

Kindergarten

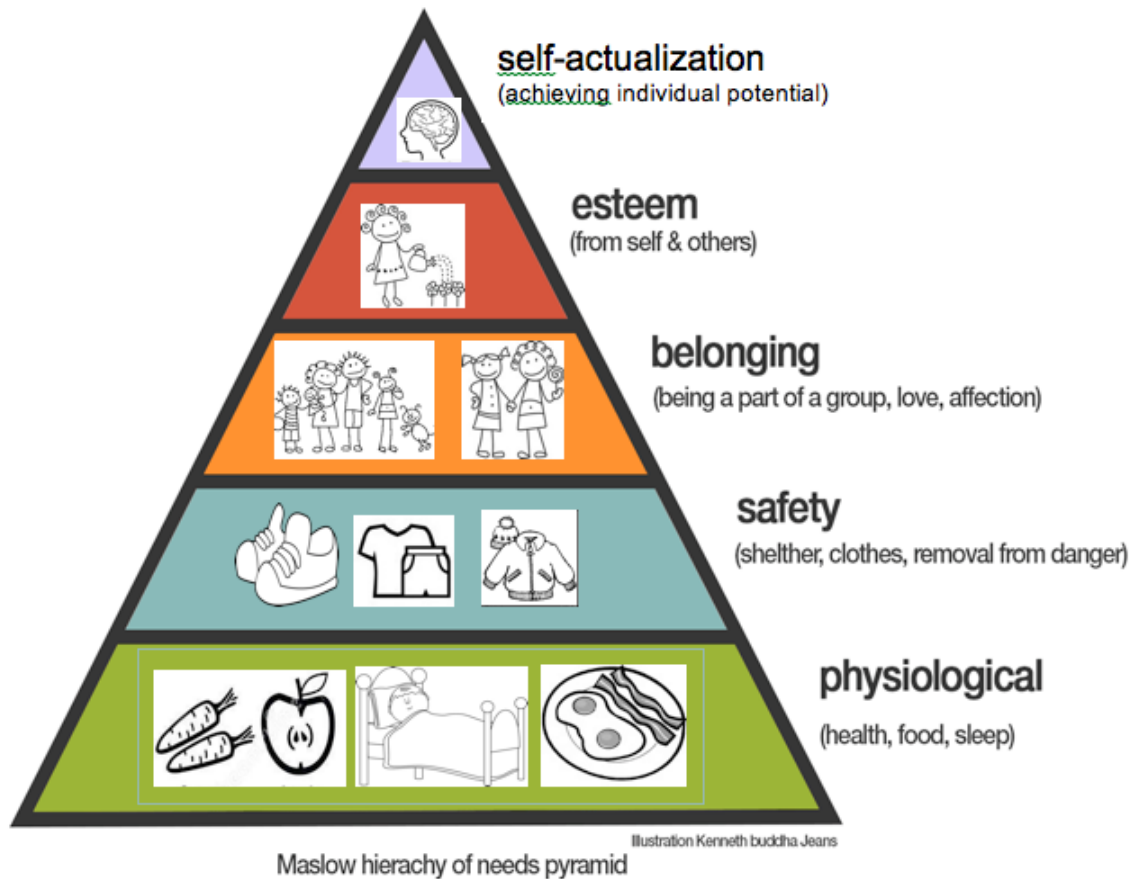
Curriculum Night

5781-5782 2021-2022



חנך לנער על פי דרכו גם כי יזקין לא יסור ממנה
Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it

The Importance of Snack and Extra Clothes



How to help your child be successful at school:

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a protein-filled breakfast.
- Send a snack of complex carbs and protein: veggies, fruit, dairy, whole grains.
- Dress in season-appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes.
- Keep an extra set of season-appropriate clothing and if possible, extra set of shoes.
- Send a family picture, and leave with a hug and a kiss.
- Arrange playdates.
- Ask about specific times when your child felt proud of his or herself.
- Praise hard work, persistence, and other skills instead of traits.

Contact Information and Communication

Classroom Teachers:

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Hebrew and Judaics:

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We regularly attempt to connect with parents personally by updating you when you come by the classroom, calling you by phone, or sending an email. We will return your emails or phone calls within 24 hours Monday through Friday. Because we don't have timely access to email, please call the office for absences, pick up changes, and other pressing issues. If you have a quick note, feel free to text. For lengthier items, please email or call the school.

