

Course Description

This year we will be learning ספר שמות. We will hopefully cover the entire ספר שמות (Book of Shmot), learning some sections more cursorily (using summaries and overview worksheets) and learning other sections more in depth through careful analysis of the text of the Chumash combined with both traditional and more modern commentaries. For all the material that we cover, I encourage students to be curious about the text, ask questions and look for the personal relevance of the stories and lessons of the Torah to their personal lives. Additionally, our study of Chumash will follow a thematic approach, looking at each unit as containing a common theme wherein each detail contributes to and must be understood in the context of that theme. Class time will include frontal teaching, discussion, chavruta (partner) learning, and individual work.

Major Units of Study

- Unit I Early Life of Moshe, Qualities of a Leader
- Unit II Burning Bush and its Message
- Unit III The Plagues and Their Purpose
- Unit IV Exodus and Song of the Sea
- Unit V Miracles and Travails of the first year
- Unit VI Matan Torah
- Unit VII The Golden Calf and Second Luchot
- Unit VIII Mishkan and its Purpose

Expectations

1. Quizzes, Tests and Projects - We will have occasional quizzes and pop quizzes on the material we've covered. Each unit of approximately 8 weeks will culminate with a test. Each test will be preceded by an in-class review and followed by a *Siyum*, a party celebrating our progress in learning. We will also have projects occasionally throughout the year.
2. Binder checks - Students are required to have a 3-ring binder or section of a 3-ring binder for notes and handouts from class. Students are required to take notes on what we learn. Taking notes reinforces what we learn in your memory and will also enable you to prepare for tests and quizzes. While I will not check the contents or accuracy of your notes, I will be checking that you have appropriate notes for each class period.
3. Attendance - Attendance is extremely important to me as a teacher. When students "make up the notes" after missing a class, they do not understand the material as well as when they are physically present in class. 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.
4. Class participation - I expect students to arrive to class and be prepared to begin class on time each day. I respect your time and therefore make it my priority to begin and end class on time. Students are expected to be attentive in class. This includes not putting your head down on your desk, not having side conversations, and paying attention to whomever is speaking in class or the task at hand. Class participation also includes working productively during classwork time, reading aloud in *chavruta* (partner-study) time, and participating in class discussions.

Grading Policies

Your grade will be determined by the items above calculated as follows:

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

Both students and parents can reach me by Whatsapp or text on my cell phone, (619) 846-0343, or by email ariellaadatto@gmail.com

I look forward to a wonderful year learning with you!