

**Sinai Temple Religious School - Curriculum Overview**

**7th Grade - Kitah Zayin כיתה ז**

**2025-2026 / 5785-5786**

**Theme of the Year: Leadership, Israel, & the Holocaust Studies**

**Enduring Understanding:** As students become B'nai Mitzvot and are considered “Jewish adults,” they have the responsibility and the ability to affect positive change in the world and their community.

**Essential Questions:** *(Lifelong questions that students will explore throughout the year)*

* What issues face the Jewish world today?
* What can be improved in my community?
* What do I have the ability/influence to change?

**Units:**

Students will work on different units focusing on leadership skills, while incorporating Jewish values into their thoughts and actions.

**Morah Elaine’s Unit –** Students will engage directly with Holocaust Survivors, listen to their stories and document their stories (including Witness to Witness program)

**Moreh Jaden’s Unit –** Jewish and Israeli History. Students will study Israel’s history (through IsraelLink program and StandWithUs material)

**Tefillah (תפילה):**

* Every Sunday Morning, students will gather in community to do a Shacharit morning service as well as sing new songs and prayers.

***Knowledge and Skills:***

**Hebrew:** With regular attendance and participation, students will be able to:

* Read simple and complex words accurately, and read a sentence smoothly (even with some pauses).
* Read and understand Hebrew vocabulary geared toward conversation and Israel.
* Use basic Hebrew vocabulary in conversation.
* Learn about Israel through our Shinshinit (an Israeli volunteer who will join Sinai Temple for the year)
* Visit to the STARS Israeli Shuk
* Visit the “Haifa” Restaurant and order in Hebrew

**Judaic Studies & B’nai Mitzvah Practice:** Students will gain a deeper understanding of the Jewish holidays, with a focus on how the concepts relate to us today.

* Each month, learn about and ‘live’ a Jewish value.
* Choose an organization to give Tzedakah (charity) to.
* Learn about and ‘live’ the B.E.N. Initiative (Bullying Ends Now)
* Chaver bracelets (*Chesed* - Kindness, *Bracha* - Blessing, *Rachamim* - Compassion) -- Be a good Chaver! (friend)

**Trope:**

* Sing all Friday night B'nai Mitzvah prayers
* Recite the Tefillin brachot smoothly and accurately
* Recognize and sing Torah and Haftarah trope
* Practically apply Torah and Haftarah trope to texts
* Sing the blessings before and after Haftarah smoothly and accurately
* Sing/Pray the Shacharit Service

**Siyum (סיום) Culminating End-of-Year Experience:** Students are assigned individual prayers and work with the Rabbi and Cantor to lead the prayers during the Siyum and create an explanation of their meanings.

**Chuggim (חוגים) Electives (Once a month):**

Students choose topics based on their interests to achieve deeper understandings of particular aspects of Judaism.

**Practice at Home:** Hatikva and Kiddish; and for Dog Tag Hebrew Tests