



## **Ikaron Curriculum Summaries**

### **30 lessons per level, plus 10 Sunday family programs**

IKARON ushers each child on a journey of discovery, helping them to uncover an authentic connection to the time-tested teachings of Judaism. We do this through project-based learning, music, interactive activities, and opportunities to explore personal connections. Through exposure to prayer, ritual, Shabbat and festival observance, and Torah study, IKARON students will embrace life lessons guided by Jewish ethics. Hebrew vocabulary and connection to the land of Israel are reinforced throughout.

#### **Ikaron offers 4 levels of learning:**

- Ikaron 1-Alef (TK - K) *in person only*
- Ikaron 2-Bet (Grades 1-2)
- Ikaron 3-Gimmel (Grades 3-4)
- Ikaron 4-Dalet (Grades 5 and up)

**Ikaron Alef** offers in-person learning for children in grades TK and K. In IKARON Alef, the theme of the year is **Beginnings**. Students learn to say/sing words of basic prayers and think about the idea that prayer is talking to G-d in ourselves and beyond. They learn the 'Why' of Jewish holidays and the purpose of rituals and ritual items associated with each holiday. Students develop a familiarity with the stories and people throughout the book of Genesis, the Exodus story, revelation at Sinai and the scroll of Esther. By learning sounds of Hebrew letters, using Hebrew words related to each lesson, students gain emerging recognition of letter sounds. Through stories from Torah, students learn that Israel has historically been a special land to the Jewish people. Children also develop character by learning about the following themes which are woven through the lessons: being charitable, fixing mistakes, being a good host, expressing gratitude to God, appreciating Torah study, seeing beauty in nature, and being courageous.

IKARON is an initiative of the Jewish Collaborative of Orange County.

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**Ikaron Bet** offers in-person **or** online learning for children in grades 1 and 2. *The online option for Ikaron Bet requires adult involvement during lesson time.* Level Bet's theme is **Blessings**. Through prayer time, learning about Jewish holidays and Torah stories, students gain insight into the purpose of blessings: They learn blessings for food, blessings for rituals, blessings for events and what it means to be a blessing. Students develop character by learning to recognize opportunities and circumstances as blessings. Ikaron Bet students develop Hebrew language skills by learning Hebrew vowel sounds and pairing vowels with letters.

**Ikaron Gimmel** offers in-person **or** online for children in grades 3 and 4. Level Gimmel theme is **Jewish time**. Students in IKARON Gimmel learn the Hebrew days of the week, the names of Jewish months and dates of Jewish holidays. They learn about Rosh Chodesh and the lunar month. Students learn about the meaningful progression of the cycle of the Jewish year. IKARON Gimmel includes a focus on seasons/times of the year in which each Torah story took place. Level Gimmel students keep an 'Achrayut - responsibility' journal, which reinforces familiarity with the Jewish calendar while building a strong sense of personal and familial responsibility.

**Ikaron Dalet** offers in-person **or** online learning for students in grade 5 and beyond. The theme for IKARON Dalet is **Prayer**. While expanding depth of knowledge on a continuum of lessons about Jewish Holidays, Torah people, Hebrew language and the land of Israel, Level Dalet students focus on meaning and opportunities of prayer, historically and at present. Students learn the value of both communal prayer and individual prayer. Students learn about opportunities of Shabbat and Holiday prayers. Students learn from personalities in Torah text who spoke to G-d from their unique circumstances. Each IKARON Dalet student keeps a 'Soul check' journal in which he/she develops and expresses a personal voice of prayer.