

LESE CENTER FOR LIVING JUDAISM



PARENT WELCOME AND CURRICULUM NIGHT

PreK-2nd Grade

WHAT IS PBL AND WHY DO WE DO IT?

Students gain knowledge and skills by investigating and responding to an authentic, engaging, and complex question.

WHAT IS PBL AND WHY DO WE DO IT?

▶ PBL at LCLJ:

▶ Starting in 3rd grade:

- ▶ Students explore 3 units each year.
- ▶ Classes run on a trimester schedule for 3rd-7th graders.

▶ PreK - 2nd Grade: “A Taste of PBL”

- ▶ Students spend the year exploring one topic and answering a driving question.

PRE-K CURRICULUM

“A TASTE OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL”

- ▶ Explore Jewish tradition through baking, cooking, art, music, and special programs.

KINDERGARTEN (RISHONIM) CURRICULUM

JEWISH SYMBOLS

▶ **Driving Question:**

- ▶ How can we understand and represent the symbols and rituals found in Judaism?

▶ **Learning Objectives:**

- ▶ Students will learn the different Jewish holidays
- ▶ Students will learn the different symbols and rituals for the Jewish holidays

First Grade (Kochavim) Curriculum

JEWISH HOLIDAYS AND BLESSINGS

▶ Driving Questions:

- ▶ How can we teach about the Jewish holidays and blessings in an engaging and hands-on way?
- ▶ How can we teach students the Hebrew letters and the sounds they make?



First Grade (Kochavim) Curriculum:

JEWISH HOLIDAYS AND BLESSINGS

- ▶ **Learning Objectives:**
 - ▶ Students will learn the different blessings for Jewish holidays and rituals
 - ▶ Students will learn the names of the different Hebrew letters and the sounds they make

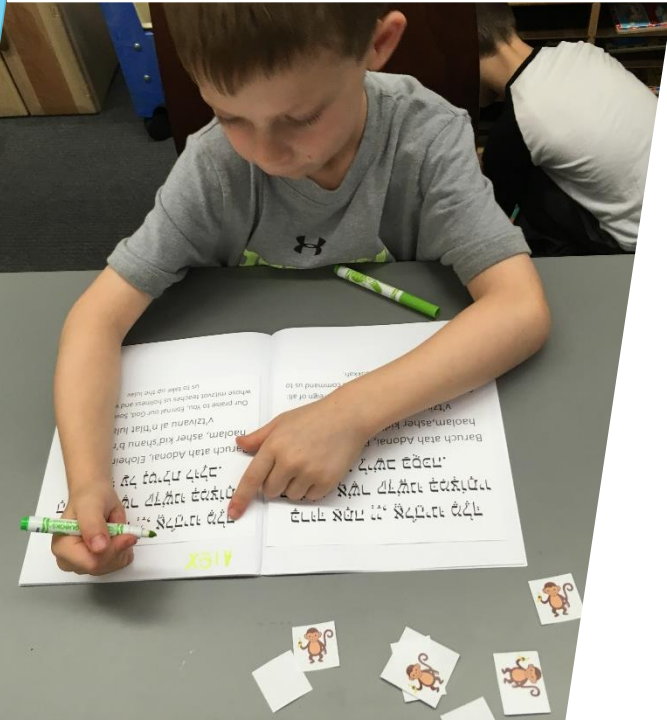


First Grade (Kochavim) Curriculum

JEWISH HOLIDAYS AND BLESSINGS

▶ Project Expectations:

- ▶ Students will complete a blessings book
- ▶ For those learning remotely, students will be able to create their books virtually using powerpoint



2ND GRADE (YELADIM) CURRICULUM

THE TORAH INSIDE-OUT

- ▶ **Driving Question:**
 - ▶ How can we put the values we learn from the Torah into action?
- ▶ **Learning Objectives:**
 - ▶ Students will learn different Parshiot from the Torah
 - ▶ Students will learn the values we can take from the Torah
 - ▶ Students will learn what a Torah looks like, how it is made, and what it wears
- ▶ **Student Project:**
 - ▶ Students will have a completed Torah with a full scroll and Torah dressings

A Note About Curriculum and Anti-Racism

Incorporating Anti-Racist Language and Values in PreK-2nd Grade

- Avoiding "Ashkenormativity"—not all Jews look the same!
 - Lifting up and celebrate Jews from all different cultures and Jews that look "different"
- Using books that normalize non-white Jews and different family structures
 - Highlighting and explaining these differences; asking students what they notice
- Using examples of "upstanders" as a value from our Torah stories
- How are people celebrating Jewish holidays all around the world?
- Displaying Jewish ritual items from various cultures
- Normalize changing your mind in response to new information
 - "I used to think..." "Now I think..."

Hebrew Curriculum

▶ PreK (Ta'amim)

Identify Hebrew as the language of the Jewish people

Visually differentiate between Hebrew and English letters

Focus: Exposure to Hebrew letters and words

Alef Bet every week in *shirah* (music)

Hebrew Through Movement

Hebrew Curriculum

- ▶ **Kindergarten (Rishonim) and 1st Grade (Kochavim)**
 - ▶ Identify Hebrew as the language of the Jewish people
 - ▶ Focus: Exposure to Hebrew letters and words; Recognition of Hebrew letters
 - ▶ Understand that Hebrew is read from right to left
 - ▶ 1-2 Hebrew letters a week during instruction/activity time (Identify 22 Hebrew letters and the sounds they make)
 - ▶ *Brachot* Books
 - ▶ Visually differentiate between Hebrew and English letters
 - ▶ Alef Bet every week in *shirah* (music)
 - ▶ Hebrew Through Movement

Hebrew Curriculum

▶ 2nd Grade (Yeladim)

Identify all Hebrew letters and the sounds they make

Identify 10 vowels and the sounds they make

Blend sounds to create and decode words

Focus: Blending & Decoding

Students use workbooks (Behrman House Publishing): ***Shalom Alef-Bet*** (Pre-Primer)

- Virtual Flip-Page Books from Behrman House for those on Zoom

HEBREW: WHAT COMES NEXT?

- ▶ Small Hebrew groups based on level starting in 3rd Grade
- ▶ Goals:
 - ▶ Children who regularly attend will be able to decode in Hebrew
 - ▶ Our curriculum focuses on putting letters and sounds together fluidly, and is based around the siddur, with the goal that students will be able to decode and chant the prayers and understand the general meaning of where it comes from

Music at LCLJ

- ▶ PreK-2nd Music:
 - ▶ 20-30 minutes per week
 - ▶ Led by Shira Kobren Wasserman, Jeremy Sipe, and Tkiyah (Zoom)
 - ▶ Class-wide music sessions
 - ▶ Opportunities for grade-wide on the terrace.



PreK - 2nd Grade Music

- ▶ Songs and prayers are related to upcoming holidays and/or curriculum content.
- ▶ Students learn songs such as "Hava Nashira," "Alef Bet," "Shalom Chaverim," and "It's a Brand-New Day."
- ▶ Exposure to core prayers and the Central Kabbalat Shabbat service and melodies:
 - ▶ Barchu, Shema, Oseh Shalom

PRE-K - 2ND GRADE PROGRAMMING

Q & A