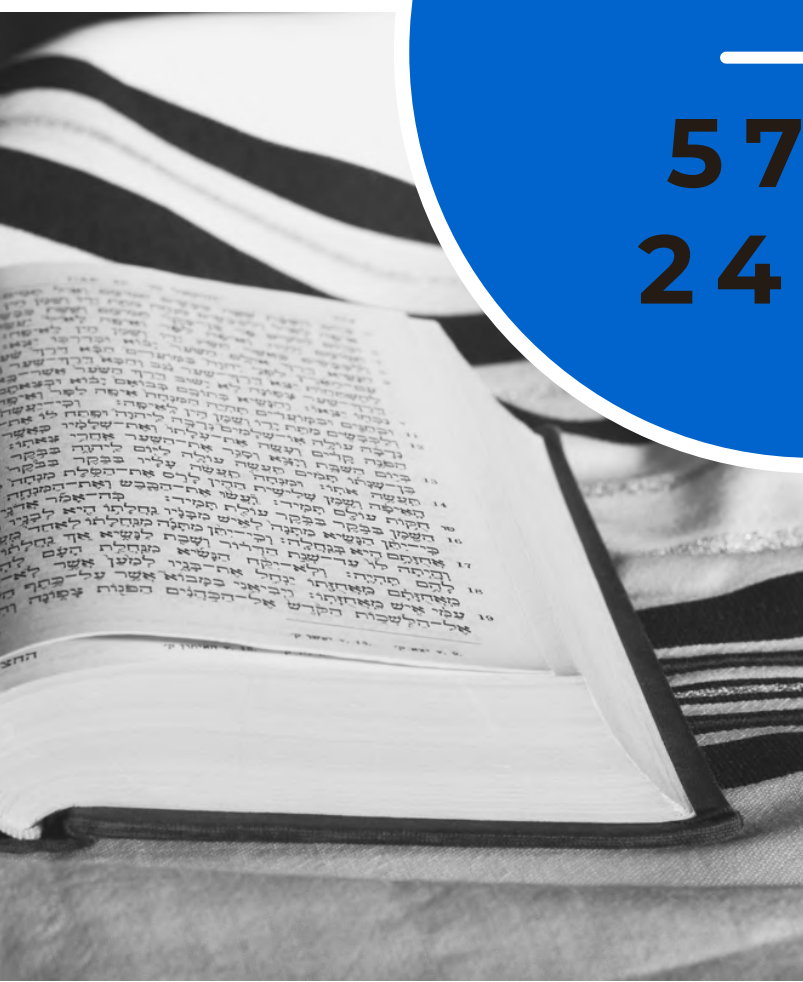




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24-25**



**ADAT SHALOM - BETH ACHIM LEARNING COMMUNITY**  
**29901 MIDDLEBELT ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48334**  
**ADATSHALOM.ORG/EDUCATION | 248-626-2153**

# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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## DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**Dr. Melissa Ser, CJE • [mser@adatshalom.org](mailto:mser@adatshalom.org)  
248-626-2153 • 248-804-3501 (cell)**

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & YOUTH

**Sammi Shapiro • [sshapiro@adatshalom.org](mailto:sshapiro@adatshalom.org)  
248-626-2153 • 248-417-2749 (cell)**

## DIRECTOR OF ADULT LEARNING & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**Jodi Gross • [jgross@adatshalom.org](mailto:jgross@adatshalom.org)  
248-626-2153**



# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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## **Sundays, 9 a.m. until noon**

### **Pre-Kindergarten through Seventh Grade**

- Community havdalah and tefillah
- Hebrew, music, movement, and arts enrich our experience
- Classes develop their knowledge of Judaism, holidays, the calendar and life cycle events, history, ethics, Torah, and Israel.

