

**Ohavi Zedek Synagogue
Hebrew School
Curriculum Overview
2009-2010
5770**



Revised Sept. 2009

Tikvah 2020 Vision Ideas-Lifelong Learning (2009/5769)

The members of the Life Long Learning Task Force embrace the following principles in our vision for our Hebrew School, Youth and Adult Education programs at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue:

1. We seek to help our Hebrew School students and their families to develop love for and commitment to life-long Jewish practice and communal identification, and to expand these efforts to include the congregation at large.
2. We seek to strengthen the links between formal (Hebrew School, Chai School) and informal (youth groups, camping) Jewish education in the lives of our young people.
3. We seek to create and foster an educational environment that promotes joy in learning and that meets each person “*ba’asher hu sham*” / “where (s)he is.” (Gen. 21: 17)
4. We seek to prepare our Hebrew School students and their families to become competent and confident with Jewish life and observance in the home, school, synagogue, local community, and in the world.
5. We affirm a commitment to Judaism’s three-fold foundation of *torah*, *avodah* and *gemilut chasadim* (study, worship, and acts of loving kindness) (Pirke Avot 1:2) as essential to a Jewish education.
6. We affirm that all Jews are connected to one another spiritually wherever they may be physically. We affirm the principle: “*Kol Yisrael arevin zeh lazeh*” / “All of Israel is responsible for one another.” (Jerusalem Talmud, Shavuot 39)
7. We seek to instill in our students a commitment to Israel as central to our identity as Jews.
8. We seek to keep Judaism relevant and meaningful in today’s world, and to develop opportunities for all of us to be engaged in *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world).
9. We seek to promote intergenerational connections within our congregation in our educational programs.

CURRICULUM GOALS FOR GAN/KINDERGARTEN CLASS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

- Kitah Gan aims to provide a fun, comfortable and welcoming experience which helps students to become more connected with their Jewish identity and heritage. In keeping with the notion that young children thrive on consistency, sessions are structured so that schedule/routine each session remains relatively constant, while specific themes for that day's discussions, activities, projects, etc. vary during the course of the year. Connections are threaded among the weekly Torah portions, holidays, or community events and the experiences the students are likely to have had in their own lives.
- Gan students are presented with a miniature Torah and formally "consecrated" to Jewish study at *Simchat Torah* children's services in the fall. (Consecration date for 2009: Saturday evening 10/10/09)
- Gan students (in conjunction with Kitah Aleph and Kitah Bet [grades 1 and 2] students) help to lead one of the family Shabbat services each year. (Gan/Aleph/Bet family Shabbat date for 2009-10: Friday evening 4/30/10 – in conjunction with OZ's monthly "folk" service.)

JUDAICA GOALS:

- Families present weekly Torah portion highlights during "Torah Time".
- Weekly age-appropriate music sessions are led by Rabbi Joshua.
- Each session includes storytelling time, sometimes in conjunction with visits to the Ohavi Zedek library.
- Students learn about Jewish holidays through stories, observances, customs and appropriate blessings and prayers.
- Arts and craft projects related to specific holidays and Jewish concepts. Activities and projects in recent years have included:
 - Making *Tzedaka* boxes
 - Making a story board of the days of creation
 - Making a recycle bin for our classroom
 - Making *Sukkah* decorations.
 - Taking up the *lulav* and *etrog* in the *Sukkah* on *Sukkot*
 - Making *Chanukiyot* (menorahs)
 - Making and playing with dreidels (*sevivonim*)
 - Jewish Bingo
 - Planting seeds on Tu B'Shevat
 - Making Groggers (*ra'ashanim*) for *Purim*
 - Drawing pictures to describe and illustrate their definition of God and what God means to them.
 - Making *mezuzot*
 - Making *Seder* plates for Passover (*Pesach*)
 - Making *Haggadot* for Passover
 - Participating in an in-class model Passover seder
 - Drawing life size murals of their Jewish self.

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

- To understand that there is a distinction between Hebrew letters and English letters through fun activities like “Aleph-Bet Yoga” and singing songs about the letters of the aleph-bet.
- To begin to learn the letters of the Hebrew alphabet and the sounds they make through games, music and crafts.
- To introduce Hebrew vocabulary through playing games.

