SMMIS Jewish Education Curriculum

Primary School

K1 and K2

Jewish Education

Chagim
The Festivals curriculum in K1 and K2 is infused with spirituality and Jewish Values. An important overall goal is to help students develop love and enthusiasm for their Jewish identity, as well as beginning to acquire a strong knowledge base about their Jewish history. We concentrate on the following areas: Jewish Festivals (Chagim), Bible stories (Torah); Values (Middot).

Shabbat
Every Week the students of K1 and K2 re-enact the Shabbat rituals and customs through their Kabbalat Shabbat celebration, an Imma (mother) and Abba (father) is chosen weekly to host the Kabbalat Shabbat. The students are introduced to the objects, the prayers, the songs and rituals of a Shabbath celebration. They light candles, say the Kiddush (blessing over wine), make their own challah and sing all the related songs.

Values – Middot
At the center of our Pre-School education are Middot – Jewish Values. Our goal is to produce responsible, respectful and outstanding citizens and members of the general community. By being role models to the students, we are successful in achieving our goal in building little Mensches -Good and upright individuals.

Hebrew/Ivrit

Reading Writing and Language Skills
In K1 we use a curriculum called Migdal Or. Hebrew readiness programme that is useful at the pre-reading stage of the language acquisition. It prepares the young children to speak in the Hebrew language using a basic and frequently used vocabulary simultaneously with teaching the sounds of all the Hebrew alphabet.

The programme is comprehensive, interactive easy to use and fun. It focusses on yeacjomh Hebrew reading (developing decoding skills) and Hebrew language acquisition simultaneously, and provides a research based and solid instruction for beginning readers. It is teacher and child friendly.

K2 Ariot
In K2 we use Ariot which covers the acquisition of Hebrew letters through songs stories comprehension activities and games. The goal of the programme is for the students to enjoy the Hebrew language and develop the ability to understand Hebrew, read Hebrew, speak in Hebrew and connect with the heritage of the Jewish people. In addition student will develop active vocabulary communicate in Hebrew and make mistakes of their own. An emphasis is placed on creating Hebrew environment with workbooks posters flashcards and games.

In the programme, students use all the communication skills at their disposal to absorb the various content, areas of emphasis include: listening, exposure to standardised Hebrew over an extended period of time; developing listening skills and focusing on learners to that which they need to pay attention. Reading includes a combination of phonetic reading and complete word reading; writing focuses on sharpening the letter to sound connection; speaking building confidence through oral expression in Hebrew.
Grade 1 - Grade 5

From Grade 1 students have the option of choosing between two Jewish Education tracks: Jewish Education: Tal Am curriculum, an in depth study of Judaism and Jewish texts taught in Hebrew, or our Jewish Education: Culture curriculum which includes an introductory course on each of the World Religions.

Option One: Jewish Education, Talam

Tefilla
The children begin each day with Tefila (prayer) which progresses through each grade. They are introduced to the meaning of the prayers being said their origin and the concept of Kavana (how we should be focusing during prayer).

Chagim
Throughout the year, the students learn about each Jewish Festival. They look at the festivals from both a historical and contemporary perspective, the stories behind the festivals and how they lead to the laws and customs Jews practice today. The students feel the atmosphere of the festivals with songs, crafts, role playing and experience the rituals connected to the festival.

Torah – Bereishit and Shemot
We begin our study of Chumash at the beginning of the second grade, after the students have acquired an adequate level of proficiency in Hebrew reading. Our focus is on acquiring the skills necessary to learn and understand the original text, understanding the layout of the Chumash: Psukim; Parashot; Chumashim. This includes translation skills (from biblical to Modern Hebrew) knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, root words, and the ability to recognise the similarities of the Psukim.

We begin the study of Rashi commentaries in Grade 3 to encourage questioning that leads to a deeper understanding of the text and the reading of Rashi letters begins in Grade 4 to enable the students to read Rashi text on their own.

Parasha
The study of the weekly Parasha familiarises the students with the characters, events and laws of the Torah. As they learn the storyline, they discuss the Jewish values and ethics found, and how they can be practically incorporated into their daily lives.

