

General and Judaic Studies

לימודי חול ולימודי קודש

Curriculum Guide

תכנית לימודים

Grades K - 8

כיתות גן - ח'

A SCHOOL

A HOME

A PROMISE

על שלושה דברים העולם עומד
על התורה ועל העבודה ועל גמילות חסדים

THE WORLD RELIES ON THREE THINGS:
ON THE TORAH, ON WORSHIP, AND ON LOVING DEEDS

ADDRESSING THE WHOLE STUDENT

Oakland Hebrew Day School provides children from kindergarten through eighth grade with an excellent education in both General and Judaic studies. Our curriculum encourages girls and boys from all Jewish backgrounds to learn about their heritage and the greater world they live in by:

- constructing a curriculum that is both progressive and spiraled - one that builds upon skills and information previously learned
- building individual skills, talents and critical-thinking abilities
- scaffolding each year's learning as a platform for the next
- instilling Middot (character traits) to encourage meaningful individual and communal values
- fostering a life-long love of learning and a strong Jewish identity
- preparing each student to succeed in high school and beyond

MEETING COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS

The OHDS curriculum engages and empowers students through:

- small classes that maximize learning opportunities
- committed teachers who actively engage students with a range of learning styles
- enrichment programs in art, music, computer technology and physical education
- equal opportunities for participation to girls and boys
- extended school days with extensive after school programs

Additionally, the General and Judaic studies programs reinforce each other as the curriculum integrates skills in analysis and writing, reading and comprehension, social studies and history.

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

The faculty of Oakland Hebrew Day School is comprised of professionals who are experts in their respective disciplines and in meeting the needs of individual learners. Teachers at each grade level are organized into teams across disciplines to foster dialogue and the development of a coherent and thoughtful curriculum.

We are committed to a professional learning community that supports the continuing growth of each teacher. All of our teachers demonstrate a vigorous dedication to helping each student succeed. Moreover, teachers continually work with administrators to evaluate students' progress in order to support each child to realize his or her own potential.

A RECORD OF SUCCESS

OHDS graduates achieve success in high school and college while assuming meaningful roles as young adults committed to Judaism, the Jewish people and Israel.

ART

Students learn how to work in a variety of media to express themselves as Jews and as individuals. They receive exposure to outstanding artists and their work and develop skills with which to understand and appreciate art as it is expressed in Jewish and other traditions.

The curriculum builds on skills learned in the previous year, fostering a methodical, increasing level of ability, sophistication and complexity.

ART ELEMENTS – Line, shape, color and form are emphasized in every level.

CONTEXT – Students are inspired by the works of well known artists and established styles as well as text, ritual and history.

MEDIA/TECHNIQUE – Students are offered a wide array of media experiences in order to expand their artistic potential, to foster careful, comprehensive use of materials and to encourage experimentation.

- Grades 1 - 3

The overall focus is on the use of basic materials and development of skills.

- Grades 4 - 6

The emphasis is on aesthetics, composition and technique.

- Grades 7 - 8

Students learn of artists' motivations and to critique art.

Music

The role of music in Jewish worship and celebration is rich with many sources, styles and influences from Jewish communities around the globe and through the centuries. In grades K - 2, OHDS students become familiar with the broad variety of Jewish musical traditions within their core curriculum. Beginning in grade 3, they learn the basic structure of music and the influences of leading movements and composers through the centuries.

- Grades 3 - 5

Students learn the fundamentals of music: the notes of the treble clef, rhythms, and basic theory. They listen to music, orchestral arrangements, identify instruments and learn to play the recorder.

- Grades 6 - 8

Students learn the history of music and learn to play an instrument. Instruments are provided for those who do not have their own.

COMPUTER SKILLS - MASTERING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

From first through eighth grades, OHDS students engage in a formal program learning to use computers and the internet safely and effectively. Comprehensive instruction within a well-equipped computer lab gives students the abilities and skills required in a world in which technology supports learning, creativity, science and business management.

The program builds from year to year to provide a sound platform of knowledge and enable timely progress. In the early grades, students begin with the basics such as using computer components and becoming comfortable with the latest technology. As they progress, students learn standard application such as: Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as online research skills. Students also use a variety of educational software for math and language support, including Hebrew language programs.

