Computer

Mr. Fortini

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Kindergarten

In Kindergarten Computer class, students learn basic computer skills that are the foundation for independent computer use. They develop confidence in navigating software using the mouse and in using the keyboard. Students use *Wixie*, a graphic design program, to create projects, often in collaboration with lessons in their regular and Judaic classrooms. This program allows students to learn to work with a set of tools and text within a framework that is appropriate for Kindergarten, and encourages creativity, problem solving and decision making. Students also use websites that parallel their development of language and math.

1st & 2nd

In first grade, students become academic computer users. They log on and off of the computers and learn basic document filing. There is an emphasis on word processing skills, as students complete projects that involve typing and text editing and formatting. Students learn to use various programs including *Word*, *PowerPoint* and *Excel* to enhance learning in their General and Judaic classrooms. Students also learn to navigate to a specific website, as well as follow links within a website.

An important component of the curriculum is programming. Students in first and second grade are introduced to the basic foundation of computer programming, which helps them develop problem solving skills, critical thinking and creativity.

Later students transition to using *Google Drive* and Google's program suite (*Google Docs, Sheets and Slides*), in their General and Judaic classes and learn to collaborate and communicate through these programs. Students experience using web-based programs, such as *Google Earth*, photo editors, and *Wordle*, as enhancements to their regular classroom learning. With their growing use of the internet, students learn computer ethics and safety.

Programming continues in third and fourth grade with a higher level of design, including loops.

4th and 5th

Students continue to build from the skills and knowledge they attained in prior years. Projects involve using more advanced program tools, and students learn to problem solve computer questions on their own. For example, students use Excel to analyze a financial situation and come up with the best solution. They also create a multimedia project using the web-based program *Prezi*.

Students use problem solving skills, critical thinking and creativity to complete a 3-D design project using *Sketchup*.

6th-7th-8th

The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade curriculum is mostly driven by two big events...student participation in the science fair and creating our school yearbook. Early in the year, students learn to use Excel as a database, create advanced charts, and format large spreadsheets, which gives them the knowledge they need to complete their science fair presentations. In the second half of the year, students work to create the yearbook. Students collaborate using a myriad of web tools to pull photos, graphics, fonts and other design elements together to make a beautiful keepsake. Students will also be using Google's "CS First" to gain an introductory level of understanding of coding.

Gym

Morah Sara

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Welcome to gym class. This year's gym class is focused around our school Middah of Areyvut (Communal Responsibility). It is important, especially while playing sports, to play as a team or community as well as understand that all of the success or failures of a group/team are that of that group/team. This year we have a lot of fun activities and sports that play around this theme of being part of a group or community and learning how to function together positively in that group.

Each month we will have a different unit that will have activities focused around the theme of Areyvut:

August /September	Locomotor Games (jumping, hopping, skipping, leaping, galloping, walking, jogging etc.)
October	Throwing/Catching Games
November	Body Management, Kicking
December	Kicking Games
January	Dance, Jump Rope, Yoga
February	Games Involving Implements (Hockey, Baseball, etc.)
March	Basketball Handling
April	Cooperative Games/Fitness
May/June	Review

Art

Morah Tamara
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Art Through the Ages

This year in art we will be following a curriculum called *Art Through the Ages*. While each grade will be exploring similar time periods the projects will all be geared to excite and inspire your young artist at an appropriate stage. We are starting in the ancient world featuring lessons inspired by Prehistoric times and ancient Egypt. These projects are a great way to start the year and begin building a toolbox of art techniques.

After studying the ancient world of Prehistoric cave art and ancient Egypt, taking students on a journey through ancient Greek and Roman times is a great step in their art history exploration. This is also a wonderful platform for exploring form.

In the Middle Ages we will dive into a world of castles, knights, royalty, mosaics and Gothic architecture. We will create art inspired by life during the Middle Ages that incorporates color theory, symmetry with Gothic architecture, proportion through portraits and more.

We will continue moving forward in time throughout the year touching on the Renaissance, Romanticism, Modern Art, Expressionism, and Pop-Art. Each time period offers new perspectives on what artists of the past have found important and opportunities to learn new techniques and master new skills.

This way of thinking about art dovetails beautifully with our Judaic curriculum and our tradition of studying the past to bring it into our future. I look forward to a year of exploration and artistic excitement with your children.

Music

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Lower School Music Curriculum

The lower school Music classes consist of listening, movement, playing rhythmic instruments and performing. The students learn and explore numerous music elements including dynamics, tempo, key and time signature, note and rest value, interval, chord, scale, timbre, texture and form. The students apply music theory concepts while working on developing sight reading skills. In past years the students performed at the Celebrations of Learning, The Jewish Home and The Residence and at the Chanukah Candle Lighting Ceremony at the State Capitol, as well as staging a spring musical. Due to the COVID limitations this year virtual opportunities will be explored as they arise and more emphasis will be placed on the fundamentals above.

Middle School Music Curriculum

The middle school Music classes consist of listening, movement, performing and writing original music and lyrics. The students continue to explore music theory with an emphasis on music notation and sight reading. The students are exposed to numerous elements of music history such as style, genre, musical instruments, composers and types of musical compositions. They discuss and analyze a diverse repertoire by European composers representing Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods, as well as American composers who created Blues, Jazz, Rock, Pop, Country, Folk and Electronic music. In past years the students performed at the Celebrations of Learning, The Jewish Home and The Residence and at the Chanukah Candle Lighting Ceremony at the State Capitol, as well as staging a spring musical. Due to the COVID limitations this year virtual opportunities will be explored as they arise and more emphasis will be placed on the curriculum above.