

Lower School Back-to-School Webinar 2020-2021

BERNARD ZELL
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What are Jewish values?

Here at Bernard Zell, we talk a great deal about the importance of teaching Jewish values. Every so often, we are asked what we mean when we use that phrase, and honestly it's a fair question. So, with thanks to about a zillion different people and sources (and with the caveat that this is not to be taken as exhaustive), here is a short, curated list—a set of values that we believe are universal to living a Jewish life, regardless of background, level of ritual observance, or denominational affiliation. Without elaborating or allowing for much in the way of nuance, we are hopeful this can serve as a good starting point towards establishing a common vocabulary:

1. **Achrayut** (responsibility, especially for each other)
2. **Ahavah** (love, especially in the sense of giving)
3. **Avadim ha'yinu** (remembering we were once slaves; fighting oppression and exploitation)
4. **Bal tashchit** (avoiding waste, especially natural resources)
5. **Bikor cholim** (visiting and caring for the sick)
6. **B'rit** (literally, covenant; the importance of honoring agreements)
7. **B'tzelem Elohim** (remembering that all humans are created in the image of God)
8. **Chaverut** (friendship; being a good friend)
9. **Chesed** (kindness)
10. **Darchei shalom** (seeking the path of peace)
11. **D'rash** (interpretation and inquiry)
12. **Emet** (truth)
13. **Emunah** (trust)
14. **Gimilut Chadadim** (sympathetic consideration to others; sometimes good deeds)
15. **Hak'nasat or'chim** (hospitality)
16. **Havdalah** (the importance of distinguishing between the holy and the mundane)
17. **Hidur mitzvah** (beautifying Jewish, including the arts)
18. **Hidur zeken** (honoring elders)
19. **Hodaya** (gratitude)
20. **Kavana** (intention--usually balanced with *Keva*)
21. **Kavod** (respect; extending honor)
22. **Kedusha** (making the mundane holy)
23. **Kehilla** (community)
24. **Keva** (ritual--usually balanced with *Kavana*)
25. **Kibud av v'em** (honoring your parents)
26. **K'vod hab'riyot** (maintaining human dignity)
27. **K'lal Yisrael** (inclusion, specifically of all Jewish people, regardless of background)
28. **L'adonai ha'aretz um'lo'a** (the world is God's, and we are responsible for maintaining it)
29. **L'dor vador** (fostering and preserving connections between generations)
30. **Lifnei Aver** (never placing an obstacle in front of someone's good intent)
31. **Limud torah** (studying Torah)
32. **Lo ta'amod al dam re'echa** (do not stand idly by when harm is being done to another)
33. **L'omed mikol adam** (learning from each person you meet)
34. **Menschlichkeit** (behaving as a good person)
35. **Mischpacha** (placing family at the center of Jewish life)
36. **Mitzvot** (fulfilling divine commandments or obligations, sometimes "good deeds")
37. **Ometz** (courage, particularly standing up for convictions)
38. **Or l'goyim** (literally, a light unto the nations; be an example for the world)
39. **Rachcmanut** (mercy and compassion)
40. **Samayach b'chelko** (being content with what you have)
41. **Shalshelet hakabala** (preserving tradition)
42. **Shem tov** (maintaining a good name)
43. **Shalom bayit** (peace and love at home)
44. **Sh'mirat haguf** (taking care of your body)
45. **Sh'mirat halashon** (guarding your speech carefully)
46. **Simcha** (celebration and happiness)
47. **Slicha** (seeking or extending forgiveness)
48. **Teshuva** (literally, "answering"—usually, apologizing and making things right)
49. **Tikun olam** (repairing the world)
50. **Tzedek tirdof** (actively pursuing fairness and justice)
51. **Tz'ni'ut** (modesty)
52. **V'ahavta l'rayecha ka'mocha** (love your neighbor as yourself; treat others as you wish to be treated)
53. **Yirat shamayim** (awe of God)
54. **Zachor** (remembering the past)

54 (TRIPLE CHAI) JEWISH VALUES THAT AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT.