Students in grades 5 through 8 integrate software and internet research into their core curriculum. They learn to balance online research with traditional library skills. Their ability to navigate the internet enables them to expand their scholastic, personal and Jewish interests.

Upon entering high school, OHDS students bring with them the technological skills required for academic success and a thorough grounding for achievement in their futures.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Jewish tradition teaches us of the sanctity of our bodies and the need to develop our physical health as well as our spiritual and intellectual well-being. The PE program provides all students with motor skill development, a healthy self-image as they grow and develop at their own individual rates, and social development to engender teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for others.

- Grades K - 2: The emphasis is on the basics of running, jumping, hopping and skipping plus eye-hand coordination: throwing and catching larger balls.
- Grades 3 - 5: Ball skills—throwing, catching, volleying and dribbling enhance eye-hand coordination and game preparation. Rope jumping is used for coordination, pulmonary fitness and leg strength. Participation in games demonstrates how effort affects performance.
- Grades 6 - 8: Fitness testing measures running ability as well as the development of strength from strength-building activities—sit-ups and push-ups. We stress the importance of and techniques for stretching and promote exercise as a lifestyle. We teach the balance of individual skills within team games, and the importance of good sportsmanship.

THE ELEMENTARY (GRADES K-5) CURRICULUM

Elementary school students receive a strong, age-appropriate foundation on which to base their academic careers and Jewish lives.

The Kindergarten at OHDS blends academics and the arts with a strong focus on motor skills and physical development. The program offers our budding students a structured, nurturing, and experiential environment as they gain new and important learning skills.

In first through fifth grades, OHDS students engage in an intellectually challenging and standards-based General Studies program. The curriculum focuses on the important ideas within the fields of literature, mathematics, history, science, technology, and the fine and performing arts.

The Judaic Studies program enables learners to actively connect to the texts and texture of our tradition. With its concentration on “learning how to learn,” our program produces informed and confident readers of traditional Jewish texts. Our students develop comfort and fluency in Hebrew through the study of Hebrew language and literature. Study of Torah, Jewish holidays and Jewish history provides students with broad Judaic literacy.

Students are given the opportunity to explore a wide variety of fine and performing arts. We consider the arts to be a core element of our classrooms. They are, therefore, integrated into the regular academic program so that students might, for example, examine a significant event not only through history and literature, but also through art and music.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: concepts about print, phonetic connection between letters and sounds, phonemic awareness, explicit systematic phonics and blending, fluent recognition of all the letters in the alphabet and their sounds, print awareness, sight words, rhyming words, reading simple decodable books, vocabulary, listening comprehension • Writing: penmanship, upper and lower case script • Journaling and writing using pictures and creative spelling • Listening and speaking: following directions, speaking clearly

MATH

Number Sense: counting and writing numbers to 30, addition and subtraction readiness, calendar, fractions, comparison and patterns • Geometry: simple geometric figures • Measurement: inches and centimeters, time, money • Mathematical Reasoning: simple problem solving, graphing

SCIENCE

Investigation and experimentation • Life Science: gardening, plant and animal life • Earth Science: land and water features, seasons • Physical Science: observable properties, color and light

SOCIAL STUDIES

Values of honesty, courage, determination and individual responsibility • Following rules, sharing, taking turns • Recognition of national and state symbols • Jobs in the local community and school community. • Simple geography • Holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Presidents Day and Independence Day

HEBREW - עברית

Aleph-bet (alphabet) • Basic everyday vocabulary including, colors, clothing, food • Exposure to letters aleph through tav • Read words of 2-4 letters
• Calendar vocabulary / months in Hebrew
• Weather words • Holiday vocabulary
• Name writing in Hebrew • Counting from 1 - 15
• Correspondence of letters and numbers in Hebrew (gematria)

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Blessings over food and after meals • Shabbat: meanings, blessings • Challah baking • Basic mitzvot and minhagim (customs) • Sefer Torah and its making • Tzedaka • Holidays and cycles of the Jewish year • Mitzvot

TEXT STUDY - תנ"ך

Parashat Hashavuah (weekly Torah portion) primarily in English • Parsha sheet • Chumash (5 books of Moses) • Days of Creation (Bereshit) • Matan Torah

PRAYER - תפילה

Introduction to Shacharit (morning service)
• Basic prayers and blessings, including beginning of Birkat HaMazon (blessing after meals)
• Thanking G-d

