

Gimmel (3rd Grade) Curriculum

Jewish Identity

The focus of the Gimmel year is to prepare the students to take their rightful place in K'lal Yisrael (the community of Israel) by formally introducing the students to the Shabbat morning service and preparing them to receive their first Siddur, (prayer book) in a special ceremony called Consecration or *Chag HaSiddur*.

Hebrew

The third grader reviews phonetic decoding skills previously learned, begins cursive writing and practices reading fluency. Aleph students learn to understand stories and simple prayers and to recognize simple Hebrew roots, prefixes and suffixes. They discuss themes of prayers by focusing on key siddur words.

Bible

Lessons from the Torah – The ancient narratives of the Five Books of Moses come to life for the Aleph student in simple words, refined by Jewish scholarship both ancient and modern. In the tradition of the Jewish sages, our third grader learns to understand *Peshat* (“What does it mean?”) *Drash* (“What does it teach?”) and *Remez* (“more subtle or hidden meaning in the text.”)

Holidays and Mitzvot

Gimmel students begin the award winning, Graded Curriculum of the Melton Research Center of the Jewish Theological Seminary which explores the central ideas that underlie Jewish observance and traditional texts.

Prayer

All of the prayers studied thus far plus the following new prayers:

Ma tovu (whole paragraph), *Baruch Sh'Amar*, *Shema V'ahavta*, *Ashrei* (beginning) *Birkot HaTorah*, *Amida L'Shabbat* (first paragraph) *V'shamru*, *Sim Shalom*, *Ayn K'Eloheynu*, *Adon Olam*, *Birkat Hamazon*, (Grace after Meals) (first paragraph.)

Ethics and Values

Gimmel students learn a treasury of *aggadic* tales from traditional and contemporary sources including legends of Samuel, David, Solomon, Akiva and Elijah. These stories strengthen Jewish identity and moral development.

Texts and Resources:

Siddur Sim Shalom
Shalom U'vracha Primer, Script Edition,
Behrman House
A Child's Bible Book 1- Seymour
Rossel, Behrman House
Holiday Curriculum for Aleph Students –
Melton Research Center of Jewish
Theological Seminary
Lessons from Our Living Past –
Behrman House

Music / Israeli Dancing

Music is offered every week in grades Gimmel - Vav (3rd – 6th.) Children learn a variety of Hebrew, English or liturgical songs that are related to Shabbat, the holidays, the siddur and Israel. Children will also receive instruction in Israeli Dancing from time to time.