

Beth El Religious School Program at a Glance

Lower School Program (Kindergarten through Sixth Grade)

Grade	Basic Time Commitment	Additional Program Requirements / Enrichment Options	Shabbat Services	Curriculum Highlights
Kindergarten (Gan)	Sunday (2 hours)	Optional enrichment class offered on Sunday mornings/weekday afternoons	Encouraged to attend Gan Shabbat ¹ service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish holidays, prayers • Jewish values (Mitzvah Mavens) • Introduction to the Alef Bet
1 st Grade (Alef)	Sunday (2 hours)	Optional enrichment class offered on Sunday mornings/weekday afternoons	Encouraged to attend Gan Shabbat ¹ service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew reading readiness • Jewish values (Mitzvah Mavens) • Jewish community and synagogue
2 nd Grade (Bet)	Sunday (2 hours)	Optional enrichment class offered on Sunday mornings/weekday afternoons	Encouraged to attend Gan Shabbat ¹ or Shitufim service ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew decoding and reading • Jewish holidays • Introduction to themes in Torah
3 rd Grade (Gimmel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday (2 hours) • One mid-week afternoon (choice of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) 	Optional enrichment class offered on Thursday afternoons	Encouraged to attend Shitufim ² service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew: Brachot (Blessings) • Torah study: Genesis to Exodus
4 th & 5 th Grades (Dalet & Hay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday (3 hours) • One mid-week afternoon (choice of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) 	Optional enrichment class offered on Thursday afternoons	10 Shabbat services each year	<p>Fourth Grade Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew: Amidah • Torah study continues to writings and prophets • Jewish life cycle <p>Fifth Grade Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew: Torah service • Torah study: writings and prophets • Israel

¹ Gan Shabbat services are designed for K-2nd graders and are held on the first and third Shabbat mornings of each month.

² Shitufim services are designed for students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades every Shabbat morning (when RS is also in session the accompanying Sunday)

Grade	Basic Time Commitment	Additional Program Requirements / Enrichment Options	Shabbat Services	Curriculum Highlights
6 th Grade (Vav)	Established Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday (Junior Congregation) • One mid-week afternoon (choice of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) 	Optional enrichment class offered on Thursday afternoons	Junior Congregation service (weekly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew prayer: Shabbat morning service • Exploring Torah through text study of Parshat HaShavuah (the portion of the week) • Torah cantillation (Torah trope) • Exploring Jewish holidays through the Torah

Upper School Program (Seventh through Tenth Grade)

Grade	Basic Time Commitment	Additional Program Requirements / Enrichment Options	Shabbat Service Requirements	Curriculum Highlights
7 th Grade (Zayin)	Weekly two-hour long class session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday afternoon (4:30-6:30) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday evening (7:00-9:00) <i>Optional pizza dinner 6:30-7:00</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative Judaism • Writing an American Talmud: Jewish Ethics and Values • People of the Book: Jewish Text and Thoughts
8 th Grade (Chet)	Tuesday evening (two hours) <i>Optional pizza dinner 6:30-7:00</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative Religion • Introduction to the Holocaust • Assorted electives
9 th Grade (Tet)	Tuesday evening (two hours) <i>Optional pizza dinner 6:30-7:00</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel: Her Land, Her History, Her People • Assorted electives
10 th Grade (Yud)	Tuesday evening (two hours) <i>Optional pizza dinner 6:30-7:00</i>	Annual Confirmation Class Trip (November) Sorkin Youth Trip to Israel (December)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Sexuality and Jewish Values • Assorted electives