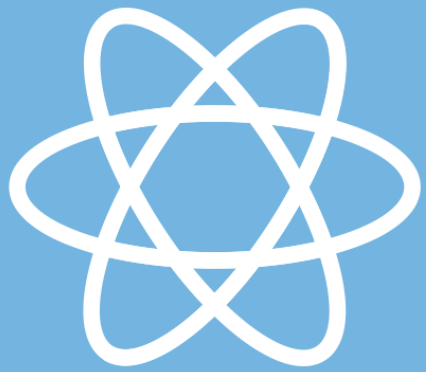


WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN IN JUDAIC STUDIES



**Akiba Yavneh
Academy**

בית ספר עקיבא יבנה



K-5

JUDAIC STUDIES CURRICULUM

יפה תלמוד תורה עם דרך ארץ

(אבות - ב,ב)

TORAH STUDY IS BEAUTIFUL WHEN COMBINED WITH RIGHTEOUS WAYS (Avot - 2,2)

Our Approach

Our Judaic Studies faculty meet the unique needs of each student by creating lessons that are engaging and stimulating. Students are at the center of the learning process, enabling each child to work toward their personal and grade-level goals at an individualized pace. Ensuring that all students are appropriately challenged and inspired cultivates a life-long love for Limmud HaTorah that comes from the students' involvement, personal connection, and meaningful accomplishments.

Rigorous Judaic Studies curricula focused on 4 main goals:

Instill a love for Judaism, Jewish learning and the Jewish people.

Provide students with the skills to independently learn Jewish texts in the original Hebrew.

Deepen the students' connection(s) with the land of Israel and the language of the Jewish people - Hebrew.

Educate students to live the Torah way; with kindness and respect.

Jewish learning is not confined to the walls of the classroom. Through an array of meaningful experiences throughout the year, students gain knowledge and inspiration which lead to sustainable relationships with Hashem and Judaism.

- **Tefillah** - Beginning each day with meaningful and joyful prayer, seek students learn to create habitual comfort with the words and experience of prayer, and for their live-long relationship with the Bet Knesset (synagogue).
- **Shabbat** - Our weekly '*Shabbat Shebang*' assemblies where we sing songs, hear stories and *Divrei Torah* from students and welcome in Shabbat. We also celebrate and positively reinforce students' exceptional behavior, earning a spot on our special 'Kavod Tree'.
- **Middot Tovot** - Positive character traits and behavior are further encouraged through the *Kavod* (respect) Card positive behavior system used throughout the lower school.
- **Tziyonut** - The values of Zionism and a love for Israel permeates everything we do. Our *B'not Sherut* (two Israeli young women on their national service) bring the music, culture, history and atmosphere of Israel straight into our classrooms. AYA's commemorations of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut ceremonies feature student leadership and performance from lower school through high school.
- **Parshat HaShavua** - The weekly Torah portion is an opportunity to bring the love and importance of Torah study home, connecting school, student and parent in a beautiful way. The Weekly Parasha sheets explore the themes and values of our sacred Torah.

What students will learn

Highlights

- **Aleph Bet Party**
To celebrate the fundamental milestone of completing their learning of all the letters of the Aleph Bet, students will enjoy a fun filled party. Some of the stations will include: games, crafts and even Aleph Bet cookies to decorate.
- **Challah Project**
Students develop an understanding for the beauty of shabbat with a highlight of creating their own Challa cover to use during shabbat meals.

Tefilla

- Tefilla takes a central role in the classroom as students are taught new tefillot with a focus on fluency, accuracy and meaning.
- Students learn the fundamentals of Tefilla in preparation for receiving their own personal Siddur at the Kabbalat Siddur celebration.

Parasha

- Students will learn the stories of each week's Parasha, with a focus on the characters and messages learned.
- The teacher will focus on one Midda (character trait) and/or lesson that can be applied to our everyday lives.

