



Parent Notes:



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2019-2020

PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE

FIRST GRADE



Hillel Community Day School partners with families to promote critical thinking, academic excellence and a love of learning for each child. In service to the entire Jewish community, we inspire a meaningful connection to Jewish customs, values and Israel.



Judaic Studies — Morah Sapir Mualem

Our Jewish Studies program utilizes the Ivrit b'Ivrit (Hebrew Immersion) and a custom made curriculum to foster a love of tradition and community. The program builds a sense of values and responsibility for one another, engenders a strong Jewish identity, and creates confident Jewish learners.

First Grade Students Will:

- Identify the Jewish holiday's symbols and explain key concepts associated with each of the Jewish holidays, both in Hebrew and English.
- Explore the observance of the Jewish holidays in the classroom, at home, and in the synagogue.
- Foster a connection with Israel
- Study the weekly Parasha (Torah Portion) and be able to identify the name of the Parasha and its first verse.
- Sing the morning prayers and Torah blessings with understanding.
- Receive his/her own Siddur (prayer book) at the "Chaggigat ha-Siddur" ceremony.

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Weekly Shabbat celebration in the classroom.
- Literacy projects, songs, art making, cooking and field trips to learn holiday observances and practices.
- Playing games and acting out biblical stories, and taking virtual "trips" to the source and location of the stories.
- Daily Tefillah and exploration of the meaning of prayers in the classroom.
- Hands on projects that put Jewish Values into action including, but not limited to: Talmud Torah (The study of Torah), Hachnasat Orhim (Hospitality), Bal Tash'hit (Ecology), Derech Eretz (Respectful attitude and actions), Tikkun Olam (Repairing the world), and Tzedakah(Charity/Justice)
- Interactions with our partner school's students in Modi'in, Israel.

What Can Parents Do?

- Discuss with your child the ways that your family observes and practices the traditions learned in class.
- Provide opportunities for your child to observe Shabbat and celebrate the Jewish Holidays at home and in the community.
- Read biblical stories with your child, help your child find the traits that made the biblical characters successful (or not successful), and motivate your child to adopt success patterns in his/her own life.
- Encourage your child to incorporate Jewish Values into his/her daily life (Help the needy; Take care of your pet: Reuse and recycle; Make challah together; Invite guests for Shabbat dinner).
- Attend synagogue services at your synagogue or Temple and encourage your child to actively participate in worship (Children's services are conducted in many local synagogues, and many are open to the community).
- Read the Judaic Studies teacher's updates and encourage your child to talk about what he/she is learning.



Hebrew — Morah Sapir Mualem

Hebrew has been the language of the Jewish people from ancient times to the present. At Hillel School, Hebrew is taught both as a modern, living language, as well as the language of tradition. In First Grade, Hebrew and Judaic studies are integrated curriculum. Students learn to speak, read, listen, and write in Hebrew by using a variety of activities, songs, visual materials and games that engage all of the senses, stimulate imagination, and foster a love for the Hebrew language.

First Grade Students Will:

- Identify the Hebrew print and script letters and vowels.
- Follow right to left progression and combine sounds to read words and short sentences in Hebrew.
- Follow directions given in Hebrew.
- Listen to short stories in Hebrew.
- Learn to form and write Hebrew print and script letters and vowels.
- Develop the ability to communicate in Hebrew using basic linguistic patterns in the present tense.
- Developing a beginning Hebrew vocabulary (Daily routines in the classroom and at home, family members, parts of the body, days of the week, weather patterns, Jewish symbols, colors in both masculine and feminine form, etc.).
- Connecting Hebrew to everyday social situations, related to the children's experiences in the home, at school, in encounters with friends, and during holiday celebrations.

Class room Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Daily class meetings conducted in Hebrew (calendar, weather, counting, etc.) and use of Hebrew expressions throughout the day.
- Listening and singing songs to enhance language acquisition.
- Playing Hebrew games, using flashcards, and using software to develop Hebrew vocabulary.
- Reading short stories in Hebrew with purpose and understanding.
- Guided reading groups that are differentiated, based upon assessed reading levels.
- Writing centers that incorporate a variety of methods (rainbow writing, tracing, etc.) to practice letter formation.