## **Hebrew Tutoring**

### **Second through Seventh Grade**

- 30 minute lesson, scheduled weekly at a time that works for your family (22 30-minute lessons)
- In person or on Zoom, based on scheduling needs and teacher availability

## **Wednesday Schedule**

### **Second through Seventh Grade**

- Hebrew reinforcement
- Israel-focused learning
- Community building

# FACULTY & CLASSROOMS

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## **PRE-KINDERGARTEN GAN KATAN**

**Wendy Arnold**  
Room 103  
wapa93@aol.com

## **FIRST GRADE KITAH ALEF**

**Marilyn Wolfe**  
Room 105  
marilynwolfe544@gmail.com

## **THIRD GRADE KITAH GIMEL**

**Ettie Schargorodsky**  
Room 101  
ettieschar@aol.com

## **FIFTH GRADE KITAH HEH**

**Alyssa Diskin**  
Room 107  
diskin.liss@gmail.com

## **SEVENTH GRADE KITAH ZAYIN**

**Abbi Tarockoff**  
Computer Lab  
abigail.tarockoff@gmail.com

## **KINDERGARTEN GAN**

**Shelly Tarockoff**  
Room 104  
starockoff@gmail.com

## **SECOND GRADE KITAH BET**

**Lauren Blitz**  
Room 102  
lauren.b4@icloud.com

## **FOURTH GRADE KITAH DALET**

**Sam Arnold**  
Room 106  
supersam1266@gmail.com

## **SIXTH GRADE KITAH VAV**

**Ariel Blizzard**  
Room 108  
ariel.stollman@outlook.com

## **MUSIC MUSIKA**

**Elena Hirsch**  
Room 111  
elenakhirsch@gmail.com

# **FACULTY**

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## **OPENING THE DOORS INCLUSION SPECIALIST**

Debbi Stybel

## **MUSIC EDUCATION**

Hazzan Daniel Gross and Elena Hirsch

## **HEBREW LANGUAGE SPECIALIST**

Rochel Nachlas

## **HEBREW READING SPECIALISTS AND TUTORS**

Abbi Tarockoff, Debbi Stybel, Emily Hollenberg, Hadass Zaid, Melissa Ser, Rochel Nachlas, Sam Arnold, Cillia Kleiman, Elisha Cooper, Adina Levin, Aron Kaufman, Ariel Blizzard, Sammi Shapiro

## **SHINSHINIT: ISRAEL SPECIALIST**

Shira Rafalovitz

## **B'NAI MITZVAH TUTORS**

Joyce Berlin Weingarten, Sam Arnold

## **YOUTH PROGRAMS LEADER**

Elena Hirsch

# THE BASICS

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## **Arrival Time**

We have limited time with our students, and need every minute to reach our goals! We start on time at 9 a.m. on Sundays and at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We understand that traffic and weather may make it harder to arrive on time, and we ask that students who arrive late sign in at the office and go straight to their classrooms or tefillah. Doors open Sundays at 8:40 a.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

## **Tefillah (Prayer Services)**

On Sunday mornings, students participate in either an all-school or a grade-appropriate service with clergy.

## **What to Wear**

Boys should wear a kippah or appropriate head covering to class; girls may if they choose. We have extras in the office but have found that children tend to prefer a special one of their own that they have selected. Students and madrichim who have already become bar or bat mitzvah are encouraged to bring tallit and/or tefillin on Sundays.

We ask that students dress respectfully. If it would not be permitted in your regular school, it's probably not appropriate for Adat Shalom either. Please label your belongings. During the winter months, students often wish to go outside during their breaks. Students should come with appropriate gear for the weather.

## **Snacks at the Shalom Shuk**

For 50¢ to 75¢ per item, students may purchase snacks and/or drinks before school. All snacks are kosher and nut free, and we always have dairy free and gluten free options available. If you would like to send a snack from home, please ensure it is kosher and nut free. Cream cheese may be purchased for 25¢ at the Shalom Shuk.