TEFILLAH/PRAYER GOALS:

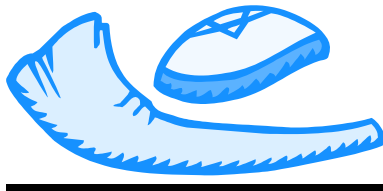
- Shabbat table blessings (candles, bread, wine/grape juice [up to *borey pri hagafen*]);
- First line of the “*Shema*,”
- Food blessings in general.
- First line of the “Four Questions” (“*Ma nishtanah...*”)

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS/PAMPHLET SERIES USED IN GAN FOR 5770/ 2009-10:

- *Let’s Discover the Alef Bet* (Behrman House)
- *Look at Me I Can Learn and Do in the Synagogue* (Behrman House)
- *Look at Me I Can Do a Mitzvah* (Behrman House)
- *Look at Me I can Celebrate Chanukah* (Behrman House)
- *Look at Me I can Celebrate Shabbat* (Behrman House)

OTHER SOURCES OF CLASS ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- *Jewish Every Day: The Complete Handbook for Early Childhood Teachers* (Behrman House/ARE)
- *What’s Jewish About Butterflies?* (Behrman House/ARE)
- *Aleph-Bet Yoga: Embodying the Hebrew Letters for Physical and Spiritual Well-Being* (Jewish Lights)



CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KITAH ALEPH/ GRADE 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

- The goal of Kitah Aleph (grade 1) is to continue to build a foundation for Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance and in the joy of Shabbat and holidays, through hands-on experiences and through songs, games, artwork, and crafts. We join the entire school in celebrating the holidays such as: performing the mitzvah of *leyshev basukkah*/visiting a sukkah and *netilat lulav*/waving the lulav, the fun of *Chanukah*, *Tu B’Shevat* seder, and more. We hope to help each child find a source of significance and enrichment in Jewish living through Jewish values such as the practice of *Tzedakah* and *Mitzvot*, and a love for Israel. In keeping with the notion that young children thrive on consistency, sessions are structured so that schedule/routine each session remains relatively constant, while specific themes for that day’s discussions, activities, projects, etc. vary during the

course of the year. Connections are threaded among the weekly Torah portions, holidays, or community events and the experiences the students are likely to have had in their own lives.

- Kitah Aleph students who were not previously “consecrated” to Jewish study as Gan students are presented with a miniature Torah at *Simchat Torah* children’s services in the fall. (Consecration date for 2009: Saturday evening 10/10/09)
- Kitah Aleph students (in conjunction with Gan and Kitah Bet [kindergarten and grade 2] students) help to lead one of the family Shabbat services each year. (Gan/Aleph/Bet family Shabbat date for 2009-10: Friday evening 4/30/10 – in conjunction with OZ’s monthly “folk” service.)

JUDAICA GOALS:

- Families present weekly Torah portion highlights during “Torah Time”.
- Weekly age-appropriate music sessions are led by Rabbi Joshua.
- Each session includes storytelling time, sometimes in conjunction with visits to the Ohavi Zedek library.
- Students learn about Jewish holidays through stories, observances, customs and appropriate blessings and prayers.
- Arts and craft projects related to specific holidays and Jewish concepts.

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

- To learn all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet and to begin to learn vowel signs (including learning block printing of Hebrew letters)
- To be exposed to spoken Hebrew in classroom activities.
- To begin learning modern Hebrew words and phrases.
- To introduce Hebrew vocabulary through playing games.
- To be able to read and write one’s own Hebrew name.

TEFILLAH/PRAYER GOALS:

To review, or to learn for the first time:

- Shabbat table blessings (candles, bread, wine/grape juice [up to borey pri hagafen])
- the first line of the “Shema,”
- the first line (“Ma nishtanah...”) and the first two of the “Four Questions.”
- the blessing for sitting in a sukkah,
- the Chanukah candle blessings

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS/PAMPHLET SERIES USED IN KITAH ALEPH FOR 5770/2009-10:

- *Let’s Explore Being Jewish* (Behrman House)
 - Pamphlets in this series, which include both classroom activities and suggestions for family follow-up at home, include:
 - Mitzvot
 - The Bible
 - Israel: People and Places
 - Israel: A City Tour
 - The Synagogue
 - Jewish Symbols
 - The Life Cycle.