What Can Parents Do?

- Enjoy and foster your child's excitement for learning the Hebrew language.
- Help your child make time to practice at home. Check for completion of homework assignments and listen to your child read Hebrew at home.
- Have your child teach you to say something in Hebrew every day.
- Provide videos and books in Hebrew and use technology! Check online and in the app stores for apps that include Israeli children's stories (like Sharon Saddon, Hebrew Words, and Gus on the Go!) and Hebrew-English dictionaries.
- Sing Hebrew songs together! There are many resources online (for example: YouTube Yaldut Israelit).



ELA — Miss Becca Beldner

The first graders at HCDS receive an excellent foundation in English and Language Arts so that they can become successful and independent learners, readers, writers and communicators. Our students will be involved in a variety of activities using small group instruction so that they can realize success, and receive both enrichment and remediation as needed.

First Grade Students Will:

- Learn decoding and encoding skills so that they can be applied to unfamiliar vocabulary
- Demonstrate comprehension of reading material
- Learn and apply sight words
- Develop complete sentences using subjects and predicates
- Combine sentences to develop a story with a beginning, middle and end
- Memorize and use spelling lists
- Retell a story or event with expression

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Small group formalized instruction
- Listening to stories in a variety of genres
- Reading text-based and fictional material
- Instruction in the use of proper grammar and writing mechanics

What Can Parents Do?

- Model the enjoyment of reading to your child
- Model writing as a communication tool
- Read with your child every night
- Visit the library regularly and help your child select interesting books appropriate to their age and grade level



Social Studies — Miss Becca Beldner

*Through the course of Social Studies, first graders recognize their similarities and differences and their responsibility to others. Students deepen their understanding of current events. The class will use *Our World: A Social Studies* textbook, *Scholastic Magazines*: a weekly publication, and on-line resources for virtual field trips.*

First Grade Social Studies Students Will:

- Understand current events
- Have respect for others
- Learn about American historical people and holidays, combined with Jewish holidays and Israeli holidays
- Demonstrate an understanding of a globe and map, as they are visual representations
- Demonstrate an understanding of goods and services, needs, and wants
- Demonstrate an understanding of communities

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Reading about current events
- Discussions
- Using audio-visual materials

What Can Parents Do?

- Discuss current events
- Visit museums
- On car trips, expose the child to maps and directions
- Help child to understand diversity between families and people who the children encounter in their home lives



Physical Education — Mr. Ken Soble

First graders build on basic functions introduced in Kindergarten (reintroduced at each unit's beginning) through added methods and rules. There is still free play, but at a decreasing rate as students' abilities and understandings increase. Safety continues as a large focus. Having fun in a socially acceptable and responsible way is stressed.

First Grade Students Will:

- Develop physical fitness skills through regular practice, effort, and perseverance as an extension of their learning from Kindergarten.
- Demonstrate mastery of fundamental motor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills.
- Utilize measurements from last spring to assess their individual and group progress of physical fitness. Students will learn to analyze physical fitness per percentiles.

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Jogging
- Musical aerobics
- Floor hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball, golf, tennis, volleyball and lacrosse (all adjusted to age appropriateness)
- Activities to understand the relationship between physical activity and well being
- Team-building exercises
- General, non-sports related games and activities

What Can Parents Do?

- Parents should be noting skills and fitness awareness growth at this level ---and continue encouraging and feeding into it with appropriate at home or extra-curricular activities (i.e. school sports clubs, town recreation department offerings, physical activity classes, etc.).
- Encourage a reduction in passive recreation (keeping it minimal but realizing its place) and more active time (preferably more social activities that can be done with friends or family).



Music — Mr. Jack McMahon

The content of the Grade 1 music curriculum will include songs that teach Hebrew vocabulary, Jewish holidays, Torah stories and Jewish values. Secular and American holiday music will also be included. Developing rhythm and pitch will be incorporated into the curriculum, through the use of instruments and rhythm tools.