Hebrew Language: Tal Am

- Kindergarten students are introduced to the Hebrew environment based on the Tal-Am Hebrew Language curriculum: Ariot 1 & 2.
- Instruction is in English using common Hebrew phrases and students begin to respond using common Hebrew words and phrases.
- Word list

Kriya & Kitiva: Aleph Champ

- Kriya, Hebrew reading, is taught each day using the Aleph Champ student-centered program. The program allows for multiple levels to be taught within the same class.
- All the Hebrew letters are taught throughout the year together with words connected to each letter. At the end of the year, the students begin to learn the vowels that give the letters different sounds.
- As an aide to learning the letters, students will learn to write Hebrew block letters.

Chaggim/Jewish Life

- Students will learn about the Chagim (festivals), their background and customs
- Students will create hands-on projects which will demonstrate knowledge acquired and enhance their learning experience
- Students will participate in special events and programs for each Chag (festival)
- Students will develop an understanding and appreciation for the beauty of Shabbat

What students will learn

Highlights

- **Kabbalat Siddur**

A major highlight of the year is when students receive their first siddur in January. In preparation, parents write a special personal message and decoration for the inside of the siddur. During the celebration, students will demonstrate what they have learned about the meaning and value of Tefilla and the importance of a Siddur to Jewish life.

- **Havdala Project**

Students will have the special opportunity to create their own Besamim (spices to be used for Havdala) using the leftover Etrogim from the festival of Sukkot.

Tefilla

- Tefilla takes a central role in the classroom as students are taught new tefillot with a focus on fluency, accuracy and meaning.
- Students learn the fundamentals of Tefilla in preparation for receiving their own personal Siddur at the Kabbalat Siddur celebration.

Parasha

- Students will learn the stories of each week's Parasha, with a focus on the characters and messages learned.
- The teacher will focus on one Midda (character trait) and/or lesson that can be applied to our everyday lives.

Hebrew Language: Tal Am

- Students are immersed in a Hebrew environment based on the Tal Am Hebrew Language Curriculum.
- Students build on the Ariot 1&2 skills that were studied in Kindergarten and continue with Ariot 3 & 4 skills
- Hebrew learning is developed through its usage in the natural classroom environment. Topics covered include: Shalom Bakita, Tov baBayit u-vaChutz (the house and the weather)
- Word list

Chaggim/Jewish Life

- Students will learn about the Chagim (festivals), their background and customs
- Students will create hands-on projects which will demonstrate knowledge acquired and enhance their learning experience
- Students will participate in special events and programs for each Chag (festival)
- Students will develop an understanding and appreciation for the beauty of Shabbat

Kriya & Kitiva: Aleph Champ

- Students progress in developing their hebrew reading skills using Aleph Champ, learning vowels and developing accuracy and fluency.
- Students continue their journey to becoming independent and confident hebrew speakers through creative learning centers and games.
- Students are introduced to writing in Hebrew using script letters.

What students will learn

Highlights

- **Kabbalat HaChumash**

A major highlight of the year is the Kabbalat haChumash when students receive their first Chumash. In preparation, students learn how to independently navigate their own Chumash using Perek (chapter) and Pasuk (verse), reading from the Chumash accurately, identifying the Taamim of Sof Pasuk (end of verse) and Etnachta (pause or coma), recognizing key vocabulary words, beginning to develop basic word-attack skills and studying Pesukim from text through a developmentally appropriate lens. The Kabbalat Chumash is an opportunity for parents and grandparents to share in the excitement and pride for learning Torah that has been fostered in each student as they've prepared for this important milestone.

- **Kiddush Project**

Students further develop an understanding for the beauty of Shabbat with a highlight of creating their own personalized Kiddush cup to be used during Shabbat meals.

Kriya & Kitiva: Aleph Champ

- Hebrew reading continues though Aleph Champ's student-centered path, with each student progressing at his/her own pace and building on their fluency and accuracy.
- Building off of the Ktiva skills learned in 1st Grade, Hebrew writing is now fully in script. Students practice forming their letters correctly and write words in Hebrew script daily.

