



SHIR HADASH | שִׁיר חָדָשׁ

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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New Religious School Design and Curriculum, 2016-2017 Academic Year

Our Goal: A Leading Edge Program

- A new approach to Jewish religious education that reflects the social, religious, and cultural realities of the 21st century Jewish community
- "Narrow but deep" approaches to content
- Offers students and their families choices in what they study
- Increased flexibility in scheduling religious school around other obligations
- Provides a meaningful Jewish experience; helps students build connections with the synagogue, the Jewish community, and the world; and sparks the desire to learn
- Emphasis on Hebrew fluidity

Grade Units

Students will be broken up by the following grade units:

- Peshat: K to 2nd grade
- Remez: 3rd to 5th grade
- Drash: 6th to 7th grade
- Sod: Madrichim

Semesters

- The year will be broken into two 12-week semesters for Judaica courses. In addition there will be family education programs connected to Tu B'shvat, Purim, and Passover

- Hebrew will be a full-year course
- Each Sunday will have three periods for the 3rd-7th grades

Sunday Schedule

- K-2 will function as a full-morning experience that incorporates both Hebrew and Judaica
- For grades 3-7, during each of the Judaica periods there will be three course offerings
- Hebrew courses will continue to be level-based
- The focus of the Hebrew program will be on decoding with an emphasis on prayers and bar/bat mitzvah preparedness
- We will continue to use the Hineni curriculum

Credits

- Students will be expected to earn a certain number of credits. Each semester-long Judaica course counts as one credit
- Hebrew does not count for credit (with the exception of Modern Hebrew)
- Students must take at least one credit each semester
- **Remez (3rd-5th grade) students** will be expected to earn 10 credits during that three-year period. They will need to take at least one course in each of the following topics:

- Ethics/Values; Holidays; Jewish History; God; Torah; Israel
- The rest of the courses (at least 4 more) can be on whatever topic(s) is/are most interesting
- **Drash (6th-7th grade) students** will be expected to earn 7 credits during that two-year period. Students will be expected to take at least one class in specific topics with the rest of the course opportunities (at least three more) left to their choice. Drash (6th-7th grade) students will need to take one course each in at least four of the following topics:
 - Ethics/Values; Holidays; Jewish History; God; Torah; Israel; Practical Judaism
- The gap between credit requirements and possible course opportunities is part of trying to increase flexibility
- If a parent or student knows that during a particular semester he/she is going to have a regular commitment that conflicts with one of the Judaica periods, then that student need only take one Judaica course that semester
- Within each topic, the courses will rotate from semester to semester and year to year.
- Courses that are particularly popular will be taught regularly
- Certain courses will be taught as a series spanning multiple semesters

Very Cool Classes: Fall 2016

Remez

- Ethics/Values: “Core Strength”
- Holidays: Shabbat and High Holidays
- Arts: “Illuminated Haggadah”
- Torah: “Heroes and Villains of Torah”
- Israel: “This Land is Your Land”
- Arts: “Singing the Psalms”

Drash

- God: “Oh God, You Devil”
- Jewish History: “Not-So-Ancient-History”
- Arts: “Bibliodrama”
- Practical Judaism: “Shofar, Sukkah, and Services”
- Ethics/Values: “The Good, the Bad, and the Jewish”
- Arts: “Illuminated Siddur”

Very Cool Classes: Spring 2017

Remez

- Jewish History: “Who’s Who in Jewish History”
- Social Action/Tzedakah: “The Path of the Righteous”
- Arts: “Songs of Our Ancestors”
- God: “Dear Margaret, It’s Me God”
- Holidays 2: Shalosh Regalim (Sukkot, Pesach, Shavuot)
- Arts: “Ritual Objects”

Drash

- Reconstructionist: “Reconwhod-awhata?!”
- Modern Hebrew: “Zeh Lo Big Deal”
- Arts: “Ritual Objects”
- Current Events: “And this is Jewish... how?”
- Prophets: “Righteous Anger: The Books