

KS YOUTH EXPERIENCES

Our Unified Curriculum

Growing up at Kerem Shalom is a dynamic process of growth and discovery, and every moment a young person engages in Jewish life is part of that journey. To guide our young people's continual learning, we have set these curricular elements that unite all our reimagined youth experiences at Kerem Shalom:

Big Ideas

Years from now, we hope our young members will understand and be able to use these big ideas, even after they have forgotten all the details:

- I have a place in the Jewish community.
- I can choose Judaism to challenge, comfort, and guide me throughout my life.
- I am called to be a partner in the ongoing work of creating and repairing the world.
- We encounter holiness in every person, in time, and in the world.
- Each of us receives, shapes, and transmits Jewish teachings and traditions in our own way.

Learning Objectives

By participating in youth programming at Kerem Shalom, we hope our young members will:

- **Feel confident and competent engaging in communal Jewish experiences.** This includes Hebrew, ritual, song, prayer, text study, and other skills necessary to participate in communal experiences at KS and in other Jewish communities.
- **Develop a fundamental knowledge base of Jewish tradition and life.** This includes a basic understanding of the stories, symbols, and rituals surrounding Jewish holidays; a familiarity with Jewish stories; a grasp of the arcs of Jewish history; and a sense of the diversity of Jewish ideas and practices worldwide.
- **Understand that they are responsible for their own Judaism.** This includes choosing how to observe Jewish practices, interpreting Jewish stories and teachings, applying Jewish values to daily life, wrestling with Jewish ideas, and working in partnership with others to repair the world.
- **Appreciate the importance of Jewish life in community.** This includes feeling a sense of belonging to Kerem Shalom and to the wider Jewish world, a responsibility for including others who wish to participate in Jewish life, and a desire to find and create Jewish homes and communities for themselves throughout their lives.

Annual Learning Theme

Each year Kerem Shalom adopts an annual learning theme for the entire congregation, uniting the entire community in a sense of common purpose and exploration. Each year we explore new stories, practices, and values from our tradition that help us make meaning in our changing world.

Learn more:

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