



4th Grade Judaic Studies Purpose Statement Jeremy Toren, 4th Grade Teacher

Fourth grade at SJCS is when students begin to assume leadership roles within the school community. They work hard on becoming independent learners as well as supportive, helpful peers. The two cornerstones of the Ilanot Judaic Studies curriculum are Torah and Modern Hebrew.

There are two main aspects to the study of Torah in Ilanot. The first is the weekly sidrah, in which students take a look at the weekly Torah portion and increase their familiarity with the Torah cycle in its entirety. The second aspect is in-depth study, in which students focus more closely on one section of the Torah throughout the year, understanding the text in Hebrew, discussing the in-depth meanings, and looking at commentaries.

In Modern Hebrew, the students use the textbook *Shalav Aleph*, to achieve increased comfort, understanding, and speaking Modern Hebrew, familiarity with basic grammar principles such as prefixes/suffixes and past/present tense, and improved writing ability. Because language ability varies significantly from child to child, the goal in Modern Hebrew is for each student to improve at his/her own pace.

Ilanot students take on more of a leadership role in other academic areas. They each write a report about the student's family history, help their 3rd-grade friends adjust to more advanced t'fillot, and conduct research projects about famous historical events and places in Israel. By the end of the year, Ilanot students become independent, productive learners who are ready to assume the role of the oldest students at SJCS.