

# OUR CURRICULUM

Your partner in raising Jewish children.



Our Mission: To educate our children so that they grow to be literate and confident Jewish adults who find meaning in their identity and their tradition.



### Big ideas that stretch over the entire school curriculum:



**Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays - Shabbat and the Jewish holidays provide a framework to experience the holiness in the flow of time each year. The traditions and mitzvot of each holiday celebration connect me to God, the Jewish People, and Israel.

Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity - Each individual Jewish voice can find deep meaning and purpose through engagement in Jewish life and community. Jewish responsibility to make the world whole lies in each person's own talents, as it is written in the Torah that each person was created, b'tzelem elohim, in the image of God.

*K'lal Yisrael:* Jewish History and Community - The history of the Jewish people played a key role in the creation of Israel, Jewish life and the Jewish community as it exists today.

**Talmud Torah: Jewish Literature** - The Torah provides the origin story and purpose of the Jewish People and inspires the holiness of our connection with God. Lifelong learning of the Torah and Jewish texts fuel the Jewish People's mission to be partners with God through our deeds and actions.

*Ivrit:* **Hebrew** - Modern Hebrew connects me to the greater Jewish people as well as traditions in Judaism.

**T'fillah:** Prayer and Lifecycle - Prayer is the mode and language that can help deepen my relationship with God and my spiritual self while it connects me to the Jewish People.

**Eretz Yisrael:** Israel - Israel is the Jewish homeland and is a part of Judaism's history, past and present.



For any questions about the curriculum or our Religious School, please contact Heather Erez, Director of Youth Education and Engagement, at **herez@tbeboca.org** or call **561-391-9092**.



### OUR CURRICULUM

### Big ideas taught through these types of learning experiences in and out of the classroom:

### **Community Celebrations:**

Building relationships in the Jewish community makes me feel connected and part of a people. Participation in services and community wide celebrations bring Judaism to life.

**Family Education:** Whole family learning fosters Jewish life in the home.

Hands-on Learning
Experiences: Judaism
in action shows me how
Jewish values are enacted
daily.

### **Youth Group Activities:**

Create a personal code of ethics incorporating Jewish values as a guide to ethical living.

### Ivrit: Hebrew PRE-K - BAR/BAT MITZVAH

### **Hebrew Through Movement:**

Every year, small groups of students will work with a native Hebrew speaker to comprehend and speak Modern Hebrew. Listening and speaking builds a foundation of familiarity with the sound and flow of the language, making it an easier transition to reading Hebrew as they begin their more formal Bar/Bat Mitzvah training.

### T'fillah:

Clergy will lead us through prayers in Hebrew, weekly as a community. Students gain familiarity with melodies, sanctuary behavior, and the general flow of a service while following along in Hebrew together on a large screen. Each of the Hebrew prayers we recite are included in their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

### **Jewish Life Vocabulary:**

Every week, new Hebrew or Yiddish phrases that are a part of our Jewish communal lexicon, will be introduced to our students. These phrases will enhance a student's experience within the Jewish community.

### **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Coach:**

About a year before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, students will be paired with a coach for one-on-one coaching to prepare for their ceremony. They will learn to decode Hebrew (be able to sound out and read words), perfect prayers, and chant their Torah and Haftarah portions.







\*Pre-K classes are only open to students who are NOT enrolled at the Beth El Early Learning Center. Must have a minimum of 6 students.

### **Chagim: Shabbat and Holidays**

Identifying Jewish holidays that we celebrate and introduce symbols, foods, and meaning.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

What makes me Jewish? What do I do or feel that makes me Jewish?

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

I am Jewish, I have Jewish family, and I am part of the Jewish community and Temple Beth El and the world.

### Talmud Torah: Jewish Literature

Introduction to Jewish books and stories from our traditions and the Torah.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Learning service behavior and choreography. Introduction to prayer melodies.

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Where is Israel located and how Israel is a home for the Jewish people?

### **Chagim: Shabbat and Holidays**

Gain familiarity with and a knowledge of major Jewish holidays.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Explain various roles of people in the synagogue community. Know my name in Hebrew.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Feel comfortable as a Religious School student and part of the Temple Beth El community.