The younger children are encouraged to share the weekly Parasha at home with their parents with the use of a weekly Parasha workbooks while the older students are required to prepare a Dvar Torah (an oral summary) to share at home.

Halachot and Minhagim - Laws and Customs
The students follow the units on Jewish laws and customs applicable to daily life and festivals including: Shabbat; Tefilla; Brachot, and Kashrut.

The material is presented progressively, from simple to advanced, and is accompanied by maps, charts, diagrams, illustrations and an assortment of interactive activities. The material is designed to promote love for Judaism, acquaint the student with various Jewish customs and enhance Hebrew comprehension.
Jewish Values
Jewish Values have a central focus in the curriculum where students are encouraged to explore Jewish values from the perspectives that are thought provoking and meaningful. Each class focuses on Jewish values in a way that highlights the distinctive contribution Judaism can make to the challenges of modern life. There is a strong emphasis on Tikun Olam, Healing the World and each class is expected to be involved in a Social Action project.
Option Two: Jewish Education, Culture/World Religions

This course provides students with opportunities to learn about and learn from Judaism. The spiral curriculum builds on knowledge and understanding throughout the Grade School.

The curriculum covers key Jewish beliefs, stories, rituals, leadership, festivals and scared text. Students are encouraged to respond and reflect on the lessons being taught with a strong emphasis on the importance of respecting each other’s beliefs.

Jewish Values have a central focus in this curriculum where students are encouraged to explore Jewish values from the perspectives that are thought provoking and meaningful. Each class will focus on Jewish values in a way that highlights the distinctive contribution Judaism can make to the challenges of modern life. There is a strong emphasis on Tikun Olam, Healing the World and each class will be expected to be involved in a Social Action project.

Judaism
To know about and understand the origins and development of Judaism and its rituals
To appreciate the vibrancy of Judaism, its rich heritage and culture
To appreciate the central role of Jewish rituals to the Jewish experience and practice
To develop a meaningful and life long relationship with Judaism, its rich heritage and culture

Sacred Texts
To know and understand the origins and importance of Jewish Sacred texts
To appreciate the different ways of interpreting texts
To develop and analyse own interpretations of Jewish Sacred texts

Jewish People
To know about and understand the origins and the development of the Jewish People
To identify with the diversity of individuals and groups that make up the Jewish People
To develop a lifelong, meaningful commitment to the Jewish People whilst connecting to their history and contributing to Jewish communal life

Jewish Learning and Culture
To know about and understand the vibrancy and development of Jewish learning and culture
To value the importance of Jewish learning and culture
To engage in life-long Jewish learning and to become both creators and consumers of Jewish culture

Israel
To know about and understand the history and development of the modern State of Israel
To appreciate Israel as central to the Jewish People
To develop a meaningful and life long relationship with the State of Israel

Tikun Olam
To know and understand how the Jewish People have engaged in Social Action throughout the ages
To appreciate the value of Social Action as a fundamental aspect of Judaism
To engage in Social Action, as an expression of Jewish values. Both inside and outside of the Jewish community

Universal Values
To understand that Jews have a responsibility to have a positive impact on the world
To understand similarities between Judaism and other cultures and have shared values
To develop a lifelong commitment to engaging with the universal values and integrating them into their lives
Hebrew/Ivrit

Grade 1 - Grade 8

At SMMIS we follow the TalAm Ivrit B’Ivrit philosophy where the children are fully immersed in a Hebrew environment, which leads to a mastery of conversational and written Hebrew. Throughout their time at SMMIS there is a focus on the four language acquisition skills: listening; speaking; reading and writing.

A progressive Hebrew language programme is introduced through the use of themes and concepts which are explored in Hebrew. Common Hebrew phrases are integrated into the classroom, objects are referred to by their Hebrew names, and instructions are given in Hebrew.

Hebrew vocabulary holds a main focal point in the study of Hebrew and is emphasised with weekly lists and various games and activities.

The students practice their language skills by reading and writing Hebrew in correlation to the topics taught in class.

From Grade 1 the students are divided per class based on their ability and proficiency in Hebrew.

We ensure that an appropriate enrichment and leveling programme is implemented in all Hebrew classes.

A special programme is offered to Hebrew speakers and the use of various workbooks relevant to each level is implemented.

