



2019-2020

PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE

# EIGHTH GRADE



For More Information Visit Our Website At:  
[www.hillelschool.org](http://www.hillelschool.org)

Hillel Community Day School partners with families to promote critical thinking, academic excellence and a love of learning for each child. In service to the entire Jewish community, we inspire a meaningful connection to Jewish customs, values and Israel.

# Health - Mrs. Debbie Jo Kummer

Students in the eighth grade HCDS health class will learn concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention in order to enhance health. They will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology and other factors on health behaviors. They will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health as they learn how to advocate for person, family and community health.

## **Eighth Grade Students Will (Course Outcomes):**

- Students will understand and recognize the relationship between behaviors and healthy development. They will understand ways to promote health and prevent disease and will demonstrate and practice positive health behaviors.
- Students will demonstrate personally and socially responsible behaviors. They will care for and respect themselves and others. They will recognize threats to their environment and offer appropriate strategies to minimize them.
- Students will understand the influence of culture, media, and technology in making decisions about personal and community health issues. They will know about and use valid health information, products, and services. Students will advocate for healthy families and communities.

## **Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

- Promotion of awareness of physical, mental, emotional and social developmental needs for optimal health throughout life.
- Developing and maintaining a lifestyle that promotes wellness by providing accurate and up-to-date health related information as the foundation for making educated, responsible, and healthy personal health decisions.
- Areas of study in this class will include Germs, Self-Management, Communication, Planning and Goal Setting, Advocacy, Relationship Management, FirstAid/CPR/AED (American Heart Association Heartsaver Course), Stress Management, How to Recognize Eating Disorders, Basic Dietary Guidelines, Functional Knowledge of Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Prevention of Unintentional Injuries.
- Instructional activities in the course will include team activities, presentations, lecture, independent work-study, and hands-on learning.
- Students will use textbooks, pamphlets as well as videos and computer programs to further the understanding of the course material.

## **What Can Parents Do?**

- Be a role model for healthy behaviors and talk with your teen about healthy behaviors.
- Ask your teen what they have learned in health class
- Enjoy your teen's accomplishments in school this year.



# ELA — Mrs. Laura Pullem

*In 8th grade, students will continue to build on the skills that have been introduced and developed in the lower grades. Each day, students will listen, speak, read, and write. They will read a variety of genres of literature, including novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. The selections will include a variety of subject matters and themes. Students will learn to read carefully, and to notice and write about literary elements such as character development and expressive language. Throughout the year, correct spelling, use of grade-level vocabulary, correct grammar, and accuracy will be stressed and graded. Students will also read independently, and they will be asked to respond to these personal book selections in both written and creative assignments.*

## **Eighth Grade ELA Students Will:**

- Learn how different genres provide a variety of reading experiences, and how all good literature contains many of the same elements of the writer's craft.
- Make personal connections to literature, and express their ideas by speaking and writing clearly.
- Develop more mature classroom behaviors and organizational skills and habits, appropriate for the middle school grades.
- Continues to refine strategies to read closely and comprehend increasingly complex text.

## **Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

- Sharing responses to literature in a discussion.
- Reading and writing in a variety of modes.
- Practicing, listening and speaking effectively.
- Using the writing process to publish quality final products.

## **What Can Parents Do?**

- Provide time and an environment conducive to reading, writing, and studying and monitor organization and homework completion daily.
- Help your child proofread by pointing out places where an error exists, and encourage your child to reread the passage and make the corrections.
- Encourage regular reading habits of a variety of materials, including newspapers or news websites, magazines, printed instructions, brochures, and package labels.
- Introduce new words to your child through conversation on a variety of topics, and encourage your child to speak clearly and coherently to you and others.
- Continue to read aloud to your child regularly



## Judaic Studies - Mr. Noam Nachshon and Mrs. Yael Nachshon

*Eighth Grade Judaic Studies includes Chumash/Torah, Nevi'im, Modern Israel Jewish History, The Holocaust, Talmud as a Hyper-linked Text*

### Eighth Grade Students Will:

- Engage in meaningful prayer and Jewish ritual.
- Study and analyze ancient and modern biblical commentaries.
- Explore the book of Samuel.
- Learn the laws and customs associated with milestones in a Jewish life, with an eye towards both Halacha (law) and Hashkafa (lens or point of view).
- Study the fascinating history of Jews in Israel
- Study the Holocaust
- Join in our dynamic program with the Jewish Home to create an intergenerational relationship
- Partner with our friends in modi'in

### Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Group learning through discussions, debates, classwork, and text readings
- Projects, presentations and field trips.
- Simulations and Dramatic Re-enactments

### What Can Parents Do?

- Make sure that your child has recorded their expected homework and plans to complete it in a timely manner.
- Check Sycamore for updates and more information.
- Discuss your child's learning with them. Ask questions, engage them in conversation, and encourage your child to teach you!
- Be aware that your child's Judaic Studies classes will be covering Jewish viewpoints that may be new to them. Help your child be open to hearing new ideas and supporting your child as he or she works to make sense of different ways of thinking, approaching text, and engaging with Judaism.

