

NEW! Interest-Based Jewish Studies Program 4th/5th Grade

Students choose one interest-based Jewish Studies class for each semester. All classes will focus on the same theme and will approach that theme through a different modality. Students will work on hands-on projects to depict their knowledge and understanding of each subject area. **Mutual friend requests will be honored in Jewish Studies classes.**



Semester 1 Theme – Sacred Wellness/Prayer: What is prayer? How is prayer relevant to our lives today? What does it mean to pray to God and what prayers do each of us connect to? The first semester addresses all of these questions and more.

Interest-Based Classes Offered:

- ✧ **Comics and the Siddur:** Explore prayer through a graphic novel genre.
- ✧ **Visual Arts:** Explore prayer through visual arts techniques such as micrography, painting, drawing and analyzing art.
- ✧ **Music/Creative Writing:** Explore prayer through music and creative writing activities such as analyzing and interpreting lyrics/poetry, creative writing of prayers, experiencing a drum circle, and listening to different melodies of prayers.
- ✧ **Yoga/Movement/Games:** Explore prayer through yoga, movement exercises and various games.

Semester 2 Theme – Living Jewish History: This semester begins with a study of the history that led our ancestors to become the great nation and civilization that we are today. This look back at our history highlights the important role that each one of our ancestors played in this exceptional journey. Students discover how they fit into the larger picture of the Jewish people by choosing an artifact that describes their family's Jewish story. This project culminates with an in-house and online exhibit of the objects to which parents are invited, a Living Museum.

Interest-Based Classes Offered:

- ✧ **Culinary Arts:** Explore Jewish history through tasting, cooking, learning about and researching food and culture.
- ✧ **Visual Arts:** Explore Jewish history through visual arts techniques such as micrography, painting, sculpture, drawing and analyzing art.
- ✧ **Drama/Improv/Games:** Explore Jewish history through active games, improvisation, role play and skits.

Questions?

Contact Jessica Cohen at: jcohen@crsnyc.org



6th Grade

Students choose one interest-based Jewish Studies class for the year based on the theme: the State of Israel. All classes will focus on the same theme and will approach that theme through a different modality. Students will work on hands-on projects to depict their knowledge and understanding of each subject area. All 6th Grade students will also rotate through our Trope and Study and Action classes, which are part of the Family B'nai Mitzvah Program (**FBMP**). **Mutual friend requests will be honored in Jewish Studies classes.**

The State of Israel and Me: In this unit, students cover a variety of topics all while focusing on their own personal connection to Israel. They begin by exploring the nations that ruled over Israel during different historical periods and end with studying about Israel in the current day. Students learn about events that led to the establishment of the State of Israel, converse with a former IDF soldier to learn how the IDF functions to protect Israel's citizens, discover organizations that are working toward peace today, and much more.

Interest-Based Classes Offered:

- ✧ **Culinary Arts:** Explore Israel through tasting, cooking, learning about and researching food and culture.
- ✧ **Building/Movement:** Explore Israel through active games and building activities, such as creating sculptures and 3-D models.
- ✧ **Comics/Visual Arts:** Explore Israel through visual arts techniques such as micrography, painting, sculpture, drawing and analyzing art.
- ✧ **Through the Jewish Lens:** Explore Israel by analyzing and creating short films and through photography and debate.

Trope: Students begin to learn Cantillation from the Cantors themselves in preparation for their B'nai Mitzvah and knowing the life-long skill of chanting Torah. Students will highlight this new knowledge at the 6th grade Torah siyum (parent program).

Study and Action: Students learn about tzedakah (righteous giving), answering questions such as, "Why do we give, Where do we give, and How do we give?" Then, in partnership with Teen Impact Projects (TIP), classes plan a mitzvah project that they implement and then reflect upon. The TIP program builds community leaders through service. Participation in this unit fulfills the Community Mitzvah Project toward B'nai Mitzvah at CRS.

Questions?

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