# THE BASICS

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## What to Bring

- Tik (school bag) – Returning students should bring their bags with them. New students will receive one on the first day of school. If your bag has torn, please let us know and you can receive a new one.
- **Students in grades 4-7 should bring their siddur!**
- Kosher (dairy or pareve, nut free snack or money (\$1 to \$1.50)
- Money for tzedakah (we recommend at least 25¢ per class session) so we can make the world a better place.
- Pre-K/Kindergarten Students: Extra clothing because life happens!

## What NOT to Bring

- Cell phones (unless turned off during class; they may be used before/after class).
- Hand-held computer games or other electronics
- Fidget spinners and cubes (or any other fidget that makes noise and/or can be misused as a toy)
- Toys, unless discussed with the office

## Bagels

Plain bagels and juice/water will be available by pre-order. Limited numbers of bagels will be available in the Shalom Shuk on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you want to make sure your child has a bagel (and save money), please order in advance. During the first week of school, we will have plenty of bagels and other snacks available for purchase before the pre-orders are processed.

**If your child needs a gluten free bagel, please note that on your pre-order.**

Pre orders can be completed at [www.adatshalom.org/bagels](http://www.adatshalom.org/bagels)

# COMMUNICATION & INVOLVEMENT

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## **Email**

Every week during the school year, we send out an email to all addresses in our system. These emails contain important highlights of the coming week, dates to remember, special notices, information about upcoming programs of interest, and any changes to our regularly scheduled programming.

If you do not receive teacher emails, please contact your child's teacher directly to be sure he or she has the correct email address. If you do not receive Learning Community emails, please make sure we have your correct email address and that you have not opted-out of emails from us.

## **Facebook**

We have a closed Facebook group, called "Adat Shalom-Beth Achim Learning Community." Please request to join! You can also "like" Adat Shalom Synagogue's Facebook page to get updates on synagogue activities and items of interest.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ASBA.learningcommunity>

<https://www.facebook.com/adatshalomsyn>

## **Padlet**

The school's Padlet hub will have links, sign ups, announcements and more. It is updated frequently and is located [here](#).

## **Parent Teacher Committee**

If you are interested in being more involved in the school as a whole, please contact Alan Gallatin at [amg@pobox.com](mailto:amg@pobox.com)

## **Room Parents**

We would love to have your support in our classrooms! Please contact your child's teacher directly if you are interested in supporting the class periodically throughout the year.



# SUNDAY ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

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We want to make sure that all our students and teen drivers are safe. Please take extra care when entering and exiting the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up, watch your surroundings, and drive slowly and cautiously through the parking lot.

**The 13 Mile Road exit is EXIT ONLY. Cars may enter and/or exit on Middlebelt Road. Please follow the arrows throughout the parking lot for everyone's safety.**

## **Arrival:**

- **Drop off begins at 8:45am and ends at 9am.**
- If you wish to drop your children off without parking, please use the **Kaufman entrance** (orange star).
- If you wish to walk your children into the building, please park in a marked space in the parking lot and enter through the **Canner entrance** (blue star).

## **Dismissal:**

- **Dismissal begins at 12pm and ends at 12:10pm.**
- If you wish to pick your children up without parking, please use the Kaufman entrance (orange star).
- If you wish to come into the building for pickup, please park in a marked space in the parking lot and enter through the Canner entrance (blue star).
- Children in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade must be picked up from the classroom by an adult or, with written permission, an older sibling.
- **You must let the classroom teacher know who will be picking your child up.**

## **LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY DISMISSALS:**

- If your child arrives after 9:10am please park and bring your child to the school office.
- The Kaufman entrance will be locked at 9:10am.
- If you need to pick up early, please come to the school office.

# WEDNESDAY ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

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We want to make sure that all our students and teen drivers are safe. Please take extra care when entering and exiting the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up, watch your surroundings, and drive slowly and cautiously through the parking lot.

