

7TH GRADE

Seventh grade is a busy year! Many are studying for their bar/bat mitzvah as they “officially” enter Jewish adulthood. Throughout the year, our young teens will not only be learning about the idea of becoming a Jewish adult, but also define what this means to them.

The focus of their learning – and the values that will inform their definition – is *Torah, avodah, and gemilut hasadim*.

Torah/Learning

During the year, we will explore Jewish identity and a variety of topics—friendship, peer pressure, relationships—from a Jewish perspective. A focus throughout the year will be building “Jewish literacy” by exploring some of Judaism’s essential teachings, texts, ideas, and practices.

Avodah/Prayer

We often refer to a boy or a girl “becoming” a bar or bat mitzvah. The use of the word “becoming” is intentional, because becoming a Jewish adult is a process, not a single moment in time. This process includes understanding the role and purpose of prayer in our lives as Jews. Along with our educators we will be teaching our teens the beauty and depth that prayer can have in their lives.

Gemilut Hasadim/Community

We believe that community is an essential component of meaningful Jewish learning. A priority will be to create a feeling of community among our 7th graders, and to foster relationships between 7th graders and our older teens to help our 7th graders make the transition into the larger Havurat Torah community. An essential Jewish value is treating others with empathy and kindness, which we emphasize as we build the kind of community where all our teens can grow and thrive.

Schedule:

Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:45 pm

- 6:30 pm: Dinner
- 7:00-7:55 pm: *All 7th graders will learn together and can participate in the social action opportunities on designated Sundays.*

If teens choose to stay for the second hour:

- 7:55-8:45 pm: Choice of elective
- Social Action Sundays: On certain designated Sundays, our teens will be able to put their learning into action and see how they have the power to help others and make a difference.