



**PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE**  
Congregational School

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### **Gimel – Grade 3**

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 Grade 3 Hebrew curriculum has three components:

1. **Hebrew letter recognition and decoding taught during weekday classes.** Learners will work in small groups to solidify their pronunciation of Hebrew letter-vowel combinations and will begin to decode two- and three-letter words using the Hebrew primer *Shalom Uvrachah Primer Express*.
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. All their Hebrew learning will be applied in prayer services both during the week and on Shabbat.
3. **Tefillah sessions** both during the week and on Shabbat, led by our Principal Music Educator, Josh Rosenberg, Cantorial Intern Mira Davis and Rabbi Philp. A list of prayers included in Grade 3 services can be found on the PASCs website.

#### **Tefillah – Prayers & Skills and Rituals**

- *Brakhot* (blessings) – Learners will know how to bless food and drink with the appropriate blessing, including Shabbat *kiddush* and *motzi*. We will discuss *brakhot* in our tradition, and the many different types of situations when we offer blessings. *Birkhot ha-torah*, the Torah blessings, will also be covered.
- *Bar’khu* – Learners will practice reciting the *bar’khu* and learn the call and response; they will identify words with the *bet-resh-khaf* root and identify key words.
- *Mi khamokha* – Learners will be able to recite the prayer, discuss the concept of *shirah hadashah* (singing a new song), and identify key words.
- Holidays – Children will learn the Hanukkah blessings, *Mah Nishtanah*, and *Hatikvah*, building skills to celebrate Jewish holidays and participate in rituals and celebrations at home.

## **Core Judaics**

### **• Weekday**

Grade 3 will explore Torah stories through the medium of *midrash*, interpretative stories about the Torah. Students will begin to learn the meaning and value of commentary on the Torah through well-known traditional *midrashim* and will then develop their own interpretations in order to experience the concept of “70 different ways to understand the Torah.” The primary focus is on the Book of *Sh’mot* (Exodus), with some material from the Book of *B’midbar* (Numbers).

### **• Shabbat**

The Shabbat curriculum is rooted in the weekly Torah portion, emphasizing Jewish values that we learn from the Torah. Through these Shabbat lessons and activities, Grade 3 learners will strengthen their knowledge of the contents of the five books of the Torah.

## **Milestone Moment**

The Gimel Milestone Moment is focused on Hanukkah. Learners will learn to read and recite the Hanukkah *brakhot* and *Al Hanissim* in Hebrew. Before Hanukkah, Gimel families will come together virtually and we will celebrate the children’s learning and the Festival of Lights with Gimel learners singing *Al Hanissim*.

## **Learning Objectives/Goals**

### **Gimel learners will . . .**

- Become familiar with key stories in the book of *Sh’mot* (Exodus), the book of *B’midbar* (Numbers), and associated *midrashim*. The children will also learn how stories evolve with layers of commentary and add their own interpretation.
- Learn to recite blessings, understanding their value in our tradition and the many situations in which we say them, including Shabbat, reading Torah, and before eating.
- Continue to build Hebrew decoding skills.