

Westchester Jewish Center Religious School

Kindergarten: Our Gan program offers young learners a joyful and engaging introduction to Jewish life and learning. Each week, children explore stories from the Torah, culminating in the creation of their very own Torah scroll. Students are introduced to Hebrew through colors and numbers, participate in weekly Tefillah (prayer) and music sessions, and celebrate Jewish holidays together. Highlights include a special Hanukkah family program that brings the spirit of the season to life.

1st grade: Students delve into weekly lessons on mitzvot and core Jewish values, learning how these traditions shape each of our families. Hebrew learning expands to include vocabulary related to family, emotions, and body parts. Children enjoy weekly Tefillah (prayer) and music sessions and celebrate Jewish holidays throughout the year. A special Sukkot family program offers a joyful opportunity for community and connection.

2nd grade: Students begin recognizing Hebrew letters and vowels. To grow a connection to Israel, students will explore Israeli geography and nature. Students begin participating in Tefillot with the school community, enjoy weekly music, and learn with Cantor Goldberg. The year includes joyful holiday celebrations and a special Tu B'Shvat Family Program.

3rd grade: Students strengthen their Hebrew skills by building confidence in letter and vowel recognition while expanding their Hebrew vocabulary. Throughout the year, they explore the stories, lessons, and values of *Bereishit* (Genesis) and *Shemot* (Exodus). Students also deepen their connection to Israel through art, music, and dance. Beginning in January, they meet weekly with Cantor Goldberg to prepare for their meaningful Siddur Ceremony in the spring. The year is enriched with joyful holiday celebrations, weekly music, and a special Family Values Program that invites parents and children to learn and grow together.

4th grade: Students build upon the Hebrew skills developed in 2nd and 3rd grade, with a growing focus on Hebrew decoding and reading fluency. As they begin reading Hebrew more independently, they are introduced to prayers from the Friday evening service and explore the meaning and structure of various *brachot* (blessings). Students also discover powerful lessons from the Prophets and connect these teachings to the land of Israel, deepening their understanding of Jewish history and our Jewish homeland. The year is enriched through weekly music and a special Jewish Art and Values Family Program that brings learning to life through creativity, exploration, and connection.

5th grade: Students continue to strengthen and expand their Hebrew reading skills through the study of the Shabbat morning service, building greater fluency, confidence, and familiarity with prayer. Their connection to Israel as the Jewish homeland deepens as they explore the diverse religions, cultures, and communities that make up Israeli society. On Sunday mornings, 5th grade students participate in engaging electives alongside their 6th grade peers, exploring dynamic topics such as Kosher Cooking, Israel as a Start-Up Nation, and Jewish Heroes of the 21st Century. These enriching experiences help students discover meaningful connections between Jewish learning and their everyday lives while fostering curiosity, creativity, and a strong sense of Jewish identity.

6th grade: Students participate in engaging Sunday morning electives alongside their 5th grade peers, exploring dynamic topics such as Kosher Cooking, Israel as a Start-Up Nation, and Jewish Heroes. These experiences encourage students to connect Jewish learning while discovering new interests and perspectives. On Wednesday afternoons, students are placed in small Hebrew reading groups designed to strengthen fluency, and confidence in preparation for B'nei Mitzvah study. The small-group setting provides individualized instruction and support, allowing students to build a strong foundation in Hebrew reading at their own pace. Students also explore core Jewish values and ethical teachings, reflecting on how these timeless lessons can guide them in becoming thoughtful individuals in the Jewish community.

7th grade: Using the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum, 7th grade students explore how Jewish choices throughout history inform the decisions we make today. They will study Israeli history—including the founding of the State of Israel, major wars, the Israeli army, geography, and culture. Rabbi Arnowitz, as part of a new initiative with the Tell Institute will meet with 7th grade, will connect students to who the Jewish people are today and the 2,200+ year pattern on antisemitism. Weekly classes also include a shared dinner to build community and connection.

2nd - 6th grade Tefillot Sunday @ 11:30am
6th and 7th grade Tefillot Tuesday @ 3:45pm

Religious School Shabbat: WJC will hold its Religious School classes on Saturday, for Shabbat, in lieu of Sunday. All students in Kindergarten - 6th grade enrolled will join us for Religious School Shabbat. School will be held on the first Saturday (Shabbat) on November 7th, December 5th, February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd and May 1st. The RS Shabbat Program will begin at 10am and conclude at 12pm – the same hours as Sunday Religious School.

Sunday (K-6) 10—12pm
Tuesday (6th grade) 3:45—6pm
Tuesday (7th grade) 3:45—7pm
Wednesday (2-5) 3:45—6pm

Jewish Journey at WJC Religious School - By the end of 7th grade, what can I expect my child at WJC to learn?

	GAN	ALEF	BET	GIMEL	DALET	HEY	VAV	ZAYIN
Hebrew Letter and Vowel Recognition								
Hebrew decoding								
Hebrew vocabulary								
Community Prayers and chanting certain prayers								
Exposure to Prayer Skills								
Celebration of Jewish Holidays								
Torah and Prophets								
Jewish History during the Holocaust								
Israel (History, Geography, Culture & Peoplehood)								
Values and Mitzvot								
Jewish Music								
Jewish Customs and Culture								