MIDDOT - מידות

Happiness • Courage

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

Degel Yisrael (Israeli flag) • Semel Yisrael (Israeli emblem) • Centrality of Israel to the Jewish People • Israel on the map • Jerusalem • Hatikvah • Israel in the Tanach (Bible) • Beit HaMikdash

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: phonemic awareness, decoding and word recognition, reading decodable books and advancing to appropriate children's literature for fluency, comprehension, literacy response and analysis, plot setting, characters • Writing: developing central ideas, descriptive words, penmanship, script, brief narratives using regular spelling and creative spelling • Grammar: nouns, verbs and adjectives • Punctuation: periods, exclamation and question marks • Capitalization • Listening and speaking

MATH

Number Sense: fluency in counting, adding and subtracting to 20, place value to 100, estimating, fractions • Geometry: geometric shapes in terms of their properties • Simple Algebra • Mathematical Vocabulary • Measurement: standard and metric units, time, money, temperature • Simple Statistics: data organization, simple graphs/charts, probability

SCIENCE

Understanding the scientific process. • Life Science: comparing animals and plants • Earth Science: Earth, weather • Physical Science: matter, solids, liquids, gases • Machines

SOCIAL STUDIES

Citizenship: everyday life in different times and places in the United States, Americans' varied backgrounds, basic economics • Folk tales of other countries • American symbols, landmarks, national holidays and traditions • Simple Map Skills: continents and oceans

HEBREW - עברית

Review letters • Develop reading skills
• Vocabulary based on home, school and classroom environments • Cursive Hebrew
• Hebrew language stories exploring caring for others
• Interactive Hebrew software

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Shabbat: preparation, blessings, Kabbalat Shabbat, traditions, havdalah • Rosh Hashanah: symbols • Yom Kippur: reasons for fasting, machzor (special prayer book), wearing white • Sukkot: the Sukkah, ushpizin (special guests), four species, blessings for netilat lulav • Simchat Torah: concluding the Torah cycle • Chanukah: the story, chanukiah and blessings for lighting, dreidel • TuB'Shvat: seven species • Purim: Megillat Esther and mitzvot • Pesach: story and characters, slavery, chametz, seder table and order, counting the Omer • LagBaOmer • Shavuot: getting ready for Shavuot, Z'man Matan Torateinu

TEXT STUDY - תנ"ך

Parashat Hashavuah (weekly Torah portion)

PRAYER - תפילה

Chagigat HaSiddur: Students receive their first Siddur • Shacharit (morning prayer): Ashrei, Shema, first paragraph of the Amidah • Birkat HaMazon

MIDDOT - מידות

Being a good friend • Not embarrassing others

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

The land and its geography • Main cities • Prayer for Medinat Yisrael • Hatikvah • Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day)

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: continued word analysis, phonemic awareness, reading fluency and vocabulary building, comprehension, literacy response and analysis, cause and effect, fact and opinion, predicting, sequencing • Writing: coherent sentences and paragraphs, beginning writing process, drafting/editing, penmanship, script, spelling practice, spelling in writing using more conventional spelling and some creative spelling, research and dictionary skills • Grammar: language mechanics and punctuation • Listening and speaking

MATH

Number Sense: problem solving, mathematical reasoning and math vocabulary, place value to 1,000, addition/subtraction of two and three digit numbers, beginning multiplication/division, fractions/decimals, data and graphs, money, time and temperature, estimation and measurement—standard and metric • Algebra and functions • Geometry: plane, congruent figures and lines of symmetry • Probability

SCIENCE

Understanding the scientific process • Life Science: life cycles in animals—constancy and change • Physical Science: energy and motion—light, lenses, motion, sound, heat • Earth Science: Earth's materials—soils, plants, water, weathering, erosion, rocks/minerals • Health: germs, illness prevention

SOCIAL STUDIES

People who make a difference, distant history and today's events, US map skills, government institutions, law, trade and diplomacy, US Presidents, basic economics • Environmental awareness • Family history

HEBREW - עברית

Heavily intertwined with Judaic curriculum Vocabulary: based on home/school environments, Torah study, holidays, Jewish calendar • Grammar: past/present tenses, masculine/feminine, singular/plural • Conversation: Hebrew immersion