First Grade Music Students Will:

- Learn Hebrew vocabulary through song
- Learn Torah stories through song
- Sing songs which stress Jewish values
- Sing Jewish and American holiday songs
- Sing traditional Jewish music, as well as songs by contemporary song writers
- Tap out simple rhythms
- Match pitch

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Movement songs
- Simple dances
- Rhythm and pitch exercises

What Can Parents Do?

- Ask what your child learned in music class.
- Take your child to musical events in the community.
- Provide opportunities for your child to listen to a varied musical repertoire.



Math — Miss Becca Beldner

Computation, addition, and subtraction without regrouping is an important aspect of first grade mathematics. Problem solving and mathematical reasoning, along with communication of those skills, connect Mathematics to Science, Language Arts, and every day life. Children in First Grade will work with concrete objects to perfect and enhance proficiency in Math.

First Grade Math Students Will:

- Recognize, order, write, and read numbers 0-100
- Demonstrate understanding of addition and subtraction through 12 and beyond, without regrouping
- Begin to memorize basic addition and subtraction facts, at least through 12, so that concrete objects need not be used for counting
- Apply skills designed to make the operations easier (counting up, use of number line, operations using doubles, zero, plus one, etc.)
- Create and solve mathematical problems
- Demonstrate understanding of simple fractions
- Understand concepts of greater than, less than, and equal to
- Identify basic geometric shapes
- Tell time on analog and digital clocks to the nearest half-hour
- Understand how to use a calendar
- Develop and interpret bar, line and pictographs
- Identify and count coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter)

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Celebrating the 100th day of school
- Solve word problems to connect math with real life
- Integrating Math and Science, especially with measurement
- Using a journal to write story problems (integration with Language Arts)

What Can Parents Do?

- Reinforce addition and subtraction fact memorization
- Use money at stores or develop a “salary” for chores
- Cook with your child to reinforce measurement and fractions



Science — Miss Becca Beldner

First grade science focuses on the role of plants and animals, weather and seasonal changes, as well as measurement and predictions based on observations and experiments. Further, they will learn the necessity of taking care of the earth and respecting it (tikkun olam).

Students should know and/or be able to do the following by the end of First grade:

- Understand that plants come from seeds
- Name the different parts of the plant
- Understand that there are many factors which affect the weather
- Understand that weather and seasonal changes affect animals and plants

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Experiments
- Outdoor expeditions
- Gardening

What Can Parents Do?

- Recycle, Reuse, Reduce in the home
- Help your child care for a garden and/or family pet
- Provide opportunities for your child to measure things by comparison, English and/or metric units



Art — Miss Abbey Brothers

With basic knowledge from Kindergarten, and curriculum based on the National Art Standards, we will build knowledge of different art tools. In art we also recognize natural and man-made forms, and learn to appreciate and value the differences in thinking, seeing, and feelings of our fellow students.

First Grade Students Will:

- Respond to art by understanding the meaning the art conveys
- Connect artistic ideas to personal meaning and outside contexts
- Create artwork that develops ideas and demonstrates pre-planning
- Demonstrate use of skills, tools and processes, with quality craftsmanship, when planning and creating
- Present & Produce: students refine and prepare work for presentation
- Responding: analyze, interpret, and evaluate works of art; Demonstrate knowledge of art vocabulary
- Connect: students will relate artistic work with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Drawing - Colored Pencil, cray-pas, crayons
- Painting – Watercolor/Tempera
- Sculpture
- Printmaking
- Mixed Media
- Fibers & Craft Media

What Can Parents Do?

- Take your child to see art in the community.
- Assist with transportation and driving for field trips.
- Continue to encourage creative thinking in all aspects of their lives.
- Help mount and hang the annual art show at the end of the year.



S.T.E.A.M. — Ms. Tara Wiseman

First Grade learners are naturally engaged in the STEAM Lab. The hands-on, minds-on activities are selected to foster creativity and critical thinking. The curriculum encourages learners to begin with an appropriate level of challenge and advance as far as they are able. The emphasis on choice and autonomy allows learners to further personalize learning by tailoring projects to their own interests and experience.

