

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM



# Vav

### GOALS

- Familiarizing students with the prayers in the Amidah including the meaning of the blessings, melodies, and key words. Effort is made to relate the prayers to the lives of the students and to facilitate participation in Synagogue services.
- Building on skills in phonetic Hebrew reading, through reading the prayers, engaging in exercises, and playing a variety of games and activities.
- Learning about the history of Jews in America beginning with the first Jews to arrive in the New World in the 1400's up to today.
- Enhancing the sense of Jewish identity and connection to our Jewish community by engaging in stimulating and fun activities associated with the above.
- Teaching Jewish moral values including charity, environmental awareness, concern for others and social welfare.
- Using diverse techniques including discussion, writing, art, crafts, songs, puzzles.

### PRAYERS/SONGS

Avot V'imahot (Fathers and Mothers)  
Hoda'ah (Thanksgiving)  
Oseh Shalom (Makes Peace)  
Shalom Aleichem (Peace Upon You)

Gevurot (Powers)  
Shalom Rav (Great Peace)  
Lechah Dodi (Go My Beloved)

Kedushah (Holiness)  
Sim Shalom (Grant Peace)  
V'shamru (And shall keep)

### HOLIDAYS

Focus is on understanding the meanings, stories and rituals associated with all of the holidays that occur during the school year including Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Tu B'shevat, Purim, and Pesach. We play games such as "Holiday Jeopardy" and "Passover Olympics" to liven the learning.

### VALUES

In the course of our Hebrew and history study we discuss many values and ethical topics including: Chasadim Tovim (Acts of Loving-kindness), Zechut Avot (Merit of the Ancestors), Rofay Cholem (Healing the Sick), B'kur Cholem (Visiting the Sick), Keeping faith with souls who have died, Sham Tov (A Good Name), Thanking God for our lives, souls, miracles in the world and great gifts), Rofay Shalom (Seeking Peace), Shalom Bayet (Peace in the Home), Tzedukah (Justice, doing the right thing), Pidyon Sh'vuyim (Rescuing the Captive), Kehilah (Community), K'lal Yisrael (the Unity of the Jewish People), Tikun Olam (Repairing the World), the balance of besed and rachamim (balance of justice and mercy), Kedushah (Holiness), Zecher yetziat Mitzraim (Remember the going out from Israel), Talmud Torah (studying, learning and knowledge), Resit hochma yirat Hashamayim (Wisdom begins with a fear of Heaven), Kibbud av va-em (Honor your father and your mother).

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Class Sleepover: Havdalah Service, Synagogue treasure hunt, craft (donation to charity), play practice and movie.
- Jewish Hero Project: Presentation by famous writers on interviewing and research techniques, conducting research and developing information, writing report on Jewish Hero to be included in collection, drawing artwork that may be selected for front and back covers, presentation in character before family and classmates, switching roles as interviewer and interviewee.

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## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

### **Vav class continued**

- Practice and presentation to the school and parents of musical Purim Play with emphasis on teamwork, working toward goal, understanding meaning of story, and pride in identity.
- Leadership at Friday night service—participation in prayers; presentation on Jewish Heroes.
- Passover Olympics

### **FIELD TRIPS**

- Session at JCC Ropes Course. Focus is on teamwork and leadership with classmates, Jewish theme.
- Trip to Jewish Museum and/or Fort McHenry to learn about Jewish History in Baltimore.