

**Sinai Temple Religious School - Curriculum Overview**

**1st Grade - Kitah Alef כיתה א**

**2025-2026 / 5785-5786**

**Overarching Goals**

* Students should be confident and proud in their recitation of the Aleph-Bet song, prayers, Jewish holidays and basic Hebrew phrases
* Through art projects and role play, students should have a basic understanding of the concept of Derech Eretz & Mitzvot and how to act with kindness and respect

**Practice at Home:** Be able to recite the Ma Nishtana (4 questions) on Passover.

**Unit Goals:** By the end of first grade (with regular attendance and participation) students will be able to:

**Hebrew:** Recognize some Hebrew letters and their sounds.

* Recite basic Hebrew phrases, including Todah Rabah, Boker Tov, and Ani Po.
* Students should be able to recognize basic Hebrew words like Shabbat, Chaver, and Shalom.
* Know their Hebrew name and some numbers in Hebrew.

**Tefillah**

* Experience and participate in community prayer every Sunday.
* Sing the Morning Blessings with a basic idea of choreography (focusing on specific prayers: Modeh Ani, Halleluyah, and Barchu)

**Music:**

* We will sing songs that show our love for Israel: Hatikva and Am Yisrael Chai. We celebrate holidays through the joy of music. Some of the songs we sing are Artik Menta and David Melech Yisrael.

**Holidays:** Take on an active role in holiday celebrations and traditions by singing, doing art projects, and dramatizations .

* Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur: Recognize the symbolism of apples and honey, Shofar, and Shana Tovah cards
* Sukkot: The tradition of building a sukkah and its role in ancient times and now, the significance of the Lulav and Etrog, the mitzvah of reciting the blessing when one eats in the sukkah
* Simchat Torah: Understand the significance of the Torah celebration and Flags (Degelim)
* Chanukah: The importance of Nerot (candles) and the Shamash, the Sevivon / Dreidel game and how it symbolizes Chanukah, the letters on the Dreidel.
* Tu Bishvat: Understand the responsibility of taking care of the great gift of Nature and Etzim (trees)
* Purim: Reenact the story and learn how the characters serve as role models. Identify the mitzvot and customs of Purim.
* Passover: Engage in Passover activities, the story, the Seder, singing the Four Questions and the importance of questions.
* Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel’s birthday) & Yom Yerushalayim (Kotel); Israeli Flag; how old is Israel this year? And a visit to the STARS Israeli Shuk.

**Bible**

* Be able to recall and tell a few biblical stories
* Use Biblical figures to emulate positive behavior **Jewish Life & Values:**
* Strengthen and build our community, embodying the value of K’lal Yisrael (the Jewish collective of Israel) & Kehila Kedosha (Holy Community) by giving tzedakah and helping others
* Identify the purpose of the synagogue (Beit Knesset) as a place for prayer, learning, and community; Learn about the symbols in the Shul, and 1st Grade families will Create their own Model Shul
* Define / Identify / Observe Shabbat Rituals, Shabbat objects, Shabbat Blessings, and Shabbat as a “Day of Rest”
* Connect with the concept of one God
* Bring Tzedakah (charity) each week and learn the importance of giving and sharing.
* Each month, learn about and ‘live’ a Jewish value.
* Learn about and ‘live’ the B.E.N. Initiative (Bullying Ends Now)
* Havdalah Service: Know the three symbols of blessing in the service (candle, wine, spices)
* Define Kavod as respect for one another. Practice being kind and sharing with classmates, teachers, and parents.
* Chaver bracelets (*Chesed* - Kindness, *Bracha* - Blessing, *Rachamim* - Compassion) -- Be a good Chaver! (friend)

**Israel**

* Recognize the importance and connection with Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel)
* Know when Israel became a state (in 1948), and that the capital of Israel is Jerusalem
* Learn about important people in relation to Israel
* Learn about the Shivat HaMinim; the 7 species of Israel
* Learn about Israel through our Shinshinit (an Israeli volunteer who will join Sinai Temple for the year)

**Textbooks:** A Child’s Garden of Torah & Aleph-Bet Champ