First Grade Students Will:

- Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers.

Group Challenges May Include, But Are Not Limited To the Following Tools:

- Animation-ish
- Geometric Shapes
- Hour of Code
- Let's Go Code
- Maker Boxes
- Osmo
- Ozobot
- Pixie
- Simple Machines
- Solar Oven
- Snap Circuits
- Zoomtools
- Zoob Builders

What Can Parents Do?

- Raising a “thinker”: Encourage your child to think outside-the-box and to problem solve. Have them participate in everyday activities around your home (i.e. food preparation). This process allows for a series of steps to be follow-- the end result being a completed project and a sense of achievement. Have them ask questions along the way to foster engagement, logical reasoning, and overall understanding of the process.

- I can “tinker”: Give your child access to a wide array of child-safe materials, such as craft supplies and overall “randomness”. Ask them to simply create. You can expand on this by offering a scenario. Have your child identify a solution and execute it via a physical build using the provided materials. This is a fun exercise to promote critical thinking and problem-solving growth mindset.

- Set an example for collaboration and compassion: Be a strong role model and mentor to your child. Make working with others and having an open mindset a priority (Making Caring Common Project: www.p21.org/tips/rolemodel).

- Make decisions about responsible digital practices together. Talk with your child about how to judge the accuracy and bias of online news and ways to behave safely and responsibly in the immense digital world (Common Sense Media: www.p21.org/tips/online).

- Set Expectations. Set and communicate clear, specific, and appropriate expectations around your child’s use of online media and mobile devices (Connect Safely: www.p21.org).



Media/Library

First grade students are continuing their journey towards informational literacy. Over the course of this school year they will tap into their innate curiosity and inquisitiveness to build understanding. First graders distinguish between fiction and nonfiction, as well as fact and opinion. They become increasingly independent in finding accurate answers to their questions and efficiently summarizing and recording their findings.

First Grade Students Will:

- Share what is known about a topic to elicit and connect to prior knowledge.
- Recognize that fiction and picture books are organized by the author's last name in alphabetical order
- Distinguish between fact and opinion.
- Find facts and briefly summarize them via writing, drawing, and/or verbalization.
- Draw a conclusion about the main idea with guidance.
- Identify own strengths and set goals for improvement.

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Read aloud and think alouds
- Small group direct instruction
- Multi-media projects
- Book reviews

What Can Parents Do?

- Talk with your child. Discuss topics that make you "wonder". Find answers together.
- Read with your child every day.
- Listen to your child read every day.
- Ask your child about what they are reading (e.g. What is the problem in the story?; What would you do if that happened to you?; Who else might like this book?, etc.
- Help your child choose "just right" books in a variety of genres.



Garden & Sustainability

The garden and sustainability program will provide students with a broad knowledge base that will empower them to take a leading role in caring for Hillel's outdoor learning garden. In addition to the practical aspects of gardening, students will gain a deeper appreciation for where their food comes from. They will also understand the importance of local and global environmental stewardship, and the relationship between agriculture, ecology, and Jewish ethics.

First Grade Students Will Learn:

- Practical gardening aspects and plant care
- The importance and process of composting and soil health
- How soil affects plant growth and crop yield
- How to select plants for planting based on season
- Plant and crop life cycles
- The concept of seed saving
- How growing food for local consumption can benefit the community
- The relationship between the natural environment and plant/crop health
- The necessity of a long-term mindset for growing food
- Alternative growth systems

Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Journaling to reflect on weekly activities
- Classroom based projects related to gardening, life science, and food systems
- Outdoor garden activities like watering, weeding, planting, and harvesting
- School wide food waste collection for composting

What Can Parents Do?

- Encourage your child to think about where the food they eat comes from.
- Examine and observe the living things around your home and family environment.
- Visit farms, gardens, and the Lambertton Conservatory
- Start a home garden

