



Sir Manasseh Meyer
International School

A VISION FOR EXCELLENCE

**Judaic Studies Curriculum Overview
2015 – 2016 (Grade 1 to 8)**

TEFILA: Daily prayer – Both Tracks

We begin each day with Tefila which progresses through the grades. In the Classic track we progressively learn the meaning of the prayers we are saying, their origin and the concept of Kavana (How we should be focusing during prayer).

CHAGIM: Jewish Holidays - Both tracks (Talam Grade 1 – 5) Halacha Latalmid is also used as enrichment in Classic track

We look at the holidays in both a historical and contemporary perspective, the stories behind the holidays and how they lead to the laws and customs we practice today. The students feel the atmosphere of the holiday with songs, crafts, role playing and practicing what they will actually do on the holiday. A stronger emphasis on Halacha is placed in the classic track.

CHUMASH: Bereishit – Shemot (Talam) Grade 2 – 5 – Both Tracks

We begin our study of Chumash at the beginning of the second grade, after the students have acquired an adequate level of proficiency in Hebrew reading. Our focus is on acquiring the skills necessary to learn and understand the original text, understanding the layout of the Chumash – Psukim – Parashot – Chumashim. This includes translation skills (from biblical to Modern Hebrew) knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, root words, and the ability to recognize the similarities of the Psukim. In the Classic track we begin the study of Rashi commentaries more frequently to encourage questioning that leads to a deeper understanding of the text. In addition the use of actual Chumashim are used in our Classic tracks.

CHUMASH: Bamidbar – Devarim (Middle school Grade 6 – 8) – Both tracks – With emphasis on Rashi and other commentaries in classic

Once the children progress from the Talam program to the actual Chumash books related workbooks (Pshat Hatorah) we strive to make learning Chumash easier and more interesting for students. Each workbook teaches the Chumash text using word glossaries, maps, charts, diagrams, and illustrations. The workbooks use engaging activities and exercises designed to highlight the human, moral, and religious values of each portion of the Chumash.

PARASHA: Weekly Torah portion – Both tracks (Talam Grade 1 – 5) Text Base Grade 6 - 8 with Rashi in Classic Track

Our study of the weekly Parasha familiarizes the students with the characters, events and laws of the Torah. As we teach the storyline, we discuss the Jewish morals and values we encounter, and how they can be practically incorporated into our daily lives. The younger children are encouraged to share the weekly Parasha at home with their parents with the use of a weekly Parasha sheet while the older students are required to prepare a Dvar Torah to share at home.

KTIVAH: Writing Hebrew – Both Tracks

Starting in first grade the students perfect their Hebrew writing through our Talam program and learn how to write Hebrew script. Older students practice and reinforce these skills through various level appropriate workbooks – each class is given a set of Matarot – goals to achieve throughout the year.

IVRIT: Hebrew language – Both tracks (Grade 1 & 2) Talam – Grade 6 – 8 (By levels of proficiency)

By using the Talam program we follow the Ivrit B'Ivrit philosophy where the children are fully immersed in a Hebrew environment, which in return leads to a mastery of conversational and written Hebrew. A progressive Hebrew language program is introduced through the use of themes and concepts which are explored in Hebrew. Common Hebrew phrases are integrated into the classroom, objects are referred to by their Hebrew names, and instructions are given in Hebrew. Hebrew vocabulary holds a main focal point in the study of Hebrew and is emphasized with weekly lists and various games and activities. . The students practice their language skills by reading and writing Hebrew in correlation to the topics taught in class. From Grade 1 the student are divided per class based on their ability and proficiency in Hebrew. We ensure that a proper enrichment and leveling program is implemented in all Hebrew classes. A special enrichment program is also put in place for Hebrew speakers. In grades 5 -8 we level the students into groups also based on ability and use various workbooks relevant to each level.

NAVI: Study of the Prophets (Middle school Grade 5 - 8) Both tracks – Starts in grade 4 in classic Track

We learn the history of the Jewish nation from the time they entered the land of Israel, as written by our prophets, from the original text. Our students are able to follow the storyline through the text. In Navi we cover one book each of the Early Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel 1, and Samuel 2. The books are divided into thematic units including word glossaries, maps, charts, diagrams, and illustrations. The books contain engaging activities and exercises designed to promote acquaintance with the texts and traditional commentaries, home reasoning skills, teach human, moral and religious values, and improve Hebrew comprehension. The main ambition for this class is for the children to be able to take the lessons they learn from the past and apply them to their lives. In fourth grade (Classic) we begin with Sefer Yehoshua we continue in fifth and sixth grade, with Sefer Shoftim and in the seventh grade with Shmuel Alef to progressively reach Shmuel Bet In eighth grade.