Hebrew Language: Tal Am

- Students continue the process of mastery for the skills they have learned in the previous two years.
- Second graders continue with Hebrew immersion with dedicated time everyday for developing both their written and spoken Hebrew language skills.
- Using the Tal-Am Hebrew language curriculum, students further develop their vocabulary connected to everyday life and are encouraged to express themselves in Hebrew.
- Topics covered include: Chayey Yom Yom and Tov baKita u-vaBayit (daily life & focus on classroom and home).

Chumash: Lech Lecha

- Students in second grade begin their formal Chumash study. Students begin with the fundamentals of learning Mikra (the bible text in Hebrew) in preparation for receiving their own personal Chumash at the annual *Kabbalat haChumash* celebration.
- Students are provided with a foundation of what Chumash is and how to navigate a Chumash. Based on the PAJES Chumash curriculum, (example unit) students are taught to break down selected roots and words using prefixes and suffixes, to help them become independent learners.
- Students are further taught how to connect to the text, ask questions, provide answers and extract life lessons.
- Students meet Avram (as he is known at this stage) and his family on his journey to Eretz Kenaan (Israel). The students learn and internalize the special qualities of Avram and aim to emulate his ways.

Third Grade - Kita Gimmel

What students will learn

Highlights

- **Brachot Bee & Expo**

Students will learn the details of which bracha to make on each food, the order of brachot, and the guiding principles to determine which bracha to make. Students will also learn about the meaning of a bracha and the declaration of hakarot hatov we make every time we make a bracha!

Our students will experience an exciting Brachot Expo! Students are invited to partake in a Brachot party including a different station for each bracha. The expo will include a special brachot menu, a make your own salad activity, cookie making, challah braiding, fruit kebab building and other fun stations. The brachot expo truly optimizes what we are trying to accomplish in our Judaic Studies program: rigorous learning that is brought to life in a meaningful, exciting, and impactful way.

- **Challah Board Project**

Students continue to develop an understanding for the beauty of Shabbat with a highlight of creating their own Challah board to be used during Shabbat meals.

Kriya & Kitiva: Aleph Champ

- Students progress from learning to read to reading to learn.
- Students use the rules they have learned previously to become fluent readers, with specific focus on using their Siddur and Chumash.
- Students advance in their kitiva skills and progress from writing words to phrases. Students gain the ability to confidently write short sentences and paragraphs in script.

Hebrew Language: Tal Am

- In Hebrew Language, the Tal Am curriculum focuses on advanced vocabulary for the classroom and social interactions (Be'hatlacha B'Kita).
- Students continue developing their conversational Hebrew from a growing vocabulary bank.
- Students use "The Memory Box" in which they place items throughout the year. This is used to help them remember what they learned in the past and new information they acquire throughout the year.

Chumash: Vayera-Toldot

- Chumash skills are honed in third grade based on the PAJES chumash curriculum.
- Students study the life and experiences of our patriarchs and matriarchs - the Avot and Imahot. Our Sages teach that "ma'aseh avot siman lebanim": Through the study of this Sefer, the lives of our Avot and Imahot teach us endless lessons and bring middot tovot to life.
- Students skills are reinforced using independent Chumash skills cards that challenge students at their own level.
- Through independent learning, partner and chavruta work, students learn over one hundred key words, fifty verbs as well as prefixes and suffixes.
- Students are introduced to Rashi font for the first time thus beginning their relationship with one of most important chumash commentaries.

Fourth Grade - Kita Daled

What students will learn

Highlights

- **Tanach Ceremony**

A major highlight of fourth grade is the Tanach ceremony where students will receive their first Tanach. Students prepare by learning the first section of Navi, Sefer Yehoshua. They will also learn how to navigate a Tanach independently. Parents will have the opportunity to learn together with their children a specially chosen excerpt of Tanach, highlighting a special message.

- **Havdala Mat Project**

Students continue to develop an understanding for the beauty of Shabbat with a highlight of creating their own mat to be used during Shabbat meals.

Navi: Sefer Yehoshua

- Students add the study of Navi (prophets) to their growing Tanach (Bible) knowledge.
- Students learn to navigate a Tanach (a complete 24 part Bible) and to differentiate between the different sections.
- Students continue the story of the Jewish people following on from the Chumash (the five books of Moshe).
- Through maps, videos and of course study of the text, students will grapple as the fledgling nation of Israel did, with the transition from the leadership of Moshe in the desert to that of Yehoshua in the land of Israel.

