

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Kita Het) Curriculum**  
**Rabbi Marcelo Kormis**  
**30 Sessions**

**Overview**

The eighth grade program is a unique experience in the life of our students. It is the last year of their Religious School education but at the same time it is the year when they can deeply learn about their Jewish tradition and continue fostering their Jewish identity. This program focuses on important Jewish experiences beyond the four walls of the synagogue, in an engaging and exciting way. The program keeps the children's natural camaraderie intact over the course of the year while introducing them to exceptional experiences in their lives.

The goals and objectives of the 8th grade program are:

- To understand the meaning and significance of Jewish prayers.
- To identify the different parts of the Siddur and Machzor.
- To foster a strong Jewish Identity.
- To strengthen the love of Israel connecting with the Israeli emissary.
- To learn new vocabulary in Hebrew.
- To be involved in activities related to social justice and community service.
- To be exposed to relevant teen issues.
- To start taking leadership roles as Madrichim (youth leaders)
- To serve as a gateway to MERKAZ Hebrew High School.
- To celebrate and experience Jewish holidays.
- To gain knowledge of other religions and be exposed to interfaith experiences.

**Notes to Parents:** This curriculum contains the knowledge, skills and attitude Jewish students are expected to learn. It provides the learning objectives that students are expected to meet; the units and lessons that teachers teach; the books, materials, technology and readings used in a course; and the assessments methods used to evaluate student learning.

Some units have a large amount of material that on a given year may be modified in consideration of the Jewish calendar, lost school days due to weather (snow days), and give greater flexibility to the teacher to accommodate students' pre-existing level of knowledge and skills.

8<sup>th</sup> grade calendar 2014-2015

GRAY – Tue / Wed / Fri / Sat / Sun    Yellow – recess    \* offsite    Volunteer community service

In addition to Rabbi's classes, our Israeli Emissary (Yarden) will be with the class Monday 4:15 – 5:00 pm (Hebrew, Israeli culture, geography, art, music...)

Monday, September 15, 2014		Opening Day Activity	
Monday, September 22, 2014		<b>Class:</b> The Meaning of Prayers 1: The Machzor Rosh Hashanah service	
<b>Sunday, September 28, 2014</b>	Volunteer	Community service – Build the Sukkah	
Monday, September 29, 2014		<b>Class:</b> The Meaning of Prayers 2: The Machzor Yom Kippur service	
Monday, October 06, 2014		<b>Class:</b> The mysteries of Sukkoth: Eat, Pray, Love...	
Monday, October 13, 2014		Sukkah dinner and games	
Monday, October 20, 2014		<b>Class:</b> Tzedakkah and Gemiluth Hassadim	
Monday, October 27, 2014	*	Visit to Operation Hope	
Monday, November 03, 2014		<b>Class:</b> Geniza, cemetery symbols	
<b>Tuesday, November 04, 2014</b>	*	Trip to NYC Lower East Side; Eldridge, Tenements, Deli	
Monday, November 10, 2014	*	Cemetery visit	
Monday, November 17, 2014		<b>Class:</b> The Meaning of Prayers 3: The Daily Service	
<b>Sunday, November 23, 2014</b>	*	Community Thanksgiving service - held at a local church or synagogue	
Monday, November 24, 2014		<b>Class:</b> The Meaning of Prayers 4: The Shabbat Service	
Monday, December 01, 2014		<b>Class:</b> Memory, The history of our Jewish Community. Guest speaker.	Yarden n/a?
Monday, December 08, 2014		<b>Class:</b> Interfaith relations, preparation for a church visit	
Monday, December 15, 2014	*	Visit a church	
<b>Friday, December 19, 2014</b>		Hanukah Friday night dinner	
Monday, December 22, 2014		<b>Class:</b> "in those days at this time " - Hanukah celebration Hanukah, 7 candles	
Monday, December 29, 2014		Vacation	
Monday, January 05, 2015		<b>Class:</b> Purity rituals, conversion, why are we using the Mikvah?	Rabbi n/a



