

TEMPLE BETH-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS GUIDE

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.

CULTURE

Classes designed to let students experience the colorful culture of Judaism.

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.

HISTORY

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

HOLIDAYS

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

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.

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.

VALUES

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

TEMPLE BETH-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

COURSE OFFERINGS 2024-2025

PRIMARY COURSES

TRIMESTER 1

IT'S A MITZVAH!

VALUES

Mitzvot are everywhere! Together, we will explore the sort of things that help people animals and the world.

MENSCH MOMENTS

GOD/HOLIDAYS/VALUES

What is a mensch and how are good choices an important Jewish value? With a focus on Jewish holidays and values, students will discover how God gives direction on how to lead a meaningful and joyful life through mitzvot.

JEWISH HOLIDAY CRAFTS

HOLIDAYS

Students will have fun engaging in a variety of craft projects as they read and explore Jewish holidays.

SHABBAT SHALOM!

HOLIDAYS

Playful activities introduce children to key Shabbat vocabulary and concepts including blessings for candle lighting, wine, and bread.

TRIMESTER 2

HAKARAT HATOV: NOTICE THE GOOD STUFF!

COMMUNITY/VALUES

When you stop and look around, you'll notice amazing things all the time! Through games, stories, and activities we will stop and notice them with an attitude of gratitude.

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TRIMESTER 2 - PRIMARY COURSES (CONT.)

JEWISH BEGINNINGS

COMMUNITY/LIFE CYCLE/HOLIDAYS/GOD

As we examine special ceremonies and celebrations that mark Jewish life, we will learn more about prayer, acts of kindness and gratitude, and what it means to be a member of a community.

LET'S DISCOVER ISRAEL

ISRAEL

Children will explore the land, state, people and culture of Israel through art, stories, music, food, and hands-on-activities.

SHARING JUDAISM

CULTURE/HOLIDAYS/VALUES/GOD

Discover joyful ways to celebrate and share Jewish traditions and the things we like about being Jewish!

TRIMESTER 3

ALEF BET LAB

CULTURE

Through songs and games, 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.

ME, MY COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD

GOD/VALUES/COMMUNITY/LIFE CYCLE/ISRAEL

Children will explore their connection to community and the world as they are introduced to the values and actions that make Jewish life and rituals special!

THE JEWISH HOME

GOD/CULTURE/HOLIDAYS/VALUES

Discover through books, music, art, customs, and food the many things that make a home Jewish.

MY LAND OF ISRAEL

ISRAEL

After filling in their passports, we will explore Jerusalem, shop in the shuk, climb Masada, inspect cargo in Haifa's port, plant a tree in a JNF forest, and much more!

INTERMEDIATE COURSES

TRIMESTER 1

BIBLE PEOPLE: GENESIS

TORAH/GOD/VALUES

With humor, and the use of cartoons, explore the biblical characters of Genesis and the conflicts faced by our biblical ancestors.

WELCOME TO ISRAEL

ISRAEL

With a sense of wonder and humor, explore the miracle of the Jewish state.

B'TZELEM ELOHIM

GOD

This class explores the Jewish concept of being made in the image of God and the value of celebrating the qualities that make each person unique.

TRIMESTER 2

JEWISH JOURNEYS

VALUES

Students will be taken on a journey through the lens of eight important Jewish values and apply them to their lives.

BIBLE PEOPLE: EXODUS TO DEUTERONOMY

TORAH/GOD/VALUES

Cartoon stories illuminate with humor and substance the biblical characters of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, and the conflicts faced by our biblical ancestors.

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: BOOK CLUB

CULTURE/HISTORY

Set in the shadows of the Spanish Inquisition, *José and the Pirate Captain Toledano* is the coming-of-age story of José Alfaro, a young refugee who forms a powerful bond with the mysterious Pirate Captain Toledano. Written by Arnon Z. Shorr.

TRIMESTER 3

BIBLE PEOPLE: PROPHETS AND WRITINGS

TORAH/GOD/VALUES

Students explore themes of leadership, friendship, and the fairness of God's actions

RIGHT SIDE UP: ADVENTURES IN CHELM

CULTURE

Enjoy the best-known folktale traditions of the Jews of eastern Europe as we explore the collected tales of the fools, or "wise men" of Chelm.

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TRIMESTER 3

(CON'T)

SOMETHING DIVINE IN YOU

GOD/TORAH/VALUES

Using stories, students will explore biblical characters that show moral courage, forgiveness, and empathy.

ADVANCED COURSES

TRIMESTER 1

MAH LA'ASOT: WHAT SHOULD I DO?

COMMUNITY/VALUES

Using a series of ethical puzzles, students are introduced to decision making scenarios and Jewish law.

MIN HA'ARETZ

CULTURE, VALUES

Every food choice we make has an impact not only on our bodies, but also on our family, friends, and communities. Examine texts and engage in activities that foster discussions of the ways Jewish values can help us make choices

HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN AMERICA, 1492-1880

CULTURE/VALUES/GOD/HISTORY

Learn how Jews brought religion, traditions, languages, culture, and ideas to a new land.

TRIMESTER 2

PIRKEI AVOT

COMMUNITY/VALUES/BIBLE

Discover our Jewish traditions by exploring biblical, Talmudic, and Midrashic texts to discover character traits that define us as individuals, ways we can interact positively with others, and what are our responsibilities to improve the world.

JEWS WHO ROCK

CULTURE

Learn about Jewish rock stars who have made an incredible impact on music and represent Judaism in many different forms.

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CULTURE/VALUES/GOD/HISTORY

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TRIMESTER 3

WHY BE DIFFERENT?

CULTURE/VALUES

Being Jewish can mean being different from other people. Sometimes it requires upholding values different than those taken for granted in our secular society. In this course, we will look deeper into the beliefs of Judaism and the application to everyday life.

HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN AMERICA, 1492-1880

CULTURE, VALUES, GOD, HISTORY

Learn how Jews brought religion, traditions, languages, culture, and ideas to a new land.

sTORAHtelling Theater

GOD/BIBLE

The Torah has a ton of awesome stories, but they are sometimes hard to understand until you put them in simple words. By changing the language of the Torah stories, we'll make them come alive for an audience.