



### **Our overarching curricular goals for a graduate of Beth El Religious School are:**

- the ability to decode Hebrew texts, with emphasis on tefillot/prayers, brachot/blessings, and Torah texts
- to feel comfortable participating in Shabbat services, both singing and reading tefillot
- an understanding and appreciation of Chagim (Holidays)
- connection to the larger Jewish community and to Israel



## **Alef 1st**

### **Overview**

The Alef 1st curriculum begins to build strong Hebrew auditory skills (and some reading skills) by familiarizing students with select letters of the Alef-Bet. Students learn Jewish holidays, culture, and values and build a strong foundation in the joy of Jewish observance through hands-on experiences, stories, songs, and artwork. Jewish values such as the practice of tzedakah and other mitzvot are also introduced through regular practice. Students learn to recognize and write their own Hebrew names.

### **Hebrew Vocabulary**

Jewish holiday greetings

Parsha-related words, e.g. Noach - colors of the rainbow, names of animals

Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur - apples and honey, shofar, Bereishit, Tashlich, Teshuva, tefillah, tzedakah Shanah tovah u'metukah, G'mar tov, Shofar blasts: tekiyah, shevarim, teruah Mitzvah/avera

Sukkot - Etrog, Lulav, Hadassim, S'chach

Symbolic body parts - lev (heart), aynayim (eyes), peh (mouth/lips), amud-shidra (spine)

Shabbat - Torah, Yad, Aron kodesh, Ner Tamid, Siddur, Mitzvah

Four seasons

Seder-plate components

Family - mishpachah, aba, ima, ach, achot, saba, safta

Israel - eretz yisrael yerushalayim the kotel bayit (house) etz (tree) kveesh (road) gesher (bridge) shir (song)

HaTikvah ("The Hope" - Israeli national anthem)

Other body parts - rosh, beten, k'tafayim, raglayim, oznayim

Emet

**Letter recognition:** tav and shin; resh and dalet; lamed, bet/vet, mem, and nun, (including final mem and final nun); gimmel, hey, and chet; yud, alef, ayin, sin, and kuf; kaf and chaf, (including final chaf); fay and tsadi, (Including final fay and final tzadi); vav and samech

## **Tefillah/Prayers - Skills & Rituals**

### **Brachot related to holidays and eating special foods**

Sh'ma

Modeh Ani

Food brachot (holidays)

Friday-night Shabbat brachot

Havdalah blessings

Reinforce "Sh'ma" and "Modeh Ani"

Shalom Aleichem

Friday-night Kiddush

Chanukkah blessings

Pesach - Four Questions

**Class project:** 100 brachot per day room chart

### **Sanctuary skills:**

- Identify aron kodesh, ner tamid, Torah, yad
- demonstrate respect and mindfulness by sitting quietly, wearing a kippah, keeping siddurim in laps or put properly away, participating when able
- Students will be able to describe some of the activities that take place in a synagogue (sanctuary, etc.)

## **Core Judaics**

Curriculum units are built around Jewish (and some secular) holidays, and include key concepts, brachot, and key Hebrew-vocabulary words related to each holiday's origins, significance, beliefs, ritual objects and symbols, foods, mitzvot, and practices.

### **Shabbat, holidays, Yom HaAtzma'ut**

Students will be able to briefly describe the significance of Shabbat, each Jewish holiday, and Yom HaAtzma'ut, and name one thing they can do on each holiday. Project include darts & crafts, worksheets and coloring pages, discussions, songs, books, Hebrew *brachot* and greetings, individual and group projects

### **Select parshiot-Torah**

Students will learn core themes, values, and mitzvot (e.g. B'reishit, Noach)

### **Jewish values/mitzvot**

Charity/tzedakah, visiting the sick/bikur cholim, acts of kindness/gemilut hasadim, stewardship of the earth, ethical treatment of all living things/tzaar baalei chaim, gratitude/hakarat hatov, honoring parents/kibud av v'em, menschlich behavior/derech eretz, peace in the home/shalom bayit, compassion/rachamim, courage/ometz lev, enhancing a commandment/hiddur mitzvah, honesty/yosher, forgiveness/selicha, friendship/chaverut yosher/honesty, hospitality/hachnasat orchim,

righteousness/chesed, truthfulness/emet, uniqueness of every human being/adam yachid, avoiding waste/bal tashchit

Tzedakah is collected every Sunday; Mitzvah project planned in coordination with room parents

**Students will be able to:**

- name one mitzvah they can do
- briefly describe the meaning of tzedakah
- share two ideas about where God can be found
- say one thing about a mezuzah
- share one way we can help the hungry

**Milestone Moments**

Class Friday-night Shabbat service and dinner

March of the Stuffed Animals (BE event coinciding with *Parshat Noach*)