

**Mark L. Haberkorn Religious School**  
**Temple Sinai Las Vegas**  
**2018-2019 Curriculum**

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**Overarching Goals: Hebrew and Judaic Studies**

- Students will gain both an affective (heart) and cognitive (mind) proficiency of a variety of prayer services. Over a course of 9 years, the students will read, chant, and lead Tefillot and Torah readings during classes and during assembly services. The students will appreciate prayers as a spiritual experience, connecting to G-d and bonding with their community and their congregation.
- Students will read and write in Hebrew according to their grade level development as outlined by the Temple Sinai Hebrew program. In order to prepare students practically for modern American Jewish life, the curriculum will have a particular focus on Biblical and Siddur Hebrew.
- Students will recognize Jewish sacred texts and gain an understanding of the history of the Jewish people through engagement in 21st century learning and teaching.
- Students will celebrate the Jewish holidays and be familiar with the history, mitzvot, blessings, and other rituals associated with each holiday as they develop their Jewish identity and Jewish lifestyle.
- As a Reform institution, the Haberkorn Religious School will utilize curriculum from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) to ensure that students will have a clear understanding of Reform Jewish theology. Grades 1-7 will utilize the URJ's CHAI Curriculum, a comprehensive, engaging Reform Judaics curriculum with three interrelated tracks:
  - **Torah:** Favorite stories from the Torah with commentary and class assignments.
  - **Avodah:** Connecting to God and the Jewish people through prayers and rituals.
  - **G'milut Chasadim:** Learning about and applying Jewish values and acts of kindness into their lives.
- Temple Sinai will continue to promote Jewish values that are in the core of our code of conduct. Our students will strive to act kindly to their community, appreciate diversity, promote human rights, and understand business and behavior ethics, inferring from Jewish history and seeing in literature the relevance to today's issues.
- Students will gain an appreciation for the Jewish community through *Tikkun Olam* projects and through community involvement. Temple Sinai will partner with a number of community organizations to bring the sense of community and partnership to our students while embracing Judaism and values.
- Temple Sinai students and staff will continue to strengthen their association with Our Congregation, acquiring religious guidance and experiencing teachings from the Congregation's clergy; Temple Sinai students will partner with the Congregation by playing a vital role in services, programs, holidays, and special events.

# Curriculum by Grade

## Pre-K/Kindergarten - Morah Aimee Knox

### Religious Studies

The Pre-K – Kindergarten is a fun and exciting welcome to a lifelong relationship with Jewish learning for Temple Sinai’s littlest members. Throughout the year, our students will be introduced to Jewish holidays, Torah stories from Creation to Moses, and fundamental Jewish concepts like Mitzvot and Tzedakah. Our students will learn the Hebrew alphabet by identifying the letter and its sound as the stepping stone for learning words in following years. Through the use of fun, age-appropriate materials, including Shalom Sesame videos and Sammy the Spider story books, just to name a few, learning is always a blast in our class! Each class session will include stories and art projects to reinforce the subject of the day.

## 1st Grade - Morah Danica Torchin

### Religious Studies

The curriculum for the *1st grade* is based on the **URJ Chai Program**. The thematic thread for 1st grade is “discovering myself in the Jewish story.” This theme is reflected the enduring understandings of each strand that will be studied throughout the year:

- **Torah:** “I am part of the ongoing story of Torah and the Jewish people.” Students will study the book of Genesis as an entry point for understanding what it means to be a part of the Jewish people.
- **Avodah:** “My Jewish acts help me discover the beauty and order of sacred time and my place in the Jewish story.” Students will focus on holiday experiences and how participating in them connects us to the story of the Jewish people.
- **G’milut Chasadim:** “I am a part of the ongoing story of the Jewish people when I perform acts of *g’milut chasadim*.” Students will be introduced to the concept of *G’milut Chasidim*, acts of loving kindness. Students will learn fundamental Jewish values and connect their own behavior with their Jewish identity.