- *Journeys Through the Alef-Bet: A Hebrew Pre-Primer* (Torah Aura). Here is a description of the goals of this Hebrew primer from the introduction to its *Teacher's Guide*:
 - Students will develop a familiarity with vocabulary presented in each chapter [*Note from Rabbi David: The vocabulary includes both religious and secular Hebrew terms, including many words connected with Jewish holiday celebrations and, Biblical characters. The book also includes color photos and color cartoons of modern Israel, including Hebrew street and storefront signs – as well as color photos of Jewish life in contemporary North America, thus introducing cultural concepts along with learning the Hebrew letters and vowels.*]
 - Students will be able to state each Hebrew letter's name and pronounce its sound. At the end of the year most students should retain the name and sound of most of the letters they have studied. Constant review will enable this objective.
 - Students will be able to discriminate the letter being taught from other letters studied in previous chapters.
 - Students will be able to sound letter/vowel or letter/vowel/letter combinations utilizing previously learned vowels and letters.

Letter recognition, vowel recognition and sounding are the goals of this curriculum, not reading mastery.



CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KITAH BET/ GRADE 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

- As in younger grades, in Kitah Bet we continue to build a foundation for Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance and in the joy of Shabbat and holidays, through hands-on experiences and through songs, games, artwork, and crafts. We join the entire school in celebrating the holidays such as: performing the mitzvah of *leyshev basukkah*/visiting a sukkah and *netilat lulav*/

waving the lulav, the fun of *Chanukah*, *Tu B'Shevat* seder, and more. We hope to help each child find a source of significance and enrichment in Jewish living through Jewish values such as the practice of *Tzedakah* and *Mitzvot*, and a love for Israel. In keeping with the notion that young children thrive on consistency, sessions are structured so that schedule/routine each session remains relatively constant, while specific themes for that day's discussions, activities, projects, etc. vary during the course of the year. Connections are threaded among the weekly Torah portions, holidays, or community events and the experiences the students are likely to have had in their own lives.

- Kitah Bet students (in conjunction with Gan and Kitah Aleph [kindergarten and grade 1] students) help to lead one of the family Shabbat services each year. (Gan/Aleph/Bet family Shabbat date for 2009-10: Friday evening 4/30/10 – in conjunction with OZ's monthly "folk" service.)

JUDAICA GOALS:

- Families present weekly Torah portion highlights during "Torah Time".
- Weekly age-appropriate music sessions are led by Rabbi Joshua.
- Each session includes storytelling time, sometimes in conjunction with visits to the Ohavi Zedek library.
- Students learn about Jewish holidays through stories, observances, customs and appropriate blessings and prayers.
- Arts and craft projects related to specific holidays and Jewish concepts.
- Study of various mitzvot and of qualities associated with God. Opportunities to talk about own understandings of God

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

We use the series *Sarah, David and You Read Hebrew* from Sarah and David Interactive www.sarahdavid.com. The authors, mother and daughter team Diana and Lily Jacobi, describe the key features employed in this series as follows:

- **What makes the Sarah and David system different?**
The Sarah and David system brings a problem-solving approach to the teaching of Hebrew reading. The design of the materials, the teaching techniques, and the learning strategies were developed to address common reading difficulties [...]
- **Distinguishing features include:**
 - English language associations and alliteration to teach the letters (The Aleph Bet Story);
 - A CD which tells the story. Each letter is a track.
 - Big print
 - Black and white pages
 - Limited number of reading lines on a page
 - A specified goal for each page (reading, writing [learning script], speaking, activity)
 - Teaching of syllables (count the beats)
 - Shva taught in two parts (its role at the beginning and in the middle of the word)
 - Drills and repetition
 - Picture words that teach vocabulary

- Learning spread out over five books. By the time students reach the end of Book Five, their understanding of Hebrew reading goes well beyond phonetics to include a checklist of skills that they will continue to apply to any text on an ongoing basis. The five books also create benchmarks for the student, the teacher, and the parents. Students are excited to reach the end of a book and motivated to move on to the next one. Certificates of Completion help mark the big occasion.

[Note: Students entering Hebrew School later than grade 2 will probably need extra tutorial assistance in order to be caught up with their age peers.]

TEFILLAH/PRAAYER GOALS:

To review, or to learn for the first time:

- Shabbat table blessings (candles, bread, wine/grape juice [up to borey pri hagafen])
- the first line of the “Shema,”
- the first line (“Ma nishtanah...”) and the first two of the “Four Questions.”
- the blessing for sitting in a sukkah,
- the Chanukah candle blessings
- From the siddur: “Hiney Mah Tov”, “Barchu”, “Mi Chamocha”, “Oseh shalom.”

