Kitah Hey (Grade 5)

Kitah Hey (Grade 5) meets twice a week on Sunday mornings from 9:00-11:30am, and either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon from 4:00-6:00pm. Our Kitah Hey learners are entering a stage in their development where they are beginning to think for themselves and develop strong opinions of right and wrong. We understand that at this stage, learners are asking questions that demand thoughtful answers based in our rich tradition. Our curriculum is planned to challenge them and help them as they enter this important time of questioning, exploring and decision making.

Torah/Humash:

Kitah Hey continues to learn to navigate the Humash (how to find chapters and verses) and focuses on the character traits and values of the biblical heroes. Learners in Kitah Hey use the humash text and read in the original Hebrew and translations. Learners are encouraged to read the text critically and to ask questions. Learners are encouraged to unveil the mysteries and multi-layers that the text has to offer.

The Jewish Life Cycle:

Jewish tradition teaches that we each enter the world with our own unique set of gifts. We discover these gifts, sharing and celebrating them with others, as we journey along the path of our lifetime. This study guides our learners on a path through the major life cycle events; birth, bar and bat mitzvah, marriage and death and mourning. While exploring practices and customs—both traditional and modern—that accompany life’s climactic moments, this curriculum invites young learners to explore their own values, identity, goals and unique roles in the Jewish community.

Holidays:

Holiday learning includes a review of the stories and historical reasons for the holidays. An emphasis is also placed on learning the different mitzvoth associated with each holiday. Special emphasis is placed on learning key prayers for each holiday, in order to recognize the prayer during synagogue services.

Israel Learning:

Israel learning in Kitah Hey focuses on individual stories of the Jewish people who helped establish the State of Israel, and on the groups of immigrants who emigrating to Israel to create the diverse society that exists to this day. Each child explores their own family story as it relates to their own Jewish journey. The concept of ‘the ingathering of the exiles’ is explored.
**Jewish Values:**

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

**Hebrew:**

The level of Hebrew knowledge varies widely among learners in Kitah Hey and the class is divided into several Hebrew groups for smaller group learning. Some learners in Kitah Hey are more proficient Hebrew readers and work on increasing their fluency and comprehension, while others work on becoming more confident and fluid readers. The goal for all learners in Kitah Hey is to master the Aleph-Bet and vowels and gain fluency and fluidity reading basic syllables, small words, and phrases. The prayer focus of the Hebrew curriculum in Kitah Hey is the Amidah.

**Prayer:**

Kitah Hey participates in community tefillah on Sundays and weekdays and gains proficiency in those prayers, including an in-depth study of the Amidah. The class also focuses on learning the brakhot connected with each holiday. Fifth graders are ‘buddied up’ with younger learners to help them navigate the siddur; this also creates opportunities for the development of relationships across grade levels. The learners in Kitah Hey begin to take on a leadership role in leading tefillah.

**Kitah Hey 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)
- Know the stories through the lens of character traits and values

**Hagim/Holidays:**

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

- Map of Israel (basic geography)
- Government in Israel (democracy, Knesset)
- Ingathering of Jews from around the World

Hebrew:

- Add to verbs/commands through the use of TPR
- Mastery of Aleph Bet and vowel sounds
- Fluency and fluidity reading basic syllables, words and phrases
- Begin to recognize the *shoresh* (root) in words.
- Continue 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 The Amidah

Other:

- How to be a respectful member of a learning community
- How to navigate working in small groups or with a partner
- Where in the world do I come from? (Jewish genealogy)