



*New York* | HEBREW

AT THE CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH DISCOVERY



CURRICULUM GUIDE 2016/17

## Educational Philosophy: CREATIVE & INNOVATIVE LEARNING

**U**nique to New York Hebrew is its approach to learning. Focused on providing a quality learning environment which children will love and embrace, New York Hebrew's after-schooling learning methodology is entirely activity based. It is all about creativity, innovation and fun learning.

New York Hebrew's philosophy is that children learn best when they enjoy themselves. Every learning outcome is achieved by drawing on a rainbow of activities which have been developed to capture the children's interest and imagination. Educational strategies incorporate sensory activities, crafts, music and drama, indoor sports and the latest in modern technology – each session at New York Hebrew is a world of fun.

Keeping to our goal to illustrate Jewish life to the fullest – throughout the year we launch educational projects, initiatives and competitions – encouraging students to express their talents and creativity within a Jewish framework, while broadening the New York Hebrew horizons beyond the classroom.

As role models who live by what they teach, our staff ensure that every child is motivated, stimulated and engaged in thought-provoking and fascinating activities; capturing the soul of Jewish learning and living.



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## JUDAICA SYLLABUS

At New York Hebrew, we foster a positive sense of Jewish identity and pride by imparting in each child an appreciation of Jewish history, culture and values.





## TRADITION: Celebrating Jewish Life

Our tailor-made Judaic curriculum incorporates all fundamental and practical aspects of Jewish life, including: festivals and customs, Jewish history, Bible stories, Mitzvot, Israel, Jewish ethics and general knowledge.

By exploring the central themes, customs, songs and history behind all Jewish festivals, our students learn to celebrate their heritage in a practical relevant and meaningful way. From New York Hebrew Shabbat dinners to Pesach model seders and our pre-festival educational workshops and carnivals, every tradition comes alive.

Through our comprehensive Jewish ethics topics, which incorporate values of compassion, respect, responsibility and integrity, children learn to value the fundamentals of being a 'mentsch' – a caring and respectful human being.

## OUR 8 JEWISH EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

Supplementing the yearly Jewish festivals curriculum

### **Aleph Bet Chefs - PreK: Judaism through the Culinary Lens**

Our PreK students enjoy the exciting weekly “Aleph Bet Chefs” program, baking delectable treats corresponding to the weekly theme which includes the six days of creation, Jewish holidays and blessings over foods. Recipes will be compiled into a recipe book you will receive at the end of the year. Students will also learn to recognize the letters of the Hebrew Alef Bet through the lens of our interactive Aleph Bet recognition Board curriculum.

### **Kitah Gan - Kindergarten: MITZVOT WE CAN DO/ Jewish ethics and values.**

This program is designed to open the soul of a young child and inspire a lifelong love of Torah and its Mitzvot. We introduce the fundamentals of Judaism and the importance it places on kindness, sharing, friendship and a positive attitude through exploring all the Mitzvot different parts of our bodies can do. Mitzvot like Bikur Cholim- Visiting the sick, making Challah for Shabbat, and giving Tzedakah-Charity, are just a few examples.

### **ALEPH BET TRAIN/ Introduction to the letters of the Aleph Bet**

By introducing the Hebrew alphabet early and using a fully integrated curriculum of songs, stories and art, our students



leave the classroom recognizing and identifying the letters and sounds of the Aleph Bet.

Mezuzah with the Shema prayer enclosed is hung on the doorpost, how Kosher food and a charity box is found in the kitchen. Students learn through visuals, games, stories and collate their thoughts on the fundamentals that comprise Jewish life and living.

**Kitah Aleph - First Grade:  
Journey Through Torah:  
The Book of Bereishit/Genesis**

Over the course of the year, students journey through the stories and lessons of the first book of the Torah, Bereishit (Genesis). From the creation of the world to the flood, and from our forefather Avraham to Joseph and his colored coat, the Torah and its lessons are brought to life every week. The students learn through visuals, games, stories and songs, and each create a beautiful Torah scroll scrapbook that will be theirs to keep.

**KITAH BET - SECOND GRADE:  
THE BOOK OF SHMOT/ A Journey  
through the story of the Exodus**

Over the course of the year, students journey through the stories and lessons of the second book of the Torah, Shmot (Exodus). From slavery in Egypt to the splitting of the sea, and from receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai to the building of the tabernacle in the desert, the Torah and its lessons are brought to life every week. The students learn through visuals, games, stories, and songs, and each create a beautiful photo book, documenting their art and writing, that will be theirs to keep.

**KITAH GIMMEL - THIRD GRADE:  
BUILD A JEWISH HOME / Fundamental Jewish  
traditions and customs**

Through the course of the year students discover the Jewish items and lifestyle that enhances a Jewish home. How a Mezuzah with the Shema prayer enclosed is hung on the doorpost, how Kosher food and a charity box is found in the kitchen. Students learn through visuals, games, stories and collate their thoughts on the fundamentals that comprise Jewish life and living.

**THE BOOK OF BAMIDBAR/ The story  
of the Jewish People in the Desert**

During the first semester, students will journey through the stories and lessons of the fourth book of the Torah, Bamidbar (Numbers) which includes life for the Jewish people in the desert. From the story of the Spies to Bilam and the talking donkey, to the appointing of Joshua, the Torah and its lessons are brought to life every week.

