i>: Embracing Our People around the World</p>

<p><b>Grade 7:</b> Theme: Hineini – What Does it Mean to Be a Responsible Jewish Adult?</p> <p>My life is reflected in and reflects Torah. The message and power of Jewish prayer can help me understand and define myself as an individual and as an authentic member of the Jewish community. Our development as emerging Reform Jewish adults and authentic members of the Jewish community is closely linked to our ethical behavior (<i>middot</i>) and the performance of acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i></p>	<p><b>Torah</b> - <i>Lech L'cha</i>, The Journeys We Take, Cain and Abel: Family Relationships, <i>Akeidat Yitzchak</i>, The Binding of Isaac: Honoring Parents, Rebekah: A Virtuous Woman?, Rebekah: Tough Choices, God and Abraham: A Relationship Like No Other, Jacob and the <i>Ish/Being</i>: Struggling to Change (Lesson <i>Alef</i>), Jacob and the <i>Ish/Being</i>: Struggling to Change (Lesson <i>Bet</i>), Wrap Up: Our Lessons from Genesis/<i>B'reishit</i></p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - Introduction to the Jewish Life Cycle, <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> and Marriage: Responsibility and Relationships, Birth and Death: Teach Us to Number Our Days, The High Holy Days: Focus on Repentance, Pesach--Questions: Then and Now, Chanukah and Purim: Do You Believe in Miracles (and Boundaries)?, My Jewish Identity: <i>Eilu D'varim</i> – What Must I Do?, My Jewish Identity: <i>Sh'ma</i> – What Do I Believe?, My Jewish Identity: <i>Hineini</i></p> <p><b>G'milut Chasidim</b> - Time for a Checkup, That's What Friends are For: <i>Dibuk Chaverim</i>, Truth as an Act of Kindness (<i>Emet</i>), Stop the Bullying NOW!: Not Standing Idly By (<i>Lo Taamod Al Dam Reiecha</i>), Keep Your Cool: Being Slow to Anger, (<i>Erech Apayim</i>), What's With The Attitude? Having a Pleasant Demeanor, (<i>Seiver Panim Yafot</i>), Courage! (<i>Ometz Lev</i>), Living Generously (<i>N'divut</i>), <i>Hineini</i>--Here I Am! I Am Ready to Act!</p>
<p><b>Midrasha – 8th-9th grades.</b> Sundays, 9:30-12:00. 9:30-10:40 – core class curriculum. 10:45-11:00 – break in the lounge. 10:45-11:20 – enrichment 1. Who am I ? “Can you live your life being you?” What does it mean to be created in God’s image? Free Will related to taking personal responsibility. Empathy, Compassion Sharing yourself with the world “Tikkun Olam” . Jewish Identity course- This course will focus on understanding and accepting the new teens they are becoming as well as their Judaism. 2. Enrichment program: A wide range of vibrant learning experiences to connect Judaism with teens creatively and personally: Field Trip, Tikkun Olam projects, Art, drama, cooking, etc.</p>	<p><b>8<sup>th</sup> grade – Early adult issues-K’dushat haquf.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Life choices</b> – personal ethics, choosing right from wrong and exercising self-control.</li> <li><b>Body ethics</b> - Students will discuss drug and alcohol abuse, body piercing, and tattooing through Jewish sources.</li> <li><b>Coming of age in an age of confusion</b>– Jewish values and dating. Lessons from the bible about modesty, peer pressure, and interfaith dating.</li> </ol> <p><b>9<sup>th</sup> grade – Questions, questions all around...</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and Israel</b> – students will study the history and effects of Anti-Semitism and discuss how to fight hate. The birth of Israel.</li> <li><b>Christianity and Islam</b> – Early histories of Christianity and Islam, the key beliefs, and their relationship with Judaism.</li> </ol>

**Confirmation – 10<sup>th</sup> grade.**

This program is designed to develop critical thinking about Jewish topics, develop a sense of personal pride and commitment to Judaism based on the understanding of Jewish beliefs and concepts. Jewish identity. Why is Judaism special? What is the basis of Judaism? Who is considered a good Jew? Do we have to believe in God? Can a Jew be a Jew without worshiping? Is Judaism a nationality or a religion? Jewish vs. Christian ideas of the Messiah and Messianic age, body and soul, the world to come, Jewish mysticism, and more.

**Theology with the Rabbi** - Rabbi will analyze with the students selected biblical texts and rituals to see how they correlate with what we perceive Judaism to stand for, such as, Who are we Jews, God, What is Torah, Ethics, Human Nature, Jewish views of the world and of human dignity, What is confirmation, Sin and repentance, Rabbi will also prepare them for the Confirmation service.

**Confirmation – Special project**

The confirmation students will create a special project related to the topic of their choice. Looking into non-fiction Jewish books such as the Torah, Talmud, the books by the sages and so on, they will be able to find (a) the importance of it in the Jewish tradition, (b) a Jewish way of looking at it, and (c) that they are not remote antiquities but are a real, vital force in the lives of Jews. The students will pick the book/topic or author and research and create a project in a multi- media way (slide show movie, play, creative writing and so on).

**Confirmation – Mitzvah project**

The student will be involved in several projects throughout the year, such as, Bake for the Seniors, Plan a Hanukkah party for the Seniors, Visit homebound Seniors, Make Purim mish loach manot, Cleaning the cemetery before the holidays, Play Bingo game with small gift certificate at Senior's home.