### Materials

- Chai Level 1 Torah, Avodah, & G’milut Chasadim Student Workbooks
- Dover Hebrew Alphabet Coloring Book (Dover publications)

## **2nd Grade - Morah Gail Dupree**

### **Religious Studies**

The curriculum for the 2nd grade is based on the **URJ Chai Program**. The thematic thread for 4th grade is “the personal relevance of Torah, Avodah, and G’milut Chasadim.” This theme is reflected the enduring understandings of each strand that will be studied throughout the year:

- **Torah:** “The Torah teaches me how to be a part of the Jewish people.” Through the study of the book of Exodus, the students will understand several major themes of the book and how it relates to their Jewish lives.
- **Avodah:** “Jewish stories, celebrations and rituals help me understand and express my relationship with God.” Students will explore their relationships with God by studying the Shabbat blessings as well as daily morning & evening prayers.
- **G’milut Chasadim:** “We make the world a better place by performing acts of *g’milut chasadim*.” Students will be reintroduced to the concept of *G’milut Chasadim* - acts of loving-kindness. They will explore the impact of these actions, as well as opportunities in which they can perform *G’milut Chasadim* themselves.

In addition to the Chai program, we are adding **Let’s Discover the Alef Bet**, a set of 24 exciting and entertaining lessons that introduce the names and sounds of all 22 letters in the Alef Bet.

### **Materials**

- Chai Level 2 Torah, Avodah, & G’milut Chasadim Student Workbooks
- Let’s Discover Alef Bet (Torah Aura)

## **3rd Grade - Morah Rebecca Wilner**

### **Religious Studies**

The Judaics curriculum for the 3rd grade is based on the **URJ Chai Program**. The thematic thread for 3rd grade is “*K’dushah* - Holiness.” This theme is reflected the enduring understandings of each strand that will be studied throughout the year:

- **Torah:** “The laws and rules found in the Torah can help us to live a life filled with holy moments.” Students will study the book of Leviticus to explore a number of aspects of Jewish life, gain a personal understanding of them, and determine ways in which they might impact their own lives.
- **Avodah:** “Through *avodah* we can make our lives and the world more *kadosh* (holy).” Students will focus on understanding God and their relationships with God. By learning about rituals, places, and specific prayers throughout the 9 lessons, students will learn how to make sacred connections between themselves and God, their community, and to themselves.
- **G’milut Chasadim:** “Each individual act of *g’milut chasadim* can make the world more *kadosh* (holy).” Students will explore how to apply the messages of our texts into action through their behaviors and choices.

### **Hebrew Studies**

Our third grade class will be a part of our pilot group of our brand-new Hebrew curriculum, utilizing the URJ’s *Mitkadem* Curriculum. By the end of the year, students will be able to practice right-to-left directionality of Hebrew, write each letter, decipher familiar Hebrew words without vowels, match *sofit* letters with their “partners”, distinguish letters that look alike, recall the name and sound of all Hebrew vowels & consonants, decode one- to three-syllable sound combinations and words, and use a list of “reading rules” to aid in difficult/unusual sound combinations.

### **Complementary Materials**

In addition to Hebrew and Judaics, our third graders will be complementing their studies with two books: *the Book of Jewish Holidays*, in which students will learn about the entire Jewish calendar; and *the Synagogue: House of the Jewish People* to learn all about our synagogue and what is in it, as well as synagogues throughout time and space.

### **Materials**

- Chai Level 3 Student Workbook
- Mitkadem Ramot 1 & 2
- The Book of Jewish Holidays
- The Synagogue: House of the Jewish People

## 4th Grade - Morah Iris Katz

### Religious Studies

The Judaics curriculum for the 4th grade is based on the **URJ Chai Program**. The thematic thread for 4th grade is “Being Part of the Community.” This theme is reflected the enduring understandings of each strand that will be studied throughout the year:

- **Torah:** “With the promise of a holy land (*Eretz Yisrael*), we as a holy people (*Am Yisrael*) have a responsibility to strive toward holiness by observing the covenant (*Brit*).” Students will study the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy to understand 3 central concepts: *Am Yisrael*, or the Jewish people; *Eretz Yisrael*, or the Land of Israel; and *Brit*, or covenant between *Am Yisrael* and God. These three concepts are central to helping develop students’ connection to the greater Jewish people.
- **Avodah:** “*Keva* and *kavanah*, the fixed order of worship and the personal intention we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to help us make sacred connections.” Students will focus on the dualistic relationship of Jewish prayer: both a highly personal experience, and yet one that is done formally (though not exclusively) in the public synagogue setting.
- **G’milut Chasadim:** “We have a responsibility to perform acts of *g’milut chasadim* for the people we encounter in our daily lives.” Students will study *g’milut chasadim* - personal acts of loving-kindness - as it relates to their family and friends, as well as others they encounter in their daily lives.

