



BEYOND STATE STANDARDS

Our curriculum is rooted in state standards, but we go further. We draw from many different resources and perspectives to create a curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking and integrates learning across multiple subjects. We administer state standardized testing to provide benchmarks of students' academic progress. In 2021, 100% of our students met state academic standards in reading and math; the majority of our students exceeded these standards. In addition to academics, we focus on students' social, emotional, creative, and physical development.

Curriculum



Language Arts

Our Language Arts curriculum develops students' reading and writing skills. Students progress from letter recognition and sound to reading and understanding a variety of different fictional and nonfictional texts. Their writing abilities begin with upper and lower case letters and advance to producing work in different writing forms, including informational, narrative, and creative. They also practice in-depth reading and critical thinking and learn grammatical skills and writing traits to enhance their abilities.



Math

Our math curriculum motivates students to build on existing skills and make connections to their world, outside of class. Students begin with the basics of number recognition, addition and subtraction, and advance to multiplication, division, fractions, and the basics of algebra and geometry. Pattern recognition and problem-solving skills are integrated throughout the curriculum. Students are encouraged to find the value of their math skills and apply it to their own life experiences.

INDIVIDUALIZATION

We pride ourselves on small class sizes because they allow for more one-on-one interaction between teachers and students. We are also able to adapt to the needs of the students, spending more time or digging deeper into a subject. In skills-based subjects like Math and Language Arts, students are also able to work at their own pace based on skill level, not grade level.



Science

In Science, students develop observational skills and curiosity while learning to use the scientific method. Throughout the year, students will study units across earth science, life science, physical science, and engineering. These units are designed to challenge our understanding of the world and encourage students to ask questions, gather information, and draw conclusions based on their observations. Technology and experimentation are used to enhance students' scientific learning.



Social Studies

In Social Studies, students develop empathy for and understanding of other cultures. They explore what makes a community and what their place is in their communities, both geographically and socially. Historical learning is placed in context with current events and taught in ways that are relevant to our students and in line with their age and grade level. Throughout the curriculum, we honor our commitment to social justice and teach from multiple perspectives so that our students become knowledgeable citizens of the world.



Torah

Torah study focuses on classic Jewish stories and connects the morals from those stories to apply to the students' lives today. Practically, students learn textual analysis and interpretation. They participate in group discussions and grapple with difficult questions.

Students also learn and explore the Jewish holidays and their traditions.



Hebrew

Hebrew language instruction begins in Kindergarten and progresses each year to develop speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. Students learn at their own pace with individual and small group support. Hebrew is reinforced throughout the school day in other subject areas, singing, and games. The curriculum also integrates Hebrew with the study of Jewish holidays and teaches about life in Israel.

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

Our classes use the STEAM educational approach to learning. This approach enhances critical thinking skills and helps students recognize the intersection of all subject areas in each topic they study and in the real world. It also encourages students to make meaningful choices to participate in hands-on learning experiences and problem solve using different and creative methods.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY

We instill universal moral values based on Jewish teachings. These include caring for the needy, seeking peace, pursuing justice, and loving the stranger. Students collect and donate food to local food shelves and meet regularly with "Grand-friends" to encourage intergenerational relationships. These values are integral to our curriculum and woven throughout our daily instruction in all subject areas.

Specialists



Art

Our Art curriculum focuses on personal expression through the creative process. We integrate basic skills such as color mixing, shape composition, and perspective into meaningful works of art that our students are proud of and others can enjoy. Students immerse themselves in various art mediums and make art inspired by the variety of cultures, artists, and art history they study.



Music

Our Music program involves each student in a total musical experience. Our curriculum includes singing, voice-building exercises, rhythm & dynamics, learning to play instruments, and reading musical notes. Students also study the music of different cultures and learn about prominent musicians and musical periods.



Technology

Our Technology curriculum starts by teaching foundational technology skills such as using logic to solve problems, building to achieve specific goals, and learning to devise an algorithm. Students advance to keyboarding and creating coding projects. Students also learn to use computers as classroom tools. They work with appropriate programs such as MS Word and Excel while building safe, age-appropriate online research skills.



Physical Education

The Physical Education curriculum is guided by national P.E. standards. We focus on developing the skills needed to participate in a variety of physical activities, with a strong focus on sportsmanship. We teach overall physical fitness, learning about good nutrition, and group cooperation.



Talmud Torah of St. Paul

ttsp.org | info@ttsp.org | (651)698-8807

768 Hamline Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55116