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS/PAMPHLET SERIES USED IN KITAH BET FOR 5770/ 2009-10:

- *Sarah, David and You Read Hebrew* series plus supplementary materials
- *Let's Discover God* (Behrman House) [pamphlet series]
- *God's Paintbrush* by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Jewish Lights)
- *God's Paintbrush Celebration Kit* series (the "Celebration Kit" comes with a set of pamphlets for five sessions. The sessions are: 1. What is God Like? 2. Seeing 3. Hearing & Speaking 4. Touching 5. Doing.). Each activity uses a passage from the book *God's Paintbrush* as a starting point for class activities.





CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KITAH GIMMEL/ GRADE 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

- As in younger grades, in Kitah Gimmel we continue to build a foundation for Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance and in the joy of Shabbat and holidays, through hands-on experiences and through songs, games, artwork, and crafts. We join the entire school in celebrating the holidays such as: performing the mitzvah of *leyshev basukkah*/visiting a sukkah and *netilat lulav*/waving the lulav, the fun of *Chanukah*, *Tu B'Shevat* seder, and more. We hope to help each child find a source of significance and enrichment in Jewish living through Jewish values such as the practice of *Tzedakah* and *Mitzvot*, and a love for Israel.
- Particular emphasis in Kitah Gimmel is placed on beginning to learn Hebrew as a meaningful language, with an emphasis on modern Hebrew but with inclusion of vocabulary related to holiday observances.
- Students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey and Vav (Grades 3 through 6) participate in *Shiurei Bechirah* (Elective Classes) for part of the Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School sessions for several weeks during each semester. Electives vary each semester but in recent semesters have included such offerings as: klezmer band, cooking, gardening, Yoga, art, photography, theatre, creative writing, yearbook, mah jongg – all with Jewish themes.
- Kitah Gimmel students help to lead one of the family Shabbat services each year. (Tentative date for Kitah Gimmel family Shabbat date for 2009-10: Friday evening 3/5/10)

JUDAICA GOALS:

- Families present weekly Torah portion highlights during “Torah Time.”
- Tefillah/Junior Congregation on Sundays (Shacharit/morning prayers) and Wednesdays (mincha/ma’ariv – afternoon/evening prayers) with Rabbi David, joined by students in grades 4 through 7. Such gatherings also include time for sharing news and seasonal songs (especially in weeks leading up to holidays such as Chanukah, Purim, Passover and Yom Ha’atzma’ut) . Students from Kitot Gimmel and Dalet will sometimes be paired up with “tefillah buddies” in Kitot Vav and Zayin to help them better follow and participate in prayer services.

- Participation in selected portions of Saturday morning main congregational service when Hebrew School meets on Saturday (this year: 11/14, 12/5, 1/9, 3/13, 5/8).
- Students learn about Jewish holidays through stories, observances, customs and appropriate blessings and prayers.
- Continued reflection and development of personal approaches to God and holiness with introduction of a Jewish vocabulary for doing so.
- Arts and craft projects related to specific holidays and Jewish concepts.
- Introduction to basic principles of *kashrut* (dietary laws)
- Participation in multi-age (grades 3 through 6) elective classes during Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School during a portion of each semester. (At least one of the elective choices each semester will be presented courtesy of the “Israel Connections” program of the Israel Center of Vermont www.icvt.org)

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

- Initial review of Hebrew letters, vowels and decoding. Learning to (or reviewing existing knowledge of how to) write Hebrew letters in both block print and script.
- Begin formal study of modern Hebrew with special emphasis on vocabulary and reading passages connected with Jewish holidays and home life.

TEFILLAH/PRAYER GOALS:

Note: The following goals are integrated into the Modern Hebrew curriculum for Shalom Ivrit book 1 with a concern for understanding as well as recitation skills:

- *Modeh/ah Ani*
- Basic blessings of enjoyment (*Birchot Nehenin*)
- *Barchu*
- Holiday blessings for *Sukkot*, *Chanukah*, *Purim* and *Pesach* (including the Four Questions)
- *Shema/V'ahavta*
- *Mi Chamocha*
- *V'shamru*

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS USED IN KITAH GIMMEL FOR 5770/ 2009-10:

- *Shalom Uvracha Primer Express* (Behrman House)
- *Shalom Ivrit book 1* (Behrman House)
- *Shalom Ivrit book 1 Prayer Companion* (Behrman House)
- *Partners with God* (Behrman House)
- Selected readers from the *Tal Am* Hebrew series (Jewish Education Center of Montreal)

CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KITAH DALET/ GRADE 4

Note: Because of the size of this year's Kitah Dalet class, the grade is divided into two sections. The curriculum goals are the same in each class, with the exception that Section A will be working initially with Welcome to Modern Hebrew Book 1 while Section B starts off with Welcome to Modern Hebrew Book 2, given the different levels of coverage in that series between last year's two Kitah Gimmel sections. We can also expect that the two sections will sometimes vary in their specific classroom activities and approaches. The two sections will join together each week for Torah Time/Snack and may also join together from time to time for other activities. Our expectation is that when these students progress to Kitah Hey in 2010-11, they will be combined into one large class (as had been the case for this cohort of students in grades Gan through Kitah Bet) staffed with extra teachers, as a way to strengthen ties among the group.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

- As in younger grades, in Kitah Dalet we continue to build a foundation for Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance and in the joy of Shabbat and holidays, through hands-on experiences and through songs, games, artwork, and crafts. We join the entire school in celebrating the holidays such as: performing the mitzvah of *leyshev basukkah*/visiting a sukkah and *netilat lulav*/waving the lulav, the fun of *Chanukah*, *Tu B'Shevat* seder, and more.
- Particular emphasis in Kitah Dalet is placed on developing a relationship with secular Hebrew culture and society, including an appreciation of Israeli geography and daily life.
- Students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey and Vav (Grades 3 through 6) participate in *Shiurei Bechirah* (Elective Classes) for part of the Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School sessions for several weeks during each semester. Electives vary each semester but in recent semesters have included such offerings as: klezmer band, cooking, gardening, Yoga, art, photography, theatre, creative writing, yearbook, mah jongg – all with Jewish themes.
- Kitah Dalet students help to lead one of the family Shabbat services each year. (Kitah Dalet family Shabbat date for 2009-10: Friday evening 11/13/09)

JUDAICA GOALS:

- Families present weekly Torah portion highlights during "Torah Time."
- Tefillah/Junior Congregation on Sundays (Shacharit/morning prayers) and Wednesdays (mincha/ma'ariv – afternoon/evening prayers) with Rabbi David, joined by other students from grades 3 through 7. Such gatherings also include time for sharing news and seasonal songs (especially in weeks leading up to holidays such as Chanukah, Purim, Passover and Yom Ha'atzma'ut) Students from Kitot Gimmel and Dalet will sometimes be paired up with "tefillah buddies" in Kitot Vav and Zayin to help them better follow and participate in prayer services.

- Participation in selected portions of Saturday morning main congregational service when Hebrew School meets on Saturday (this year: 11/14, 12/5, 1/9, 3/13, 5/8)
- Discussions of ethical and philosophical questions arising from study of Torah stories.
- Arts and craft projects related to specific holidays and Jewish concepts, including art projects inspired by the geography and secular culture of contemporary Israel.
- Coordination with OZ library for use in student research projects.
- Participation in multi-age (grades 3 through 6) elective classes during Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School during a portion of each semester. (At least one of the elective choices each semester will be presented courtesy of the “Israel Connections” program of the Israel Center of Vermont www.icvt.org)

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

- Initial review of Hebrew letters, vowels (*nekudot*) and decoding.
- Continue formal study of modern Hebrew with special emphasis on vocabulary and reading passages connected with Jewish holidays and home life.
- Use of computer-based modern Hebrew enrichment materials from Israel.
- Mid-week classes begin with ten minutes of Hebrew conversation

TEFILLAH/PRAYER GOALS:

- Tefillot covered in Kitah Gimmel curriculum plus *Birchot Hashachar* (morning blessings)
- Increased comfort and facility with basic synagogue prayers included in Hebrew School services.

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS USED IN KITAH DALET FOR 5770/ 2009-10:

- *Getting Up to Speed After the Summer Hebrew Review Book 1* (Tora Aura)
- *Shalom Ivrit: Welcome to Modern Hebrew*, vol.1 (Behrman House)
- *Prayer Companion to Shalom Ivrit 1* (Behrman House)
- *Shalom Ivrit: Welcome to Modern Hebrew*, vol. 2 (Behrman House)
- *Prayer Companion to Shalom Ivrit 2* (Behrman House)
- *Hebrew Reading Adventure* (Torah Aura)
- *Journeys Through the Siddur, Shabbat Morning* (Torah Aura)
- *Yesh Lanu Lama*, vol. 1 (Behrman House)
- *Yesh Li Sod v'Od: Ani Korey* (Matach)
- *Ulpan Alef* by Carol Levy and Elda Dagan (Behrman House)
- Selected readers from the *Tal Am* Hebrew series (Jewish Education Center of Montreal)
- *Artzeinu: An Israel Encounter* (Torah Aura)



CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KITAH HEY/GRADE 5

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

- The goal of Kitah Hey (Grade 5) is to make Judaism increasingly relevant to student's daily lives. We strengthen and increase their Hebrew vocabulary and teach our collective history, from ancient to modern American Jewry. The Shabbat service is a major focus, particularly the Shabbat Amidah. The year also includes an extended unit on Kashrut (the Jewish dietary laws) plus study of the Jewish life cycle.
- Students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey and Vav (Grades 3 through 6) participate in *Shiurei Bechirah* (Elective Classes) for part of the Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School sessions for several weeks during each semester. Electives vary each semester but in recent semesters have included such offerings as: klezmer band, cooking, gardening, Yoga, art, photography, theatre, creative writing, yearbook, mah jongg – all with Jewish themes.
- Kitah Hey students (in conjunction with Kitah Dalet/Grade 4 students) help to lead one of the family Shabbat services each year. (Dalet/Hey family Shabbat date for 2008-09: Friday evening 1/29/10 -- which will also include a Tu B'Shevat Seder Dinner).

JUDAICA GOALS:

- Students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey, Vav and Zayin (Grades 3 through 7) participate in Wednesday afternoon tefillah/shirah and Sunday morning junior congregation with Rabbi David. This is a time not only for developing comfort and familiarity with Jewish songs and prayers, but also for strengthening community ties among the students and their teachers. Parents are always invited to join in.
- During Shabbat Shul days (this year: 11/14, 12/5, 1/9, 3/13, 5/8), these grades attend part of the main Ohavi Zedek Shabbat morning service, sometimes leading parts of the service alongside Rabbis Joshua and David.
- Study of key Torah stories including. Special emphasis on the Book of Exodus, using modern curriculum that emphasizes roles of women in the Exodus stories.
- Study of highlights of Jewish history (post-biblical through early 20th century)
- Study of Jewish life cycle
- Study of kashrut, including class research project and field trip to a supermarket to search for kosher certification markings (heckshers).

- Celebration of holidays throughout the year.
- Coordination with OZ library for use in student research projects.
- Participation in multi-age (grades 3 through 6) elective classes during Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School during a portion of each semester. (At least one of the elective choices each semester will be presented courtesy of the “Israel Connections” program of the Israel Center of Vermont www.icvt.org)

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

Initial review of Hebrew letters, vowels and decoding. Continue to develop reading competency, including understanding of Hebrew sentence structure and grammatical gender in the present tense, learning numbers and expressions of possession. Special emphasis on vocabulary and reading passages connected with Jewish values. Use of co-teachers and/or madrichim (teaching assistants) in kitah hey enables students of varying levels of Hebrew knowledge to work at their own pace.

TEFILLAH/PRAAYER GOALS:

- Focus on the *Amidah* (central “Standing” prayer) of the Shabbat evening and Shabbat morning service. (in addition to review of prayers and blessings covered in earlier grades).

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS USED IN KITAH HEY FOR 5770/ 2009-10:

- *Back to School: Hebrew Reading Refresher* (Behrman House) and
- *Shalom Ivrit: Welcome to Modern Hebrew*, vol. 2 (Behrman House)
- *Prayer Companion to Shalom Ivrit 2* (Behrman House)
- *New Explorations in Shemot/Exodus* by Rabbi Toba Spitzer (Reconstructionist Press)
- *History of the Jewish People, Vol. 1: Ancient Israel to 1880’s America* by Jonathan D. Sarna and Jonathan B. Krasner (Behrman House)
- *The Life Cycle Journey: A Workbook for Jewish Students* by Risa Towbin Aqua and Hal Aqua (Behrman House)



CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KITAH VAV /GRADE 6

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

- The goal of Kitah Vav (Grade 6) is to help students to begin the journey towards Jewish maturity. The curriculum affords them opportunities to develop the intellectual and spiritual resources for connecting with the three main components of Jewish identity: God (theology and spirituality), Torah (our literary and ethical heritage as Jews) and Israel (connection to the Jewish people and our ancestral homeland). Hebrew language study includes both modern conversational and classical liturgical forms of the language. Particular emphasis is placed on Shabbat morning prayers and on *Havdalah* (the ceremony that ends Shabbat on Saturday evening). Study of significant Torah stories is augmented by introduction to the history and process of midrash. Students learn trop (traditional cantillation modes for Haftarah and Torah) in preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah studies that they will pursue the following year in Kitah Zayin (Grade 7). Kitah Vav also includes a special focus on the development of Zionism from the 19th century to the early years of the State of Israel, including student reenactments of the Dreyfus trial and the sixth Zionist Congress.
- Students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey and Vav (Grades 3 through 6) participate in *Shiurei Bechirah* (Elective Classes) for part of the Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School sessions for several weeks during each semester. Electives vary each semester but in recent semesters have included such offerings as: klezmer band, cooking, gardening, Yoga, art, photography, theatre, creative writing, yearbook, mah jongg – all with Jewish themes.
- Vav students help to lead one of our community havdallah services at the Burlington Community Boathouse and one of the family Shabbat evening services at OZ each year. (Tentative date for Vav havdallah date for 2009-10: Saturday evening 11/7/09; Tentative date for Vav family Shabbat service Friday evening 12/11/09).

JUDAICA GOALS:

- Students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey, Vav and Zayin (Grades 3 through 7) participate in Wednesday afternoon tefillah/shirah and Sunday morning junior congregation with Rabbi David. This is a time not only for developing comfort and familiarity with Jewish songs and prayers, but also for strengthening community ties among the students and their teachers. Parents are always invited to join in. Students from Kitot Gimmel and Dalet will sometimes be paired up with “tefillah buddies” in Kitot Vav and Zayin to help them better follow and participate in prayer services
- During Shabbat Shul days (this year: 11/14, 12/5, 1/9, 3/13, 5/8), these grades attend part of the main Ohavi Zedek Shabbat morning service, sometimes leading parts of the service alongside Rabbis Joshua and David.
- Study of key stories from throughout the five books of the Torah. Special emphasis on creative projects such as art midrash, original dramatic re-enactments, and philosophical debates arising from issues raised in Torah.
- Discussion of Jewish current events

- Study of the development of modern Zionism from 19th century Europe through the early years of the State of Israel.
- Coordination with OZ library for use in student research projects.
- Participation in multi-age (grades 3 through 6) elective classes during Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School during a portion of each semester. (At least one of the elective choices each semester will be presented courtesy of the “Israel Connections” program of the Israel Center of Vermont www.icvt.org)

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

Thorough review of basic Hebrew grammar and structure. While reading practice in this grade focuses more on biblical and rabbinic Hebrew rather than on modern Hebrew, skills acquired are applicable to all forms of the language. Kitah Vav students periodically work with Kitah Gimmel and Kitah Dalet (grades 3 and 4) students as “reading buddies” thus forging supportive connections across grades, and also helping the older students to gain confidence in their own growing Hebrew abilities.

TEFILLAH/PRAYER GOALS:

- Fall term focuses on specific Friday evening prayers (*Lecha Dodi, Yigdal, Kiddush*) and Saturday evening *Havdalah* blessings.
- Spring term focuses on Shabbat morning prayers and on the structure of the Shabbat morning service as a whole. (in addition to review of prayers and blessings covered in earlier grades).

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS USED IN KITAH VAV FOR 5770/ 2009-10:

- *Yesh Lanu Lama Book 2* (Behrman House)
- *Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew* (EKS)
- *The Sarah and David Shabbat Morning Book* (Sarah and David LLC)
- Selected readers from the Hebrew comic book series “*Og Harasha*” (EKS)
- *Parashat Hashavua: Reading Genesis* (Behrman House)
- *Parashat Hashavua: Reading Exodus through Deuteronomy* (Behrman House)
- *The Israel Connection: A People Builds Its Land* (Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Boston)



