

GRADE 1

כַּתָּה א'

Philosophical Overview:

Our goal in first grade is to teach necessary skills in a supportive and success-oriented environment. To achieve this we use cooperative groups, games, learning centers, and stations. We emphasize writing, as well as reading, for pleasure. Open lines of communication are maintained between school and home in order to ensure that each child reaches his/her potential.

Reading:

First-grade reading is taught in small-group settings. Students are placed in a reading group according to their current level of ability. We begin with the first-grade basal reader, in which stories are read at the group's instructional level. Advanced students will continue in a second-grade book when they have completed the first-grade basal. In addition, trade (story) books are used with all groups intermittently and for enrichment.

The reading content in grade 1 is selected with the purpose of exposing the students to a variety of genres. We read short stories, poems, trade books (short novels), and plays.

Spelling and Handwriting:

Spelling is taught through a phonetic approach. Students prepare for weekly spelling tests of words selected for their relevance to the literature and developmental level. Emphasis is on the understanding of patterns and on practice.

We teach *D'Nelian Handwriting* to facilitate the transition between manuscript and cursive writing.

MATH

Math is taught in whole-group, small-group, and one-on-one settings. Extensive use is made of manipulatives and visuals. Every child has his/her own number line, bead frame, and other counting devices. The Math Center is equipped with sum sticks, balance beams, play money, clocks, etc. Students proceed at their own paces and are moved into appropriate-level groups, as needed, throughout the year

SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE

First grade employs a "whole language" approach to its science and social studies units. Most units overlap in content areas, such as in the study of animals; dinosaurs; air, land, and sea; underwater life; the solar system; etc. Creative writing, art, poetry, and oral and written reports are incorporated into all units.

JUDAIC STUDIES & HEBREW LANGUAGE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PHILOSOPHY

Our school develops each student's Jewish identity by teaching Jewish values and traditions, teaching the Hebrew language, and immersing the students in history, Torah, and Bible. Family and community involvement will work in tandem to instill a lifelong commitment to Tzedakah, tikkum olam, and to the perpetuation of a Jewish family life rich with rituals and traditions. Students leave SSDS secure in the knowledge that they have achieved or surpassed their potential and are poised to advance successfully to the next level of education. Our students graduate with a bond to Judaism, Jews around the world, and Israel.

TEACHING APPROACHES

- The Jewish Studies curriculum is taught in large group, small group and individualized formats.
- The language of instruction is Hebrew. We aim to immerse our students in the Hebrew language to facilitate their study of the language and enhance the subjects taught.
- Emphasis is placed on giving students the opportunity to experience what they are learning through a variety of techniques: the use of arts & crafts, role-playing, projects, trips, learning games, music, stories and celebrations. Cooperative Learning techniques enable students to learn in teams and to learn from each other.
- Integration of the Jewish Studies curriculum and the General Studies curriculum occurs at many levels: joint projects, such as the Jewish Family Life unit described below, Jewish Values Vocabulary, used by both departments, holiday celebrations and units, such as the integration of the holiday of Sukkot with fall units and thematic language units, such as units on the environment and personal development.

TAL AM – HEBREW AND HERITAGE CURRICULUM GUIDELINE

The Tal Am first grade curriculum integrates all areas of the Hebrew/Judaic program by utilizing four inter-related tracks:

1. Shalom – 3 units: Daily life in class, at home and outdoors and the Grade 1 album.
2. Shabbat Shalom – 4 units: Shabbat and the weekly Torah reading.
3. Chag Sameach – 6 units: The High Holidays, Chanukah, Tu Bi'shvat, Purim, Pesach to Shavuot, Yom Ha'Atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim.
4. Ariot Kore Vekotev – 5 units: Development of Hebrew reading, writing and language skills

Through these 4 thematic tracks, the students learn and experience concepts, values, children's literature, prayers, blessings, laws and customs in Hebrew, and develop Hebrew literacy and language skills.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF A DAY IN 1st GRADE

General Studies

8:00-8:30 am

We come to class, unpack, take out our healthy snacks, get ready, and write in our journals

8:30-9:00 am

We have Spelling, English, and Handwriting

9:00-10:30 am

Shared Reading, Response Activities, Skill Instruction, or Language Activities

10:30-11:00 am

Snack

11:00-12:00 noon

Math, Specials, Science, Social Studies, D.E.A.R., Author's Chair, Recess

Judaic Studies**12:00-12:45 pm**

Lunch

12:45-1:00 pm

Birkat Hamazon, Prayers, Calendar, Weather, Attendance

1:00-2:00 pm

Ariot (Hebrew)

2:00-2:15 pm

Recess

2:15-3:15 pm

Jewish Year (*Shalom*, Holidays, *Shabbat*, *Parasha*)

THE JEWISH FAMILY LIFE UNIT IS “KABBALAT HASIDDUR.”:

This involves parents/guardians and students in learning about a selected Judaic topic and in a project which will become part of your family tradition.

Special Subjects:

In addition to our rigorous curriculum of standard courses, we offer our students the following special subjects:

Physical Education

Library

Technology

Science Lab

Music/TIV

Art

Expository Writing