



**PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE**  
Congregational School

## גן

### **Gan – Kindergarten**

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 teaching the Hebrew alphabet through experiential learning. Gan students create various art projects for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Students learn a key word for each letter, with the vocabulary bridging their Hebrew and Judaic studies.

Gan Hebrew goals:

- Learning the letters of the Hebrew alphabet
- Exposure to modern Hebrew by building a vocabulary of basic Hebrew words and phrases

### **Tefillah – Prayer**

Gan students learn *tefillot* (prayers) both during the week and at family Shabbat programs with Principal Music Educator Josh Rosenberg. The focus is on the *brakhot* (blessings) over the Shabbat candles, *motzi*, and the beginning of *kiddush*. Weekly *tefillot* include the following prayers:

- *Modeh Ani*
- *Mah Tov*
- *Sh'ma* (first line)
- *Bar'khu*
- *Amidah* (first line, *avot/imahot*) and *Oseh Shalom*
- *Hinei Mah Tov*
- *Hallelu*
- *Mi-khamokha*

### **Core Judaics**

Gan students begin their Congregational School journey by learning about Torah stories, holidays, and Israel through interactive activities. In the fall semester, children learn the creation story from *B'reishit* (Genesis), making their own *B'reishit* books to highlight their

understanding of the story. In the spring, learners focus on the people and places of Israel along with an in-depth study of Purim and Passover.

**Milestone Moment**

To celebrate what they have learned, Gan students will have an opportunity at the end of the semester to share their *B'reishit* books and sing a song displaying their understanding of the story of creation.

**Learning Objectives/Goals****Gan learners will . . .**

- Be able to share why the Torah is important to the Jewish people.
- Understand the order of the six days of creation in the story of *B'reishit*.
- Be able to connect values from Purim and Passover to their own lives.
- Understand the importance of Israel as the Jewish homeland.
- Know the names of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet.
- Be able to sing the prayers covered in their *tefillah* sessions.