

**Sinai Temple Religious School - Curriculum Overview**

**Kindergarten - Gan גן**

**2025-2026 / 5785-5786**

**Overarching Goals:**

* To foster a positive experience and love of Judaism through the learning of Midot (character), Kavod (respect), and Chesed (loving kindness)
* To have fun and to create friendships that last through adulthood
* To want to come back to Sinai in 20 years and remember all of the good times they had in Religious School
* To “skip” all the way to the classroom on Sunday mornings

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

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

**Hebrew:**

* “Sing” and play with the Hebrew letters
* Learn Hebrew words and phrases
* Use Hebrew words and phrases in song and play
* Learn their Hebrew name & which letters are in their name

**Tefillah:**

* Sing the Morning Blessings (Modeh Ani, Mah Tovu and Barchu, Shema Yisrael) with a basic idea of choreography
* Participate in our community Sunday morning Tefillah service with joy & movement.

**Music:**

* We focus on the joy music brings to Judaism – we learn songs for Shabbat and songs for the holidays that the students can sing at home too, teach their families. and celebrate the Jewish calendar year. Some of the songs we sing are Artik Menta, David Melech, Hatikva, Am Yisrael Chai, and Hinei Mah Tov.

**Holidays:**

* Explore, understand, and identify the key symbols (listed below) and the themes of each Jewish holiday
  + Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: Jewish New Year, Apples and Honey, Shofar; Attend Tashlich service at the beach.
  + Sukkot: Lulav & Etrog, blessings in the Sukkah.
  + Simchat Torah: Love of reading of the Torah
  + Chanukah: Chanukiah, Shamash, learning about the letters on the Dreidel – Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin
  + Tu Bishvat: Birthday of the trees and their importance in our lives, Etz = tree, Tu Bishvat Seder
  + Purim: Story of Purim, Megillah, Grogger
  + Passover: Haggadah, Seder Plate, 4 cups of wine, Ma Nishtana / 4 Questions – why are questions important?
  + Yom Ha'atzmaut: Yom Yerushalayim (Kotel), Israeli Flag, Israel’s birthday, and a visit to the STARS Israeli Shuk!

**Bible:**

* Be familiar with the stories in the book of Beiresheet (Genesis), including Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah, the Tower of Babel, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, Jacob & Esau, Joseph & his brothers

**Jewish Life & Values:**

* Strengthen and build our community, embodying the value of K’lal Yisrael (the Jewish collective of Israel) & Kehila Kedosha (Holy Community).
* Describe/explain the contents of a Jewish home: Mezuzah, Books (Bible, Siddur, Haggadah), and Shabbat symbols (in Hebrew and English), including Kiddush cup, Challah cover, candlesticks, and wine / grape juice
* 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: Recognize the three symbols of blessing in the service (candle, wine, spices)
* Practice saying blessings (*Hamotzi* & blessings over grape juice and snacks) to develop familiarity with Jewish rituals.
* Define Kavod as respect for one another and Chesed as loving kindness
* Chaver bracelets (*Chesed* - Kindness, *Bracha* - Blessing, *Rachamim* - Compassion) -- Be a good Chaver! (friend)

**Israel:**

* Recognize the map of Israel, know that Eretz Israel became a state in 1948 and that its capital is Jerusalem (where the Kotel is).
* Learn about Israel through our Shinshinit (an Israeli volunteer who will join Sinai Temple for the year)