JEWISH HISTORY (Both tracks)

In Jewish history we make it a point to stay parallel to what is being taught in Secular studies History class by emphasizing that time period in relation to the Jewish people and Israel. (Please refer to secular syllabus for time periods taught)

DINIM & MINHAGIM throughout the grades in Classic track Only

In between holidays, we learn different units of Jewish laws and customs applicable to daily life. For example The main unit for our first term (after Chagim) will be Shabbath followed by a project. This topic focuses on teaching Jewish laws and customs connected with daily Jewish life, such as Tefila, Brachot, kashrut, Shabbath. The material is presented progressively, from simple to advanced, and is accompanied by maps, charts, diagrams, illustrations and an assortment of exercises. The material is designed to promote love for Judaism, acquaint the student with various Jewish customs and enhance Hebrew comprehension.

MORAL & ETHICS (MISHNA AND DEBATE) – (Middle school Grade 5 – 8) Classic track ONLY

In Grades five, six, seven and eight the student discuss the origins and meaning of the laws contained in the Mishnah and analyze cases from the section dealing with conflicts between individuals. We use contemporary situations and modern ethical problems to open up the rabbinic discussions found in the Mishnah. We systematically work our way through the first two chapters of Bava Kama and Bava Metzia, allowing the learner to see the way mishnayot interact. In addition the students learn to deal with daily ethical puzzles and Jewish responses. Students confront a series of moral dilemmas and encounter core Jewish values, such as Tzar Ba'alei Hayyim and Pikuah Nefesh. In the process, they address the legal principles surrounding questions of abortion, suicide, euthanasia, use of animals in medical research and more.

We at Sir Manasseh Meyer International School realize that children learn and live differently and we therefore aim to individualize every child's education to enable them to reach his/ her potential We also believe that the school life should be an extension of the home life and vice versa.

It is in this context that we have decided to create a two track Judaic program starting from Grade 1 through Grade 8. This differentiation of tracks will allow parents to choose between a Classic Track and a Heritage Track. Both tracks will cover the topics of Hebrew language, Jewish Holidays, Tanach (Bible stories), Parasha (weekly Torah portions) Israel connection and Middot (Values program). In addition starting from grade 4 the students of both tracks will cover Navi (book of prophets) and Jewish history. A special Mishna and debate program will be implemented in grades 5 through 8. The Classic Track will be covering this material primarily in Hebrew while the Heritage Track will utilize English more in areas other than Hebrew language.

- Both tracks from grade 1 to 5 will continue with the Talam program after which a customized program has been designed. The main differences between the tracks are as follows.
- The Classic track will add a more rigorous component of Jewish Law and customs to every unit as well as incorporate the study of The Rashi commentary in applicable text.
- The topics of Kashruth, Brachot, Shabbath, Tefila and Middot will be covered progressively through the grades.

- The Heritage Track will continue mainly with the Talam program as is and the emphasis of that program will be to bring in the historical correlation to the topic without the strong emphasis of the practical and Halachic aspect of each topic.
- The Heritage track also puts an emphasis on the Middot aspect, Jewish history and Israel connection of each topic taught and learned.

In addition to the Tracks program we have also made some changes to the Hebrew language program to ensure that each child learns at his appropriate level.

- The Hebrew language program will be based upon levels of proficiency in each grade from 1 to 4. Each class will be able to split according to the children's ability and each group will have their respective teacher. We are using a wide range of material ranging from Talam to enrichment books from the Israeli Ministry of Education.
- Grades 5 to 8 will be split by levels through these combined grades.

Each parent will have to choose which track they would like their child to pursue and is in concert with their family practices. Once chosen the child will then be placed with the appropriate group and teacher. There will be no switching between Tracks during the academic year

If you have any questions or concerns about these new programs or would like some guidance in choosing the right Track for your child please don't hesitate to contact us