



# Congregation Beth Yam Religious School



## General Curriculum Goals

### **A Description of the Jewish Content and Programs**

*A child's Jewish education involves more than a student "feeling Jewish." Learning to be a Jew means becoming familiar with a body of knowledge and the practice of observance and tradition. To accomplish this goal, the CBY Religious School, its teachers, Acting Director of Jewish Youth Education and Rabbi have provided this information below for you to have a clear understanding of what is presented to your children in their classrooms and through a hands-on approach to Judaism.*

1. Bible - Students cannot begin to understand Judaism without a study of its sources. In the lower grades, stories are taught and the students learn moral and ethical tales of the rabbis who crystallized the Jewish tradition. In the upper grades, they study the Torah in more detail.
2. Hebrew - The Hebrew language is one of the strongest links that joins the Jewish people to its past and to the present work Jewish community. There are a variety of approaches to teaching Hebrew in a Religious School. Our goal is to give each student enough Hebrew so that he or she will be able to use it with comfort and familiarity in temple life and home rituals. Stress is placed upon reading fluency and developing a vocabulary which is relevant to the temple and its service. Emphasis is on the vocabulary of religious life. The stress is not on conversational Hebrew. Students will learn to read and sing the prayers used in Shabbat services. The meanings of the prayers are also taught throughout the entire religious school curriculum. Attention is given to holiday prayers and home rituals. Students will participate in our Boker Tov Sunday morning service which is designed for them.
3. Holidays - All students will learn about Jewish holidays and observances through the use of curriculum materials which are integrated in their study of mitzvot and prayer. Some life cycle events will also be included in this learning experience.
4. Gemilut Chasadim (Acts of Loving Kindness) - This part of our curriculum is one of our primary focus areas. Character education is taught in all grades. The goal of this component is to educate and guide students into action through *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world).
5. Other Aspects of the Curriculum - Each class will have many opportunities to express themselves through art, music, crafts and special events. Our school library and parent resource library are filled with exciting and meaningful books, puzzles, games and more for everyone's use. Please encourage your child to take an item home to share with the family. The sign out sheet is on the library shelf in the hallway and must be completed by a parent.