

# KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

## **Jewish Holidays**

Students will learn what the Jewish Holidays are about by listening to stories, examining symbols, art, play and many more modalities.

- Fall Holidays: Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur, Sukkot & Simchat Torah
- Shabbat, Hanukkah & Tu B'Shevat
- Spring Holidays: Purim, Passover, Yom Ha'atzmaut & Shavuot

## **Hebrew Readiness**

Students will be introduced to the Hebrew language. They will be exposed to the letters of the Hebrew Aleph-Bet, their shapes, sounds, and simple words that begin with each letter. They will also connect the Hebrew language to Jewish holidays, Jewish music, and T'filah. Kindergartners will participate in Hebrew Through Movement (HTM). HTM focuses on foundational Hebrew vocabulary through a language acquisition strategy in which students learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to Hebrew commands.

## **Prayer and Blessings**

By teaching and using prayer at appropriate times to express feelings of thanks and awe, the teacher will guide the students in attaining a sense of satisfaction and pride in their ability to participate in both individual and group worship. This will also be accomplished by participating in age appropriate, weekly T'filah services led by the clergy and song leader.

## **Jewish Values**

Students will be able to identify ways in which tzedakah can help people and/or organizations. They will learn that behaving with consideration and respect towards others is an important Jewish value and how it helps makes them be mensches (good people). They will investigate and learn ways to help the environment, care for pets and other critters who can't care for themselves and will know how they are capable of caring for the world they live in.

## **Jewish Identity**

Students will begin to define what makes them and their home Jewish by naming and identifying Jewish objects found in their home and explaining when and how they are used. Helping create a special connection to Judaism when seeing any of those items in a store or in homes of friends and relatives.

## **Torah**

Students will learn different stories from the Torah. The stories will be read, told and/or told via a puppet show, a drama skit and reinforced through art projects, food and games. Children will begin to feel a connection to the stories from the Torah because it is the special book of the Jewish people.

## **Israel**

Students will experience Israel through photographs, videos, food, songs and dance. They will be able to identify the flag of Israel, describe Israel as a country where many Jewish people live as well as people who practice other religions, and will know that Jerusalem is the capital.

# ROAD MAP FOR KINDERGARTEN

Masa

## *Jewish Ritual Objects in the Home and the Synagogue*



### **“Bein adam l’atzmo” - Self**

#### **Question:**

- What ritual objects do I have in my home?
- How does my family use these ritual objects?

#### **Action:**

- Sharing Jewish objects from home that have special meaning to students
- Describing objects that make our homes different/Jewish and how these objects are used in our homes
- Creating a Museum of Jewishness with ritual objects



### **“Bein adam l’chavero” - Community**

#### **Question:**

- How does the Temple Isaiah community celebrate holidays?
- What are ways that I act in kindness toward my family and at Temple Isaiah?
- Where do other Jews live outside of my community?

#### **Action:**

- Learning Jewish holiday basics
- Beginning to celebrate the holidays with the Temple Isaiah community
- Applying prayer as a way to connect with community
- Understanding the obligation of tzedakah in terms of money and actions
- Performing and sharing acts of g’milut chasadim (loving kindness) and learning this value through the book *King Solomon and the Bee*
- Recognizing Israel as a place where other Jews live, the language, the culture, and the relationship between the Israel of today and the Israel in the Torah



### **“Bein adam l’Makom” - God**

#### **Question:**

- What role does God play in creating the world?

#### **Action:**

- Attending tefillah prayer services for the first time
- Understanding that prayer is a marked time to talk to God and a way to communicate awe and thanks
- Recognizing feelings while praying, especially while reciting the Shema
- Learning the creation story and Noah’s ark