

Making Learning Relevant

Notes from BAS Staff Meetings

We discussed that we were motivated to take driver's ed classes because we knew learning to drive would enrich our lives, make us more independent, free, able to help others, and connect us to our friends and peers.

We want our students to be inspired to learn what we are teaching them. Through their Jewish education, our students will feel that their lives are enriched. They will know that with their Jewish education they can enrich their lives and identity, become more independent to fulfill mitzvot on their own, be inspired to help others, feel connected to their Jewish community....

How do we build and inspire connections between what the students are learning and living?

Tefillah and Hebrew skills become relevant to students when they:

- Understand the meaning and order of the Siddur
- Connect personally to the tefillot
- Use their tefillah skills when they attend Shabbat services, including at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Practice the tefillot at home with their parents
- Create their own tefillot/brachah to use outside of school
- Feel comfortable reading Hebrew in synagogue and at home
- Can perform holiday blessings and rituals in Hebrew
- Feel a connection to Israel through the language and music
- Feel a connection to the Jewish people through our common language
- Can read Torah in Shabbat services

Our students live mitzvot they learn in class when they:

- Practice Jewish rituals at home—ex. Saying the Chanukah blessings, reciting the 4 Questions, leading Shabbat brachot on Friday night...
- Learn from their parents where their family gives tzedakah
- Give Tzedakah at school and at home with a tzedakah box made in school
- Bring in a donation for a BAS tzedakah drive
- Understand that the Torah is the source of mitzvot that they do at school and in synagogue and at home
- Discuss a class Torah lesson at home, then share their families' ideas about the lesson in class
- Express a personal connection to Torah study
- Bring in money to plant trees in Israel
- Discuss with their parents what they learned about mitzvot