### Hebrew Studies

Our fourth grade class will be a part of our pilot group of our brand-new Hebrew curriculum, utilizing the URJ’s *Mitkadem* Curriculum. By the end of the year, students will be able to practice right-to-left directionality of Hebrew, write each letter, decipher familiar Hebrew words without vowels, match *sofit* letters with their “partners”, distinguish letters that look alike, recall the name and sound of all Hebrew vowels & consonants, decode one- to three-syllable sound combinations and words, and use a list of “reading rules” to aid in difficult/unusual sound combinations. Additionally, they will be utilizing Berman House’s *Derech Binah* Primer as a supplementary Hebrew resource.

### Complementary Materials

In addition to Hebrew and Judaics, our fourth graders will be using two complementary materials: *A Kid’s Mensch Handbook: Step By Step to a Lifetime of Jewish Values* to learn practical steps to apply Jewish values in their everyday lives; *Journey of a Lifetime: the Jewish Life Cycle Book* to learn about the entire Jewish lifespan and the celebrations that take place throughout it.

### Materials

- Chai Level 4 Student Workbook
- Mitkadem Ramot 1 & 2
- A Kid’s Mensch Handbook: Step By Step to a Lifetime of Jewish Values
- Journey of a Lifetime: the Jewish Life Cycle Book

## **5th Grade - Morah Ruti Gross**

### **Religious Studies**

The Judaics curriculum for the 5th grade is based on the **URJ Chai Program**. The thematic thread for 5th grade is “Reform Judaism.” This theme is reflected the enduring understandings of each strand that will be studied throughout the year:

- **Torah:** “The prophets were focused on reminding the Jewish people how God wants us to live, and their messages are at the heart of Reform Judaism.” Students will study the books of the Prophets, whose ethical teachings are central to modern Reform Judaism.
- **Avodah:** “The practice of prayer can help me grow through personal reflection, can increase my connection to the Jewish people, and can strengthen my relationship with God.” Through the study of the *Amidah*, *Aleinu*, and *Kaddish* prayers, students will reflect upon the benefits of prayer found by Reform Jews.
- **G’milut Chasadim:** “We are all part of *K’lal Yisrael* and have a responsibility to actively support and sustain the Jewish community through acts of *g’milut chasadim*.” Students will explore the ways that they as Reform Jews can support the diverse Jewish world in a number of ways, including through *tzedakah* and through activism.

### **Hebrew Studies**

Our fifth graders will spend the first half of the year using **The New Siddur Program Primer**, a fun, fast-paced primer that will reintroduce all of the Hebrew letters and vowels, building upon that knowledge to read words of all lengths. In the second part of the year, the students will be using **Z’Man L’Tefilah Volume 2: Shema**, the first of 3 prayer-focused Hebrew books that will further expand reading abilities while placing particular emphasis on the prayers that make up Jewish liturgy.

### **Complementary Materials**

In addition to Hebrew and Judaics, our fifth graders will be complementing their studies with the following books: *A Child’s Bible: Lessons from the Torah* and *A Child’s Bible: Lessons from the Prophets and Writings* to learn the heroes and stories found throughout our Biblical texts; *Partners with God*, an age-appropriate dive into Jewish understandings of the Divine Presence; and finally *You Be the Judge: A Collection of Ethical Cases and Jewish Answers*, where our students will use their own moral compasses and Jewish knowledge to debate and determine the proper response to various ethical dilemmas.

### **Materials**

- Chai Level 5 Student Workbook
- New Siddur Program Primer
- *Z’Man L’Tefilah* Volume 2: Shema
- *You Be the Judge: A Collection of Ethical Cases and Jewish Answers*
- *Partners with God*
- *A Child’s Bible: Lessons from the Torah*
- *A Child’s Bible: Lessons from the Prophets and Writings*

## **6th Grade - Morah Emma Gould**

### **Religious Studies**

The curriculum for the *6th grade* is based on the **URJ Chai Program**. The thematic thread for 6th grade is “Revelation.” This theme is reflected the enduring understandings of each strand that will be studied throughout the year:

- **Torah:** “Studying Jewish texts allows us to explore our relationship with God and reflect on the ways God is continuously revealed to others and to ourselves.” Students will study the section of the Hebrew Bible called *K’tuvim*, or Writings, to explore the ways that Revelation is experienced in the numerous literary genres found in *K’tuvim*, which they can use to relate to their own connection to Revelation.
- **Avodah:** “Avodah is the work we do, by exploring our personal and communal role in Revelation, to find sacred connections to God, community, and self.” Through studying the Torah service, students will learn that Revelation - God’s interaction with us as individuals and as a community - is ongoing, and that each of them has the opportunity to experience that interaction in his or her own life.
- **G’milut Chasadim:** “We can experience God in our world, in others and within ourselves by engaging in acts of g’milut chasadim.” Students will explore how acts of loving-kindness can bring them closer to experiencing God - Revelation.

