

Guidance Chart

Community

Classes designed to help students understand that we are part of local community and their role in the larger American and global Jewish community. (2 courses)

Culture

Classes designed to let students experience the colorful culture of Judaism. (2 courses)

God

Classes designed to give students space to openly discuss their thoughts and feelings about God. Students will learn that throughout history Jews have explored their relationship with God. (1 course)

History

Classes designed to help students develop a meaningful identification with Jews past and present through studying events, people, and their own families. (1 course)

Holidays

Classes designed to help students familiarize themselves with the rituals and traditions observed around our calendar of Jewish holidays. (3 courses)

Israel

Classes designed to help students understand the connection between the Jewish people and Israel through learning about the land, the state, and the people who live there. (1 course)

Lifecycle

Classes designed to teach students how Jews mark passages of time and season through their lives and the Jewish moments that help define them. (2 courses)

Mitzvot

Classes designed to help students practice our ethical and ritual commandments and connect them to the values they and their families hold. (3 courses)

Tanakh

Classes designed to help students learn what is in the *Tanakh* (the Hebrew Bible) and the other sacred texts from which Judaism originated. (2 courses)

Free Choice

Students who participate in the *Beit Midrash* with the goal of becoming bat or bar mitzvah will be able to complete classes in this guide with 3 courses to spare to be used as they progress when they are excited about a course or teacher and have already completed that content area. (3 courses)

Course Offerings

PRIMARY

2020-2021 Trimester One

WELCOME TO THE BEIT (COMMUNITY)

Calla Pfeifer-Campos

Take a journey through the wonderful world of Jewish stories and learn about Jewish community and what we do as young members of it. Along the way we will meet some of the fantastic people and places that make Temple Beth-El such a special place.

LET'S EXPLORE FALL HOLIDAYS (HOLIDAYS)

Carla Keegan

Do fun activities as we learn about Jewish holidays. This course will engage emerging readers and help them discover their own connections to the holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Hanukkah. Each week we explore the meaning of a holiday, its objects, and rituals, and read a retelling of the holiday origins. Perfect for students who love to read!

TORAH CRAFTS FOR LITTLE HANDS (TANAKH)

Sarah Hurdelbrink

Calling all crafters! Grab your glue sticks and googly eyes and join us to learn all of the Bible's most memorable stories. Build a popsicle stick ark for Noah and the animals, learn to weave a paper basket for Baby Moses, make beard to trick Isaac, and more. All craft supplies will be provided.

LET'S DISCOVER KINDNESS (MITZVOT)

Cindy Berman

It seems that the world needs more kindness, and now more than ever. But what is kindness, and how do we develop it in ourselves and others? Together, we explore the character traits that contribute to kindness, such as empathy, gratitude, and respect through a Jewish lens. Students will use role-playing, mindfulness activities, personal reflection, and more to explore their emotional responses to the themes and begin to foster those traits in themselves.

INTERMEDIATE

2020-2021 Trimester One

FALL HOLIDAY KITCHEN (CULTURE)

Amy Strickland

Cook with Bubbe! In this class, you'll explore the taste and smells of the Jewish holiday kitchen making Bubbe Strickland's best recipes with her. Apple cake, potato latkes, jelly donuts, matzah ball soup, and more are at your finger tips. Ingredient lists will be sent in advance so you can have everything on hand.

sTORAHTELLING THEATER (TANAKH)

Erica Schoenberg

Let the Torah come to life! Work with a real theater expert to rehearse and record a digital performance for a Torah story of the class's choice! Improve your acting and Torah knowledge at the same time.

Course Offerings

INTERMEDIATE

2020-2021 Trimester One

MINECRAFT: WHAT MAKES A JEWISH COMMUNITY? (COMMUNITY)

Cory Palmer

Calling all blockheads! Together we'll learn about the things the Talmud says a city needs to have in order for Jewish people to live there, then we'll work in teams to build those things in Minecraft. From hospitals to synagogues to bathrooms, let's learn about our community while we build a virtual one together.

