The Silver Academy uses the Reading Workshop method to build a community of readers. Reading workshop emphasizes the interaction between readers and text. Students learn to ask questions, make connections with prior knowledge and previously read texts, and ask clarifying questions. This research based model allows students to gain new skills through explicit teacher instruction, but the majority of the class time is spent on student exploration and application of newly acquired skills. The components of Reading Workshop include a short mini-lesson, where skills and strategies are taught, independent reading time for students to practice, teacher-student meetings to check for understanding, and sharing how new skills were applied during reading.

- In the first and second grades, students take charge of their reading by previewing and checking for comprehension, become more independent by learning how to solve tricky words, become experts at navigating nonfiction and participate in book clubs.
The Silver Academy also follows the Writing Workshop model to teach students to be purposeful in their writing and to use writing throughout all aspects of their day. The units build on top of one another from one grade to the next. Following the same framework as Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop contains mini lessons, writing time, and sharing opportunities.

- In the first and second grades, students write personal narratives, opinion pieces, poetry, and nonfiction.
At The Silver Academy, we use the HSP math series. HSP Math offers a well-balanced curriculum for instruction. New concepts begin with a check of prerequisite skills, are introduced and carefully modeled to build conceptual understanding, are developed with ample practice for numerical fluency, and are interconnected with problem solving and reasoning.

**Curriculum Focal Points by grade:**

**1st Grade**
- Developing understandings of addition and subtraction and strategies for basic addition facts and related subtraction facts.
- Developing an understanding of whole number relationships, including grouping in tens and ones.
- Composing and decomposing geometric shapes.

**2nd Grade**
- Developing an understanding of the base-ten numeration system and place-value concepts.
- Developing quick recall of addition facts and related subtraction facts and fluency with multi-digit addition and subtraction.
- Developing an understanding of linear measurement and facility in measuring lengths.
Science

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In first and second grade Science, students will continue their exploration of Science and working as a scientist. We will utilize the Lab Learner Hands on Science Program. Students will question, predict, experiment, analyze data, and form conclusions. Science class meets twice a week for 45 minutes.

Weight and Volume
- Exploring Weight and Balance
- Investigating the Pan Balance
- Examining the Weight and Volume of Solids
- Comparing Volume to Weight
- Exploring the Weight and Volume of Liquids

The Earth’s Surface
- Properties of Rocks and Minerals
- Comparing Rocks to Other Solids
- Rocks, Soil and Sand
- Percolation and Runoff
- Rainwater, Rocks and Soil

Water Cycle and its Phases
- Exploring Evaporation and Condensation
- Exploring Condensation and Precipitation
- Exploring Precipitation and Collection
- Exploring Pollution of the Water Cycle
- Exploring the Effects of Water Pollution
Health and Hygiene
- Hands and Hygiene
- Staying Healthy
- Dental Hygiene
- Fitness and Health
- Health and Nutrition

Investigating Sound
- Sounds and Vibrations
- Sound and States of Matter
- Sound and Volume
- Exploring Pitch and Sound
- Applying the Properties of Sound
Everyday Hebrew consists of two parts: Shalom BaKitah (in the classroom) and Shalom BaBayit uVaChutz (at home and outdoors). Shalom BaKitah familiarizes the children with their fellow students, the classroom environment, their daily routines and the learning process. Shalom BaBayit uVaChutz focuses on the objects and daily routines in the home, connecting them to the Jewish way of life, and with the natural world.

The Ariot unit presents the acquisition of the Alef-Bet through songs, stories, comprehension activities and games. The goal of the program is for the students to enjoy the Hebrew Language and develop the ability to understand Hebrew, read Hebrew, write in Hebrew, speak Hebrew and connect with the heritage of the Jewish people. Students will develop active vocabulary and communicate in Hebrew. The program includes a digital system with a sophisticated Learning Management System as well as a Hebrew environment including workbooks, posters, flashcards and games.
In the program, students use all the communication channels at their disposal to absorb the various content. Areas of emphasis include the following: listening – exposure to standardized Hebrew over an extended period of time, developing listening and focusing learners to that which they need to pay attention, reading – a combination of phonetic and whole language approach, writing – sharpening the letter to sound connection, speaking – confidence through oral expression in Hebrew, listening to oneself and building self confidence.