### Talmud Torah: Jewish Literature

Name key stories in the Torah from the book of Genesis, and identify the matriarch and patriarchs.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Identify names of prayers and become familiar with order of T'fillah service.

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut and connect to Israel as the first home of the Jewish People.



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### **Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays

Be able to recount the stories and identify the symbols of each major Jewish holiday. Explain how holiness can enter our lives through Shabbat and the holidays. Experience a Havdalah ritual and the symbols of Havdalah.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Pinpoint my Jewish birthday on the Hebrew calendar. Begin to discuss ideas about God.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Distinguish between the Jewish calendar and the secular calendar and where Jewish holidays fall. Be able to locate and identify key synagogue objects.

### Talmud Torah: Jewish Literature

Express that the Torah is told/read in a cycle and relate how those stories matter to their lives.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Continue to recognize prayers and order of service in Hebrew through T'fillah. Follow along during the services.

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Connect the holidays to the Jewish calendar and the land of Israel. Explain the symbols of Israel.

### **Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays

Recognize stories and themes behind each Jewish holiday and connect major figures choices.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Explore Jewish value concepts and apply them to their own actions. Gain personal meaning from study of values, family, and holidays.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Develop their own ways to enact tikkun olam in their lives.

### **Talmud Torah:** Jewish Literature

Describe Torah from Creation to Exodus through the lens of midrash. Introduce students to Torah itself.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Begin to associate Hebrew words and sounds with the T'fillah during weekly services.

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Identify differences between American and Israeli food through cooking traditional Israeli treats.



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### **Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays

Connect Jewish holidays knowledge to individual personal spiritual and emotional practices. Explain God's role in holidays.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Articulate what Reform Jewish life looks like and how the community is built on its values.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Demonstrate how Reform Jewish values influence my life and community.

### **Talmud Torah:** Jewish Literature

Introduce the Hebrew Prophets and how the lessons that their stories teach us apply to our lives today.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Join in T'fillah and sing along with the service leaders.

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Explain biblical significance of regions in Israel where the narratives of the ancient prophets take place. Locate them on a modern day map of Israel.

### **Chagim: Shabbat and Holidays**

Review the rituals and customs, including blessings, that correspond to each holiday.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Jewish history influenced how each family's Jewish identity was shaped. Where do I fit in the larger Jewish story?

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Explore the beginning of Jewish history during ancient and medieval times.

### **Talmud Torah:** Jewish Literature

Jewish values are woven into our folk tales and biblical stories. Students will delve into our literature to explore how the values are applied to their daily lives.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Become familiar with Jewish lifecycle and explain Jewish milestones and their personal meaning.

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Retell the story of the founding of Israel and explain its significance in their lives. Israel is also a holy people and place for Jews from all over to live.



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### **Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays

Identify the connection between the Jewish holidays and history. How have the Jewish holidays sustained the Jewish People?

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Examine ways to enact values of tikkun olam in our own lives.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Explore the historical moments in Diaspora and early American Jewish history that changed the trajectory of the Jewish community.

### Talmud Torah: Jewish Literature

Reconnect with the Hebrew Prophets and their messages. Evaluate the prophetic values that can be applied to Jewish life today.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Students will learn a variety of ways to engage in prayer beyond the prayerbook. (meditation, *hitbodedut*, music, visualization)

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Learn about the beginnings of the modern state of Israel. Connect the biblical past of Israel to modern-day Israel.

### **Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays

Hiddur Mitzvah- exploring Jewish holiday art.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

What is my role in the Jewish community? What is my responsibility?

### **K'lal Yisrael:** Jewish History and Community

Explore the effect on emancipation on the Jewish People and Judaism. Explain why Jews have continued to remain Jewish as freedom spread throughout the world.

### Talmud Torah: Jewish Literature

Identify various prophets and their messages. Evaluate personal and societal actions regarding prophetic messages: what are we doing "right," what can we do better?

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Shabbat liturgy: Keva and kavannah. (Prayers and the intention within the prayers.)

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

Connect with Israeli class partners through twinning program. Compare Jewish practices in the United States as compared to Israel. Gain personal perspective on life as an Israeli student.



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### **Learning our Jewish Values (Middot) through Mitzvot**

Students will learn more about the Jewish Laws (mitzvot) and values (middot) and how they frame our lives as a Reform Jewish community.

