Central Synagogue - 8th/9th Grade Programming

Program Options:

1. 8th/9th Grade Jewish Leadership Institute:

Highlights:
- Tuesdays, 6:00-6:45 PM
- 5 seminars (~6 weeks each), each culminating in a special event* in line with the theme of the course (schedule below)
- Students will learn from influential lay leadership within our congregation, explore how Jewish values have impacted these professionals' growth and success, and begin to develop their own role as Jewish leaders
- Access to all outside programming, service opportunities, and trips
- Special one-on-one time with our staff and clergy to match students with lay leadership opportunities
- Students are expected to attend 80% of classes

*Weekend trip and event (Civil Rights, RAC L’taken Seminar) fees are not included in program cost

Please Note: Trips will take place if it is safe to travel.

2. 8th/9th Grade Seminars:

Highlights:
- Tuesdays, 6:00-6:45 PM
- Flexibility to enroll in 1-4 seminars (~6 weeks each), each culminating in a special event* in line with the theme of the course (schedule below)
- Program options to fit students’ schedules
- Access to all outside programming and service opportunities
- Students are expected to attend all 6 sessions in each seminar they sign-up for—excused absences allowed with notice and on a case-by-case basis

*Weekend trip and event (Civil Rights, RAC L'taken Seminar) fees are not included in program cost

NOTE: In our 8th/9th Seminars program, students may only register for a trip/special event if they are also enrolled in its corresponding seminar. (i.e. enrollment in Jewish American History gives access to the Study Trip in April.)
2020-21 Seminar Schedule

Seminar 1, Sept. 15 – Oct. 20:

Jewish Culture Around the World (8th–9th Grade)

Seminar 2, Oct. 27 – Dec. 1:

Option: The Arab-Israeli Conflict: What it is and why it matters to us (8th and 9th Grade)

Seminar 3, Dec. 8 – Jan. 19:

The Holocaust (8th Grade only)

Jewish Advocacy (9th Grade only—RAC L'Taken seminar)

Seminar 4, Jan. 26–Mar. 9:

Jewish American History (8th–9th Grade—Civil Rights trip in April)

Seminar 5, Apr. 6 - May 11:

Jewish Leadership (only open to Leadership Institute students)

Please Note: Students enrolled in Jewish leadership will take each seminar one time.
Seminar Descriptions

1. **Jewish Culture Around the World (8th and 9th grade):** Students will explore a variety of cultural topics such as food, movies, music, art, prayer, and traditions as we look at how Jewish people celebrate what makes us unique, from New York to Europe and Israel to Morocco.

   Seminar Outline:
   - Define culture and identify different customs and traditions that make Jewish people unique
   - Articulate what food, art, and entertainment can tell us about the people living in a variety of Jewish communities
   - Connect Judaism in New York City to elements of Judaism around the world by highlighting key similarities and differences across cultures
   - Utilize creative projects, technology, Jewish and modern texts, and social media to explore Jewish values that are represented by various cultural topics

2. **Arab-Israeli Conflict: What is it and why it matters to us:** Students will understand the history and roots of the conflict through diverse narratives. They will gain a deeper understanding while forming their own opinions of why it matters to us as Jews living in America.

   Seminar Outline:
   - Learn the history of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
   - Identify turning points of the conflict that have shaped Israel
   - Hear diverse narratives of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
   - Reflect on the deeper meaning of the conflict and why it matters to us
3. **The Holocaust (8th grade only):** Students will study this destructive event in Jewish history, including the political and social catalysts and implications. By learning about the Holocaust in depth, students will be able to pull important themes and draw connections to modern incidents of genocide, war, and anti-Semitism.

   Seminar Outline:
   - Knowledge of the Holocaust – political, social, and historical perspectives; major events; key players; and implications we still see in our world today
   - A deeper understanding of how this affected global Jewry
   - The ability to identify key themes and make connections to modern events and conflicts
   - Intimate talk-back with survivors and their families
   - A more comprehensive look at the Holocaust in the context of WWII than in younger LCLJ years

4. **Jewish Advocacy Seminar (8th and 9th grade):** Students will build the skills needed to engage with and make a difference in issues close to their hearts. Students will have the option to participate in the RAC’s virtual L’taken Seminar throughout the year.

   Seminar Outline:
   - Knowledge of the process of community organizing and advocacy through lobbying/legislation
   - Learn about events in which the Jewish community played a large role in advocacy work and the Jewish leadership behind those initiatives
   - Text-based understanding and historical understanding as to how this work is important in our Jewish tradition
   - Students will regularly discuss current events, learning how to view the world through a Reform Jewish lens
   - Students will participate in the Religious Action Center’s virtual programing, where they will engage with local and/or state politics, discuss important issues of their choosing, and lobby their representatives in a virtual setting
5. **Jewish American History (8th and 9th grade):** Students will learn about the history of Jews in the United States and in doing so tackle themes still present in our world today. All enrolled students will have the option to travel on the Memphis Study Trip in April, if it is safe to do so.

Seminar Outline:

- Learn the history of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
- Identify turning points of the conflict that have shaped Israel
- Hear diverse narratives of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
- Reflect on the deeper meaning of the conflict and why it matters to us

6. **Jewish Leadership (Jewish Leadership Institute participants only):** Students will learn from Jewish leaders across industries to better understand how their Judaism and Jewish values motivate leadership and success.

Seminar Outline:

- Students will meet with several leaders from across industries from in-depth learning sessions
- Students will better understand their own leadership style through various strength-based leadership activities
- Students will study great Jewish leaders, past and present, and dissect their leadership styles
- Students will understand how our tradition can dictate leadership, decision-making, and morality in their lives today
- Special one-one-one sessions with Central clergy and staff to develop leadership roles and skills
**Program Costs:**

1 Seminar: $900

2 Seminars: $1100

3 Seminars: $1250

4 Seminars: $1400

8th/9th Jewish Leadership Institute (5 seminars): $1550