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Rosh Hashanah: Tshuva, mitzvot between person and person, person and G-d, sounds of the shofar, relevant Torah portions • Yom Kippur: story of Yonah, mitzvot of the holiday, forgiveness • Sukkot: origin, preparation, living in a sukkah and relating to nature • Simchat Torah: ending and beginning Torah cycle • Purim: Megillat Esther—characters' emotions and motivations, concept of nahafochu (topsy-turvy) • Pesach: seder steps, symbols and storytelling • Shavuot: giving of Torah, mitzvah of learning Torah • Chanukah: leaders and heroes, the Maccabees, miracle and pirsum ha'ness (advertising the miracle of Chanukah)

TEXT STUDY - תנ"ך

Chagigat Chumash: students receive the first Book of the Torah—Bereshit • Study of parshiot (portions) Bereshit through Lech-Lecha • Developing reading fluency and comprehension with minimum English translation • Parashat Hashavuah: explore main story line in Hebrew through creative hands-on activities

PRAYER - תפילה

New Shacharit prayers including additional paragraphs of the Amidah, Yishtabach • Tefillat HaDerech (Prayer for the Wayfarer)

MIDDOT - מידות

Caring for and respecting each other • Valuing each other

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

Review map of Israel • Main cities • Jerusalem • Symbols of Eretz Yisrael: menorah, flag, Hatikvah

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: word analysis, decoding words, vocabulary, reading fluency, reading comprehension, retelling/paraphrasing, literary response and analyses of narratives and expository text, oral presentations, biographies and historical fiction • Writing: creative writing—personal narratives, research, sensory details, friendly/formal letter writing, reports/essays, expository writing • Writing Strategies: organization, paragraphs, penmanship (cursive) • Sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and spelling

MATH

Number Sense: place value of whole numbers, addition/subtraction/multiplication/division, relationships of whole numbers, simple fractions and decimals • Algebra and Functions: simple number and functional relationships • Measurement and Geometry: quantification of properties of objects, attributes of plane and solid geometric figures • Statistics: simple probability experiments • Reasoning: approaching problems and finding solutions, generalizing and estimating

SCIENCE

Understanding the scientific process • Earth Science: sun, moon and Earth, stars and planets • Physical Science: matter, energy and forces—force, motion and machines • Earth's Resources: air, water, land • Life Science: environmental adaptation and survival of plants and animals

SOCIAL STUDIES

Continuity and Change: use of maps, tables, graphs, photos and charts to organize information about people, places and environments • California Native American nations • Local history • Rules and laws in daily life • Basic structure of US government

HEBREW - עברית

Past tense, possessive, prefixes, prepositions • Exposure to creative writing, paraphrasing, summarizing • Expand conversational Hebrew

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Preparation for High Holidays • Asseret Yemei Tshuvah (ten days of repentance): Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur laws and services, shofar, tshuva, tefillah, five prohibitions of Yom Kippur • Sukkot/Shemini Atzeret: sukkah, desert experience, the festival as it appears in the Chumash, mitzvot, names for the holiday and their significance • Simchat Torah: making a Sefer Torah, the sofer • Chanukah: story in Hebrew, aspects of the miracle, the chanukiah, Jewish life in the time of Chanukah • Purim: focus on four mitzvot and celebration of Shushan Purim • Four Shabbatot between Purim and Pesach • Pesach: Yetziat Mitzraim (Exodus from Egypt), ten plagues, fifteen steps of seder and Hagadah • Shavuot: names of holiday and significance, minhagim (customs)—eating dairy, tikkun leil Shavuot (studying Torah all night)

TEXT STUDY - תנ"ך

Chumash: Bereshit—parshiot: Vayera to Vayetzeh • Rashi: his life, his script, introduction to his commentaries

PRAYER - תפילה

The Shema: understanding this prayer and its blessings

MIDDOT - מידות

Relationships among human beings: generosity, compassion, patience, not speaking badly of others and respect • Mitzvah of welcoming guests

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

Geography: physical map of Israel, geographic areas of the country • Four Holy Cities: Jerusalem, Tzfat, Hebron and Tiberias

LANGUAGE ARTS

Introduction to critical reading of literature: novels

- Reading: fluency, comprehension of narrative and expository text, literary response and analysis, vocabulary
- Writing: multiple-paragraph compositions, writing process, outlining, research skills, paraphrasing, multiple sources and bibliography
- Grammar: sentence structure, parts of speech, agreement, verb tenses and punctuation, editing
- Spelling
- Listening and Speaking: brief recitations and presentations

