



בן זומא אומר, איזהו חכם, הלומד מכל אדם
Ben Zoma said: Who is wise? One who
learns from all people.
-Pirkei Avot 4:1

MIDDLE SCHOOL JEWISH STUDIES CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

COMMUNITY PRACTICE - SHLICHEI TZIBBUR & BA'AL KOREH

- ★ Students become confident student leaders by spending a week being the Toran for all services (Monday, Thursday, and Friday) as well as daily Birkat Hamazon..
- ★ All MS will have an opportunity to chant Torah at least once if not twice during the year. The readings until December have already been assigned, and the rest of the year will be allocated shortly.
- ★ All of MS gathers daily to chant Birkat Hamazon together.

BEIT MIDRASH - HOW WE LEARN IS WHAT WE LEARN...AND WE LEARN LOTS!

- ★ PoP Partner School - Chevruta Study is a centered practice in ELA, HLA, Global Research & Jewish Studies.
- ★ Students have opportunities to study Torah, Mishnah, Midrash, and Megillah in preparation for Holidays (i.e the upcoming Teshuva Carnival!), as well as integrated into the ELA and Global Research classrooms.

AM YISRAEL - EARLY ZIONISM

- ★ Students have the opportunity to learn about the beginnings of European Zionist movement through a dedicated study of Hatikvah, through the Dreyfus affair and the first Zionist Congress.
- ★ Students will explore different eras of Jewish Nationhood from the First Temple onwards, to understand the peaks and troughs of Jewish sovereignty in the land and concepts of indigeneity.
- ★ Students will also do concurrent media analyses of Israel in the News, today, to understand elements of perception and bias.

AVODAH V'TZEDEK - SERVICE & JUSTICE

- ★ Students will periodically take part in different endeavors with Jewish Family Services, providing help and support for different festival preparation events (i.e. helping to prepare Rosh Hashanah meal kits.)
- ★ Students will have an opportunity to lead the school in the Tekes Yom Hazikaron (Memorial ceremony for fallen Israeli Soldiers) following intensive units in Hebrew and Jewish Studies Classes.
- ★ Students will undertake a community service project of choice.

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BEIT MIDRASH - HOW WE LEARN IS WHAT WE LEARN

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ERETZ YISRAEL - UNDERSTAND THE LAND

- ★ A dedicated study of maps of Israel, in order to understand the demographics, geography, borders, and biology of the land.
- ★ Using maps and representative artwork to begin to understand religious and political movements in Israel and throughout the world.
- ★ Students will also do concurrent media analyses of Israel in the News, today, to understand elements of perception and bias.

AVODAH V'TZEDEK - SERVICE AND JUSTICE

- ★ Students will periodically take part in different endeavors with Jewish Family Services, providing help and support for different festival preparation events (i.e. helping to prepare Rosh Hashanah meal kits.)
- ★ **Tekes Yom Hashoah** - After months of dedicated study, our 7th grade students will create the Tekes Yom Hashoah (Holocaust commemoration) for the school. They will also take part in the South Bay Community Commemoration.
- ★ Students will undertake a community service project of choice.

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- ★ All MS will have an opportunity to chant Torah at least once if not twice during the year. The readings until December have already been assigned, and the rest of the year will be allocated shortly. 8th Grade students will also chant Bereisheet for the school for Simchat Torah, and learn the special cantillation for Megillat Esther.
- ★ All of MS gathers daily to chant Birkat Hamazon together.

BEIT MIDRASH - HOW WE LEARN IS WHAT WE LEARN

- ★ PoP Partner School - Chevruta Study is a centered practice in ELA, HLA, Global Research & Jewish Studies.
- ★ Students have opportunities to study Torah, Mishnah, Midrash, and Megillah in preparation for Holidays, as well as integrated into the ELA and Global Research classrooms.
- ★ JCAT simulation - Jewish and American historical texts to be studied in chevruta.

MEDINAT YISRAEL - THE STATE OF ISRAEL - LEGITIMACY & ADVOCACY

- ★ Students will analyze, unpack, and compare the Balfour Declaration, the Declaration of Independence (of Israel) and the latest Nation State Law to understand the political establishment and its development over the last 100 years.
- ★ Students will also do concurrent media analyses of Israel in the News, today, to understand elements of perception and bias.
- ★ In preparation for the Israel Trip, students will become their own tour guides. Once our itinerary is confirmed, students will create a 15 minute tour guide presentation/activity for the group.

AVODAH V'TZEDEK - KESHET KREW/PURIM/SOCIAL JUSTICE

- ★ **Keshet Krew** - analysis and study of the history of middot and how we can best present and model the chosen middah for the school each month.
- ★ **Purim** - megillah, spiel, activities and matanot l'evyonim - creating a school-wide drive for those less fortunate.
- ★ **Lag B'Omer** - leadership & team coordination.