During Shabbat and major Jewish holidays, we ensure that everyone enjoys a day of rest by not emailing or phoning.

A few times per month, you will receive communication about your child in the form of a newsletter informing you about our classroom life or personal communication by email about your child.

We also regularly update your child's online portfolio on Seesaw. Your child will have his or her own learning journal, and you can receive notifications when new items are added. It's completely private – only you can see your child's journal outside of class. Please see attached directions to sign up and download the app.

We will have two parent-teacher conferences, one in the fall and one in the spring, to meet with you in person and share about your child as a student. You can sign up for times on the new Mirowitz app. Please make sure to sign up for a separate Hebrew conference time as well.

Literacy Education

Students will become readers, authors, and better spellers through:

1. Units of Study in Phonics: Phonics is the building of letter-sound knowledge. It is the #1 predictor of strong readers and writers.
2. Writer's Workshop: Children become writers as they begin to draw, then label, and develop sentences.
3. Heggerty: Children have daily practice working with isolating and manipulating the smallest units of sounds.

Mathematical Education

Students will continue to develop their number and operation skills, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and probability skills through daily math activities with our Montessori math materials. We also integrate math into our science and social studies curricula.

Science

Students will develop and strengthen observation, experimentation, deduction, and journaling skills through our science curriculum. This curriculum includes units on plants and animals, weather, forces and machines, and pond life.

Social Studies

Kindergartners will begin to develop an awareness of their position in their community, time, and space by creating a classroom community, utilizing calendars, exploring the neighborhood, and maps. *Let's Find Out* is a magazine that is utilized several times per month. The focus is current events/holidays, emotions, seasons, social studies, etc.

Judaics

Your child will have the exciting opportunity to study Torah from the first book of Torah - *Bereshit* (Genesis)! We will study the story of creation and the development of our Jewish family tree, starting with Avraham, Sarah, Yitzchak, Rivka, Leah, Ya'akov, Esav, and Yosef. We will focus on stories such as Avraham's developing relationship with God, the incredible *chessed* (kindness) he demonstrates by welcoming guests, and that Rivka's shows at the well. We will explore Ya'akov and Esav's conflicts and family dynamics in the Yosef story. Your children will participate in deep discussions and learn that there are countless lessons we can derive from characters in Torah that apply to our lives today. In addition, your children will learn, through hands-on experiences, about the history of the holidays as well as the customs, blessings and traditions of celebrations.

Our goal is for students to see *tefillah* (prayer) as an enriching part of the day, which can lead to self-reflection and inspire them to “live justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God.” Proverbs 22:6 Kindergarteners will also learn melodies, choreography, and symbolism of the *havdallah* service and will be exposed to and gain basic familiarity with melodies and meanings of *Modei Ani*, *Yotzer Or*, and *Sh'ma* from the morning liturgy.

***Ivrit* - Hebrew**

In kindergarten students are introduced to the "sights and sounds" of the Hebrew language. Instruction is in Hebrew so that students are immersed in the language. Listening to Hebrew spoken in an accessible and comprehensible way is the primary means by which students acquire the language. Lessons are taught in a joyful atmosphere through song, story, art, movement, imitation, conversation, and repetition. Students will learn many new vocabulary words and language structures. They will develop pre-literacy skills through exposure to the print form of the alef-bet letters and their associated sounds. They will also become familiar with a large body of Israeli children's literature and other elements of Israeli culture. Focus topics include students' immediate surroundings—self, family, numbers, colors, weather and food. It is our goal that by the end of the year some students reach the “Novice-Mid” level of proficiency in listening and speaking on the language proficiency scale established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. At this skill level, students can understand and repeat words and phrases learned within the topics listed above.

***Yisrael* - Israel**

At Mirowitz we seek to instill in our students an attachment to the State of Israel, its culture, and its people, as well as a sense of responsibility for their welfare. We envision a generation of Jewish leaders who — energized by a profound cultural and historical knowledge of Israel, meaningful relationships with Israelis, personal experiences in Israel, Hebrew language proficiency and a nuanced understanding of modern Israel — proudly lead, support and strengthen the Jewish state.

The particulars of our curriculum are dynamic, evolving to reflect available materials and research on Israel education, as well as current culture and events within Israel. If you have any particular questions about what or how your student is learning about Israel, please don't hesitate to reach out to your student's classroom teacher or Becky Lerner, our Hebrew and Israel Education Coordinator.

