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Dalet – Grade 4

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

Hebrew

The Hebrew curriculum for Grade 4 has three components:

1. **Semi-private Hebrew tutoring.** Grade 4 students will use the Hebrew primer *Simple Steps to Reading Hebrew*. Tutoring sessions focus on pronunciation of letters and vowels with the goal of Hebrew decoding. Learners will participate in a Hebrew-decoding assessment midyear and at the end of the year.
2. **Tefillah learning during weekday classes.** In grades 3–6, we use a curriculum called “Hebrew in Harmony” to teach *tefillah* effectively and meaningfully. The focus is on learning how to sing and recite prayers, as well as on the meaning of the words. Students will learn key prayer vocabulary in Hebrew. The students’ Hebrew learning will be applied in prayer services both on weekdays and Shabbat.
3. **Tefillah sessions**, both during the week and on Shabbat, led by Principal Music Educator Josh Rosenberg.

Tefillah – Prayers & Skills and Rituals

- *Sh'ma* and *V'ahavta* – Dalet/Grade 4 learners will learn why the *Sh'ma* is so important to the Jewish people and identify themes of love in the prayers that precede and follow the *Sh'ma*. They will also discuss the idea of monotheism and learn about the connection of the *Sh'ma* to mezuzah, tefillin, and tzitzit. They will design and make their own mezuzah cases in preparation for their Milestone Moment celebration.
- *Adon Olam* – Dalet learners will become familiar with the text of the prayer and understand that it can be sung to almost any tune.
- *Ma'ariv aravim* – Dalet learners will practice reciting *ma'ariv aravim* and identify key words.
- *Amidah* – Dalet learners will begin to engage with the Amidah prayer and discuss its centrality in our prayers.
- *Holidays* – Dalet learners will review *Mah Nishtanah*, the Hanukkah blessings, and other blessings to ensure they have the skills to celebrate Jewish holidays and participate in rituals at home.

Core Judaics

- **Weekday**

The fall semester focuses on Jewish leadership as seen in *Nevi'im* (Prophets), the second section of the *Tanakh*. Through stories and interactive activities, learners will become familiar with the different leadership roles present in ancient Israel (prophet, judge, king). The spring semester focuses on American Jewish heroes. Learners will explore their family stories in the context of an international project with *Beit Hatfutsot*, The Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv.

- **Shabbat**

The curriculum is rooted in the weekly Torah portion, emphasizing Jewish values and lifelong lessons that we learn from the Torah. Through these Shabbat lessons and activities, Grade 4 learners will strengthen their knowledge of the contents of the five books of the Torah.

Learning Objectives/Goals

Dalet learners will . . .

- Become familiar with key stories in *Nevi'im* (Prophets) and their connection to leadership.
- Understand that many Jewish Americans have contributed to science, politics, and culture.
- Learn to recite the *Sh'ma* and *V'ahavta* and understand their foundational importance in Judaism. Learners will also be taught how to recite the *ma'ariv aravim* prayer and the beginning of the *Amidah* and how to sing *Adon Olam*, while engaging with deeper meanings and key vocabulary.
- Gain increasing confidence in their Hebrew decoding skills and key vocabulary.