Kitah Dalet (Grade 4)

Kitah Dalet (Grade 4) meets twice a week on Sunday mornings from 9:00-11:30am, and either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon from 4:00-6:00pm. The Kitah Dalet learner begins to or continues to develop a sense of Jewish identity and community through Social Emotional Learning and socialization among their fellow Kitah Dalet learners and the wider Grades 3-6 community.

**Tanakh/Bible:**

Alongside Torah study, our fourth graders are introduced to the wisdom of the two other parts of our Bible. The Bible consists of thirty-nine books divided into three sections: the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings. The Hebrew names for these three sections are Torah, Nevi’im, and Ketuvim. When the first letters of these three names are combined, they form the acronym Tanakh, the Hebrew name for the Bible. Our Bible study includes learning the stories and wisdom of our prophets and writings.

**Torah/Humash:**

Kitah Dalet learners study in the Bet Midrash every Sunday. Kitah Dalet learns how to navigate the Humash (how to find chapters and verses) and learn what a midrash is. The grade level focus for Torah is on relationships between people and how we should treat one another, so we look at parashat hashavua (the weekly Torah portion) through that lens. For example, after learning about Abraham's hospitality to three strangers, Kitah Dalet practices being good hosts by welcoming Kitah Gimel to their learning space for a snack. Kitah Dalet’s Torah learning activities range from writing poems about Joseph and midrashim about Abraham to building a mishkan (tabernacle) out of Lego and making priestly breastplates out of graham crackers, frosting and jellybeans.

**Hagim/Holidays:**

Kitah Dalet learns about the Hebrew calendar and creates their own calendars. The learners become familiar with the brakhot (blessings) connected with the holidays and how they connect to the practices and customs of each holiday. Kitah Dalet creates ritual objects to use at home, including hanukkiyot and tie-dyed pillowcases to use at the Seder table. Our learners participate in the "Ma Nishtana Challenge," singing the Four Questions perfectly to earn stickers toward an ice cream party.

**Israel Learning:**

Our focus in Kitah Dalet is on "What's Cool about Israel." Kitah Dalet learns about cool places in Israel like Tzfat and Tel Aviv. They participate in a scavenger hunt to learn about the gates in the wall around Jerusalem's Old City. The class learns about cool Israeli music, and about Israel's cool inventions and innovations; they explore the Clore
Garden of Science and learn about some of Israel's cool heroes and role models. Their culminating project is creating board games about Israel.

**Jewish Values:**

Kitah Dalet participates in Shorashim’s learning about the Middah of the Month. The class has weekly challenges to go along with each value and reflects on the value in their journals each week.

**Hebrew:**

The level of Hebrew knowledge varies widely among learners in Kitah Dalet and the Hebrew curriculum reflects that range. Some learners are new to Hebrew and are therefore focused on learning the Aleph-Bet; others are proficient Hebrew readers and work on increasing their fluency and comprehension. The goal for all learners in Kitah Dalet is to master the Aleph-Bet and vowels and gain fluency and fluidity in reading basic syllables and small words.

**Prayer:**

Kitah Dalet participates in community tefillah on Sundays and weekdays and gains proficiency in those prayers (including Ashrei, Aleinu, Modeh Ani, Shema and V’ahavta, Ma Tovu, Mi Khamokha, and Barkhu). The class also focuses on learning the brakhot connected with each holiday and masters Kabbalat Shabbat songs and prayers.

**God Talk:**

Kitah Dalet focuses on the concept of being created B’tezlem Elohim. The learners explore what it meant to be created in God's image, and especially how we must treat one another if each person we meet is also created in God's image. As a culminating project, Kitah Dalet creates a ‘B’tezlem Elohim’ collage, which contains each child’s ideas about how they can act in the world to show that they are created in God's image.

**Kitah Dalet Literacy Goals (by the end of the year our learners should know):**

**Humash/Torah:**

- What is a Humash? What is a parasha?
- There are five books in the Torah and the names of the books
- What is midrash?
- How to navigate the humash (how to find chapter and verse)
Hagim Holidays:

- What is the story of each holiday?
- Review basic practices, customs and traditions
- Basic familiarity with the Jewish calendar

Israel:

- Map of Israel (basic geography)
- Israel is in the Middle East
- Hebrew is the language of Israel
- Music, technology, and cool places to visit

Hebrew:

- Add to verbs/commands through the use of TPR
- Mastery of Aleph Bet and vowel sounds
- Fluency and fluidity reading basic syllables and small words
- What is a shoresh (root)?
- Begin to develop a sight word vocabulary

Brakhot/Tefillot:

- A review of all Brakhot (blessings) over different foods
- Four Questions
- Continue to learn the prayers of the weekday morning service/prayers of the weekday afternoon and evening services during Community Tefillah
- Learn Aleinu, Modeh Ani, Shema VeAhavta, Ma Tovu, Mi Kahoka, Barkhu

Other:

- How to be a respectful member of a learning community