



Welcome to **Temple Emanu-El's Religious School.**

We are so happy to have you join us this **2025-2026/5786** school year!

Our first day is **Wednesday, September 10th at 4:00 PM** where students will have the chance to meet their teachers and classmates. On the first Sunday of the year, **Sunday, September 14th**, a special treat awaits at the end of the day for the entire school. Parents can join us on **Sunday, October 26th at 9:30 AM** for a Parent Meet & Greet Breakfast.

Meet Your Gimel (3rd Grade) Teachers



REVITAL BENHAIM
cafedemarco@gmail.com

Revital lives in Cresskill with her three kids Lucas, Kim, and Kai. She moved to the states from Israel 20 years ago after her IDF service.

During her free time, she loves to exercise, swim, read and bake! Revital is super excited to be teaching again at Temple Emanu-El.



WENDY NACHUM
wendynachum18@gmail.com

Wendy Nachum has been working in early education for over 18 years.

As a Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher, and previously director of after school programming, Wendy is passionate about child development and instilling Jewish values early on.

When she is not at work, she spends her time pursuing her other passions including volunteering with various organizations.



LEAH GOLDSTEIN
leahgoldstein6@gmail.com

Leah Goldstein is excited to be working at Temple Emanu-El for her fourth year and first helping out on Wednesdays in Kitah Gimel (3rd Grade). During the year Leah works as a preschool teacher at Lubavitch on the Palisades and in the summer teaches art at Camp Shalom for kids age 3-10. She has taught in various Hebrew schools in Bergen County throughout the years. She is the proud mother of six children.

Questions, Comments, Concerns? We're here to help!
Administration

Adam Schwartzbard
Director of Youth Engagement
schwartzbard@tecloster.org



Shelby Effron
Administrative Coordinator, Lifelong Learning
effron@tecloster.org



Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg
Rabbi for Lifelong Learning
ruberg@tecloster.org



Temple Emanu-El Religious School Curriculum

Gimel (3rd Grade)

Learning Hebrew: By the end of the year, Gimel Students will be familiar with the Aleph Bet - the letters, the final letters and vowel sounds - and will be able to decode two-syllable words. The 3rd grade Hebrew books are *Book Two* of *The Sarah and David* series and *The Sarah and David Hebrew Primer*.

Judaics: We also covered all the Jewish holidays and traditions. We learned the Jewish calendar and the symbols of every month, which holiday and or season is in the Hebrew month. Gimel students will be introduced to a new city in Israel each Rosh Hodesh (new month). Gimel will also continue with the buddy partnership with Nahariya, a city in Israel. In addition, the Judaics curriculum will continue our study of Pirkei Avot and Parshat Hashavua. The Gimel curriculum uses the following books: *The Explorer's Bible - Vol. 1 & 2* and *A Bridge To Our Tradition: Pirkei Avot*.

Teaching Israel: Building on our past lessons about Israel, students will learn about and sample Israeli foods and will be introduced to Yom HaZikaron/Israel's Memorial Day. The Israel curriculum will be anchored by a book titled *The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt*.

Music with Moreh Matt: For a half hour each week, Moreh Matt will visit our class and lead us in song. Throughout the year and during the holidays, he will teach primarily Hebrew songs and build on their prayer knowledge of Kabbalat Shabbat / Friday Night services.

Special Programs: Throughout the year, our class will have special on-site programs to complement our lessons. Activities include a book ceremony, a communal candle-lighting for Hanukkah, and in-class Seder. Hands-on experiential learning will include activities such as for baking hamantaschen, cooking Israeli food, and creating chesed projects to be brought to the needy. Throughout the year, we will also incorporate singalongs in our classes to learn through music. We will collect Tzedakah throughout the year too. Gimel students receive their own Pirkei Avot Lev Shalem at a grade-wide ceremony on a Shabbat morning.

Clergy Involvement: Throughout the year, our clergy – Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg, Rabbi Gabe Cohen and Cantor Israel Singer – will visit the class. Our Rabbis will participate in "Ask the Rabbi" sessions, and Parasha/Chumash portions.

Teaching Torah/"Chumash": In our study of the Torah, students will use *The Explorer's Bible*. Their learning will be focused on the stories in Genesis up through the Book of Exodus when the Israelites receive the Torah. We will also include portions of the Tanach, such as Jonah and the Whale and the Megillah – the story of Purim.

Teaching Mitzvot/Values: Teaching mitzvot/values is an important component of our study at Religious School. Concepts will include such values as: Hachnasat Orchim – welcoming guest, Kashrut/rules of keeping kosher, Tzedakah, Lulav v'Etrog, Sukkah, Shofar, blessings for food, lighting Hanukkah candles, Shabbat, belief in G-d, holiness of Torah, Chesed, Prayer; Israel as the

Jewish homeland; honoring one's parents; V'Ahavta L'Reiecha Kamocha; and Tikun Olam. The value of chesed /kindness will be a central focus for our Gimel students. Special emphasis this year will be placed on learning Pirkei Avot – The Ethics of Our Rabbis, and the ethical wisdom of the ancients in a modern context as well as the importance of our connection to the People and Land of Israel.

Teaching Holidays: As we celebrate Jewish holidays throughout the year, our guiding focus word will be “explain.” Building on our past lessons on “identifying,” through special programs and fun class activities, we will teach the concepts of each holiday so that the students will be able to confidently explain the holiday, and why and how we celebrate. As students grow older, we will begin to shift our focus to “apply” as a guiding concept. This year, we will also begin to learn about the Jewish calendar and how it is based on the moon.

Teaching Shabbat: Complemented by special services, we will learn about Shabbat as our holy day. We will discuss the customs and foods associated with the day. We will continue to review songs we learned in previous grades and continue to build by adding new songs and prayers each year.

Each grade will learn songs from the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat Service in their music class with Moreh Matt. The quantity they will learn will increase with each successive grade. Gimel students will learn the following prayers: Hinei Ma tov, Lechu Neranena, Or Zarua, Od Yavo, Oseh Shalom, Romemu, Lecha Dodi (chorus).

Teachers

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