Kindergarten Curriculum
Character Education/
Middot Tovot
Enduring Understanding

The creation of a safe, challenging and joyful community, reflecting and reinforcing *middot tovot*. 
ETHICAL COVENANT

- CARING/חסד
- RESPECT/כבוד
- RESPONSIBILITY/ אחריות
- HONOR/יושר
- JUSTICE/צדק
- CITIZENSHIP/אזרחות
- HOLINESS/קדושה
MIDDAAH OF THE MONTH

Respect  
Kavod  
כבוד

Courage  
G’vurah  
גבורה

Empathy  
Hizdahut & De’aga Lazulat  
הזהות עם הזולת

Acts of Loving Kindness  
G’milut Hasadim  
גמילות חסדים

Responsibility  
Ahrayut  
אחריות

Citizenship  
Ezrahut  
אזרחות

Community, Celebrating Diversity  
K’hillah  
קומונה

Appreciation & Acknowledgement  
Hakarat Hatov  
הכרת טוב

Justice & Honor  
Tzedek & Yosher  
צדק וยושר

Holiness & Humility  
K’dushah & A’navah  
קדושה וענווה
RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM

The Morning Meeting Book
Roxann Kriete
with contributions by Lynn Bechtel
Now includes middle school

The First Six Weeks of School
Paula Denton
Roxann Kriete
Understanding Developmental Stages

Understanding developmental stages can help you to support your child’s learning at home and at school.
Common Developmental Characteristics

Five Year Olds

- Want adult approval
- Need consistent rules and enforcement, respond well to clear and simple expectations
- Are dependent on authority, but also have trouble seeing things from another’s viewpoint
Social Development of a Kindergartener

- Like to help and be “good”
- May be more oppositional
- Need empathetic discipline as they test limits and make mistakes
Kindergarten Classroom Guidance

Lesson Topics
- Identifying feelings
- Communication strategies - “I messages”
- Conflict resolution - “Debug”
- Acts of Loving Kindness
- Respect
- Friendship
- Manners
The Connection between School and Home

- Help children to keep track of new routines—visual reminders such as calendars that include the A-F day schedule
- Establish regular communication with teachers
- Seek opportunities for your child to work and play with a variety of children
- Play dates should be short and structured
The Role of the Guidance Counselor

- Advocates for students
- Assists teachers and parents in supporting social-emotional developmental needs
- Meets with students individually, in groups and in the classroom
- Promotes success for all students by helping them to develop a positive concept of themselves
Judaic Studies and Hebrew in Kindergarten

- T’filah
  - Shabbat & Torah stories and the Parasha of the Week
  - Holidays and the Jewish calendar
- Hebrew
  - Simple instructions
  - Introduction of the Aleph-Bet
  - Songs & Dancing
- Israel - the land and the state - introduction
- The five senses or maybe the six of Shabbat
Language Arts - Reading/Spelling

- Concepts of print
- Phonological Awareness (letter-sound correspondence)
- Phonics and Word Recognition
- Fluency
- Mastery of sight words
- Conventional spelling of simple words, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationship
- Fiction and non-fiction reading skills are introduced in reading groups
Language Arts - Writing

Students come in knowing:

- They are storytellers
- Text and pictures go together
- Letters make sounds and can be used to communicate ideas in writing
- Writing moves from left to right (in English)

“I help my grandmother to hear.”
“This is my first wedding. My cousins were the flower girls. I was happy for them.”

**Foundations of writing:** Word work, spacing, handwriting

**Conventions:** Punctuation, spelling (sight words), using class resources

**Craft:** Expanding ideas, adding in thoughts and feelings
Language Arts - Writing

- Pictures become more detailed
- Writing on one topic
- Handwriting is legible
- Attention to conventions
- Editing
- Expansion of ideas
- Student cycles through writing process
- Use mentor texts as "teacher"
- See self as a writer
Language Arts - Social Studies

*Theme*: Families and Traditions

**Units of Study:**
- Respecting Each Other and Our Community
- American Holidays/History
- Jewish Holidays/Traditions

**Essential Questions include:**
- How do members of a community work together?
- Why do we celebrate holidays?
- How does studying history help us to understand where our traditions come from?
- How do we learn about and keep our Jewish identity?
Major Areas of Kindergarten Mathematical Focus

Counting and Cardinality:
- Counting, Comparing and Ordering Numbers 0-100

Operations and Algebraic Thinking:
- Understanding Addition and Subtraction

Numbers and Operations in Base 10:
- Composing and Decomposing Numbers

Geometry and Measurement:
- Sorting, Classifying and Categorizing Data
- Identifying and Describing Shapes
- Measurement
Kindergarten Mathematics

- Hands-on and active approach
- Main focus on numeration (including writing numbers)
- Math all around us – Hallah-making, attendance (subtraction)
- Graphing
- Daily calendar (counting, place value)
- Math games
- Leveled questions and explanations
Next Generation Science Standards

• Developed by teachers, scientists, and leaders in science and science education from around the world
• Encourages students to learn the processes of science in a deep, meaningful way via inquiry-based, investigative approach
• Focuses on scientific and engineering practices in addition to science content
Kindergarten Science Units

Unit 1: Weather & Me

● What is weather? What is the weather like today and how does it compare to yesterday?
● What role does the sun play in our weather?

Unit 2: Forces

● What is a force?
● How does force affect the movement of objects?
● How can I change an experiment setup in order to change the speed or direction of a ball?

Unit 3: Plants, Animals and their Environment

● What are the parts of plants? How do these parts help them in order to survive?
● What are the different types of animals? What do they need in order to survive?
● What evidence shows that plants and animals can change their environment?
● How can we reduce our impact on the local environment?
Kindergarten Science in Action

Using senses to investigate

Learning in the school garden

Hands on inquiry
TECHNOLOGY & 21\textsuperscript{ST} CENTURY SKILLS

1. Creativity and Innovation
Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.

2. Communication and Collaboration
Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
Students illustrate their ideas in both General and Judaic Studies and often record an explanation of their ideas as well.

I am thankful for....
3. Research and Information Fluency
Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.

4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making
Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions, using appropriate digital tools and resources.
TECHNOLOGY & 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Students gather information about parts of their lives and then illustrate the knowledge they’ve assembled.
5. Digital Citizenship
Students practice legal and ethical behavior in their use of technology, both online and offline.

Students will be introduced to lessons from the Common Sense Media Curriculum on topics such as Safety and Security, Digital Citizenship, and Research and Information Fluency. These lessons align with and support our Character Education goals.
6. Technology Operations and Concepts
Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.

In addition to beginning our students’ mastery of basic technology skills and concepts, we introduce our students to a web-based, interactive keyboarding program for English throughout K-6.