Students can learn anywhere and anytime. Learning is accelerated by both the digital components and the joy of learning in the classroom.
Hebrew & Judaic

2nd Grade

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 iTaLAM 2

Tov baKita u-vaBayit (Chayey Yom Yom)
Everyday Hebrew
Chayey Yom Yom

The material that will be taught in the Hebrew Language unit called “Chayey Yom Yom” is divided into two main topics: “In the Classroom” and “In the Home”. In the “In the Classroom” unit the students meet and get to know their classmates and they get better acquainted with the students in the virtual class that simulates the real class through first and last name. They welcome two new students: Yehuda, who comes from Israel, and Nurit, who didn’t learn at a Jewish school. The unit’s content is based on encouraging the students to express the knowledge they acquired in iTaLAM 1, and develops independent learning with an appreciation for what was learned. There is an emphasis on memory expression and learning to recall as a life skill by activating the memory notebook. The unit, “In the Home” deals with the cycle of the day at home, and expands the students’ vocabulary with respect to dressing, washing up, and proper nutrition while emphasizing the Jewish laws and customs associated with everyday Jewish life.

Chaggim

Holidays
The iTaLAM 2 Chaggim track focuses on preparations for each holiday. By teaching the preparations for the holiday, the symbols associated with the holiday are reviewed and the main concepts and ideas of the holiday which were taught in first grade. The students also learn the Torah source of the main mitzvot that are observed during the holiday, the historical background of the holiday and the connection between the holiday and the land of Israel.

### Shabbat

The Shabbat track is based on the view that Shabbat is a central and unifying component of Israel’s heritage. The program is an exciting, fascinating and varied experience. The contents and songs appear in the style of the Sephardic and Ashkenazi communities and enable diversity and identification of all streams and communities. The program begins with preparations for Shabbat and presents seder Shabbat with seven sections:

1. Lighting the Shabbat candles
2. The evening prayer and the first meal
3. Morning prayers and reading the Torah
4. The second meal
5. Mincha
6. The third meal
7. Havdalah

The students learn about the uniqueness of Shabbat, its values, holiness, memory, peace, family and more. The Shabbat routine corresponds to the seder hayom section on the Hebrew track and with the six days of creation and Shabbat in Bereshit from the Torah track. The program includes a digital track featuring a performance of the song “Seder Yom Shabbat” in a spectacular clip, presentations of Lecha Dodi and Havdalah poetry, activities, games, songs and creativity.

**Torah**

iTaLAM studies comprise a rich learning experience in which the main goals are as follows:

1. To make the Torah accessible to students and to give them the ability to listen, read, and understand what is written in the Torah
2. To empower students with the desire to study Torah
3. To develop skills that will enable students to become independent and enthusiastic Torah scholars, innovators, and creators.

The Torah track is coordinated with the other tracks of the iTaLAM 2 program: seder hayom, seder hashavua, the seasons of the year, and likewise enables learning through multiple intelligences and adapted instruction in the process of construction, thus enabling each student to learn, enjoy and love the Torah as a principle of life, and to find meaning and connection to their personal lives. The program includes a digital track with animated videos to illustrate the biblical text, internalizing activities, games, and an invitation to be creative – all this through an innovative experience. In order to demonstrate the biblical language, each video appears in two ways: the language of the Torah and the language of the classroom.

**Shalom Alef - Taf**

Additionally, for the 2020-21 school year, there will be a new unit added to iTaLAM 2, which includes games and activities from iTaLAM 1 in order to offer a review and strengthening of the content that was learned remotely during the spring.