

Temple Emanu-El Rothman Religious School

Roland Roth, Director of Education and Youth Programming
Rabbi Michael Resnick Hazzan David Feuer

The goal of the Temple Emanu-El Religious School is to help each child find sources of significance and enrichment in Jewish living and to create positive, quality, comprehensive Jewish experiences for children of all ages. All activities of the school directed toward this goal constitute the curriculum.

Our curriculum is spiral-based, with children building up their skills, practice, knowledge, and experience from year to year.

Specific Aims for our Religious School

1. To encourage our children to be participating members in constantly widening circles of Judaism – the Jewish home, the Jewish community, Israel, and the Jewish world.
2. To teach our children Jewish history and literature, introducing them to Bible, Talmud, and Midrash.
3. To teach each child that Hebrew is the language of the Jewish People, encouraging them to develop a relationship with Hebrew through the reading, writing, and speaking (both biblical/prayer, and modern/conversational).
4. To develop comfort and understanding of *tefillot* (prayers), Torah, and full participation as Jewish adults, including the participating and leading of services.
5. To reinforce basic Jewish values, such as *derech eretz* (manners), *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), and *ba'al tashhit* (care of the environment).
6. To afford our children the experience of a congregation through participation in Junior Congregation and adult services; music; the observance of holidays and other Jewish occasions, and the practice of *Tzedakah* (charity).

Rothman Religious School Curriculum Overview

GAN (K) – Goal: build a foundation for Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance. Specific Goals: Teach Jewish holidays through stories, observances, customs and appropriate blessings and prayers; Do arts and craft projects related to each specific holiday; Discuss the moral lesson derived during Bible story telling time; Introduce the Hebrew vocabulary through playing games.

ALEPH (1st) – Goal: continue to build a foundation for Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance. Specific Goals: Teach Jewish Holidays through stories, observances, customs and appropriate blessings and prayers; Do arts and craft projects related to each specific holiday; Discuss the moral lesson derived during Bible story telling time; Introduce Hebrew vocabulary through games.

BET (2nd) – Goal: continue to reinforce the foundation of Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance: stories, dance, computers, songs, games, artwork, and crafts. Specific Goals: Lead parts of the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service at their Consecration Shabbat service; Identify and decode all Hebrew letters and vowels in print; Become familiar with common Hebrew vocabulary.

Gimmel (3rd) – Goal: expand the children’s knowledge of Hebrew in three key areas: language skills, reading skills, and writing skills. Specific Goals: Read Hebrew confidently with vowels; Know the vocabulary words drawn from textbooks and other readings; Give the gift of being proud owners of our collective heritage to our children; We emphasize Judaism as a religion of ethics and morality, based on traditions and texts.

Kitah Dalet (4th) – Goal: to begin seeing the Torah as a guiding text, one that teaches through each week’s Torah portion (*Parsha*) how we can live our lives as ethical beings. We expand the children’s knowledge of Hebrew in three key areas: language skills, reading skills, and writing skills. Read familiar prayers and blessings from the Siddur, adding to those studied in earlier grades; Encourage oral expression as well as reading fluency through lessons in narratives and dialogues.

Kitah Hey (5th) – Goal: make Judaism relevant to their daily lives, to increase their Hebrew vocabulary, to teach how our collective history, from ancient to turn-of-the-century America and our need to stay connected as a People. The Shabbat service is a major focus: the Torah Service, *aliyot*, and additional prayers that focus on Shabbat morning. Specific Goals: Read familiar prayers and blessing from the Siddur, adding to those studied in earlier grades; Be able to perform home ritual observances, i.e. Passover seder, Havdalah, Kabbalat Shabbat meal.

Kitah Vav (6th) – Goal: to round out each child’s primary grade Jewish education by focusing on learning remaining prayers in the Shabbat and weekday *tefillot* (prayers), to continue to strengthen growing friendships, to continue making Judaism relevant to their daily lives, and to continue to show that Judaism is not just a religion of our past but a faith that guides our moral actions and thoughts. Kitah Vav youth lead many services in our Hebrew School, work with our youngest learners during *tefillah* to help them follow along, and access our highest forms of learning hardware and software, preparing them for their Hebrew School Graduation Shabbat experience.

Kehillah (7th & 8th) means Community. Kehillah is our hope to bridge the gap between B’nai Mitzvah and continued learning. We believe that Jewish Education is a life-long endeavor and we are committed to creating positive learning experiences for learners of all ages and abilities. Specific Goals: To have B’nai Mitzvah and post-B’nai Mitzvah youth see Jewish learning as not stopping at B’nai Mitzvah but rather continuing on as a life-long endeavor; To create relationships between our 7th & 8th grade youth and the clergy of our synagogue and community.