

**Sinai Temple Religious School - Curriculum Overview**

**4th Grade - Kitah Dalet כיתה ד**

**2025-2026 / 5785-5786**

**Overarching Goals**

* To explore the connection of the Jewish People to the Land of Israel
* To demonstrate a deep commitment and love of Israel
* To understand the importance of Mitzvot in guiding our lives and to enrich the Jewish spirit of our heritage
* To enjoy and read basic Hebrew text and words smoothly and with accuracy

**Practice at Home:** Hatikva and Friday night Kiddush; Dog Tag Hebrew Tests

**Unit Goals:** By the end of 4th grade (with regular attendance and participation) students will be able to:

**Hebrew:**

* Correctly name 22 Hebrew letters and produce sounds of all 22 Hebrew letters, and all 9 vowels
* Accurately identify and pronounce all letter-vowel blends, and divide syllables appropriate and smoothly, visually and orally
* Read simple words accurately and read a sentence accurately, even with some hesitation

**Tefillah (תפילה), Trope, & B’nai Mitzvah Practice:** Learn prayers for Havdalah and continue to review the Friday evening service

* Sing the Saturday Morning Musaf Service with choreography
* Recognize and sing Torah trope and apply to Shema and V’Ahavta with Cantor
* Learn Torah and Tallit blessings

**Music:** We focus on the songs of Israel (Hatikva and Am Yisrael Chai), new and modern, and the Friday night liturgy. The students lead Kabbalat Shabbat in an Israeli-themed service to conclude the year.

**Holidays:** Explore each holiday’s connection to the Land of Israel and the Mitzvot performed on each holiday

* Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur: The book of Life, Returning to G-d and the notion of Teshuvah, Blowing of the Shofar, know holidays in order of how they occur during the year
* Sukkot: Laws of building a kosher Sukkah, Mitzvot of Sukkot, harvest and pilgrimage of Jews in the desert
* Simchat Torah: Why we finish reading the Torah and start reading it again, knowing the five books of Torah
* Chanukah: The mitzvah / ritual of lighting the Chanukiah, historical background, the importance of being different
* Tu Bishvat: Biblical source, connection between trees and man’s wisdom, the parable of Honi Hameagel, how humans are like trees
* Purim: Megillat Esther, characters of Purim, the Mitzvot on Purim, the concept of “silly fun” during the month of Adar, Mishloah Manot, Purim Shpiel, Hamantaschen
* Passover: The Passover story, the mitzvah of giving tzedakah to the poor, the mitzvah of serving all at the Seder, Ten Plagues.
* Yom Ha'atzmaut (Birthday of Israel): What does it mean to have independence? Learn about Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), and a visit to the STARS Israeli Shuk.
* Shavuot (when school is in session): Matan Torah, the 10 Commandments, eating dairy foods and the land of milk and honey

**Bible**

* Define Tanakh as the Hebrew Bible and identify its sections as Torah, Neviim, and Ketuvim; Reinforce Bible stories

**Jewish Life & Values:**

* Strengthen and build our community, embodying the value of K’lal Yisrael (the Jewish collective of Israel) & Kehila Kedosha (Holy Community)
* Experience the Matzah factory, as it relates to our study of Passover, the Kashrut laws and the mitzvot of eating Matzah on Passover
* Havdalah Service: Explore the ritual practices and symbolisms associated with the three Havdalah objects (candle, wine, spices)
* Choose an organization to give Tzedakah (charity) to.
* Each month, learn about and ‘live’ a Jewish value.
* Learn about and ‘live’ the B.E.N. Initiative (Bullying Ends Now)
* Define Kavod as respect for one another
* Chaver bracelets (*Chesed* - Kindness, *Bracha* - Blessing, *Rachamim* - Compassion) -- Be a good Chaver! (friend)

**Israel**

* Appreciate the importance of Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel), Medinat Yisrael (the State of Israel) and the meaning of independence
* Learn about the cities in Israel
* Learn about Israel through our Shinshinit (an Israeli volunteer who will join Sinai Temple for the year)

**Textbooks:** A Child’s Bible: Lessons from Prophets & Writings, Welcome to Israel, Ten Minute Hebrew Refresher, Reishit Chochmah