**The 13 Mile Road exit is EXIT ONLY. Cars may enter and/or exit on Middlebelt Road. Please follow the arrows throughout the parking lot for everyone's safety.**

## **Arrival:**

- **Drop off begins at 4pm and ends at 4:35pm.**
- You may use the dropoff lane near the **Canner Entrance** (blue star) on Wednesdays. Please be patient and have your child exit the vehicle on the driver side.
- If you wish to walk your children into the building, please park in a marked space in the parking lot and enter through the **Canner entrance** (blue star).

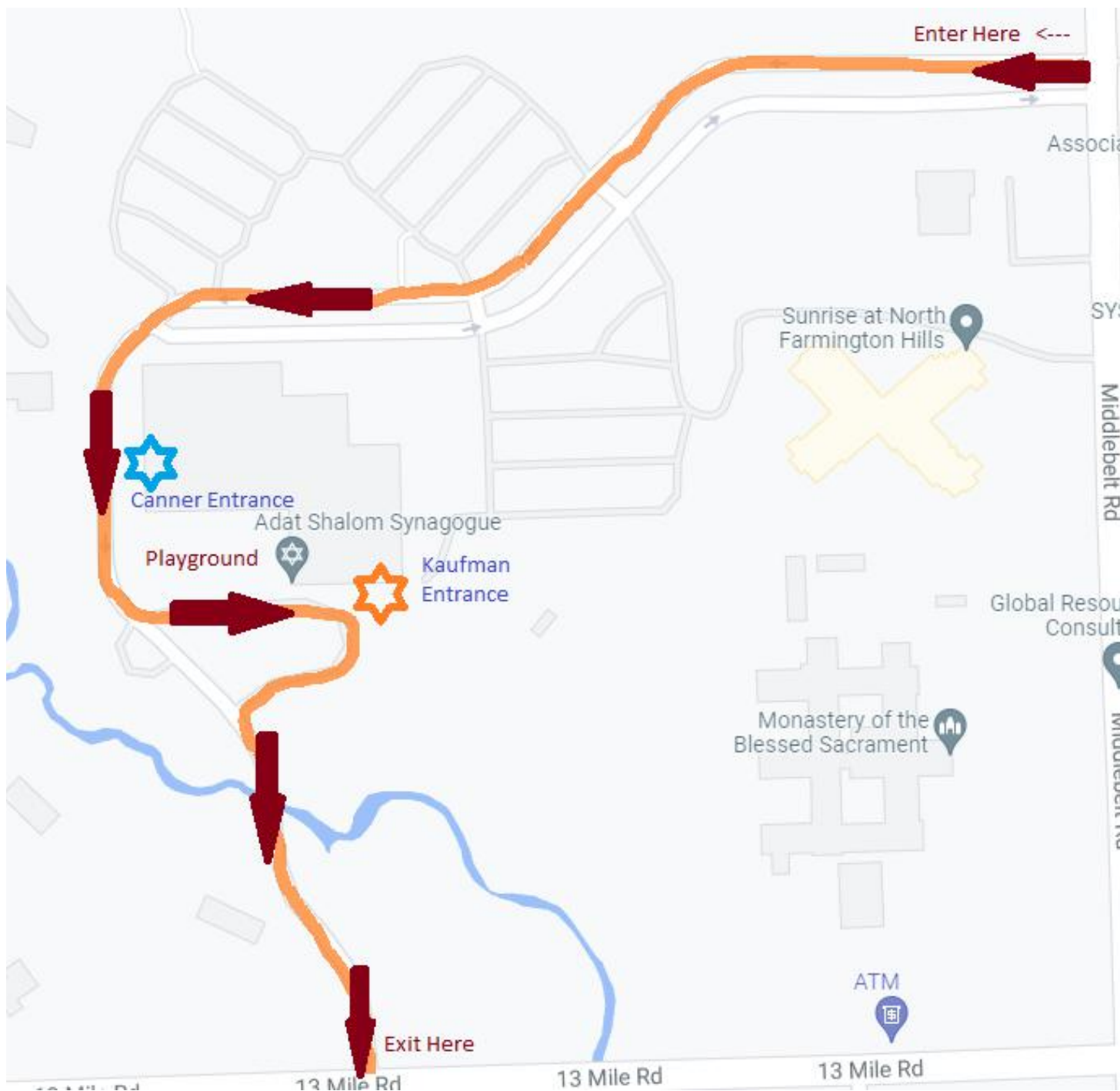
## **Dismissal:**

- **Dismissal begins at 6:15pm and ends at 6:25pm**
- Dismissal is through the **Kaufman Entrance** (orange star) on Wednesdays.
- If you wish to come into the building for pickup, please park in a marked space in the parking lot and enter through the Canner entrance (blue star).

## **LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY DISMISSALS:**

- If your child arrives late, please check in at the office.
- If you need to pick up early, please come to the school office.

# ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL MAP



# B'NAI MITZVAH

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## **Setting the Bar or Bat Mitzvah Date**

Synagogue Members: When your child turns 8 years old or enters 3rd grade, you may call Denise Gallagher, the booking coordinator, at (248) 851-5100 to schedule a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. This date will be scheduled on or after the child's 13th birthday (12th birthday for girls) on the Hebrew calendar. Denise will gladly assist you in determining the Hebrew birth date. There is no booking fee for members.

Non-members: You may reserve a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date two years prior to the date of your child's 13th birthday (12th birthday for girls) on the Hebrew calendar, although it is not confirmed until one year prior to the date. There is a non-member usage fee for the Main Sanctuary or Shiffman Chapel for the date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

## **B'nai Mitzvah Connections**

You and your child will receive an invitation to B'nai Mitzvah Beginnings with Hazzan Gross. Following that introductory session, you and your child will need to attend several additional workshops during the 12 to 18-month period leading up to your child becoming a bar or bat mitzvah. For questions, please call call 248-851-5100.