### **Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays

Our Reform Jewish values guide how we follow certain customs and rituals today.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Engaging in mitzvot helps enact many Jewish values (middot) and shapes the way I practice Judaism.

### **K'lal Yisrael:** Jewish History and Community

I understand that the value of doing *mitzvot* binds me to the Jewish community today and throughout history.

### **Talmud Torah:** Jewish Literature

Rabbinic and biblical texts studied alongside contemporary literature and commentary provides a current frame for traditional *middot*.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Shabbat liturgy: Keva and Kavannah. (Prayers and the intention within the prayers.)

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

We learn about Israel by reflecting on our *middot* with a reform lens.

### Threads of Identity

Exploring Who I Am and My Impact, a 2-year curriculum, taught by Temple Beth El Clergy.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Exploring relationships between my Jewish identity and my other identities, nurtures my ability to show empathy and self-awareness by identifying obstacles to self-care and learning new strategies to manage it.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Making space for honest reflections on between relationships with myself, my family, and my community/world, with the support of my peers and Temple Beth El clergy, ignites the Jewish value of Tzedek.

### **Talmud Torah:** Jewish Literature

Reading and reflecting on Jewish texts/wisdom allows me to explore the meaning of self-care and its relationship with my body and my community.



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### **Confirmation**

Meeting weekly, these students will delve into their own relationships with God, Israel and Judaism with Rabbi Dan Levin. This course culminates in a confirmation ceremony at the end of the year.

### **Chagim:** Shabbat and Holidays

Jewish texts provide insight on how and why we celebrate. Building on the foundations we already know about Shabbat and holidays, we learn how they are connected throughout the year.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Reflecting on how life is lived daily informs how we prioritize values and will keep our moral compass in view.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

Where we are today is rooted in events from Jewish history and how we connect to the Jewish community, small and large.

### Ivrit: Hebrew

Reading Torah and texts in original form may explain interpretations or misunderstanding, it also elevates the experience.

### **Talmud Torah:** Jewish Literature

Introduction to various types of Jewish literature, ancient and contemporary, provide insight that can enhance opinions and build bridges between various Jewish communities and time periods.

### T'fillah: Prayer and Lifecycle

Spending time thinking about individual relationships with God can bring new meaning to prayer and how lifecycle events are observed.

### Eretz Yisrael: Israel

A deeper dive into the history and narratives of Israel increase the appreciation of the complexity of the Holy Land.

### High School Mussar

Jewish spiritual tradition and discipline focusing on character development and personal growth through the cultivation of positive traits and virtues, aiming to live a more meaningful and ethical life, a 2-year curriculum, taught by Temple Beth El Clergy.

### Am Yisrael and Tikkun Olam: My Jewish Identity

Developing practical life skills to better understand myself will provide me with the tools to handle challenges and choices that may arise.

### K'lal Yisrael: Jewish History and Community

My spirituality and connection to Judaism will be deepened through Jewish spiritual practice.





### Beyachad Teen: Exploring Kabbalah for Teens & Parents

For 8th graders - 12th graders and their adults, taught by Temple Beth El clergy.

Together we will explore the world of Jewish mysticism and uncover the hidden layers of Torah, soul, and the universe! This course is designed for high school teens and their parents to explore Judaism's mystical tradition together, deepening their spiritual connection and uncover how this ancient wisdom can guide our modern lives.

Through engaging discussions, interactive study, and immersive experiences, we will learn the foundational Kabbalistic concepts and explore questions like: What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How do our actions shape the world around us? And how can Kabbalah help us navigate life's challenges with meaning and purpose?

This course provides a unique opportunity for parents and teens to learn side by side, strengthening their spiritual bond while uncovering the mystical wisdom that has inspired Jewish seekers for centuries.

This course meets monthly over dinner on either Saturday or Sunday evenings with teens and their adults.







For any questions about the curriculum or our Religious School, please contact Heather Erez, Director of Youth and Family Education and Engagement, at herez@tbeboca.org or call 561-391-9092.

TO LEARN MORE, WATCH OUR INFORMATIVE VIDEO AND TO REGISTER, VISIT **tbeboca.org/rs-register** 