BEING A MENSCH (MITZVOT)

Rachael Hodes

Jewish values are a great foundation to learn menshliket, a Yiddish expression meaning compassion for ourselves and others. In this class you'll explore Jewish values like wisdom, caring for you body, not embarrassing others, pursuit of justice, protecting the environment, working toward joy, and pursuit of knowledge, through games, discussions, and debates.

ADVANCED

2020-2021 Trimester One

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK CLUB: ALL THREE STOOGES (CULTURE)

Justin Gaston

Together we'll read and discuss All Three Stooges by Erica S. Perl, the winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature and a Sydney Taylor Book Award Honoree for older readers. Noah is a typical kid trying to get through the 7th grade and his bar mitzvah. When his friends father dies, he attempts to console him with the one thing that has always worked in the past: humor. Equal parts funny, honest, and affecting, this story, steeped in Jewish traditions and comedic history, will help us understand our own traditions and friendships. Book will be provided. Content Warning: Suicide

MY FAMILY STORY: JEWISH HISTORY IN THE MAKING (HISTORY)

Alana Kardon

We're all Jewish History makers. Learn to research your own family history to tell the story of your Jewish family today. Using an artifact you have, you'll discover your family's Jewish story and do a project to share it with the class. A great class for the whole family!

PARTNERS WITH GOD (GOD)

David Rubenstein

As Jews, we are part of a covenantal relationship with God, but what really are the promises that make up that partnership and how do we live them? As Jews we require more than just faith – our relationship with God is based on actions. Together we'll learn about the partnership between God and the Jewish people and the how and why to live that promise.

Course Offerings

PRIMARY

2020-2021 Trimester Two

SING-A-LONG JEWISH SONGS (CULTURE)

Calla Pfeifer-Campos

Sing and learn popular Jewish songs! From prayers to Hebrew letters, there's so much we can learn about our culture through music!

LET'S EXPLORE SPRING HOLIDAYS (HOLIDAYS)

Carla Keegan

Do fun activities as we learn about Jewish holidays. This course will engage emerging readers and help them discover their own connections to the holidays of *Tu Bishvat*, *Purim*, *Passover*, *Yom Haatzmaut*, and *Shavuot*. Each week we explore the meaning of a holiday, its objects, and rituals, and read a retelling of the holiday origins. Perfect for students who love to read!

SHABOOM! (MITZVOT)

Sarah Hurdelbrink

Using BimBam's animated Shaboom! Series, learn important values for Jewish people to practice. Together, we'll watch the show, think about what it means to us, and practice what we learn with fun activities and games!

BLFF: BEST LIFECYCLE FRIENDS FOREVER (LIFECYCLE)

Cindy Berman

Create a new friend and help them learn all about what it means to be Jewish. In this class you'll create your own lifecycle buddy and help it build a Jewish life. Learn all about how we get our names, why we become bar/bat mitzvah, what makes a Jewish wedding special, and how to say goodbye to people we love.

INTERMEDIATE

2020-2021 Trimester Two

HEBREW THROUGH MOVEMENT (CULTURE)

Cory Palmer

Learn beginner modern Hebrew by listening, hearing, and responding. Using strategies of Total Physical Response, learn in a positive, playful, and meaningful way, creating a link between learning, moving and doing.

MINECRAFT: WHAT MAKES A JEWISH COMMUNITY? (COMMUNITY)

Justin Gaston

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Course Offerings

INTERMEDIATE

2020-2021 Trimester Two

ISRAEL THROUGH SCIENCE (ISRAEL)

Alana Kardon

Learn about the state of Israel using the environment as a backdrop. Study rocks, weather, energy, and life science as a means to understand the physical place so important to the Jewish people. Learn with a real science educator!