CURRICULUM GOALS FOR KITAH ZAYIN /GRADE 7

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

- The goal of Kitah Zayin (Grade 7) is to round out students' basic Jewish education while they prepare for their transition to the status of Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and to motivate them to continue their engagement with Jewish living and learning throughout the years to come.
- Students in Kitot Gimmel, Dalet, Hey, Vav and Zayin (Grades 3 through 7) participate in Wednesday afternoon *tefillah/shirah* and Sunday morning junior congregation with Rabbi David. This is a time not only for developing comfort and familiarity with Jewish songs and prayers, but also for strengthening community ties among the students and their teachers. Parents are always invited to join in. Students from Kitot Gimmel and Dalet will sometimes be paired up with "tefillah buddies" in Kitot Vav and Zayin to help them better follow and participate in prayer services
- During Shabbat Shul days (this year: 11/14, 12/5, 1/9, 3/13, 5/8), in lieu of formal class time, Kitah Zayin students (and their parents) are expected to attend the main Ohavi Zedek Shabbat morning service. On those mornings, Rabbi Joshua often directs aspects of his introduction to the Torah reading specifically to the interests and level of the Hebrew School students in attendance. The students also during the course of the year have an opportunity to lead parts of the Torah service as a class, as a way of helping them gain confidence ahead of their upcoming liturgical leadership roles at their Bnai Mitzvah services.
- Kitah Zayin students help to lead one of our family Shabbat evening services at OZ each year. (Tentative date for Kitah Zayin family Shabbat service for 2009-10 is scheduled for Friday evening 2/12/10).

JUDAICA GOALS:

- During the second half of class instructional time on Wednesdays, Kitah Zayin students meet with Rabbi Joshua to study the wide scope of Jewish history from the era of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible) to the present. Through class discussions triggered by viewing of video dramatizations of biblical stories and historical documentary footage, students are encouraged to place themselves in the continuing story of the Jewish people.
- In addition to the Wednesday class time with Rabbi Joshua, students also meet individually with him during the last couple of months before their respective Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates. During the student's individual meetings with Rabbi Joshua, he or she works with Rabbi Joshua on the crafting of a short speech (*dvar torah*) and, more

generally, on reflecting upon the significance of what the student is experiencing in becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

- Classroom time on Sunday morning focuses on study of key Jewish values (*midot*) and on studying the nature of the Jewish concept of “mitzvah.”
- The Sunday morning Kitah Zayin curriculum includes an in-depth study of the rabbinic text *Pirkei Avot* (a classic compendium of Jewish ethical teachings found in the *Mishnah* [c. 200 C.E.]), using this text as a vehicle for exploring issues of personal identity, relationships and societal commitments.
- Coordination with OZ library for use in student research projects.
- Students plan and undertake both class and individual mitzvah projects.

MODERN HEBREW GOALS:

- During the first half of class instructional time on Wednesdays, Kitah Zayin students focus on Hebrew language, including study of both liturgical and modern conversational Hebrew.
- When the focus is on modern conversational Hebrew, this portion of the Kitah Zayin curriculum will be taught in two tracks: (1) An advanced track taught by Naomi Barell using all-Hebrew Israeli textbooks designed for use by new immigrants to Israel; and (2) A standard track taught by Michael Rosenthal using instructional materials that portray contemporary North American teens visiting Israel (and speaking Hebrew while they do so.)

TEFILLAH/PRAYER GOALS:

- Review of the structure of the Shabbat morning service, with special focus on the Torah service and on understanding the structure of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible) and the lectionary (*parshat hashavua*/ weekly portion) cycle.
- Kitah Zayin students who had not taken Rabbi David’s trop/cantillation class in the Kitah Vav year, or who feel a need to repeat it, may with the approval of the teacher elect to repeat the Kitah Vav trop/cantillation class instead of taking the Kitah Zayin Wednesday Hebrew course (which meets simultaneously with the trop/cantillation class).
- Additionally, beginning approximately 5 to 6 months before the student’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, the student begins to meet for individual Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons with Rabbi David. During these individual lessons, in conjunction with practicing the chanting of the student’s *haftarah* and *maftir*, some time is also spent studying commentaries to the *haftarah* and Torah texts. In doing so, we try to identify points of interest that the student might want to develop further when he or she begins meeting with Rabbi Joshua later in the year to work on the writing of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech (*dvar torah*). Rabbi David will also oversee each student’s progress on his/her “mitzvah project.”

**STUDENT TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES USED
IN KITAH ZAYIN FOR 5770/ 2009-10:**

- *The Sarah and David Bar/Bat Mitzvah Book* (Sarah and David LLC)
- *Let's Talk!: Modern Hebrew for Teens* (Behrman House) [standard modern Hebrew track]
- *Hakol Hadash, vols. 2 and 3* by Mira Owen and Shlomit Chayat (Matach) [advanced modern Hebrew track]
- *Making a Difference: Putting Jewish Spirituality Into Action, One Mitzvah at a Time* by Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson and Gila Gevirtz (Behrman House)
- *Best of the Marshall Center: Vol. 2, Walk the Talk* (Board of Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago)
- *A Bridge to Our Tradition: Pirkei Avot* by Nachama Skolnik Moskowitz (URJ Press)