



TOURO SYNAGOGUE RELIGIOUS

Our Educational Philosophy

In our Torah it is written and in our prayers we recite: "and you will teach [the Torah] diligently to your children." This is the scriptural inspiration for our school. But learning is not just the acquisition of knowledge; it is a process of personal growth and development. Our school is a caring community emphasizing structured classes, creative activities, and warm relationships. We want our students to develop a positive Jewish identity through a comprehensive exploration of Judaism that involves their families along with them. Parents are an integral part of our program's success.

Our Educational Goals

When Jewish learning goes hand in hand with participation in Synagogue life, it strengthens faith in God, love of Torah, connection to Israel, and identification with all Jewish people. Judaism contains answers to the challenges and questions confronting us daily.

We want our educational programs to encourage and inspire children and adults to become:

1. Jews who affirm their Jewish identity and bind themselves inseparably to their people by word and deed.
2. Jews who bear witness to the *Brit* (the Covenant between God and the Jewish People) by embracing Torah, and the study and observances of *Mitzvot* (commandments).
3. Jews who affirm their historical bond to Eretz Yisrael, the state of Israel.
4. Jews who study and cherish Hebrew, the language of the Jewish people.
5. Jews who value and practice *Tefillah* (prayer).
6. Jews who pursue Justice, Freedom and Peace by the practice of *Tzedek* (Righteousness), *Mishpat* (Justice), *Chesed* (Loving Deeds) and *Tikkun Olam* (Healing the World)
7. Jews who celebrate Shabbat and Festivals and observe Jewish ceremonies marking significant occasions in their lives.
8. Jews who respect themselves and respect the dignity of all others.

9. Jews who express their kinship with *K'lal Yisrael* (community of Jewish people) by actively seeking the welfare of Jews throughout the world.
10. Jews who support and participate in Synagogue life.

Such Jews will strengthen the fabric of Jewish life, ensure the future of Judaism and of the Jewish people, and approach the realization of their divine potential.