

B'nai Tivkah Religious School - Curriculum Summary 2014-2015

Youngest Class

This year the children study Jewish life in Bible times – the Five Books of Moses. They learn about modern Israel, the synagogue & the Jewish community. They will interview our synagogue leaders & build their own shul. The class also reviews each of the festivals with an emphasis on holiday art.

Middle Class

This year the children will begin with a review of ancient history and continue with studying Jewish life in the Middle Ages through emphasizing Sefardi and Ashkenazi Jewish life including life in the shtetl. They participate in Ashkenazi & Sefardi Food Days, Yiddish karaoke as well as projects like build a shtetl" and design a hamza. The "choose your own adventure" series brings the Spanish Inquisition historical experience to life. They will explore the lives of ancient and medieval Jewish heroes and the moral conflicts they engaged in. The class will begin learning about Israel's geography.

Oldest Class

This year your child will study the development of the modern State of Israel and heroes of the modern period. We will also look at the rebuilding of modern Jewish life in Europe. Mid winter the class will learn about the socio-cultural environment which led to the Holocaust and the Holocaust time line, emphasizing Jewish heroes like Ann Frank, Raul Wallenberg, Sugihara, Sir Nicholas Winton and Janusz Korzak. Playlets, short stories and choose your own adventure stories, songs and first person narratives put a personal spin on these historical periods.

The class learns about Jewish Life Cycle events and the mitzvot / Jewish values related to them. The class also reviews each of the holidays The class continues the Torah portion studies with the Books of Leviticus and Numbers as well as our Jewish Heroes/ Jewish Values units from 2013/4. Graduation of the 7th graders includes written essays and preparation for leading the Shabbat graduation service.

Hebrew at the B'nai Tivkah Religious School

The students are divided into three Hebrew reading levels : beginning and review readers, middle and pre-B'nai Mitzvah :

Beginning / Review Hebrew – The students learn the alef-bet and vowels, blend phonetic units and write in block print. Their pre-reading moves into active reading of short words and sentences.

Middle Level Hebrew – This year the students review and strengthen their Hebrew reading skills. They learn the brachah blessings system and the main body of our tefillah prayers – the Shema and Ve-Ahavta, Barachu with Ma'ariv Aravim/ Yotzer Or and Mi kamokha. They learn about the Hebrew root system to decode and derive meaning from the prayers, to track their reading and become more fluent and confident.

Pre-Bnai Mitzvah Hebrew – This year the 11,12 and13 year olds focus on the Kabbalat Shabbat – Friday Evening Service as well as specific pieces of the Shabbat Morning Service. Learning the liturgical melodies, tracking and decoding prayer material is key to understanding and participating as adult Jews during synagogue services. The students also become familiar with reading Torah calligraphy this year.

Tefillah, Prayer, Torah, Holiday Activities

During our group period we continue to study Jewish values through the innovative Jewish literacy program from the University of Miami. Collection of Tzedakah and, in the fall - food for Interfaith Community Services - takes place each week. Tefillah this year focuses on the Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat Service empowering our students to participate in our monthly Friday Evening Family Services. Group activities also include preparing for the Hanukkah and Purim plays, decorating the sukkah, polishing the Torah silver for the High Holidays, Tu B'Shevat fruit Seder, baking hamantaschen, Model Passover Seder, preparation for monthly Family Shabbat school presentations and congregational holiday celebrations as well as field trips.