Students in Gan will begin to connect to Israel as the Jewish homeland and learn about the country's unique culture and literature. They will make connections to Israel both in and outside of their Hebrew learning. These units include classic and modern songs and stories, symbols of the state, Israeli elements of Jewish holiday celebrations and special days on the Israeli calendar. Students will get acquainted with some special sites in Jerusalem, and this year we are developing a new unit on frogs and the Hula Nature Reserve in Israel in connection with their learning about the pond ecosystem.

Our approach to Israel education is built on three pillars:

1. Modern Hebrew

One of the great successes of the modern State of Israel has been the revitalization of the Hebrew language. Our commitment to Hebrew study is bolstered by research showing that language proficiency correlates with affinity for the community that naturally speaks that language. Strong Hebrew skills help students forge meaningful relationships with Hebrew-speaking family and friends, connect emotionally with Israeli culture and literature, and engage with the Israeli society when they visit the country.

2. Relationships and Culture

Mirowitz students engage with Israelis and Israeli culture every day through personal interactions and by learning in an environment rich with Israeli symbols and references. Each year students learn about how Jewish holidays are celebrated in Israel and mark modern Israeli holidays and national events. They learn Israeli dances and children's games, listen to Israeli music, and enjoy Israeli stories, poems and videos. Fifth graders simulate an Israeli scout-style camping adventure. The Mirowitz educational experience culminates with a two-week Israel Study Tour where students visit and learn in greater depth about the people, places, culture, accomplishments and challenges of the State of Israel.

3. Arts, Sciences, and Humanities

When Mirowitz students study developmentally appropriate aspects of Israel through the lenses of the various arts, sciences and humanities, it deepens their connections to Israel, informs their understanding of the state and its history, and inspires lifelong curiosity about Israel. The Hebrew and Israel Education Coordinator and Director of Jewish Life collaborate with specialist and classroom teachers to develop both stand-alone lessons on Israel and units of study that integrate Israel content into other content areas.

Our Classroom Life

Attendance

Your child must arrive at school at their designated arrival time. Students will start their day by putting away their belongings, saying hello to friends, and other activities that help them get ready for learning. Morning meeting begins promptly at 8:30. Arriving on time sets the pace for the day and allows for a successful transition from home to school.

Movement

Based upon research, movement is key for academic success in the classroom. We will be incorporating aerobic movement and/or yoga as active learning techniques throughout the day.

Birthday Celebration

In Kindergarten, we have a short (15 minute) celebration on or around your child's birthday. This involves a parent(s) joining us on Zoom and reading your child's favorite book to the class. Also, your child may share a favorite baby photo, lovey, stuffed animal, and/or toy. Unfortunately we have a no-food birthday policy but you are welcome to send a special treat for your own child! Thank you!

Homework

Please read to your child daily. From time to time, your child will have a special assignment, such as observing the moon, which will be shared with you through our class newsletter.

Snacks

Kindergarten students will eat a snack every morning and are strongly encouraged to bring a daily snack to eat mid-afternoon. To ensure proper nutrition for optimal learning, to contribute to your child's independence, and to respect the food policies of the school, please assist your child in choosing a snack from the **Fab Five: fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, dairy snack, whole-grain pretzels or crackers, or nut-free granola bars.** These choices provide variety for Kosher observance, allergy restrictions, and health requirements. This also limits the temptation of sharing snacks and guarantees the safety of every child. The school is not able to provide snacks for children. **WE ARE A NUT AND PEANUT FREE SCHOOL.**

Masks

Students are expected to wear masks throughout the entirety of the day, with the exception of lunch or snack. Please send your child to school with extra masks to keep with them in the case of a lost or dirty mask. Please practice healthy mask habits at home to ensure your child's comfort with this new practice at school.

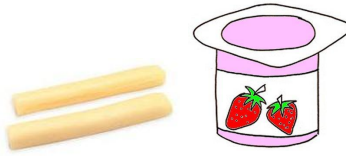
Fab Five Snacks



Vegetables



Fruit



Dairy Snacks













Whole Grain Crackers/Pretzels



Nut-Free Granola Bars

Weekly Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 	 			   



Wear Mirowitz shirt for Mirowitz Mondays.



Wear tennis shoes for PE.



Wear long pants to walk in the woods.



Wear blue and/or white and



bring tzedakah for Shabbat.



Bring back library books.