



Congregation Beth Yam
Religious School



Teaching Hebrew by Ability

(For Students going into Bet, Gimmel, or Middle School classes)

Every student will be assessed in Hebrew skills and assigned to one of five levels.

On Sunday mornings students will be “re-grouped” for a 45 minute Hebrew lesson at their ability level.

GOAL: By grouping students with similar capability into the same classroom, we will

- enable faculty to design focused, more effective lessons targeted to meet student needs
- support all students to experience greater success, and higher self-esteem
- facilitate a less-intimidating pathway for students that are new to Religious School
- allow some students to accelerate/enrich their learning beyond minimum expectations

The five levels are as follows:

RISHON: entry level for students that are still working on letter recognition and pronunciation.

SHENI: for students that have mastered pronouncing syllables, and are working on reading familiar words from holiday vocabulary, as well as simple blessings and prayers. **Students must complete this level of mastery, before they're ready to attend our additional Hebrew School.**

SHLISHI: for students that have mastered reading basic familiar phrases, and are ready to study more complex liturgical readings, and develop some conversational Hebrew vocabulary.

Students at this level should also attend our additional Hebrew School class.

Students must complete this level, before they are qualified to set a date for B'nai Mitzvah.

REVI'I: for students doing final Pre-B'nai Mitzvah preparation, to develop fluency with the Shabbat Evening and Morning Services. Students at this level are also assigned a private adult tutor, to help them master reading their assigned Torah and Haftarah portions.

Students must complete this level, before they are called to Torah to become a B'nai Mitzvah.

HAMISHI: (Optional) for students that wish to continue developing their Hebrew skills beyond the minimum required for Bnai Mitzvah. Students at this level will expand their conversational Hebrew vocabulary and grammar, and optionally learning to chant Hebrew using “Trophe” symbols. Students at this level will develop the confidence to fluently read any Hebrew passage never seen before, and communicate many basic phrases when touring Israel!

**Religious Studies will remain taught in classes based on secular grade level.
Students in Kita Gan and Aleph classes WILL NOT be affected by this change!**