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Our Theme for the Year is *ACHRAYUT* (אַחְרָיוּת)

(Noun): A specific kind of social responsibility; the moral belief that, as individuals, we are responsible both for ourselves and for the well-being of "the other."

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“Achrayut” begins with the first letter of the alphabet, Aleph, reminding us of the primary importance of this value. It is also the letter for "Ani"--me, or self, reminding us that we, ourselves, bear this responsibility.



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אח

Next letter is Chet--Aleph Chet, or "Ach," which means brother (Achot sister). This reminds “me” that I am obligated to take care of my brother.

אחר

Next letter is Raish, which spells "Acher," or, “Other.” This is the root of *Achrayut*. "The Other" is a key phrase in Judaism, as we are reminded that we were once "the stranger," and so must always remember that we are responsible for the welfare of others.

אחרי

Next letter is Yud, which spells "Acharai," which means "after." This reminds us to always consider the consequences of our actions, that which comes following our actions.

אחריו

Next letter is Vav, which spells "Acharav," meaning "After him," which reminds us to follow our leaders only when they have the welfare and responsibility of everyone—including “the other”—in mind.

אחריות

Finally, we have *Achrayut*: the moral responsibility we have for those around us, including the stranger amongst us. This is not the same kind of negative responsibility we mean when we say, “I am accountable for my actions,” but rather, the positive *mitzvah* to acknowledge, “I have the responsibility to make the needs of others my own.”



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Empathy in Jewish Texts

ואהבת לרעך כמוך

You should love your friend as much as you love yourself. (Leviticus 19:18:2)

אם אין אני לי, מי לי. וּכְשֶׁאֲנִי לְעַצְמִי, מה אֲנִי. וְאִם לֹא עַכְשָׁיו, אֵימָתַי

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when? (Pirkei Avot 1:14)

לֹא עָלֶיךָ הַמְּלָאכָה לִגְמֹר, וְלֹא אַתָּה בֶּן חוֹרִין לִבָּטֵל מִמֶּנָּה. אִם לָמַדְתָּ תּוֹרָה הַרְבֵּה, נוֹתְנִים לְךָ שָׂכָר הַרְבֵּה. וְנֶאֱמָן הוּא בַּעַל מְלַאכְתְּךָ שֶׁיְּשַׁלֵּם לְךָ שְׂכַר פְּעֻלָּתֶךָ. וְדַע מַתַּן שְׂכָרָן שֶׁל צַדִּיקִים לָעָתִיד לָבֹא

It is not your responsibility to finish the work (of perfecting the world), but neither are you free to desist from it" (Pirkei Avot 2:16)

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Summer Professional Development

*Teachers College at Columbia
*ISACS
*Responsive Classroom
*Harvard GSOE
*Build Better Math Minds
*One Schoolhouse
*Google Classroom/G-Suite Training
*NWEA
*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work

*Opal School Symposium
*Nora Project Training
*Google Educator Training
*Talam Training
*Quizlet, kahoot, Lego conferences
*ISTE 2020
*Israel Music class
*Virtual Math Summit
*Webinars and Podcasts Galore

