Our Mission

- Our mission is to cultivate strong Jewish identity and lifelong learning and to provide each child with the best education to maximize his/her potential.
- To instill in each child the love for Judaism and through this to have each child be a part of his/her heritage in an environment that celebrates diversity and promotes spiritual, ethical, and social growth within the community.
- Every child is welcome in our school no matter what challenges he/she has.
Changes to our program...

- A new Hebrew program - TaL AM Language Hebrew and Heritage Curriculum
- Different classes throughout the week
- Changes to the Shabbat program
TaL AM Philosophy

The TaL AM program was developed based on the notion, that the best learning environment for children is one in which knowledge is acquired through a variety of activities, using each of the five senses. Students will learn Hebrew and develop a deeper understanding of Jewish culture and values using the following:

- Music - CDs for each letter, holiday, and Parashah.
- Textbooks - Each student gets a textbook and workbook for each subject taught.
- Games - Correspond to each level of difficulty and the topic being studied.
- Visual Aids - include big books and posters.

This program encourages students to speak Hebrew from the beginning and helps students build confidence and understanding of the language. Using the above resources creates a visual and auditory Hebrew environment in the classroom, enhancing retention and reinforcing learning.
TaL AM Curriculum

The following topics will be covered:

- Reading and writing Hebrew
- Shabbat/Chaggim
- Parashat Hashavoa
- T’filah

These topics will be taught at different levels according to each grade.
The TaL AM Program will be offered for grades 1 to 4.

- Grade 1
  Tuesdays 4:10pm - 6:10pm and Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm

- Grades 2/3
  Thursdays 4:10pm - 6:10pm and Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm

- Grades 4 to B’nai Mitzvah
  Wednesdays 4:10pm - 6:10pm and Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm
Pre K & Kindergarten meet on Saturdays from 9:30am - 12:30pm.

- **Ivrit** - Introduce Hebrew vocabulary and the Aleph-Bet.
- **Prayers** - Introduce blessings for food and drink, Shabbat table, and short prayers from the Siddur.
- **Holidays** - Celebrate all of the holidays and learn associated symbols, names, and stories.
- **Torah** - Introduce major stories and biblical figures.
- **Midot** - Students will be introduced to Jewish values and respect for the elderly.
- **Israel** - Understand the importance of Israel.
- **Jofee** - Discuss where our food comes from, with an emphasis on gratitude.
Grade 5

- Ivrit - Students will practice fluency in reading Hebrew and acquire modern Hebrew skills.
- Prayers - Students will be introduced to the Amidah, master the blessings taught in previous years, and review Minchah / Maariv service.
- Holidays - Students will learn about the cycle of the Jewish calendar and Rosh Chodesh, master holiday specific songs and brachot, and compare customs of diaspora Jews vs. Israeli Jews.
- Tanach - Students will be introduced to Tanach and study biblical characters from Judges to Prophets.
- Midot - Learn about Tzedakah and discuss Klal Israel.
- Israel - Learn about Jerusalem in depth.
- History - Students will discuss the experience of exile and diaspora.
- Jofee - Introduce food & kashrut and caring for our bodies, Shemirat ha’Guf.
Grade 6

- Ivrit - Add to students’ Hebrew vocabulary, including liturgy from the Siddur.
- Prayers - Learn the Torah service and study the Shabbat Shacharit service.
- Holidays
- Tanach - Examine weekly Parasha and Haftarah.
- Mishnah - Examine and apply laws of damages and laws of lost and found.
- Holocaust - Discuss life of Eastern European Jews prior to Holocaust, Nuremberg laws, Kristallnacht, and Righteous Gentiles.
- Midot - Examine mitzvot to bring social justice, participate in a social action project, and pick an organization to donate Tzedakah money to.
- Israel - Israel and world Jewry, learn about the different communities that immigrated to Israel.
- Jofee - Explore food systems and food justice.
B’nai Mitzvah

- Ivrit - Students will work on fluency in reading, writing, and conversation.
- Holidays
- Prayers - Students will master Shabbat Morning Service, master Mincha and Maariv, understand the meaning of tefillot, write their own prayers, and become familiar with the Machazor and Haggadah.
- Tanach - Students will learn weekly Parasha and Haftarah with exposure to different commentators.
- Midot - Power of speech, Lashon ha’Ra, and different aspects of respect.
- Mitzvah Project - each student will participate in a hands-on project prior to his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Family education - centered around occasional workshops on topics such as what does it mean to be a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Teffilin and Tzitzit, and writing a d’var Torah. Some of the workshops will be guided by the Moving Traditions Program.
- A more detailed calendar for special events and workshops will be provided later in the summer.
Youth Services

- Shelanu - for Pre K- K led by parents twice a month. This year, Shelanu will create their own siddur to make the service even more meaningful.
- Grade 1 will learn and lead a service with their teacher.
- Grade 2 through B’nai Mitzvah will participate in Junior Congregation led by grade 5 to B’nai Mitzvah, and will include Torah reading. This will start in the middle of the year, once the students feel comfortable leading the service.
Hebrew Through Movement introduces Hebrew in a playful and meaningful way, creating a positive first link between children and Hebrew.

- Language acquisition strategy in which students learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to Hebrew commands.
- This method is very useful to teach children Hebrew on Shabbat when we cannot write or use arts and crafts. It’s a way to have kids move and engage with the material.
In order for the program to be successful...

- We need parent support and collaboration.
- Regularly class attendance by all students
- Students’ commitment to catch up when missing school days.
- Students’ commitment to practice reading Hebrew at home in order to build confidence and fluency.

My door is always open for comments and questions.