MY FAMILY STORY: JEWISH HOLIDAYS IN THE MAKING (HISTORY)

Rachael Hodes

We're all Jewish History makers. Learn to research your own family history to tell the story of your Jewish family today. Using an artifact you have, you'll discover your family's Jewish story and do a project to share it with the class. A great class for the whole family!

ADVANCED

2020-2021 Trimester Two

BEST OF BUBBE'S KITCHEN (CULTURE)

Amy Strickland

Is there a Jewish recipe you've always wanted to learn to cook? Can you not get enough of the oneg goodies at Temple? Learn to make them all in Best of Bubbe's Kitchen! Each week students will vote on what to learn to make the following week. Ingredient lists will be sent in advance so you can have everything on hand.

SHAKE OFF THE SALT AND THROW THE MEAT TO THE DOG: WISDOM FROM THE TALMUD (TANAKH)

Jason Miller-Goodman

What should you do if an ox trips while it's running? There's a Jewish law for that! Explore the Talmud, Jewish legal and ethical codes, to learn some of the most hilarious folk sayings from Jewish tradition and how to apply those lessons to your life.

ROCK OF AGES: A HISTORY OF JEWS AND ROCK N' ROLL (HISTORY)

David Rubenstein

For over 100 years, Jews have had a disproportionate pattern of writing the lyrics and music to some of the greatest and most innovative songs ever recorded. This class explores the impact of Jewish musicians from Tin Pan Alley through the Protest years and today.

Course Offerings

PRIMARY

2020-2021 Trimester Three

SHABBAT IN A BOX (HOLIDAYS)

Calla Pfeifer-Campos

Learn about how Jews all over the world celebrate Shabbat while you build your own box full of the items we use to observe. Make candle sticks, a kiddush cup, and a challah cover! All materials will be provided.

GOD'S MAILBOX (GOD)

Sarah Hurdelbrink

Each week we'll talk about God's relationship with us and what it means to be God's partners through stories. Using what we learn, we'll learn to write prayers (in words or art) to God.

LET'S DISCOVER JEWISH VALUES (MITZVOT)

Carla Keegan

Each *mitzvah* is explained in terms children can easily grasp, using questions, activities, stories and poems. Students will explore *tzedakah*, visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, saving the planet, showing respect for all, welcoming guests, being careful with words, and studying Torah.

THE GREAT ISRAEL SCAVENGER HUNT (ISRAEL)

Cindy Berman

Following cryptic instructions contained in a letter from their grandfather, two cousins travel across Israel on an adventurous scavenger hunt in search of special objects and places, including the Israeli flag, a palm tree, and the Western Wall. As they travel, the cousins and students will discover the major cities and extraordinary sites of Israel, the diversity of Israel's people and cultures, our biblical and modern ties with the Jewish homeland, and the geography of Israel.

INTERMEDIATE

2020-2021 Trimester Three

BEST OF BUBBE'S KITCHEN (CULTURE)

Amy Strickland

Is there a Jewish recipe you've always wanted to learn to cook? Can you not get enough of the oneg goodies at Temple? Learn to make them all in Best of Bubbe's Kitchen! Each week students will vote on what to learn to make the following week. Ingredient lists will be sent in advance so you can have everything on hand.

MAKE, CREATE, CELEBRATE: PAINT AND DOODLE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS (HOLIDAYS)

Cory Palmer

Use the arts as a vehicle for exploring and experiencing Jewish holidays. Not an artist yet? It's all good! This class is all about self-expression and ideas. We'll learn and explore collage, micrography, water color, found object art, and zen doodling. All supplies are included.

Course Offerings

INTERMEDIATE

2020-2021 Trimester Three

PORTRAITS OF JEWISH AMERICAN HEROES (HISTORY)

Rachael Hodes

Learn about some of the most famous Jewish Americans who have helped change our country and the rest of the world. At the end of class, students will work on an independent project to teach other students about their selected hero. Meet Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, Steven Spielberg, Harry Houdini, Albert Einstein, Hank Greenberg, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Judith Resnick, and Leonard Nimoy.

