



EET Religious School – Year by Year

T'filah (prayer)

Each week, each grade will have a developmentally appropriate *t'filah* (prayer) experience in the sanctuary with Cantor Olivia Brodsky. Students will sing songs and learn the order of service and learn about the liturgy. This will give the students an opportunity to apply their Hebrew knowledge.

Pre-K/Kindergarten - Traditions and Mitzvot (Good Deeds/Commandments)

The focus for our students in their very first years of Religious School is to get them acquainted with the basics. The theme for this year is "I am Jewish." These first years form the groundwork for your child's Jewish identity and allow their Jewish learning to feel seamless and integrated. Together we will discuss and explore what it means to be Jewish, engage in our heritage by learning basic Torah stories, celebrating the holidays, and honoring *mitzvot* (good deeds/commandments). We will begin to learn basic Hebrew vocabulary and prayers, using Hebrew Through Movement and Aleph-Bet Yoga.

1st Grade - Family in Torah

In 1st grade, our students continue to build on the basics, and learn about "Family in Torah." Students will connect Jewish identity with family values through the lens of Torah. We will learn about the different people in the Torah and their stories. We will continue to learn about holidays and the people in some of the stories related to the holidays we celebrate. In their Hebrew studies, they will continue Hebrew Through Movement and begin to learn the letters of the Hebrew *aleph-bet* with Aleph-Bet Yoga.

2nd Grade - Undiscovered Torah

In 2nd grade, our students will continue to build their connection to Torah and focusing on the lesser-known Torah stories. Students will learn more about the stories behind each holiday and the connection between the ancient story and the way we celebrate the holiday today. Students will explore the questions: How was the Torah written, and why is it written the way it is? The grade will create a 2nd-grade Torah, building each part. In their Hebrew studies, students will continue Hebrew Through Movement and learning the Hebrew *aleph-bet*, numbers, basic vocabulary and feelings.

3rd Grade - G'milut Chasadim, Community and God

3rd grade will learn "the world stands on three things: Torah, Avodah and G'milut Chasadim" (Pirke Avot 1:2). We will learn what the Torah teaches us about how we treat people. We will explore how we feel and think about God. We will focus on *g'milut chasidim*, acts of lovingkindness. Students will learn how we help people around the world, our community, and ourselves.

Students will also learn about Israel through the lens of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people, from ancient history to modern day. Students will begin learning to read and write Hebrew using the PHD (Phonetic Hebrew Decoding) books.

4th Grade - Spiritual Experiences and Rituals

In 4th grade, students will personalize their own Jewish experience through the lens of prayer. Students will answer the questions: Why do we pray, how do we pray, and what do the prayers mean? Students will gain the understanding and materials to make their own *siddur*. Students will build personal connections to the prayers. We will explore different spiritual experiences in addition to prayer.

Students will also learn about various Jewish rituals and create their own class ritual. They will continue learning to read and write Hebrew using the PHD (Phonetic Hebrew Decoding) books.

5th Grade - Prophets (Ancient and Modern) and *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World)

The underlying concept of 5th grade is “I am made in the image of God,” or *B'tzelem Elohim*. Study of the *Tanach* will be introduced (Torah, *Nevi'im* [Prophets], *K'tuvim* [Writings]), expanding students' understanding of Jewish texts beyond the Torah. We will focus on a selection of stories from *Nevi'im*, the Prophets, exploring the idea of a prophet in relation to the concept of *B'tzelem Elohim*.

Delving deeper into the idea of *B'tzelem Elohim*, students will explore what this means to them personally and how it affects the way they live their lives; the focus will be on connecting this to an exploration of Jewish virtues and Social Justice. Students will define what *Tikkun Olam* is and explore their role in repairing the world.

Students will learn about Israel as a force for justice and innovation in the world, and Israel as a safe haven for Jews who have been persecuted for their religion. This will also be the first year in which we will begin to address the Holocaust during the time surrounding Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

Each student continues to work on Hebrew reading skills at his or her own pace, either continuing with the PHD books or with reading Hebrew prayers and blessings.

6th Grade - *K'tuvim* (Writings) and Jewish History (American and Holocaust)

In 6th grade, students focus on the idea “I put Jewish values into action in my community,” keeping in mind the Jewish value of *Tikkun Olam*, or repairing the world. Students will continue their exploration of the *Tanach* (Torah, *Nevi'im*, *K'tuvim*), specifically studying selections from *K'tuvim* (Writings) including Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Book of Ruth.

Already having a strong understanding of the holidays in place, students will now study the holidays as an opportunity to put *Tikkun Olam* into action. Students will determine each holiday's opportunity for connection to “repairing the world.” An important goal overall for this year is to have students start putting the ideas of *Tikkun Olam* into practice by engaging in meaningful social action in our community. The 6th grade class will help tend to the East End Temple-sponsored garden areas in Stuyvesant Square Park.

This year, students will also study American Jewish history, including the connection between the American Jewish community and Israel, and the Holocaust in relation to American Jewish history.

In their Hebrew studies, students continue to work on Hebrew reading skills at their own pace, learning to read Hebrew prayers and blessings.

Teens

7th-8th Grades (Teen Program/Junior Youth Group)

7th and 8th grades are part of our Teen Program/Youth Group. As junior youth group members, they will help curate their curriculum and experience. Topics will include Israel, current events, hot topics, and any other subject matter the students would like to explore. We will build a strong social community through holiday celebrations, trips, and social action experiences.

9th-12th Grades (Teen Program/Youth Group)

East End Temple's Teen Program/Youth Group offers teens the opportunity to take a break from the intensity of life through social programs, community service, and trips. Teens meet weekly and work their way through a curriculum they design. Past topics have included Jewish Holidays, Jewish History, Life's Big Questions, and current events through a Jewish lens. In addition to learning, in both Youth Group and Junior Youth Group, teens build a strong social community through holiday celebrations, trips, and bonding opportunities.