## **Mitzvah Project (Community Service)**

In the year leading up to bar/bat mitzvah, each student is expected to volunteer for a minimum of 8 hours, with a goal of 18 (chai!). These hours may be part of volunteer opportunities that we organize for you or opportunities that you create on your own. We ask that you find volunteer activities which will connect you to another living being, a true giving back to your community. Many students engage in a Mitzvah Project, a single project aimed at helping the community, based in a core Jewish value or commandment. Jodi Gross, Director of Adult Learning and Youth Engagement, coordinates group activities available through Adat Shalom.

# SHINSHINIM • MADRICHIM

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## **Shinshinim Program**

The Shinshinim Young Ambassadors Program brings recent high school graduates from Israel to our community. Young, fun, engaging representatives of Israel, the Shinshinim are here to bring Israel into our lives through programs, activities, and lectures throughout our educational programs. We will get a glimpse into what it means to grow up in Israel by learning about youth movements, current events, Israeli music, Hebrew slang, shared society in our region in Israel, how the Shinshinim's friends and families celebrate the holidays, and much more. When they return home to begin service with the Israel Defense Forces, Shinshinim carry a deeper understanding of global Jewish peoplehood and what it means to be part of the Jewish community outside of Israel. Shinshinim (or Shin-Shin in the singular form) is a Hebrew acronym for Sh'nat Sherut, meaning "year of service."

## **Teen Madrichim**

A madrich is a guide, and our school has an amazing cohort of teens who choose to continue being part of the Adat Shalom community on a weekly basis! Beginning in eighth grade, teens may volunteer or work within the school as teaching assistants, buddies, and office assistants.

Teens complete regular training and learn how to best assist the classroom teachers and their students. Madrichim often work with students one-on-one in Hebrew reading, help students with projects, run stations or games, and more.

