

Hillel Yeshiva Middle School

2020 - 2021

JUDAIC STUDIES CURRICULUM Course Descriptions



MS Judaic Studies

Humash

Humash in Grades 5-8 takes students through Sefer Shemot and Sefer Bemidbar. These Perashiyot contain the story of the birth of the Jewish Nation; their enslavement in Egypt; and the trials and triumphs they experienced as they strove toward their destiny as Hashem's Chosen People.

Important skills:

- Text fluency
- Understanding *Peshat*
- *Rashi*
 - Fluency
 - Understanding Rashi's question
- Commentaries
 - HaRamban
 - Sifteh Hachamim
 - Other *Rishonim* as needed
- *Ta'amim*
- Reading and translating
- Identifying *shorashim*, prefixes, and suffixes
- Internalizing *Hashkafat HaTorah*, the Torah's philosophy and values expressed in the Humash

Navi

Navi in Grades 5-8 takes students through the books of Shofetim, Shemuel 1, Shemuel 2, and Melachim 1. The major themes of these books are the Jews' experience in the Land of Israel; national sin and repentance; and the establishment of a monarchy in Israel, particularly the Kingdom of the House of David.

Important skills:

- A focus on *Bekiut* (content)
- Text fluency
- Internalizing *Hashkafat HaTorah*, the Torah's values and philosophy as expressed through Hashem's Prophets
- *Mefarshim*, commentaries, as needed
 - Rashi
 - Mesudat David
 - Mesudat Zion
 - Radak

Halacha

Halacha is a forum for students to be exposed to the Jewish Laws they will encounter on a consistent basis. Over the course of their Middle School education, they will study:

- The laws of prayer
- The laws of *Berachot*, blessings
- The laws of Shabbat
- The laws of Kosher
- The laws of the *Hagim*, Jewish holidays
- The laws of interpersonal relationships

Important skills:

- Text fluency
- Translation of Hebrew and Aramaic vocabulary
- Applying the study of Halacha to the practice of Halacha
- Familiarity with the Halachic authorities

Mishna/Gemara (boys)

<p>Over the course of Grades 5-8, students will be exposed to <i>Masechtot</i> Berachot and Pesachim. In addition to decoding and analytical skills, attention is given to understanding the background of Mishna and Gemara and navigating the unique layout of the Gemara text. The primary commentaries of Rashi and Tosafot are studied, and, when applicable, connections are made to the practical Halacha.</p>	<p>Important skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Text fluency ● Translation of Hebrew and Aramaic vocabulary ● Punctuating the text ● <i>Mefarshim</i>, commentaries, as needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rashi ○ Rashbam ○ Tosafot
<p>Torah Sheb'al Peh (TSBP) (Girls)</p>	
<p>Middle School Torah Sheb'al Peh focuses on giving students a background into the Oral Torah- its history, meaning, composition, and relevance. Texts studied include Pirkeh Avot and other parts of the Mishna. A special emphasis is placed on learning the ethical lessons contained in the Torah Sheb'al Peh, as well as the values that can be gleaned from the lives of the great Hachamim.</p>	<p>Important skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ability to navigate the timeline of the Torah's history ● Fluency in <i>Yediot Kelaliyot</i>, general Jewish knowledge ● Text fluency ● Translation of Hebrew texts ● Internalizing <i>Hashkafat HaTorah</i>, the Torah's philosophy and values expressed in the writings of the Hachamim
<p>Ivrit</p>	
<p>Students in Middle School are immersed in the study of Ivrit using the Neta/Bishvil Halvrit curriculum. Lessons focus on fluency in reading, writing, and speaking Hebrew language.</p>	<p>Important skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hebrew reading fluency ● Hebrew writing fluency ● Hebrew speaking fluency ● Expanding Hebrew vocabulary

<p>MS Electives</p>	
<p>Students are given a weekly opportunity to engage in an area of their interest that is not part of the normal program of study. Offerings have included cultural cooking, business ethics, AV, archaeology, yoga, "living inspired," Torah crafts, daglanut, travel, fitness, coding, robotics, Hazzanut, the stock market game, debate, Israeli film, chess, comedy, calligraphy, art, comics, Microsoft Excel, improv, choir, newspaper, and Torah Bowl.</p>	