### **Hebrew Studies**

The 6th graders will begin the year with a review of the Hebrew alphabet, utilizing the **Hebrew Reading Refresher**. Following this brief unit, they will continue with the final 2 volumes of the **Z’Man Tefilah** series, a fun Siddur-based Hebrew curriculum that will reinforce important Jewish prayers, which is extremely practical for their B’Nai Mitzvah and beyond. Volume 3 focuses on the Amida portion of the service, while Volume 4 focuses on the Torah service.

### **Complementary Materials**

In addition to the Hebrew & Judaics materials, the 6th graders will be using the following materials: **Count Me In: Jewish Values in Action**, a further dive into applied Jewish values, which will guide the students towards preparing for the Mitzvah Project portion of their B’Nai Mitzvah; **Basic Judaism for Young People: Torah** is an introductory look into the vast world of Jewish texts, from the Tanakh, to Talmud, Midrash, and more.

### **Materials**

- Chai Level 6 Student Workbook
- Back to School Reading Refresher
- *Z’Man L’Tefilah* Volume 3: Amida
- *Z’Man L’Tefilah* Volume 4: Torah
- Count Me In: Jewish Values in Action
- Basic Judaism for Young People: Torah

## **7th Grade - Morah Alyson Sinai & Cantorial Soloist Heather Klein**

### **Religious Studies**

The curriculum for the 7th grade is based on the **URJ Chai Program**. The thematic thread for 7th grade is “*Hineini* - Here I am as an Emerging Jewish Adult.” This theme is reflected the enduring understandings of each strand that will be studied throughout the year:

- **Torah:** “My life is reflected in and reflects Torah.” Students will return to the book of Genesis (studied in 1st grade) to find and place themselves in the dilemmas and situations of the characters of Genesis.
- **Avodah:** “The message and power of Jewish prayer can help me understand and define myself as an individual and as an authentic member of the Jewish community.” Students will study Jewish understandings and approaches to life-cycle events and holiday observances. Additionally, they will deal with the question of Jewish identity and what it means to be an authentic Reform Jew in the twenty-first century.
- **G’milut Chasadim:** “Our development as emerging Reform Jewish adults and authentic members of the Jewish community is closely linked to our ethical behavior (*middot*) and the performance of acts of *g’milut chasadim*.” Through the study of 8 relevant Jewish values (*middot*), students will be lead to self-reflection and the performance of *g’milut chasadim* as Reform Jewish adults.

### **Hebrew Studies**

For their Hebrew studies, our 7th grade students will be working with Cantorial Soloist Heather Klein to prepare for their Bar & Bat Mitzvahs. In addition to working throughout the year on the required prayers for the B’Nai Mitzvah service, Heather will utilize Behrman House’s *The Art of Torah Cantillation, Volumes 1 & 2* to teach them Torah and Haftarah trope.

### **Complementary Materials**

In addition to the Judaics and Hebrew curriculum, our students will be utilizing the following materials to complement their studies in the classroom and leading into their B’Nai Mitzvah, focusing on the themes of social responsibility and Jewish History: *Making a Difference: Putting Jewish Spirituality into Action, One Mitzvah at a Time* to discuss applying Jewish values to promote social change; *The Great Balancing Act: A High School Ethics Curriculum*, a 6-week unit published by the Union for Reform Judaism regarding Jewish personal development; *Introduction to Jewish History: Abraham to the Sages* and *Introduction to Jewish History: The Age of Faith and the Age of Freedom*, two quick volumes to connect the origins of Judaism to modern times, concluding with a unit on the Holocaust.

### **Materials**

- Chai Level 7 Torah, Avodah, G’milut Chasadim Student Workbooks
- The Art of Cantillation Volumes 1 & 2
- URJ’s The Great Balancing Act: A High School Ethics Curriculum
- Making a Difference: Putting Jewish Spirituality Into Action, One Mitzvah at a Time
- Introduction to Jewish History Volumes 1 & 2