# **SPECIAL NEEDS & MEDICAL INFO**

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## **Opening the Doors**

We welcome children with differentiated needs into our classrooms. An Opening the Doors specialist works with students who have learning challenges and/or special needs, as well as with their teachers and madrichim on methods of inclusion and integration and differentiated learning strategies. Opening the Doors is a program of the Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit.

## **IEP and 504 Plans**

We request that if an IEP or 504 plan (or similar) exists, that families provide those to us so that we can aim to achieve the same benchmarks and understand the specifics of your child's needs.

## **Buddies**

Students who need a teen buddy/shadow are provided with one at no cost to the family. These teens are specially trained to work one-on-one with students with special needs, and often work with the same child for multiple years. In cases where an adult paraprofessional is needed, please contact the office to discuss arrangements and costs.

## **Allergies & Medical Conditions**

If your child has an allergy or medical condition, we must have an emergency protocol and current emergency medications, epi-pens, and/or inhalers in our office. Our school environment is nut free (you may not bring food that "may contain tree nuts or peanuts" or are "processed on shared equipment with tree nuts or peanuts"). We have students in the school with airborne nut allergies.

Thank you for keeping all our children safe.

# WELLNESS

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Please keep your child home if ill! If your child or anyone in your family tests positive for COVID-19, the flu, or any other contagious illness, please consult with your family doctor as to who needs to stay home. We strongly encourage everyone to remain up to date on flu and covid boosters.

# SECURITY

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There are GABRIEL alarm systems installed throughout the main level of the Synagogue. These are emergency devices that alert the police in case there is an active threat in the Synagogue. These are ONLY to be pressed and activated in case of emergency. Please make sure you and your child(ren) do not lean on or play with these devices.

In addition, security cameras around the building keep us secure. Additional security measures are in place throughout the year, including security personnel on site.

Fire and Emergency drills will take place throughout the year.

Our security team and education team carry walkie-talkies.

# KNOW WHERE TO GO

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## **Accessibility**

The school is located on the ground floor of the building. We have an elevator located at the far end of the building, across from an accessible and gender-neutral bathroom. Families who need to access the building without stairs should call the school office to have the doors near the elevator unlocked.

**All Gender Restrooms:** On the lower level near the Kaufman Entrance/Exit there is an accessible and unisex restroom. There is an additional all-gender restroom upstairs in the Breakfast Room.

## **Bathrooms**

There are single-stall bathrooms in/adjacent to rooms 102, 103, 104, and 105. Men's and women's restrooms are also located in the lower atrium (near the bottom of the circular stairs), inside the lower level kitchen, and on the mid-level outside the Muscle Room, in addition to the main restrooms upstairs by the clergy wing and the main sanctuary.

The restroom in Melissa's office has a supply of menstrual products and additional hygiene products that are available to anyone who needs.

## **Changing tables**

There is a changing table in the Parent-Toddler room, as well as in the handicap stalls of the men's and women's bathrooms on the main floor of the building.



# CURRICULUM

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## **Pre-K**

Jewish holidays and experiences are meaningful and fun. I can be an active part of my synagogue and community. There are Jews all around the world and I am part of a larger Jewish community. We learn about being Jewish by doing Jewish activities and engaging in mitzvot.

## **Kindergarten**

Exploring Judaism through the lenses of Torah, kindness, holidays, and symbols. We begin to discover the people and places of Israel, and become familiar with Hebrew letters and language. Students begin learning about the traditions surrounding the Jewish life cycle through experiential activities.

## **First Grade**

We continue on our journey of Hebrew language, explore Torah, values, holidays, and Jews around the world. We learn through hands-on activities, begin to understand the role of the synagogue in Jewish life, and explore what makes us Jewish.

## **Second Grade**

We learn through drama, art, movement, and play as the Torah comes alive for us. Second graders use their environment to explore Jewish values, use art and music to explore holidays and Jewish life, and study Israel through its people, places, and history. We also begin to learn Hebrew reading skills both in class and with our 1:1 tutors.