Hebrew Language: Tal Am

- Using the Tal Am curriculum, students learn vocabulary that will enable them to communicate within society.
- Students will use the three keywords: "problem, advice, solution", a topic that develops students' sensitivity to people with special needs.
- The students will learn how to work independently, reading stories built around skills with a focus on identifying a problem, finding advice (multi-directional thinking) and choosing the solution from the various options, and will learn to integrate and develop future tense use in classroom discussions.

Chumash: Toldot -Vayeshev

- In Chumash (based off the PAJES curriculum) students continue their path to becoming independent learners. As well as learning the stories of Bereshit, from Yaakov and Esav's rivalry to that of Yosef and his brothers.
- They also learn about the 12 Shevatim and the journey down to Egypt. Our Sages teach that "ma'aseh avot siman lebanim": Through the study of this Sefer, the lives of our Avot and Imahot teach us endless lessons and bring middot tovot to life.
- Students skills are reinforced using independent Chumash skills cards that challenge students at their own level.
- Through independent learning, partner and chavruta work, students learn over one hundred and fifty key words, eighty verbs as well as prefixes and suffixes.

Oral Law

Fourth grade is also the beginning of Oral Law study with Mishna. Using the V'shinantam curriculum students will learn:

- Understanding the special role and function of Oral Tradition, recognizing the relationship of mishnah and *mikra* (the original text in the Tanach) in any topic under examination
- Understanding the structure and organizational methods of Mishnah to enable "navigation" in its Six Orders and Sixty-three tractates.
- Familiarity with the six generations of *Nesi'im* and the dozens of *Tannaim* who worked with them to create and promote mishnah, in order to place each phrase of mishnah in its appropriate historical and cultural context.
- Recognition of topical and associative editing in the Mishnah and its importance in learning Mishna and mastery of mishnaic terminologies
- The study will be reinforced with the learning of Mishna from the beginning of Tractate Brachot. Students will learn the mishnayot by heart using a number of different classical and modern methods, including audio, kinesthetic actions, and peer-to-peer study.
- Students will learn laws for the times of *Tefilla* and *Shema* and the *brachot* (blessings) before and after the Shema.
- Mishna becomes a new component of the teaching of the *chaggim*, with students learning mishanyot relevant to each holiday.

What students will learn

Highlights

- **Hebrew Play**
Celebrating the students' lower school Hebrew studies, students perform an entire play completely in Hebrew. From fundraising in Hebrew to learning their lines by heart, students find joy in demonstrating their Hebrew skills and knowledge in real life, everyday situations.
- **Kli Sheni Project**
Students continue to develop an understanding for the beauty of Shabbat with a highlight of creating their own special cup to be used to prevent cooking on Shabbat.

Hebrew Language: Tal Am

- Fifth Grade is the culmination of the last 6 years of curriculum and serves as a review and mastery of the skills studied throughout this time.
- Students build off all the vocabulary learned over the past few years and learn new words around the world around us (HaOlam Shelanu).
- Students display their skills during the exciting production of the fifth grade Ivrit play. Students create a full live production of a famous play/movie entirely in Hebrew.

Chumash: Sefer Shemot

- Students continue learning about the journey of the Jewish people through studying the beginning of Sefer Shemot.
- Through Sefer Shemot, students explore the themes of unity, becoming a nation, and what it means to accept and commit ourselves to Torah and Mitzvot.
- Students are empowered to explain more of the Pasukim independently and are introduced to a variety of different commentaries through asking questions and solving difficulties in the Pasukiim.
- Through independent learning, partner and chavruta work, students learn over two hundred words, one hundred verbs as well as prefixes and suffixes.

Navi: Sefer Shoftim

- Sefer Shoftim explores our journey to becoming an independent nation and building our own country.
- Emunah, trust in Hashem, is one of the main themes of Sefer Shoftim. Unity and positive leadership are themes that emerge as the Jewish people come together, are negatively influenced by their neighboring nations, and challenged militarily from all sides.
- Throughout the Sefer, we also meet individuals who stepped up during difficult times and helped our people pull through and move forward.

