

SEVENTH GRADE PROGRAM

The seventh-grade program is an integral part of Jewish education at Temple Isaiah. The lessons are not based on B'nai Mitzvah, but on how we engage with the world around us. Throughout the year, the students will enjoy experiential educational programs on topics such as Jewish Identity, Tzedakah, Social Justice and Klal Yisrael (Jews around the world). We will engage with outside Social Justice Organizations as well as guest speakers and facilitators to enhance the educational experience. The goal of the seventh-grade program is to enhance the student experience and break away from the normal classroom lecture style of teaching. The seventh-grade students are asked to be active participants in learning while addressing the needs of teens to engage with their peers.

Rosh Hodesh

It's a Girl Thing! is a monthly experiential education program that uses Jewish teachings and practices to give girls a place to feel safe, articulate their deepest concerns, consider the impact of gender on their daily lives, have fun, and be 'real' with their peers. Through discussion, arts & crafts, creative ritual, games, and drama, the girls and their leaders draw on Jewish values and a gender lens to explore the issues the girls care about most, such as body image, friendship, relationships, family, competition, and stress.

Shevet Achim

The Brotherhood is a monthly experiential education program that uses Jewish teachings and practices to give boys a place to feel safe, have honest and relevant discussions, and be 'real' with their peers. The boys and their leaders "decompress" from their stressful lives and they balance clowning and horseplay with deep discussions of what Judaism has to say about the ethical challenges of their every day lives.

ROAD MAP FOR SEVENTH GRADE

Shevet Noar

The Obligation of Tzedakah



“Bein adam l’atzmo” - Self

Question:

- What Jewish values lead me to engage in the act of tzedakah?

Action:

- Discussing stigmas and assumptions about money
- Creating plans for students’ families to engage in tzedakah
- Choosing an LA organization to assist for the school year as a mitzvah project
- Participating with organizations beyond a financial contribution
- Understanding the value of being part of a kehillah kedoshah (a holy community)



“Bein adam l’chavero” - Community

Question:

- How does engaging in tzedakah connect me to my ancestors and to my present-day community?

Action:

- Role playing the impact of tzedakah on the giver, receiver, and the community
- Discussing factors that make tzedakah unique to Judaism
- Interpreting and analyzing what our Jewish texts say about tzedakah
- Comparing and contrasting *Maimonides’ Ladder of Tzedakah* with *Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs*



“Bein adam l’Makom” - God

Question:

- How does the obligation to perform tzedakah create a connection with God?

Action:

- Reflecting as a class on the holiness of engaging in tzedakah
- Discussing the origins of the moral imperative to do acts of tzedakah