

Curriculum

This year we will be learning ספר בראשית. We are planning, בעזרת ה', to cover פרשת בראשית through פרשת חיי שרה, five פרשיות! In order to do this, we will cover some sections in depth and some sections more cursorily. We will be delving into the Creation narrative and exploring its hidden meaning, analyzing the sin of Adam and Chava and its reverberations throughout time, and we will look for themes and lessons from the lives of our אבות and אמהות, forefathers and foremothers. Throughout, we will utilize careful analysis of the text of the Chumash combined with both traditional and more modern commentaries.

Method

The majority of our textual work will be in the original Hebrew whereby students will improve their textual skills at the same time as developing analytical skills applicable to learning any section of חומש. Class time will include frontal teaching, discussion, chavruta (partner) learning, and individual work.

Attendance

Chavruta learning is where most of our skills development occurs and is an extremely vital part of this higher level Chumash class. I expect students to attend every day of class so that they can gain maximum benefit from this invaluable experience. Additionally, I find that even though students will "get a copy of the notes" when they miss class, that material learned from a student's notes is rarely integrated in any meaningful manner. As you will see below, my grading rubric reflects the great value I place on consistent attendance. Each student will be allowed two absences each quarter. Additional absences will impact the class participation component of the grade. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Grades

Your grade will be determined by the following components: attendance, class participation, homework/projects, quizzes and tests. The breakdown for your grade is as follows:

- 60% tests, projects, homework and quizzes
- 40% attendance and class participation

Expectations

My expectations for classroom behavior and participation are as follows:

1. **For my class, you are strongly encouraged to use a three ring binder.** I frequently give out handouts and worksheets and want them to be kept neatly and in order in your three-ring binder.
2. To arrive on time to class and be prepared at the start of class with your שומן and a notebook to take notes. You can expect me to start and end class on time. If I don't notice when our time is up, please feel free to mention it.
3. To take notes on what we learn. This reinforces what we learn in your memory and will also enable you to prepare for tests/quizzes/homework.
4. To be attentive in class. Keep your head up, no side conversations, pay attention to whomever is speaking to the class or the task at hand.
5. To participate in class – reading aloud when called upon, answering questions, and working productively during classwork time.
6. To speak and act respectfully to students and to me at all times.

You can reach me by Whatsapp or text on my cell phone with questions, (619) 846-0343 or by email at ariellaadatto@gmail.com. Please try not to call after 10 pm.

I look forward to a wonderful year learning with you!