From K2 the students perfect their Hebrew writing through the Ariot and TalAm programmes.

By Grade 2 the students learn how to write Hebrew script. Older students practice and reinforce these skills through various level appropriate workbooks. Each class is given a set of Matarot, goals to achieve throughout the year.

We follow the Israel Ministry of Education recommended syllabus for native Hebrew speakers.

Ulpan
We ensure that students that are new to the Hebrew language or that do not have enough prior language acquisition are placed in our Ulpan programme, which enables them to have a solid foundation before entering the mainstream classroom.

In our Hebrew programme the students placed in Ulpan have an opportunity to move up to the next level once a set of goals are acquired. Students are monitored regularly throughout their time in Ulpan.
Secondary School

In Secondary School, students have the option of choosing between two Jewish Education tracks: **Jewish Education: Tal Am** curriculum, an in depth study of Judaism and Jewish texts taught in Hebrew, or our **Jewish Education /World Religions** curriculum which includes learning about each of the World Religions.

**Option One: Jewish Education, Tal Am**

**Tanach and Rashi**
In Middle School the students use the original text and related workbooks. The learning of Chumash is taught in a dynamic and interactive way. Each workbook teaches the Chumash text using word glossaries, maps, charts, diagrams, and illustrations. The workbooks use engaging activities and exercises designed to highlight the human, moral, and religious values of each portion of the Chumash.

The focus of the Tanach class in the Middle School is to acquire the necessary skills to learn and understand the original text, now that the students are able to understand the layout of the Chumash: Psukim; Parashot; Chumashim, and to develop independent text skill, they are asked to analyse different portions of the text, translate the Torah language into modern Hebrew or English and bring the significance of the text in apply it by example to every day life lessons.

This study includes translation skills (from biblical to Modern Hebrew), knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, root words, and the ability to recognise the similarities of the Psukim.

Students use the study of Rashi commentaries more frequently to encourage questioning that leads to a deeper understanding of the text.

**Parasha**
The study of the weekly Parasha emphasises the characters, events and laws of the Torah with which the students are familiar. As they learn the storyline in more depth, they discuss the Jewish values and ethics encountered, and how they can be practically incorporated into their daily lives. An out of the box thinking approach is used to encourage the students to discuss and debate their views on the various aspects of the texts each week. Students are encouraged to prepare a Dvar Torah (an oral summary) to share at home.

**Chagim and Halachot**
The students follow units of work on various Jewish festivals, they cover the applicable Jewish laws and customs of each festival. An emphasis is placed on learning about the history of the festival, how it was celebrated in the past by the various communities and how it is celebrated today. In addition the students cover Halachot pertaining to modern ethical issues by making comparison between the biblical law and the law of the land.

**Jewish Values**
Jewish Values have a central focus in the curriculum where students are encouraged to explore Jewish values from the perspectives that are thought provoking and meaningful. Each class focuses on Jewish values in a way that highlights the distinctive contribution Judaism can make to the challenges of modern life. There is a strong emphasis on Tikun Olam, Healing the World and each class is expected to be involved in a Social Action project.
Option Two: Jewish Education, Culture/ World Religions

This course provides students with opportunities to learn about and learn from Judaism. The spiral curriculum builds on knowledge and understanding throughout the Secondary School.

The curriculum covers Jewish History; Zionism; History and Modern Jewish Literature. Students are encouraged to respond and reflect on the lessons being taught with a strong emphasis on the importance of respecting each other’s beliefs.

Jewish Values have a central focus in this curriculum where students are encouraged to explore Jewish values from the perspectives that are thought provoking and meaningful. Each class will focus on Jewish values in a way that highlights the distinctive contribution Judaism can make to the challenges of modern life. There is a strong emphasis on Tikun Olam, Healing the World and each class will be expected to be involved in a Social Action project.

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We ensure that an appropriate enrichment and leveling programme is implemented in all Hebrew classes.

A special programme is offered to Hebrew speakers and the use of various workbooks relevant to each level is implemented.

Secondary School students are expected to be able to write book reports and keep a journal in Hebrew using all the skills acquired in Primary School. They practice and reinforce these skills through various level appropriate workbooks. Each class is given a set of Matarot, goals to achieve throughout the year.

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