Oral Law

Oral Law continues using the V'Shinantam Mishna curriculum. In their second year of the program students learn additional skills to help them navigate the world of Oral Law. Some of the skills include:

- Identifying the function(s) of a Mishnah by examining the connection between what is learned in the Mishnah and its sources in the *Mikra*.
- Discerning which halachic details lacking in the *Torah Sh'Bichtav* are clarified in the *Torah Sh'B'al Peh*.
- Identifying the *Reisha* and *Seifa* of a mishna.
- Applying concepts learned in one Mishnah in different contexts.
- Understanding a *machloket* in the Mishnah, identify different types of *machloket* (i.e. between variant individual opinions, between majority and individual opinions, between the *tanna kamma* and named opinions, between *machloket* in *mesorah* and *machloket* in *s'varah*, etc.), and to discern the lenient and stringent positions.
- The study of mishna will be reinforced through the learning of the third chapter of *Bava Kama* - the laws of damage to property in public and property. Students will learn the mishnayot by heart using a number of different classical and modern methods, including audio, kinesthetic actions, and peer-to-peer study.
- Students will grapple with and relate the laws of the Mishna to real life scenarios from everyday life.
- Mishna becomes a new component of the teaching of the *chaggim*, with students learning mishanyot relevant to each holiday.

Tanach skills by end of each grade

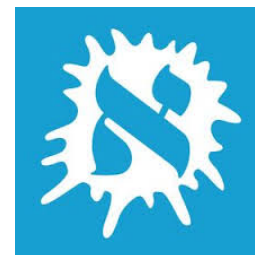
Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
Students can find the place in the Chumash (for the Unit) independently.	Students can find a Chumash text anywhere in Sefer Bereshit independently.	Students can find a pasuk in any Sefer of the Chumash independently.	Students can find a pasuk in any Sefer of the Chumash, from any publishers' version, independently
Students can read a pasuk with sof pasuk and etnachta.	Students can read a pasuk with sof pasuk, etnachta and zakef katon.	Students can read a pasuk accurately by placing stress on the correct part of the words.	Students can read a pasuk accurately by placing stress on the correct part of the words.
Students have comprehension of parts of the pasukim using known key words.	Students can work out, with little support, the meaning of most pasukim using known key words.	Students can independently summarise, using known key words, the main messages of the Chumash text being studied.	Students can explain, with support, new/unseen pasukim in Chumash and gain information from them.
Students can ask questions on the pasuk/pasukim being studied and begin to identify difficulties (in the pasuk/im).	Students have some ability to find difficulties in Pasukim through asking and answering questions.	Students can find difficulties in Pasukim through asking and answering questions with some support.	Students can independently find difficulties in Pasukim through asking and answering questions.
Students can identify and explain the meaning of most common prefixes, suffixes and shorashim from Units 1-2 (around 60 words and 25 verbs as well as prefixes & suffixes).	Students can identify and explain the meaning of most common prefixes, suffixes and shorashim from Units 1-6 (around 100 words and 50 verbs as well as prefixes & suffixes).	Students can identify and explain the meaning of all common prefixes, suffixes and shorashim from Units 1-10 (around 150 words and 80 verbs as well as prefixes & suffixes).	Students can apply all prefixes/suffixes and shorashim to decipher unseen pasukim (around 200 words and 100 verbs as well as prefixes & suffixes).
		Students can find the Dibur HaMatchil in Rashi texts. Students have a growing ability to identify the question and answer in simple Rashi texts.	Students can determine Rashi's difficulties in pasukim. Students are able to, with support, identify Rashi's hidden question.

Curriculum links for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

Hebrew Language Tal Am Curriculum



Hebrew Reading Aleph Champ Curriculum



PAJES - An Overview

- Example of Chumash PAJES Curriculum Unit 1
- Chumash Find Example



V'Shinantam Mishna Curriculum:

- Learning Objectives
- Skills Lesson Example
- Brachot Lesson Example