## Math — Mrs. Clara Fonda

### Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:

- Authentic assessments
- Collaborative group learning
- Math projects
- Classroom modeling of math skills
- On-line math tutorials and practice

### What Can Parents Do?

- Regularly practice real number computation at home.
- Review homework assignments and reinforce their understanding.
- Provide a quiet, distraction free homework environment.
- Encourage students to perform mental computations.
- Identify life experiences where they may apply their math skills.
- Encourage students to prepare for tests and quizzes.





# Regents Algebra— Mrs. Clara Fonda

*Eighth Grade Math at Hillel is Algebra 1. Algebra I is associated with high school content standards within four conceptual categories: Number & Quantity, Algebra, Functions, and Statistics & Probability. Each conceptual category contains domains of related clusters of standards. Students will learn how to use graphing calculators to solve complex math problems and discuss ways that Algebra is useful in the real world.*

## **Eighth Grade Students Will Learn:**

- Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Linear Functions
- Arithmetic Sequences
- Exponents
- Polynomials
- Quadratic Functions
- Roots & Irrational Numbers
- Statistics
- Modeling with Functions



# Conversational Ivrit (Hebrew)

*No only is Hebrew the language of our Jewish heritage, but it is a living, breathing language. With that in mind, we will be studying Hebrew as our Foreign Language" at HCDS. Our studies will be based on the New York State Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English (NYS LOTE) and on guidelines from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Our goal is to provide the tools for HCDS students to gain a level of proficiency in the modern Hebrew language by their graduation in 8th grade.*

## **Eighth Grade Students will:**

### **Reading**

- Read and understand complex Hebrew texts with fluency and accuracy

### **Writing**

- Compose essays using complex sentences, learned vocabulary, and correct grammar

### **Listening**

- Understand a longer story
- Understand plot structure
- Identify a problem in the text
- Analyze a piece from differing points of view

### **Speaking**

- Use complex sentence structure using past, present, and future tense
- Use positive and negative interrogative sentences, commands and conditional sentences

### **Grammar**

- Complex word forms
- Advanced verb conjugation and special cases
- Pronoun agreement for gender, number

## **Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

- Periodic vocabulary quizzes
- Individual and group written work
- Reading time and reading logs
- Short scripted and unscripted dialogues and monologues
- Listening to and/or reading passages for comprehension
- Various educational , vocabulary based games
- UlpanOr - iHebrew videos, dialogues, audio articles, and games

## **What Can Parents Do?**

- Check for completion of homework assignments
- Encourage your child to read in Hebrew
- Listen to Hebrew music and view Hebrew videos on YouTube



## Physical Education — Mr. Ken Soble

*Heavy emphasis on total fitness and how each area of individual students' spring fitness evaluations relates to a particular unit or sport (i.e., agility in soccer; flexibility in softball fielding). Continued development of sport-related skills and more advanced teamwork concepts are taught and expected of students in "middle school".*

### **Eighth Grade Students Will Learn:**

- Be exponentially more aware of the positive effect of stretching and various fitness activities.
- Exhibit better sports specific skills; expectation is one of improvement in each unit as well as continued progress in the area or sport of student's self-identified area of interest (based mostly on post-experience).

### **Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

- Jogging, musical exercise, sit ups and pulling bar (all fitness oriented).
- More specific contests and drills related to current sports units. Example: with soft-ball, contests that allow for the pitting of base runners versus fielders (a type of race). In volleyball, hand positioning and types of hits get specific attention for the first time.
- Floor hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball, golf, tennis, volleyball and lacrosse (all adjusted to age appropriateness)
- Activities to understand the relationship between physical activity and well being
- Team-building exercises
- General, non-sports related games and activities
- Daily drill, clinic, or contest on a sports-related skill or team concept.

### **What Can Parents Do?**

- Encourage more activity at home
- Make opportunities available for your child's participation in outside activities – martial arts, gymnastics and team sports, as well as walking and running.
- Model the behaviors expected for your child.
- Stay in touch with teacher for physical/social progress updates.



## Regents Living Environment

*Eighth Grade Science students will study the biology and chemistry of the natural world. They will receive a Regents credit in science for this class, which is a tenth grade class at Brighton. Students will learn to appreciate how scientific method can lead to a more complete understanding of the environment.*

### **Eighth Grade Students Will:**

- Be provided with knowledge of biology
- Study ecology and human impacts on the Earth
- Develop and use models
- Analyze and interpret data
- Write up a formal lab
- Perform 1,200 lab minutes with 4 state required labs
- Use next generation science standards

### **Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

- Hands on laboratory experiments
- Video viewings on science topics
- Research project
- Field trips
- Science Fair
- Castle Learning