# CURRICULUM

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## **Third Grade**

We continue from the birth of Jacob and Esau through the beginning of Moses's life, exploring in more depth the values and teachable moments in our tradition. We learn how to be a mensch, and how to incorporate the mitzvot (commandments) between ourselves and other people into our lives. We explore Israel through its people, places, and history. We continue to learn Hebrew reading skills both in class and with our 1:1 tutors.

## **Fourth Grade**

Jewish heroes and the values they can teach us are a big part of fourth grade, along with our continuing exploration of the Torah and Tanakh. We begin with the splitting of the Sea and the giving of the Torah, and continue through the challenges of King David. We learn about the sacred texts of the Jewish people and the history that surrounds them - including Tanakh, Mishnah, Talmud, and Midrash. and we discuss our relationship with the world around us and with God. Our Israel discussions become more complex, and we continue to develop fluency with prayer reading through in class practice and our 1:1 tutors.

## **Fifth Grade**

We continue our Tanakh study, exploring King David through the rebuilding of the Second Temple with the prophets Ezra and Nehemia. We learn the basics of the history of Jewish civilization, from the destruction of the first Temple to our communities in North America, Israel, and around the world. We explore the rhythm of Jewish life, the calendar, and the values that connect us to our holidays and festivals. Our Israel discussions become more complex, and we continue to develop fluency with prayer reading through in class practice and our 1:1 tutors.

# CURRICULUM

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## **Sixth Grade**

As we get closer to becoming b'nai mitzvah, we also delve deeper into the rituals of the Torah service and our relationships with the texts in our traditions. In sixth grade, we continue our study of the rhythms of Jewish life. We spend time exploring the story of the Exodus and the development of our people's religious identity as we study the Passover Haggadah in depth throughout this year. As we prepare to become leaders in our community, we also prepare to help lead our family seders. As we study Israel, we also focus on the core texts that helped establish the modern state. Our Hebrew reading skills continue to develop and we continue with our 1:1 tutors.

## **Seventh Grade**

Jewish history before, during, and after the Holocaust is a large portion of our learning, along with Jewish values through the texts of our traditions. We spend time exploring the story of the Exodus and the development of our people's religious identity as we study the Passover Haggadah in depth throughout this year. As we prepare to become leaders in our community, we also prepare to help lead our family seders. As we study Israel, we also focus on the core texts that helped establish the modern state, as well as how Israel responds to difficult situations. Our Hebrew reading skills continue to develop and we continue with our 1:1 tutors.

# HEBREW READING & PRAYER GOALS

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In second and third grade, our students use the Aleph Champ program to develop fluency in decoding Hebrew. Students earn white, red, orange, yellow, green, and blue medallions, building their reading confidence and fluency.

By fourth grade, most students move on to Hebrew prayer reading in Level 1, and all students develop facility with prayers through hands-on experiences and classroom discussions. If students attend regularly and work with their tutors, they can be expected to learn the following prayers throughout their time at Adat Shalom:

## **Level 1:**

Bar'chu, Ma'ariv Aravim, Yotzer Or, Sh'ma, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, Blessings for mitzvot, foods, shabbat, and holidays, Kiddush

## **Level 2:**

Avot v'Imahot, G'vurot, K'dushah, Hoda'ah, Shalom Rav, Sim Shalom, Oseh Shalom, L'chah Dodi, V'shamru, Shalom Aleichem

## **Level 3:**

Ein Kamocha, Av Harahamim, Ki Mitziyon, L'cha Adonai, Birchot Hatorah, Birchot Hahaftarah, V'zot Hatorah, Eitz Hayyim Hi, Al Shloshah D'varim, Aleinu, Kaddish, Ein Keloheinu, Hashkiveinu

## **Level 4:**

Ashrei, Weekday Amidah, Birkat Hamazon, the Haggadah, Some students begin to learn Modern Hebrew.

