

Curriculum for Nitzanim Religious School-Temple Sholom Kindergarten-7th Grade

By the end of 7th grade we want our learners to...

Goals:

- Find value, relevance, and meaning in Judaism through meaningful exploration and learning.
- To translate the learning and experiences from Nitzanim into a Jewish value driven way of living their daily lives.
- Create a Jewish community within Nitzanim and Temple Sholom

Objectives: Learners will be able to

Hebrew:

- Decode any tefillot presented to them
- Understand the main ideas and concepts of the Friday night and Saturday morning services
- Identify key Hebrew words based on shorashim within tefillot
- Find personal kavanah and meaning from key prayers

Torah:

- Confidently navigate an Etz Hayim Humash in order to follow the Torah and Haftarah readings
- Comprehend, analyze and critique the weekly parsha in order to connect it to daily life lessons
- Conceptualize the composition of the tanakh (Torah, Nevi'im, K'tuvim)

Holidays:

- Recognize the Jewish calendar and know when holidays occur within the Jewish year and where the historical reference is for each holiday within Jewish text
- Know symbols, rituals, mitzvot and customs that are associated with each Jewish holiday in order to celebrate each holiday in a meaningful way
- Create a Jewish home, with the help of their families, based on the learned values associated with the Jewish Holidays.

Israel:

- Love and have a connection with Israel through Jewish texts, media, personal stories, history and current events.
- Understand Israel's complexities and that there are more than one perspective to every experience
- Locate Israel on a world map and important cities and places within Israel
- Identify and appreciate the different types of people that make up Israel society
- Comprehend how Israel's government works

God:

-Discuss, develop and create their own personal meanings of God as it changes and evolves

Community:

-Feel a connection to their grade level class and larger Nitzanim community
-Develop friendships with fellow classmates, teachers, Director of Youth Education & Engagement, Rabbi and Cantor
-Connect to our warm, vibrant, and egalitarian Conservative Jewish community at Temple Sholom

Overarching Themes for Each Grade:**Kindergarten: Breishit-Beginning to Explore through Jewish symbols**

What does it mean to be Jewish?
What is a symbol and what makes it Jewish?
How do I make meaning out of the different Jewish rituals?

1st Grade: Jewish & Me

What does it mean to be Jewish?
What does it mean to live Jewishly?

2nd Grade: Community

What is community and why is it important?
How do we define our Jewish community?
Who and what makes up our community and how are we connected to them?

3rd Grade: Middot-Jewish Values

What is a value and its purpose according to us?
How do we define Jewish values for us?
What Jewish values are present in our community, in our practice and in our daily lives? Why?

4th Grade: Relationships

Do I believe in God and what is my relationship with God?
Am I my brother's keeper? (Relationships with siblings, friends etc)
What is my relationship with our past, present and future Jewish community?

5th Grade: Am Yisrael- Nation of Israel (Experience Modern Israel-book resource)

What defines Am Yisrael in Jewish text and today? What do they stand for?
Who makes up Am Yisrael and in what ways am I part of it?
Is Israel central to Am Yisrael, and if so how?

6th Grade: L'Dor Va'Dor-From Generation to Generation

What connects us from generation to generation?
How am I a link in the chain and what is my role as a Jew in this chain?

7th Grade: Kol Am Yachdav-We are all responsible for one another

What does it mean to be responsible for one another?

What role do mitzvot have in our lives and in our community?

Is learning how to be responsible enough?