

Central Synagogue—8th and 9th Grade Programming

Program Options:

1. 8th and 9th Grade Jewish Leadership Institute

Highlights:

- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm
- 5 seminars (~6 weeks each), with select tracks culminating in a special event or trip in line with the theme of the course (schedule below)
- Students will learn from influential lay leadership within our congregation, explore how Jewish values have impacted these professionals' growth and success, and begin to develop their own role as Jewish leaders
- Access to all outside programming, service opportunities, and trips
- Special one-on-one time with our staff and clergy to match students with lay leadership opportunities
- Students are expected to attend 80% of classes

*Weekend trip (Civil Rights, RAC L'taken Trip to D.C) fees are not included in program cost.

Please Note: Trips will take place if it is safe to travel.

2. 8th and 9th Grade Seminars

Highlights:

- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm
- Flexibility to enroll in 1-4 seminars (~6 weeks each), with select tracks culminating in a special event or trip in line with the theme of the course (schedule below)
- Program options to fit students' schedules
- Access to all outside programming and service opportunities
- Students are expected to attend all 6 sessions in each seminar they sign up for—excused absences allowed with notice and on a case-by-case basis

*Weekend trip (Civil Rights, RAC L'taken Trip to D.C) fees are not included in program cost.

Please Note: Trips will take place if it is safe to travel.

NOTE: In our 8th and 9th Seminars program, students may only register for a trip/special event if they are also enrolled in its corresponding seminar. (i.e. enrollment in Jewish American History gives access to the Study Trip in April.)

2021-2022 (5782) Seminar Schedule

Seminar 1, Sept 21 - Oct 26, 2021:

8th and 9th Grades: Challenges and Choices (Ethics 2.0)

Seminar 2, Nov 2 - Dec 14, 2021:

8th Grade: Jewish Cooking

9th Grade: Jewish Advocacy

Seminar 3, Jan 4 - Feb 15, 2022:

8th and 9th Grades: American Jewish History

Seminar 4, Mar 1 - Apr 12, 2022:

8th Grade: Israeli Pop Culture

9th Grade: Jewish Cooking

Seminar 5, April 26 - May 24, 2022:

Leadership Institute Participants: Jewish Leadership

Please Note: Students enrolled in the Leadership Institute will take each seminar one time.

Seminar Descriptions

1. Challenges and Choices (Ethics 2.0) (8th and 9th Grades)

Through an interactive and experiential values-based curriculum adapted from The Mussar Institute, students will gain a repertoire of practical ways to become their “best selves.” In this seminar, students will create a deeper connection with Judaism while also navigating life choices in thoughtful and productive ways.

Seminar Outline:

- Facilitated discussions and activities grounded in Jewish values, or *middot*
- We will address mental health stressors and ethical decision making, attending to the social and emotional needs of students
- Identify, study, and apply the practical implications of Jewish wisdom
- Focus on balancing inner qualities to support in management of stressful situations involving friends, school, family, social media, and more

2a. Jewish Cooking (8th Grade)

Students will engage with Judaism's vibrant history, unique rituals, and diverse culture through a hands-on, interactive culinary experience.

Seminar Outline:

- Prepare, cook, and partake in a variety of traditional Jewish foods
- Analyze how food has become an important part of Jewish tradition and culture
- Trace traditional "Jewish" foods to their historical roots, identifying how they came to be associated with Judaism
- Identify and prepare foods associated with many of the major Jewish holidays

2b. Jewish Advocacy (9th Grade)

Students will build the skills needed to engage with and make a difference in issues close to their hearts. Students will have the option to participate in the RAC's L'taken Seminar in Washington, DC.

Seminar Outline:

- Knowledge of advocacy and the process of community organizing through lobbying and legislation
- Learn about events in which the Jewish community played a role in advocacy work and the Jewish leadership behind those initiatives
- Text-based and historical analysis into how this work is important in our Jewish tradition
- Students will regularly discuss current events, learning how to view the world through a nuanced, Reform Jewish lens
- Students can participate in the Religious Action Center's L'taken Seminar, where they will engage with local and/or state politics, discuss important issues of their choosing, and lobby their representatives on Capitol Hill

3. American Jewish History (8th and 9th Grades)

Students will study the history of the Jewish involvement in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. In this comprehensive seminar, students will identify prominent Jewish leaders and analyze the impact American Jewry had on this crucial time in our United States history.

Seminar Outline:

- Text-based and historical analysis into what Jewish tradition teaches us about caring for our neighbors
- Identify prominent Jewish leaders of the 1960s and list their contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, including helping to found and fund Historically Black Colleges and Universities, marching in protests, and drafting legislation
- Articulate the role of the American Jewish population in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, as well as its continued impact on poignant social justice issues today
- Students in this seminar will have the opportunity to participate in the Etgar 36 Civil Rights Study Trip to Alabama in April

4a. Jewish and Israeli Pop Culture (8th Grade)

Students will analyze how Judaism influences American and Israeli movies, television shows, art, and Jewish food in this interactive and hands-on seminar.

Seminar Outline:

- Study the role Judaism plays in movies and TV shows
- Analyze how and why Israeli television has reached a global audience
- Trace modern “Jewish” foods to their traditional roots, identifying how they came to be associated with Judaism
- Create Jewish ritual items and artwork by learning the history of Jewish art and artists in North America, Europe, and Israel

4b. Jewish Cooking (9th Grade)

Students will engage with Judaism’s vibrant history, unique rituals, and diverse culture through a hands-on, interactive culinary experience.

Seminar Outline:

- Prepare, cook, and partake in a variety of traditional Jewish foods
- Analyze how food has become an important part of Jewish tradition and culture
- Trace traditional “Jewish” foods to their historical roots, identifying how they came to be associated with Judaism
- Identify and prepare foods associated with many of the major Jewish holidays

5. Jewish Leadership (Jewish Leadership Institute Participants)

Students will learn from Jewish leaders across industries to better understand how their Judaism and Jewish values motivate leadership and success.

Seminar Outline:

- In-depth discussions with a variety of Jewish leaders from across industries who will share their experience and expertise
- Identify and curate individual leadership styles through strength-based activities
- Study influential Jewish leaders—past and present—and analyze their leadership styles
- Special sessions with Central clergy and staff to develop leadership roles and skills

Program Costs

1 Seminar: \$900

2 Seminars: \$1050

3 Seminars: \$1200

4 Seminars: \$1350

8th/9th Jewish Leadership Institute (5 seminars): \$1500