## **Additional prayers and songs reinforced through tefillah:**

Adon Olam, Havdalah, Modeh Ani, Mah Tov, Morning Blessings, Hatikvah.

# HOME ENRICHMENT

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## **Grades PreK, K, and 1:**

Ask your child to tell you a story from the Torah that he/she has learned. Find Jewish objects in your home. Do something special on Shabbat. Read a Jewish book together. Come to the synagogue as a family when possible and bring your child to MiniMinyan and other family programming. Build a Torah story out of Lego!



## **Grades 2 and 3:**

Encourage your child to complete his/her 20 minutes of reading each night using PJ Library Jewish books. Encourage your child to practice Hebrew reading for five minutes a day, three days a week. Ask your child to teach you Hebrew if you do not read it. If you need resources, we can help! Bring your child to MiniMinyan and other family programming and learn together. Come to (or stream) Shabbat services as a family. Celebrate holidays together and have your child help lead blessings and prayers at home.

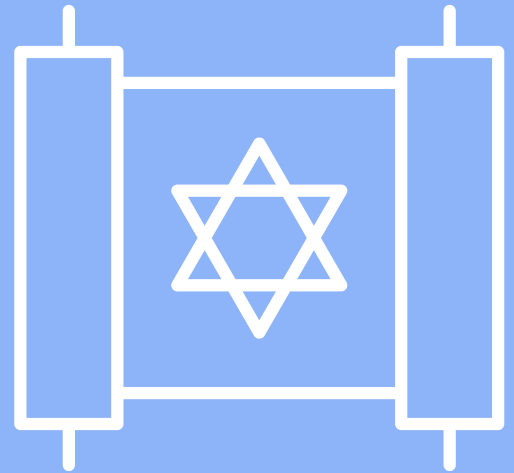
## **Grades 4 through 7:**

Encourage your child to complete each day's 20 minutes of reading using PJ Library or PJ Our Way Jewish books. Encourage your child to practice Hebrew reading skills for five to ten minutes a day, three to four times per week. Come to (or stream) Shabbat services as a family. Celebrate holidays together and have your child help lead blessings and prayers at home.

## OUR MISSION

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We are committed to enriching the lives of students and families within our congregation in a nurturing environment through diverse Jewish educational experiences according to the values of Conservative Judaism as they relate to God, Torah, holidays, prayer, history, the Hebrew language and the State of Israel. Our school promotes connections between and among families, the synagogue, the community and the State of Israel, creating a path to a happy and meaningful Jewish life.



## OUR VISION

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Our students take pride in being Jewish through an education focused on age-appropriate, experiential learning that enhances each student's appreciation for lifelong learning and living as Jews. As an important part of our synagogue community, students gain an understanding of the way Conservative Judaism is practiced at Adat Shalom Synagogue. They have a strong sense of Jewish values, ethics, Torah, traditions, Israel, and tikkun olam (social action) and have the opportunity to lead as well as participate in tefillot (communal prayer). Their understanding of Judaism gives them a sense of who they are and an appreciation of their role in the larger Jewish community that will last a lifetime.



## OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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Our school is warm and nurturing. Students feel safe and free to express themselves. Our learning environment is one of mutual honor and respect. Dedicated, creative and enthusiastic teachers guide our students using different learning modalities while meeting the needs of each student. They create a student-centered, active learning environment that extends beyond the classroom into the lives of our students and their families.



## OUR FAMILIES

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Our families are part of a diverse, engaged and motivated community. They are connected to each other, to Adat Shalom Synagogue, and to the larger Jewish community. By offering meaningful experiences, celebrating holidays and Shabbat, our school provides students and their extended families with opportunities for ongoing spiritual growth.

## OUR CONGREGATION

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The Rabbis, Hazzan and other professionals have an active and visible role in the school. Having developed meaningful connections with our clergy and staff, our students and families feel valued in the greater congregation and are motivated to be involved in all aspects of Adat Shalom Synagogue.