MATH

Number Sense: understanding place value of whole numbers to two decimals and how they relate to fractions, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, addition and subtraction of simple decimals

- Algebra and Functions: variables and symbols, manipulation of equations
- Measurement and Geometry: perimeter and area, plane and solid geometric objects
- Statistics: organize, represent and interpret numerical and categorical data, probability
- Reasoning: problem solving and generalization

SCIENCE

Understanding the scientific process

- Earth Science: Earth's landforms and natural resources
- Life Science: populations and ecosystems
- Physical Science: magnetism and electricity

SOCIAL STUDIES

California: physical and human geography

- Peoples and cultures from pre-Columbian to the Spanish mission and Mexican Rancho periods
- Economic, social and political life from the Bear Flag Republic through the Mexican-American War, Gold Rush and granting of statehood
- Growth of California as an agricultural and industrial power
- Local, state and federal governments

HEBREW - עברית

Reading Comprehension and Creative Writing: identifying main ideas, book reports (Hebrew books)

- Grammar: conjunctions, prepositions, punctuation, different verb structures
- Oral Language: build conversation skills by sharing experiences, writing and reading stories to class, practicing storytelling

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: seder of Rosh Hashanah, Kiddush, symbols, Machzor, Torah readings, kittle as symbol of purity, mikvah

- Sukkot/Hoshana Rabbah: four species—symbolism and relationship to Am Yisrael, midrashim about four species, custom around Hoshana Rabbah
- Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: prayer for rain, gathering of children under chupah, Chatan Bereshit and Chatan Torah
- Chanukah: leadership skills, hanerot halalu and brachot for lighting candles
- Purim: community during crisis, leadership roles of main characters
- Pesach: four sons, four questions, four cups, four names
- Shavuot: parashat Yitro (Jethro)—Moshé's leadership in the wilderness, introduction to Shavuot midrashim
- Shabbat: the 39 melachot: connection between the work done in the Mishkan and work prohibitions of Shabbat
- Mitzvah of lehaphrish challah (separation of challah when baking), origin of two candles, two loaves and Shabbat table
- Kashrut

TEXT STUDY - תנ"ך ותורה שבעל פה

Chumash: finish Sefer Bereshit from parshiot Vayishlach to Vayichi with Rashi's commentary

- Mishna: introduction to Pirkei Avot between Pesach and Shavuot
- Nevi'im (Prophets): Yehoshua (Book of Joshua)
- Parashat Hashavuah and Midrashim

PRAYER - תפילה

Psukei D'zimrah, five Halelukahs, Az Yashir, entire Hallel

- First half of the Amidah in depth
- Shomer Yisrael (in Tachanun)

MIDDOT - מידות

Truth • Generosity

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

Jerusalem old and new: period between the two Holy Temples, four quarters in the Old City, the Kotel (Western Wall)

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: fluency, comprehension, vocabulary; Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, suffixes, text features, graphics, diagrams and charts • Literature Analysis: characteristics of poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, identify themes and literary devices, authors' techniques • Writing: creative and expository essays, research essays, persuasive letters, writing process, note taking, grammar and spelling • Coherent oral presentations

MATH

Number Sense: computing with very large (millions) and very small (thousandths) numbers, positive integers, decimals, fractions and percents • Algebra and Functions: variables in simple expressions, computing values of expressions for specific values of variables, plot and interpret results • Measurement and Geometry: volume and area of simple objects, properties of plane and solid geometric figures • Statistics: data sets, mean, median and mode, use of fractions and percentages to compare data sets • Reasoning: strategies, skills and concepts for problem solving

SCIENCE

Earth Science: The seasons, moon observation and phases, weather and climate: metric measurement, graphing temperature • Life Sciences: human body — skeletal system, proportions, respiratory/cardio/vascular/digestive systems • Physical Science: nature of matter

SOCIAL STUDIES

US History and Geography: Early European exploration, Colonial political/social institutions, American Revolution, the Constitution, Western immigration to the mid-1800s • Maps: longitude, latitude, contour, elevation • US Geography: state locations and capitals

HEBREW - עברית

Reading Comprehension: Chelm stories, introduction to Hebrew literature • Applied writing • Conversation • Grammar

