

Shalom

The Ohr Kodesh Religious School provides Jewish education for children in grades K-12. Our educational program is comprised of a primary curriculum for children in grades K-2, an elementary curriculum for those in grades 3-7, and a high school curriculum for grades 8-12.

The goal of our school is to give your children a life long appreciation for the religious teachings and traditions that embody their Jewish heritage by providing them with a meaningful Jewish education. The foundation for this goal is built on our philosophical beliefs concerning repairing the world (*Tikun Olam*), righteousness (*Tzedakah*), and love of the land and People of Israel (*Ahavat Yisrael*).

Religious Education Built on a Love of Learning (*Ahavat Torah*)

The Ohr Kodesh Religious School curriculum teaches children the knowledge and skills necessary to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of Jewish living. Based on the standards established by the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, it is designed in developmentally appropriate units through which children learn about the *Torah*, Mitzvoth, customs and traditions.

Open communication and active participation by parents are essential elements to the success of our school. Throughout the year we invite parents to participate with their children in holiday celebrations and special educational activities. Children receive report cards twice a year and parents are invited to attend a parent/teacher conference once a year.

Primary Program—Grades K-2

Sunday Morning 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Optional Wednesday 4p.m. - 6:00p.m.

Our primary program builds on the knowledge your child may have gained at home and in pre-school. Through participation in hands on, experiential learning activities, we teach children about the Jewish calendar, holiday cycle, and beginning prayers. Music and art round out the curriculum to create an active environment for learning.

The school also offers an optional **Primary Intensive Program** that includes an additional day for instruction in Hebrew language fundamentals on Wednesday afternoons. An excellent program for children who demonstrate an early interest in learning to read Hebrew, it begins in Kindergarten with an introduction to Hebrew letter recognition and reading readiness. This is followed by instruction in Hebrew phonics and vowel sounds in the first grade and basic reading and writing in the second grade.

Elementary Program—Grades 3-7

Monday and Wednesday 4:15p.m. 6:15p.m.,

Sunday 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

This program focuses on Hebrew language study and reading proficiency, and an expanded knowledge of Jewish holidays, the Bible (*Tanach*), Israel, and Jewish communities around the world. To better support children's study of Hebrew, our instructors assess children's language proficiency each year in the early Fall. We then place students in reading groups that cut across grade levels based on their Hebrew reading ability. The first hour of weekday instruction is spent with this assigned reading group, followed by an hour of general instruction with their grade-level classmates.

For children in grades 4-7 who are having difficulty acquiring basic Hebrew skills, we also offer remedial education, taught by teachers with special training in the field of learning differences. Remedial education is provided in individualized tutorial sessions and in small groups.

Michlala High School Program—Grades 8-12

Wednesday 6:00p.m. - 8:15p.m.

Our high school program offers young people an excellent opportunity to maintain old friendships and develop new ones as they continue their Jewish education. Beginning with dinner, the program features courses in Jewish texts (Bible, Mishnah) and history. Students then chose from numerous electives including: Conversational Hebrew, Israeli Dance, Jews in Film, Legal Issues Facing Jewish Children, Jewish Humor, and Who Wrote the Bible. Students also undertake a monthly project to engage in acts of kindness (*gemilut hasadim*) through social action.

A Professional Staff Devoted to Jewish Education

The teachers at the Ohr Kodesh Religious School are all paid professional Jewish educators. They regularly participate in programs sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education to improve and enhance the School's programs. As a group, they look for ways to help each child appreciate Judaism's value and its relevance to contemporary American life.

Computer Technology to Promote Learning

Each classroom in our school has a computer with Hebrew word processing software, language games, and Internet access. Used as teaching tools, teachers allocate time for individuals and small groups to practice skills and gather information to support their studies.

For More Information and To Request an Application

Families are invited to enroll their students each Spring for the following school year which begins in the Fall. For more information and an application, please contact Steve Kerbel, Educational Director at (301) 589-3880 ext.15.