

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and to foster relationships between 7<sup>th</sup> graders and our older teens to help our 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.