BIBLICAL ZOO (TANAKH)

Alana Kardon

Take a virtual tour of the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo each week with a real science and nature educator! The zoo is home to over 270 species of animals and we'll learn about some of them together. From insects, to reptiles, to mammals, learn about the creatures of the Bible who walk the earth with us today and what we can do to protect them.

ADVANCED

2020-2021 Trimester Three

SCHMOOZING, KIBBITZING, SCHLEPING, AND KVELLING: LET'S LEARN YIDDISH (CULTURE)

David Rubenstein

English speakers use a ton of Yiddish words without even knowing it. Learn about the roots of the Yiddish language, how Jews from all over the world spoke it, how it came to America, and what people are doing to try to save it before its lost. And learn some hilarious and practical words along the way.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS (TANAKH)

Justin Gaston

From Creation to Jacob's Ladder to King David and beyond, the Tanakh and full of inspiration for artists, both contemporary and historically. Explore Art inspired by the Tanakh and create your own masterpiece based on portion of your choosing while learning that biblical interpretation is much more than text study.

JEWISH VALUES IN ACTION (MITZVOT)

Jason Miller-Goodman

Working with a group, you'll learn all about the four avenues of engagement that we can use to make changes we want to see in the world. You will choose a topic you care about and identify a difference you can make. As a group, you will get to present your solution to the Temple Social Action committee who will take YOUR advice on how to help make the world a better place.

Course Offerings

PRECONFIRMATION

GRADE 8 - GRADE 9

Rabbi Yergin

Grades 8-9 begin their Confirmation studies in our Preconfirmation Class. This combined group spends two years learning our material – one year of Reform Jewish History and a second year of Jewish Culture and Comparative Religion. The class is more of a seminar style. Students are challenged to take more difficult and nuanced topics than in years before as they prepare for the challenge of Confirmation.

HEBREW PROGRAM

GRADE 3 - GRADE 6

Goals and Curriculum:

The goals of our Hebrew curriculum are multi-faceted; the primary emphasis is on the study of the *siddur* (prayer book). We strive to balance the need to both *kevah* (the routine) and the *kavanah* (spirituality) of prayer. In order to become fluent participants in a worship service, students learn to decode Hebrew text with accuracy and fluency, gain a working Hebrew vocabulary of approximately 100 words, and develop some basic knowledge of Hebrew grammar. Students also have the opportunity to explore the concepts expressed in Jewish liturgy as they sing and chant many prayers from the evening and morning services.

To achieve these goals, we use the Mitkadem curriculum, a Hebrew program developed by the Union for Reform Judaism. As a highly adaptable program, it allows us to individualize instruction for each student. Students can progress at their own speed allowing our teachers to interact with the students in a more personal manner. Additionally, we offer a Transitional Specialist whose primary function is to work with students who need extra support before joining their grade level or who benefit from small group instruction. Placement with the transitional specialist is possible after meeting with a family and assessing their needs.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

For High School students, we offer 2 courses in addition to our Madrichim program and SAFTY

CONFIRMATION (GRADE 10)

In our Reform tradition, Confirmation is a significant lifecycle event. This ceremony marks an academic milestone in the students' process of Jewish learning and their informed affirmation of their commitments as Jews. Our Confirmation students will have the opportunity to study primarily with Rabbi Nathan and Cantor Berlin to prepare for the Confirmation Service. The Confirmation curriculum focuses on the various ways we think about God and develop a personal understanding of what a relationship with God means.

POST CONFIRMATION (GRADE 11 - GRADE 12)

Students meet once a month from 12:15-1:30. This seminar-style series allows students to use Judaism as a relevant lens through which to see the world around them. Taught by Rabbis Nathan and Yergin, Leah Apothaker, and Ross Halfant, students will discuss issues that impact their lives and join as voices for justice in the broader Jewish community.