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: liturgy of Machzor: Malchuyot, Zichronot, Shofarot, different services for Yom Kippur, observance during Beit HaMikdash period • Sukkot/Hoshanah Rabbah: Torah passages and holiday readings, Chassidic stories, Hoshanot • Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: essence of holidays, celebrations here and in Israel, different calendars in Israel and Diaspora, variety of minhagim (customs), Torah readings • Chanukah: symbols, origin of Haftarat • TuB'Shvat: the four Jewish new years • Purim: Al HaNissim, use and history of masks and costumes • Pesach: vocabulary, halachot and minhagim aside from seder, preparation, Chol HaMoed (intermediate days) and last two days • Omer between Pesach and Shavuot • Shavuot: vocabulary, Megillat Ruth • Shabbat: vocabulary for the different special Shabbatot during the year, malavah malka • Shabbat Zmirot • Shacharit Service: focus on Nishmat and difference between the Amidah for Shabbat and for weekdays

TEXT STUDY - תנ"ך ותורה שבעל פה

Chumash: first half of Shemot (Exodus) through Parashat Beshelach, birth and development of Jewish nation • Mishnah: introduction to Oral Torah and discussions of holidays • Nevi'im: Shoftim (Judges) and leadership qualities • Chevrotah: focus on team study • Chassidic stories

PRAYER - תפילה

Shirat HaYam (Song of the Sea), in-depth study of second half of the Amidah • Prayer order, history and navigating the Siddur

MIDDOT - מידות

Peace in the home • Being a good listener

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

Edot: cultures, contributions and influences of Jews from around the world on Israeli society, different aliyot, including Operations Magic Carpet and Solomon

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8) CURRICULUM

The dual curriculum for Middle School students at OHDS addresses the unique motivational and educational needs of children ages 11-14. Students are offered opportunities to observe, reflect, discuss, create and explore Literature and Talmud, Jewish History and Social Studies, Science and Hebrew, Writing, Math and Chumash. Students continue to refine their academic and critical thinking abilities while choosing electives to hone their skills in a variety of enrichment courses. These include computers, fine arts, music, photography, and physical education.

Beginning in Kindergarten, the love of Israel is instilled in our students- dramatically culminating in the eighth grade trip to Israel. For ten days, everything our students have learned about Israel at OHDS comes to life. They hike, visit important historical and biblical sights, meet Israeli leaders, do social action projects with Israeli citizens and soldiers, shop in the markets in Hebrew, spend Shabbat together in Israeli communities and connect with Israeli 8th graders.

- General Studies incorporates and enriches the California State Framework. Students are well prepared for entry to the high school of their choice.
- Judaic Studies features a “text-based” framework emphasizing mastery of traditional sources and critical thinking. It also promotes fluency in Modern Hebrew speech, reading and writing to link students with their peers in Israel and Jewish communities everywhere.

Of critical importance, OHDS focuses on preparation for and admittance to high schools. We focus on Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) preparation and provide in-depth counseling to help students and their families identify and gain entry to the most appropriate high school.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Literature: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, mythology, verbal responses and written analyses

- Understanding specialized vocabulary through word origins/relationships and historical/literary clues, obtaining information, analyzing authors' conclusions, reading fluency and comprehension of narrative and expository texts
- Plot/character analysis of historically/culturally significant literary works, fiction forms and characteristics
- Writing: focused essays, editing and revising
- Language Conventions: grammar, and spelling
- Strategies for delivering coherent presentations, including oral communications

MATH

Number Sense: positive and negative fractions, decimals, mixed numbers, ratios, proportions and percentages

- Algebra and Functions: verbal expressions and sentences as algebraic expressions and equations, simple linear equations, tables/graphs/rules, geometric patterns
- Measurement and Geometry: solving problems involving plane and solid shapes, properties of two-dimensional figures
- Statistics: measurement for data sets, theoretical/experimental probabilities
- Reasoning: problem solving strategies and applications

SCIENCE

Understanding the scientific process through lecture and labs

- Physical Science: matter properties and changes, periodic table and energy, lab on chemistry mixtures/solutions
- Life Science: cells
- Work and machines
- Earth Science: Earth's material, electricity/magnetism, lab on rocks/gems, earthquakes, continental drift, atmosphere, solar system and planets, galaxies, constellations, planet research, ecology
- Use and care of microscopes

