

Jewish Journeys Classes 2024–25

Kindergarten–2nd Grade

Alef-Tav

In this year-long class, students in kindergarten through second grade explore Jewish holidays, customs and values through stories, projects, movement. Students engage in thoughtful, creative explorations of a variety of mitzvot such as gemilut hasadim (doing acts of loving kindness), ba'al taschit (caring for nature by not wasting) and bikkur cholim (visiting the sick) through projects, conversations and occasional trips. Students gain familiarity with the Hebrew alphabet and learn commonly used Hebrew vocabulary and concepts through interactive, tactile learning, forming letters and words with everything from magnets to sticks to their bodies.

3rd–7th Grade

Hebrew Foundations 1 (Fall) & 2 (Spring)

In Hebrew Foundations classes, students are grouped into levels based on their background and proficiency. Students practice the basics of Hebrew reading: learning or reviewing letters and vowels, sounding out words, exploring concepts and meanings of words commonly used in Jewish life and Hebrew prayer. The primary curricular resource is Hebrew Step-by-Step and additional resources and modalities, such as Hebrew Through Movement, games and conversational Hebrew, enhance student learning. Any student may enroll in Hebrew Foundations 1 in the fall. Students who wish to enroll in Hebrew Foundations 2 in the spring must have completed Hebrew Foundations 1 or have prior background.

Jewish Studies Electives

Fall Semester

Tikkun Olam Workshop

Students will learn the core Jewish values of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) and *Gemilut Hasadim* (acts of lovingkindness) as they address real-world issues such as poverty, environmental stewardship, and caring for the sick in our local community. Through activities such as creating and distributing supply kits, cooking and delivering food, enhancing our natural habitat and raising *tzedakah* funds, students will experience the how and why of specific mitzvot through hands-on service projects, engaging in collaborative decision making and taking individual action to experience their agency as advocates for a better world. This class requires parental support as students will be relied upon by the group to complete specific tasks between classes such as bringing in items, researching organizations and engaging peers and adults in actions to support specific causes. Taught by R. Rachel Barenblat.

Handmade Judaism

Students will learn about the rich and distinct material culture of Judaism which has shaped Jewish practice and community throughout the ages. Studying various techniques used by artisans who are experts in their craft, we'll learn about subjects ranging from the intricacies of how a Torah scroll is made from animal hide to jeweled adornment, and we'll create our own unique objects in calligraphy, textiles, ceramics, wax and other media, including a havdalah set with a spice box and braided candle, a Hebrew scroll, a challah cover and a Torah wimple. Taught by textile/mixed media artist and teacher, Shirah Bergman. (**Materials fee: \$30**)

Jewish Studies Electives

Spring Semester

Cooking Jewish Cultures

We'll gather in the kitchen and make a variety of delicious Jewish dishes from around the world: from Polish Ashkenazi bagels to Iraqi beet *kubbeh* (dumpling) soup, Turkish cheese and potato *burekas* (pastries), Spanish *pan d'espanya* (orange cake), and more. We'll explore the histories and cultures of Jews from these different parts of the world and reflect on how food shapes Jewish communities and customs in the diaspora. We'll also learn what food blessings to say with different foods, and what makes food kosher. Taught by R. Rachel Barenblat. (***Materials fee: \$30***)

Living Jewish Civilizations

Explore the daily lives of Jewish people from different eras and societies with projects and experiences that bring Jewish homes, synagogues and markets to life. We'll begin with our biblical ancestors and their neighbors, learning how they built their homes and villages, how they dressed, farmed and ate, and we'll cook an ancient Israelite meal. Next we'll study the emergence of the synagogue in diaspora and explore the unique features that Ashkenazi, Sephardic and Yemenite communities developed in different parts of the world, designing and building our own 3D models of Jewish community spaces for our time and culture. Finally, we'll learn about today's Israeli shuk (marketplace) and its multicultural influences, exchanging goods and greetings in Hebrew and Arabic in a recreation of the Machaneh Yehuda market in Jerusalem to culminate our learning with our peers, families and community. Taught by Shirah Bergman. (***Materials fee: \$15***)