

A Five-Year Curriculum
Midrasha High School
(8th –12th grade students)

Goals:

The goals of the Midrasha High School five-year curriculum are:

- To provide continuing education for Jewish youth beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- To provide students with the knowledge and intellectual tools necessary to enable them to relate to the world as Jews.
- To encourage students to begin the process of life-long Jewish learning

Attending the five-year-sequence curriculum, Midrasha High School students will be guided through the following subjects in Jewish studies:

Unit 1: Judaism: Finding our own Belief and Practice

- Rituals and Customs: The Warmth and Benefit of Tradition
- Growing Up and Growing Old: The Shape of a Jewish Life.
- The Road Map of Jewish Community: Institutions and communities of the Jewish World
- Reform, Conservative, Orthodox: Similarities and differences
- The Way to G-d: Shaping our Individual Spiritual Journeys
- Radical Jewish Thinkers: Where and how do I fit?
- Making Prayer Real

Unit 2: From Joshua, the Son of Nun, to David, the Son of Gurion: A Survey of Jewish History and Literature Through the Ages

- The tribal formation in the Promised Land.
- The Anarchic period during the days of the Judges.
- The introduction to the period of kings and prophets.
- The destruction of the first Temple and the Babylonian exile.
- The second temple and the struggle against the Roman Empire.
- The dispersion into the diaspora, culture and literature of the diaspora communities.
- The beginning of Kibutz Galuiot and the declaration of the State of Israel.

Unit 3: Holocaust, The State of Israel, Modern Hebrew

- The post-WWI Germany and the rise of the National Socialist German Workers party.
- The beginning of physical separation and alienation of the Jewish population in Germany: The Crystal Nacht and religious and physical restrictions.
- The “The Final Solution”: Deportation of Jews to ghettos and later to concentration camps.
- The question of belief: “Where was G-d?”
- Resistance: From within and from without.

- Communication and Politics: What happened? Why no one reached out and helped?
- Germany is defeated: The release from the concentration camps and the rehabilitation of those who survived the Holocaust.
- Our promise: To Remember, Never to Forget!
- History and Founding of the State of Israel
- Contemporary Israeli Culture
- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- *Mah Nishmah?* Some essential phrases in Modern Hebrew

Unit 4: Comparative Religion: The Religions of our Friends and Neighbors:

- The roots of Christianity and the various “streams” of Christianity.
- The roots of Islam and its basic beliefs.
- Compare and Contrast between the three religions’ Belief.
- The Past, Present, and Future in Understanding and Accepting of Each Other’s Beliefs.
- Houses of Worship: Differences and Similarities.
- Spiritual Leadership: Differences and Similarities.
- Other Religions Around Us.

Unit 5: Issues in Contemporary Jewish Life

- Race, Gender, and Sexual identity within the Jewish community
- The future of the synagogue in our fast-paced lives.
- Inter-dating and intermarriage.
- Tikkun Olam: Our Jewish Mission
- Jewish Sexual Ethics.
- Contemporary Judaism’s perspectives on the Frontiers of Medical and Scientific Developments.
- Images of Jewish Life in the Media