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First Grade



Ms. Adler



Ms. Lederer



Ms. Marsh



Hamorah
Nomi

Second Grade



Ms. Deradoorian



Mr. Grogan



Ms. Kotler



Hamorah
Miri

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Third Grade



Mr. Casper



Ms. Cooper



Ms. Malkin



Hamorah Diana

Fourth Grade



Ms. Levy



Ms. Lyon



Ms. Silverberg



Hamorah Bracha

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Four Scenarios

1. In Person Learning
2. Distance Learning
3. A Cohort in Distance Learning
4. Remote Learning/Extended Absence

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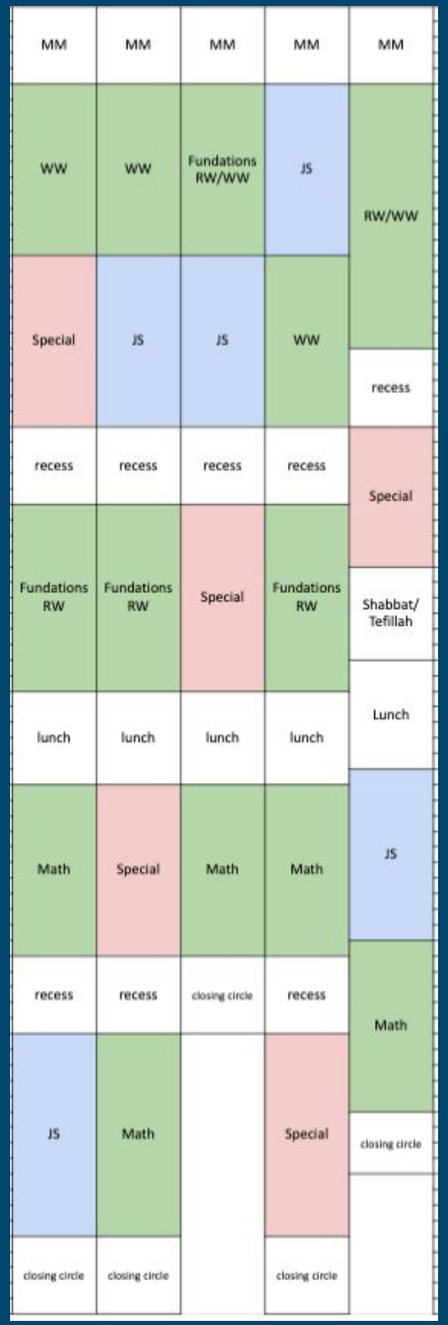
In-Person/Cohorted Learning



MM	MM	MM	MM	MM
WW	WW	Fundations RW/WW	JS	RW/WW
Special	JS	JS	WW	
recess	recess	recess	recess	recess
Fundations RW	Fundations RW	Special	Fundations RW	Special
lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	Shabbat/ Tefillah
Math	Special	Math	Math	Lunch
recess	recess	closing circle	recess	JS
JS	Math		Special	Math
closing circle	closing circle		closing circle	closing circle

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Distance Learning

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
Writing	Writing	Reading/ Writing	JS	Reading/ Writing
Special	JS	JS	Writing	
Fundations/ Reading	Fundations/ Reading	Special	Fundations/ Reading	Special
lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	Shabbat/ Tefillah
Math	Special	Math	Math	Lunch
		closing circle		JS
JS	Math		Special	Math
closing circle	closing circle		closing circle	closing circle

Curricular Initiatives

- Social Emotional Focus
  - reacclimate
  - re energize
- Integrated Jewish Studies/General Studies teams
- Wilson Fundations
  - SK-3
- DEI
  - Amazeworks

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Tips for Supporting Students at Home

- Practice wearing masks and stress importance of hand hygiene.

- Have high expectations of students and their re-entry to school.
  - Kids are resilient and capable!

- Ask open-ended questions
  - What is something funny that happened today?
  - How did you help a classmate today?

- Stay focused on the learning - help kids get excited!
  - Ask curricular questions and help students stay focused on school.

- Set up a workspace at home (desk, school supplies, tech ready).

- Stay positive!

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FAQs

- Will students still have specials?
- How is recess being handled? In general, how will outdoor classrooms be used?
- How will students participate in Shabbat lunch?
- Will cohorts mix throughout the day?

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Upcoming Events

- Classroom Previews - Invitation coming soon
  - 4th grade: Monday, 8/24, 10:30 a.m.
  - 3rd grade: Tuesday, 8/25, 10:30 a.m.
  - 2nd grade: Wednesday, 8/26, 10:30 a.m.
  - 1st grade: Thursday, 8/27, 10:30 a.m.

- First Day of School! - August 31, 2020

- Back-to-School Night - September 10, 2020

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