

# TEMPLE BETH-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## COURSE OFFERINGS 2023-2024

### PRIMARY COURSES - Grades K-2

#### TRIMESTER 1

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##### LET'S EXPLORE FALL HOLIDAYS

It's all here: fun activities and descriptive text that will engage emerging readers and help them discover their own connections to the holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah and Hanukkah . Each week we'll explore the meaning of the holiday, its objects, and rituals, and read a retelling of the holiday origins. Perfect for students who love to read!

##### PUPPET PLAY

Students will explore holidays and Bible stories by making and using puppets to encourage creative play while learning.

##### SHABBAT-IN-A-BOX

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.

#### TRIMESTER 2

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##### JEWISH TIME

A unique way to introduce children to the Hebrew calendar- day and night, the seven-day week, Shabbat, months, seasons and numbers. Students will have fun learning cycles in Jewish time and some Hebrew along the way!

##### LET'S DISCOVER SHABBAT

The Torah teaches that God created the world in six days and rested on the Sabbath. Together we will discover all of the joy in celebrating Shabbat with stories, music and art.

##### TORAH CRAFTS FOR LITTLE HANDS

There are endless ways to explore the Torah, and a good starting point is through story telling and a variety of craft projects especially designed for young people.

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## TRIMESTER 3

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### ALEF BET LAB

Through song and game, free worktime and art, students will explore the letters of the Hebrew alphabet and learn to recognize touchstone Jewish words. This class encourages exploration and creativity and is highly recommended for second grade students who will begin Hebrew school next year.

### LET'S EXPLORE SPRING HOLIDAYS

It's all here: fun activities and descriptive text that will engage emerging readers and help them discover their own connections to the holidays of *Tu Bishvat*, *Purim*, *Passover*, and *Shavuot*. Each week we'll explore the meaning of the holiday, its objects, and rituals, and read a retelling of the holiday origins. Perfect for students who love to read!

### LET'S EXPLORE BEING JEWISH

Students will discover the full range of Jewish life, including What happens at a Jewish wedding? How do we dress a Torah? Why must we be kind to animals? Who are the people in the synagogue?

## INTERMEDIATE COURSES-Grades 3-5

## TRIMESTER 1

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### CONNECT ISRAEL

Explore the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of Israel with our very special guest from Israel, Shinshin\* Yael Kahanovitch.

\*Shinshin is the Hebrew acronym for Shenat Sherut, meaning year of service.

### MY JEWISH YEAR: CELEBRATING OUR HOLIDAYS

Celebrations are opportunities to purposefully create "Jewish time". Together we will examine holiday rituals, meals, songs and make great memories, great times along the way.

### TORAH: THE TREE OF LIFE

By exploring the *parsha* of the week, we establish a sense of community, and an attachment to the place of Torah within our Jewish world. As we cycle back through the same *parshiot* each year, remembering the details we've learned before and looking for new meanings and new relevance to our lives.

**Continue to next page for more**

## TRIMESTER 2

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### **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

In Judaism, blessings are recited on countless occasions, including before and after eating, during prayer and on seeing various natural phenomenon. Students will apply blessings to Jewish lifecycle events while enjoying food, art and music.

### **EXPLORER'S BIBLE**

Enter the world of Torah study in an exciting way by examining timeless tradition with an outlook and approach to personal growth and values.

### **TORAH: THE TREE OF LIFE**

By exploring the *parsha* of the week, we establish a sense of community, and an attachment to the place of *Torah* within our Jewish world. As we cycle back through the same *parshiot* each year, remembering the details we've learned before and looking for new meanings and new relevance to our lives.

## TRIMESTER 3

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### **ISRAEL THROUGH SCIENCE**

Learn and study about science and technology in Israel! Explore inventions such as Waze, Pillcam, Watergen and Ultrasat and the global need for the technologies Israel has developed.

### **PERSONAL HOLIDAYS: THE LIFECYCLE**

Just as there are ceremonies for the holidays, there are ceremonies for personal events: birth, B'nai Mitzvah, marriage, healing and death. They make us aware that we are part of a community and a history and provide us a way to bring God into our lives.

### **TORAH: THE TREE OF LIFE**

By exploring the *parsha* of the week, we establish a sense of community, and an attachment to the place of *Torah* within our Jewish world. As we cycle back through the same *parshiot* each year, remembering the details we've learned before and looking for new meanings and new relevance to our lives.

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# ADVANCED COURSES - Grades 6-7

## TRIMESTER 1

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### THE GREATEST JOURNEY

Living a Jewish life is like traveling on a path. In this course, we will explore lifecycle events and the treasures our ancestors collected from which we can learn and pass on.

### JUSTICE LEAGUE

Students will explore the great prophets of Israel and seek to find personal meaning in their words and accounts. Each lesson will deepen understandings of the prophets and how their words continue to inspire us to build a better world.

### SHEMA IS FOR REAL

While it's important to learn prayers, in this course we offer students a chance to explore the meaning and theme of individual prayers, emphasize the way prayers fit together to form services, and rehearse and practice the elements of a service.

## TRIMESTER 2

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### ART AND JUDAISM: FROM ANTIQUITY TO CONTEMPORARY

Jewish Art is any cultural production that includes Jewish subject matter drawn from sacred texts, Jewish social life and history. Students will explore a survey of Jewish art from antiquity to contemporary.

### PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: BOOK CLUB

*Turtle Boy*, by M. Evan Wolkenstein

Seventh grade is not going well for Will Levine. Kids at school bully him because of his funny-looking chin. And for his bar mitzvah community service project, he's forced to go to the hospital to visit RJ, an older boy struggling with an incurable disease. As Will tackles the bucket list on his new friend's behalf, Will learns that life is too short to live in a shell. Turtle Boy is about friendship, the ones we don't see, the ones we should treasure and the ones that will change us forever.

### THE SEVEN SPECIES

Wheat, barley, grape, fig, pomegranate, olive, and date. The Bible mentions these seven species of food as the indigenous foods of the Land of Israel. Discover the background information about these foods, highlight their role in Judaism texts and history and prepare creative recipes.

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## EXPLORING MIDRASHIM

Historically, rabbis wrote *midrash* to explain parts of the biblical text that aren't clear. If there seemed to be a missing piece to a story, the rabbis would fill in the missing dialogue. In this course, students will explore biblical text and write their own *midrash*.

## ISRAELI SPORTS

Learn about the State of Israel -- its cities, its culture, and its politics, through the lens of sports. Each week, students will learn about a different sport and way Israelis interact with it, from *Matkot*, a casual beach game with no set rules, to professional and internationally competitive leagues like Premier Soccer League.

## SCHMOOZING, KIBBITZING, SCHLEPPING, AND K'VELLING: LET'S LEARN YINGLISH

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 it's lost. And learn some hilarious and practical words along the way.