### **What Can Parents Do?**

- Show interest in what your child is doing in school
- Provide a quiet place for your child to study
- Explore the environment with your child
- Help your child with time management
- Model curiosity about the environment and science



## Art — Miss Abbey Brothers

*This year in art we will continue to develop our appreciation for individuality and our ability to share personal feelings and ideas in a visual way. Eighth grade artists continue in our knowledge of art history, as well as our appreciation of diversity in our fellow students' ideas and work.*

### **Eighth Grade Artists Will Learn To:**

- Demonstrate use of skills, tools and processes with quality craftsmanship when planning and creating
- Present & Produce: students refine and prepare work for presentation
- Respond: analyze, interpret, and evaluate works of art; demonstrate knowledge of art vocabulary
- Connect: relates artistic work with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding
- Utilize methods of art criticism for both personal and peer work

### **Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

- Drawing - Colored Pencil, cray-pas, crayons
- Painting – Watercolor/Acrylic
- Sculpture
- Printmaking
- Mixed Media
- Fibers and Craft Media
- Media and Technology

### **What Can Parents Do?**

- Model the enjoyment of art
- Take your child(ren) to galleries, plays, concerts.
- Encourage respect and appreciation for all artists and their unique “voices”.
- Continue to encourage creative thinking in all aspects of their lives.

## Music — Mr. Jack McMahon

*The content of the HCDS music curriculum is primarily Judaic based. Eighth grade repertoire will include songs that teach Hebrew vocabulary, Jewish holidays, Torah stories and Jewish values. More attention will be given to liturgical texts as well as exposure to music from different heritages, ex. Yiddish and Ladino. At this level students will also start to learn the historical relevance of music, such as Holocaust music. Secular and American holiday music will also be included. Continued work on rhythm, pitch and choral singing skills will be incorporated into the curriculum.*

### **Eighth Grade Music Students Will Learn:**

- Reinforce and learn Hebrew vocabulary through song.
- Sing songs which stress Jewish values.
- Learn the sources of songs based on the liturgical and Torah texts.
- Be exposed to different melodies for the same prayers.
- Sing Jewish and American holiday songs.
- Sing traditional Jewish music as well as songs by contemporary song writers.

### **Classroom Activities May Include, But Are Not Limited To:**

- Beginning each class with vocal warm ups.
- Identifying notes on keyboard
- Learning note and rest values
- Reading notes on staff.

### **What Can Parents Do?**

- Ask what your child did in music class.
- Take your child to musical events in the community.
- Provide opportunities for your child to listen to a varied musical repertoire.



## Social Studies — Mrs. Laura Pullem

Grade 8 Social Studies is arranged chronologically, beginning with Reconstruction and ending at the present, and incorporates geography as well as economic, social and political trends. The course content is divided into nine Key Ideas; the first seven trace the human experience in the United States from Reconstruction to the end of World War II. The last three Key Ideas examine different themes in United States and New York State history from the post-War period up to the present day, which provides the opportunity to explore contemporary issues.

### **Eighth Grade Students Will Learn About:**

- Reconstruction
- A Changing Society and the Progressive Era
- The United States as an Expansionist Nation
- World War I and The United States between Wars (World War I, Roaring Twenties, Great Depression)
- The United States Assumes Worldwide Responsibilities (World War II, Foreign Policy)
- From World War II to the Present: The Changing Nature of the American People (Demographic Change, Domestic Politics and Reform)



### **What Can Parents Do?**

- Provide adequate time and an environment conducive to reading, writing, and studying.
- Monitor homework daily by checking the planner for assignments and papers for completion.
- Introduce your child to maps, graphs, and charts from newspapers, magazines, websites, and other daily life sources. Discuss them with your child, and check for understanding.
- Discuss current events and share personal memories and family stories.

## S.T.E.A.M. — Ms. Tara Wiseman

Students will be participating in a collaboration with the Seneca Park Zoo. They will be assisting with a research project, based in Madagascar, that focuses on habitat reforestation (i.e. repopulating trees to the natural landscape).

### **Eighth Grade Students Will Learn About:**

- Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.
- Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.
- Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
- Use models and simulation to explore complex systems and issues.
- Use information provided in manuals or by experienced people to see and understand how things work.
- Describe and illustrate a concept or process using a model, simulation or concept-map.

### **Group Challenges May Include, But Are Not Limited To the Following Tools:**

Animation-ish  
BridgeDesigner  
Comic Life  
CrazyTalk  
Fischertechnik  
Frames-Stop  
Pixie Geographic Information Hour of Code  
IQ Key  
K'Nex  
MaKey MaKey  
PowerPoint  
Scratch  
Solar Oven  
Stop Motion Animation  
LEGO Mindstorms EV3 Robotics Photoshop  
Elements  
Punch Home Design Suite  
Sphero  
Tinker Cad  
Vernier Science

### **What Can Parents Do?**

- Ask your children about STEAM class
- Read articles about technology with your children
- Discuss Block-chain with your children

**Notes**

**Notes**