

FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM

Jewish Life Cycle

Our students will study how Jewish tradition marks the different stages of the cycle of life. Looking deeply at the important traditions that have been created and passed down from generation to generation, to recognize these special Jewish occasions, such as births, weddings, deaths, B'nai mitzah, and confirmation. Our students will learn the different traditions by watching videos, using hands-on methodologies, organizing and participating in a mock wedding and visiting Hillside cemetery to experience a mock funeral.

Tzedakah

Our students will learn about Rambam (Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon) and his eight levels of Tzedakah. They will begin to understand how tzedakah is a Jewish responsibility and how these responsibilities can be applied in their home, community, and around the world. Together with their parents they will learn about the work of Upward Bound House and will decorate an apartment for a family who was previously homeless.

Ask The Rabbi

Once per month, each fifth-grade class will meet with Rabbi Zoë Klein for a session on "Questions for the Rabbi."

Hebrew, Prayer and Blessings

At the start of the school year, our students will review the Hebrew letters and vowels they learned in previous years, once this review is complete, they will learn the meaning of the *Yotzer*, *Maariv Aravim*, *Avot* and *Gevurot* prayers. They will be able to chant and decode the blessings, understand their meaning not only in translation, but what do those prayers mean to them and to Jews around the world. They will learn why these prayers are part of daily services and will practice them when they participate t'fillah/services every week.

Fifth graders 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.

ROAD MAP FOR FIFTH GRADE

Masa

Jewish Life-Cycle Events



“Bein adam l’atzmo” - Self

Question:

- How does my family commemorate Jewish life-cycle events?
- Why are Jewish life-cycle events significant to me and my family?

Action:

- Role playing Jewish life-cycle events such as a baby naming, wedding, funeral
- Exploring students’ family traditions
- Discovering the origins of the students’ Hebrew names



“Bein adam l’chavero” - Community

Question:

- Why is it important to celebrate Jewish life-cycle events as a community?

Action:

- Creating ritual objects such as a wimple, ketubah, and tallit
- Listening to and sharing anecdotes about life-cycle events and learning about different traditions
- Exploring the rituals associated with life-cycle events at Temple Isaiah and in Reform Judaism, such as reading from the Torah at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Understanding how celebrating with community is intergenerational



“Bein adam l’Makom” - God

Question:

- What role does God play in Jewish life-cycle events?

Action:

- Exploring the Torah stories surrounding some of the Jewish life-cycle events, like Abraham’s circumcision in Genesis or the roots of Confirmation and conversion in the Book of Ruth
- Understanding that saying prayers and performing rituals during life-cycle events brings holiness into people’s lives