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Alef – First Grade

Our overarching curricular goals for Hebrew are for a graduate of the Congregational School to be able to:

- Decode Hebrew texts, with emphasis on *tefillot* (prayers), *brakhot* (blessings), and Torah texts
- Participate in Shabbat services, both singing and reading *tefillot*
- Feel connected to the larger Jewish community and Israel

Zman Ivrit – Hebrew

Zman Ivrit (Hebrew Time) focuses on reinforcing familiarity with the Hebrew alphabet through experiential learning.

Alef Hebrew goals:

- Name all the letters of the Alef-Bet and know their sounds
- Familiarity with the sounds of spoken Hebrew
- Gain an understanding of aspects of Israeli culture

Tefillah – Prayer

Alef students learn *tefillot* (prayers) both during the week and at family Shabbat programs with Principal Music Educator Josh Rosenberg. Their service builds on the structure of the Gan/Kindergarten service, and adds the following:

- *Ma'ariv aravim*
- *V'ahavta*
- *Yotzeir or*
- *Shirah hadashah*
- *Vay'hi binsoa ha-aron*

Core Judaics

The Alef curriculum focuses on Jewish values related to *mitzvot ben adam l'havero* (commandments that relate to interpersonal relationships). These values are relevant to our learners' lives as they grow in the world and navigate the relationships of family, friends, and community. The learners create a portfolio recording the various values they've learned, highlighting their personal connections.

Milestone Moment

As a way to demonstrate some of what they will have learned, Alef learners will be highlighted during a Milestone Moment in the spring semester, when they will share creations based on their Jewish values and *Zman Ivrit*/Hebrew curriculum.

Learning Objectives/Goals

Alef learners will . . .

- Be aware of Jewish *middot* (values) such as: *hakhnasat or^hi* (welcoming guests), *bikur holim* (visiting the sick), *shmirat ha-lashon* (guarding one's tongue), and *shalom bayit* (keeping peace in the family).
- Reflect on and articulate how these values are expressed in their lives.
- Practice different ways of enacting these *middot*.
- Know the names and sounds for all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet along with the vowels.
- Be able to sing the prayers covered in their *tefillah* sessions.