KITAH DALED - FOURTH GRADE:  
**JEWISH HEROES / Portraits in Jewish Leadership  
from the tanach/Bible**

It is imperative for our youth to have role models with integrity, moral values and strong conviction. Thus, our curriculum on Jewish Heroes was launched to inspire our students with tales and lessons from famous leaders throughout our history from from Moshe (Moses) the first Jewish Leader to the prophet Daniel. Students learn through audio-visuals, flashcard storytelling, drama presentations and a hero workbook illustrating how the lessons learned can assist them in making decisions today.

KITAH HEI - FIFTH GRADE:  
**JEWISH DAYS/ A Journey  
Through the Jewish Calendar**

This program takes the students on a journey around the Jewish year as well as teaches them how to navigate a Jewish calendar.

From learning the names of the Jewish months, to discovering their joyous holidays and not-so-joyous days of mourning, the students gain insight into Jewish time. A weekly highlight includes collecting “Jewish Days” cards corresponding to dates on the Jewish calendar and storing them in their very own “Jewish Days” card albums.



# BAR AND BAT MITZVAH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

**O**ur Bar and Bar Mitzvah Enrichment Program is designed to prepare 11-year-old girls and 12-year-old boys for these significant milestones.

As a proud affiliate of JLI Teens Our Bar and Bat Mitzvah class will be studying the acclaimed “Why I Love Israel” course which introduces them to the land of Israel in a deep and meaningful way. Students explore the Holy Land and how our mission as a people is intrinsically bound to Israel. It’s an inspiring, engaging and stimulating discourse. All the lessons include videos of a road trip through the Holy Land, giving students an insider’s view of real life in Israel and different regions and cities there.

## **NEW! My Family Story Project**

Our Bar and Bat Mitzvah class will be joining the My Family Story project, an incredible program in which close to 20,000 students, from 28 countries, representing 155 global Jewish institutions participate.

My Family Story goes beyond the typical family tree. It marks a defining moment in the lives of Jewish youth around the world to find their own, personal and unique story that emphasizes Jewish identity. Our students will create fun, artistic installations that capture the essence of their Jewish traditions heirlooms, language and stories.

The highlight of My Family Story will be a community exhibit of our art projects, while joining the Beit Hatfutsot International Competition where, every year, a number of these special creations are chosen and displayed in an international exhibition in Tel Aviv, when dozens of students, participants and their families gather from across the Jewish world.



## Festivals: CELEBRATING WITH JOY AND PRIDE.

It is one thing to learn about something, however, it is another thing to experience it. New York Hebrew is an environment where students don't just learn about the festivals but experience and celebrate them exuberantly.

New York Hebrew provides children with the full spectrum of Jewish life. Highlights of our festivals' program include: A High Holiday bee workshop, Chanukah Extravaganza, Grand Purim Party, A family Model Seder, & Lag Bomer Family Event amongst much more!

Families are always welcomed and encouraged to join their children in celebrating these festivals.

# Aleph Champ Hebrew Reading program

Children learn to appreciate the significance of the Hebrew language and its relevance to them as members of the Jewish community.

Hebrew, particularly Hebrew reading, is the key to full and meaningful engagement in traditional Jewish experiences. Tefillah – Prayer, Brachot – Blessings on food, Friday night Kiddush and the Passover Seder all come alive at New York Hebrew. Through Hebrew, we do not only give our students the skills and knowledge they need to be prepared for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, but we lay the foundation for their ongoing involvement in Jewish life and community.





## ALEPH CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM

**A**leph Champ, modeled after the Karate Martial Arts system of motivational colored levels, breaks up the Hebrew reading process into bite sized motivational levels which makes learning to read Hebrew an exciting time!

Students start as a white Aleph Champ learning half of the aleph bet. They work their way up through the different “belts”





until they become a black Aleph Champ with the ability to read Hebrew fluently from the Siddur (prayerbook).

Each Aleph Champ level has a color coded book, flashcards, workbooks and a medallion which is awarded once a level is passed. All of these factors work together to create the motivation needed for each child to progress at their own pace.

Reading groups are divided by color instead of age group, thereby allowing students to advance at their own level. This program ensures that when students graduate to a new level, they have truly mastered the knowledge-base at their current level. This avoids the common problem of children learning to read without fully mastering a letter, vowel or concept in reading.





## ALEPH CHAMP LEVELS:

### White Aleph Champion

Master the first 19 letters of the Aleph Bet.

### Red Aleph Champion

Master the Next 13 letters of the Aleph Bet.

### Orange Aleph Champion

Master the first 3 vowels.

### Yellow Aleph Champion

Master the next 3 vowels.

### Green Aleph Champion

Master the last 3 vowels.

### Blue Aleph Champion

Master the exceptions to the rule.

### Purple Aleph Champion

Master the everyday prayers, 10-20 words per minute.

### Brown Aleph Champion

Master the everyday prayers, 20-30 words per minute and script writing

### Grey Aleph Champion

Master the holiday prayers, 20-30 words per minute

### Black Aleph Champion

Master reading from the Siddur.







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