

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM BLOCKS

## Temple Shaarei Shalom Religious School is divided into four blocks:

***Mechina*** (preparation or readiness) Grades K – 3

These first years form the basis of our students' Jewish education. Students learn their Hebrew aleph bet, basic Hebrew vocabulary, be introduced to Torah and Jewish holidays and generally become comfortable in the synagogue.

These classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 12:15 at Temple Shaarei Shalom.

***Yesod*** (Foundation) Grades 4 – 6

These are the years our students will receive the foundations that will bring the wisdom of Jewish tradition to their contemporary life. They will continue to decode Hebrew and learn the blessings and prayers that not only will help them in their B'nei Mitzvah but also will form the foundation as they become life-long learners. They will continue their Torah study through the URJ's Chai curriculum whose enduring understanding is that Torah study is lifelong and ongoing. They will also cover topics such as Jewish American History and Israel.

These classes meet twice a week; once on Sunday mornings at Christa McAuliff Middle School from 9:30- Noon and once during the week either on Tuesday or Wednesday at Temple Shaarei Shalom.

***Gesher*** (bridge or transition) Grade 7

This is the bridge between adolescence and adulthood. These students are exploring, questioning and maturing as they go through the B'nei Mitzvah year. They will continue to study T'filot (prayers), Holocaust and contemporary Jewish issues.

Grade Seven meets twice a week, once on Sunday morning at Christa McAuliff from 9:30-12:00 and once on Wednesday evening at 6:45-8:15.

***Tichon*** (high school) Grades 8 – 10

*Tichon* is the Hebrew word for high school. Our high school students will continue to explore Jewish Issues and values as they apply to their busy lives today. As these grades continue to grow, I look forward to our students becoming active members of the religious school by being teacher assistants and participating in youth group as well as exciting trips together.

Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 – 8:15