SOCIAL STUDIES

Analysis of geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of ancient civilizations—Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome

- Cultural influences on societal development
- Timelines, archaeology, map study

HEBREW - עברית

Building reading comprehension

- Parables
- Advanced verbs and conjugation
- Writing skills
- Writing plays in Hebrew and performing them

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: Malchuyot, Zichronot and Shofarot, Book of Yonah, Yom Kippur services, five prohibitions, haftarot

- Sukkot/Hoshanah Rabbah: halachot of building a sukkah, the Hakafot, focus on Hoshana Rabbah
- Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: origins and history of Simchat Torah, ancient minhagim linked to today
- Chanukah: the conflict surrounding issues of assimilation
- TuB'Shvat: relationship between humans and nature, Ba'al Tashchit (prohibition against wastefulness)
- Purim: absence of G-d's name within Megillat Esther
- Pesach: Chag Zman Cheruteinu—festival celebrating our freedom—compare/contrast slavery/freedom, personal/collective, why many Hebrews chose to stay in Egypt, "slavery" today
- Shavuot: preparing to receive the Torah as we approach the holiday
- Shabbat: Mincha: reading the next week's Torah portion
- Zmirot (songs) for Seudat Shlishit (the third Shabbat meal)
- Havdalah: blessings and symbols

TEXT STUDY - תנייך ותורה שבעל פה

Chumash: second half of Shemot, parshiot Yitro–Pekudei

- Nevi'im: Shmuel Aleph (first book of Samuel)
- King Saul and King David
- Talmud: Tractate Berachot (ch. 4) including keywords, ten classifications, rabbis of the Talmud mentioned in the passages
- Sages and development of oral tradition

PRAYER - תפילה

Shir Shel Yom (Song of the Day)

- Introduction to Tehilim
- Focus on Hallel

MIDDOT - מידות

Humility

- Giving others the benefit of the doubt

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

Israel and Jerusalem, then and now: Jerusalem's history, inhabitants, important personalities, Jerusalem today

- Historical perspective of the events of the Chumash through destruction of the Second Temple
- Exposure to various influential Israeli personalities

LANGUAGE ARTS

Literature: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, verbal responses and written analyses • Comprehension: structural features of informational materials, word analysis, fluency and systematic vocabulary development • Writing: poetry, creative writing, literature response, group projects, memoirs, expository compositions, persuasive essays, summaries of articles/book and research • Language Conventions: grammar and spelling • Focused, coherent oral presentations

MATH

Number Sense: rational numbers, exponents, powers and roots, exponents with fractions • Algebra and Functions: quantitative relationships, graphing linear and non-linear functions • Geometry: perimeter, area, volume, Pythagorean theorem, constructing geometric figures • Statistics: data sets with one or more variables, identify relationships by and with electronic spreadsheets • Reasoning: advanced decision making

SCIENCE

Understanding the scientific process through lecture and labs • Life Science: viruses and cells: cell processes, diversity of life, classifying living things, plant characteristics, animals: classifications, genetics, heredity and evolution, bird/mammal behavior, marine science research • Earth Science: Earth and life history, ecology/ecosystems • Human Body: components and systems; digestion/nutrients, respiration/excretion, circulation, nervous, endocrine, reproduction and growth, physical principals in living systems, joints in the body compared to machines, the heart as a machine

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History and Geography: Medieval and early-modern times • Major Civilizations: Rome, Islamic Empire, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asian civilizations; China, Japan • Europe after the Roman Empire, Renaissance, Reformation • Age of Exploration to Asia and Americas, Europe 1600-1789, the Enlightenment

עברית - HEBREW

Building reading comprehension through Hebrew literature • Grammar: verb structures • Conversational Hebrew: discussions on specific topics

יהדות - JEWISH LIFE

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: tshuva, tefillah and tzedakah, vidui, kittle and purity, approaching G-d during the Hebrew month of Elul • Sukkot/Hoshana Rabba • Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: prayer for rain • Chanukah: religious/political beliefs and motivations, • TuB'Shvat: kabbalists, Tzfat, seders • Purim: political/social background of Megillat Esther • Pesach: chametz and related halachot, chametz within each person, humility/haughtiness, miracles Israel witnessed while leaving Egypt • Shavuot: Megillat Ruth • Kashrut and Tevila, the Mikvah

