Overview: The Temple Emanuel Religious School Curriculum

Underlying our curriculum are three specific goals for our students:

(1) They have a great time and associate Judaism with positive experiences.
(2) They have personal experiences of Jewish life that are memorable and spiritually meaningful.
(3) They learn skills they find useful in their everyday lives.

These three goals underly our teaching at every grade level.

We also have a specific curriculum of tefillot, traditional prayers, that are taught and built upon at every grade level leading to Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Our Pre-K-1st grade curriculum emphasizes the fun of Jewish living and culture through arts-and-crafts, song and dance. Students experientially engage with the festivals and traditions that make up the fabric of Jewish life while also learning about their singular significance.

Our 2nd-3rd grade curriculum aims to imbue our students with a sense of life’s spiritual dimensions. It brings to the fore questions about the nature of the Divine and fosters the ability to look within and beyond the world for traces of the transcendent. Beginning with this grade we begin intensive work on learning to read Hebrew and dive deeper into the practices and meanings of the Jewish festivals.

Our 4th-5th grade curriculum is centered around core Jewish values, such as human dignity, hospitality and gratitude, and applying them to our daily lives. These values are taught through the lens of traditional sacred texts from the Torah and Prophets, thereby also developing Jewish literacy. The development of Hebrew proficiency is fused with musicality through the understanding of Jewish prayer as a spiritual practice.

Our 6th-7th grade curriculum focuses on integrating three core competencies. Students develop skills in critical thinking through learning how to analyze texts independently and develop their own point of view. At the same time, students gain training in emotional resilience to prepare them for their teen years. Finally, and most importantly, this class prepares our students for the ritual of Bar and Bat Mitzvah, including intensive study of Hebrew language, traditional prayers and chanting methods.