

Hebrew at the Anshe Chesed Hebrew School

Beginning in Gan (kindergarten), Anshe Chesed Hebrew School students begin to interact with the Hebrew language by learning key Hebrew words, singing Hebrew songs and prayers, and beginning to learn the Hebrew letters.

In Kitah Alef (1st) and Bet (2nd), students continue to strengthen their skills, focusing on fluid phonetic reading and understanding spoken Hebrew commands.

From Kitah Gimel (3rd) thru Kitah Vav (6th), students apply their developing skills to an innovative, self-paced Hebrew prayer and ritual program called *Mitkadem*. *Mitkadem*, which means “moving forward,” focuses on *Tefilah* (prayer) Hebrew, and is designed to empower students of different levels of Hebrew knowledge and background.

Rather than using a traditional textbook, *Mitkadem* consists of a series of pamphlets that cover 23 *ramot*, or levels. Each *ramah* focuses on a different core prayer from the *Tefilah* (prayer) service. In each *ramah*, students increase their Hebrew reading fluency, learn basic Hebrew grammar, increase their Hebrew vocabulary, and discuss important theological concepts as relate to the core prayers.

Students work on *Mitkadem* in *hevruta* (paired) groups of two to four students, each guided by a tutor. While not required, students are encouraged to purchase *ramot* to work on at home with their parents, if possible, and to attend synagogue services frequently in order to strengthen the connection between Jewish learning and Jewish living.

A copy of the *Mitkadem* materials can be accessed online at <http://urj.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=12537>.

