

Beth El Religious School

What to Expect in Your Child's Kittah Aleph (1st Grade)

Curriculum:

JEWISH IDENTITY

Your child will delve more thoroughly into the concept of Jewish community, learning more about the synagogue and its central role in our daily lives.

HEBREW

Your child will begin a more formal Hebrew education with "letter recognition." Each letter is introduced with a Hebrew vocabulary word that is Siddur and synagogue based. He/she will also learn how to print this letter. Your child will have a textbook/workbook.

HOLIDAYS AND MITZVOT

Your child will learn the traditional holiday stories, rituals and values through music, arts and crafts projects, cooking and other hands-on activities. They learn about Passover and the various Seder skills involved. Shabbat is learned in detail and is reinforced throughout the year.

BIBLE

Your child will discover important Biblical heroes and stories of the Torah and the Prophets through a medium that enables readers and non-readers alike to understand the important concepts. Through role playing and creative projects, your child will learn the lessons of the Torah.

PRAYER & THEOLOGY

Your child will be guided and encouraged to think and talk about God and to find a higher meaning for the things and creatures that inhabit our world. He/she will learn what it means to be created in God's image.

PRAYER GOALS

Your child will be learning many new prayers this year. These prayers will be routinely reviewed each and every week, so not to worry. The prayers are learned through familiar melodies and by rote. A list is provided below. Recordings, transliteration and translations of all these prayers can be obtained from the Beth El website: (www.bethelsnj.org).

T'FILLOT (PRAYERS)

Modeh Ani,
Ma Tovu (1st line), Hallelu (song),
Shema & V'Ahavta (1st paragraph),
Taking Out the Torah: Vay'hi binso'a ha-aron
Shema, Echad, Gadlu, Torah Blessings,
Torah Torah (song), Eitz Chayim Hi, Adon Olam

BERACHOT (BLESSINGS)

Bread - Ha'Motzih
Wine - Ha-'Gafen
Cake - Mezonot
Candy, other - Sh'Hakol
Fruit - Ha'etz
Vegetables Ha'Adama
Shabbat Candles - L'hadlik Ner Shel Shabbat
Havdallah: Wine - Borey p'ri ha-gafen, Besamim (spices) - Borey Miney V'samin, Esh (fire)- Borey M'orei ha-esh.
Chanukah,
Sheheche-ya-nu,
Pesach: Ma Nishtanah, Matzah, Maror

MUSIC

Your child will learn many new songs in Hebrew and/or English each week with Cantor Leon Sher.