תנ"ך ותורה שבעל פה - TEXT STUDY

Chumash: BaMidbar (Numbers), commentaries by Rashi, Rambam, Ibn Ezra and Ramban • Nevi'im: Shmuel Bet (the second book of Samuel) focused on King David and Natan, the prophet • Talmud: Bi-annual program—Tractate Pesachim, chapter 10 and Baba Metzia, Chapter 2 • Kashrut • Megillat Ruth

תפילה - PRAYER

Kavanah (intention) during Tefillah • The three pillars of Psukei D'Zimrah— Baruch ShAmar, Ashrei and Yishtabach • Tefilin (phylacteries)

מידות - MIDDOT

Developing an ethical character: seeing good in the other • Having a positive, thoughtful outlook on life • Accountability

עם ישראל - AM YISRAEL

Israeli political system • Development of Christianity and its relationship to Judaism • Muslim and Jewish communities in the Arab world throughout history • Jews in Spain, European expulsions, North African communities • Sephardic/Ladino traditions • Map of Biblical Israel, journey from Egypt, tribal land shares, location of cities of refuge

LANGUAGE ARTS

Literature: meaning, style and voice in poetry, fiction, drama; Shakespearian through modern times, thesis writing and literary response, narrative analysis, structural features of literature and expository writing • Writing: thesis based analyses, journal, creative writing, expository writing, evaluation and revision • Advanced grammar and vocabulary, word analysis and fluency, debate and public speaking • Independent High School Entrance Exam preparation (ISEE)

MATH

Algebra: tools for solving equations, inequalities, proportions, graphs, linear equations, exponential functions, quadratic equations • Geometry: basic review, congruent figures, polygons, Pythagorean theorem, measurement, graphing • Independent High School Entrance Exam preparation (ISEE)

SCIENCE

Understanding the scientific method through lecture and labs • Physical Science: energy and motion, nature of matter, classification of matter, elements, energy and machines • Life Science: chemistry of living systems • Solutions: acids, bases and salts, density and buoyancy • Periodic table, waves, light and sound, electricity and energy resources • Earth Science: magnetism, gravity, atoms and molecules

SOCIAL STUDIES

United States History and Geography: Native Americans, European exploration, English colonies • Independence: Declaration of Independence, American Revolution, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, branches and structure of government, foreign affairs, Manifest Destiny • Civil War, Westward settlement, Industrial Revolution, immigration, development of US as world power

HEBREW - עברית

Hebrew Literature: novels, poetry, newspapers and current events • Reading, creative writing and discussion of current events in Hebrew only • Hebrew media exposure: video, film, music, television

JEWISH LIFE - יהדות

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: what to expect and what to do during services, our relationship with G-d, three key books: Reshaim, Tzadikim, Beynonim • Sukkot/Hoshana Rabba: divrei Torah (words of the Torah) to share at the table • Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: tikkun olam —responsibility to create a better world through Tefillah (prayer), Avodah (worship) and Gemilut Chasadim (loving deeds) • Chanukah: perspectives on the story, conflict within Am Yisrael • TuB'Shvat: environmental issues in the US and Israel • Purim: political/social background of Megillat Esther • Pesach: Hagaddah study, understanding the structure of the Hagadah, the customs related to the reading of the text • Shavuot: shalosh regalim (the three pilgrimage festivals of Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot)- how it is celebrated in Israel and in the diaspora, Birkat Hakohanim at the Western Wall and in the synagogues • Life Events: birth through funerals: minhagim (customs) and halachot (laws)

TEXT STUDY - תנ"ך ותורה שבעל פה

Chumash: Devarim (Deuteronomy) and commentaries by Rashi, Rambam and Ramban • Nevi'im: Melachim (Kings) • Nach: themes, chronology and conflicts within Nevi'im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings) • Talmud: Bi-annual program—Tractate Pesachim, chapter 10 and Baba Metzia, Chapter 2

PRAYER - תפילה

In-depth focus on Shema, Amidah, Hallel

MIDDOT - מידות

Modesty • Awe

AM YISRAEL - עם ישראל

Eastern Europe from the time of the Crusades, Shabatai Zvi, Haskalah (The Enlightenment), Balfour Declaration • Zionism – Statehood: culture, economy, politics, environment • Israeli Current events • Spring trip to Israel (10 days)



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