**Parsha Honors Ninth Grade Syllabus 24-25**

**Rabbi Peikes – Room 300**

Goals –

1. To develop a broad-based knowledge of the contents of each week’s Torah portion.
2. To develop students’ appreciation and connection to the beauty of the Torah’s ethical messages. Special emphasis on appreciating the inherent greatness of every human being (gadlus haadam).
3. To develop the students’ critical thinking skills in analyzing commentaries and the moral lessons that can be learned from them. Special emphasis on showing how the lessons derive from the text and are not an interpolation.
4. To develop the students’ confidence and ability to present words of Torah (divrei Torah).

Description- The 9th grade Honors Parsha class will consist of three main components:

1. A short weekly survey of that week’s Torah portion outlining the major themes and topics covered in the parsha.
2. A short presentation (dvar Torah) by one of the students on a rotational basis.
3. An in-depth analysis and discussion of three important ethical lessons that can be derived from the classical commentaries. At least one of these lessons will be studied in the original text of the commentary.

Grading Rubric –

20% - classroom presentations of divrei Torah.

20% - semester project.

20% - quizzes and tests.

40% - classroom participation.