

**CIE Proposal Draft
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**Israel is our Home Away from Home
An Israel arts-based curriculum**

Welcome to Israel, our **Home Away from Home**. This is a new kind of Israel program!

Some thirty years ago I went to Camp Tel Yehudah. I learned a lot about Israel and Zionism; we were Zionists twenty four/seven. Between bunk activities, out of camp trips, Shabbat, and special programs and days, the camp program and experience brought non-stop Israel excitement, Israel exploration, and Israel fun! If a group was studying the history of *kibbutzim* and were milking cows (yes, we had cows at camp), we just didn't stop at the cows.

We will be doing something similar with the new Israel arts-based program. Over a nine-month period, students will have the opportunity to explore their Jewish and Israel identity all through hands-on activities. There are chances to cook Israel, hear Israel, dance Israel, see Israel, draw Israel, and more. The process of learning about Israel will be: multi-sensory, multi-modality, and designed to build memories.

Why Art?

Art can tell a story, influence and educate others, and inspire action, all while learning the language of Israel along the way.

Our Students will:

- Learn and practice techniques for making Jewish/Israeli art projects
- Consider how Israeli/Jewish art can influence society
- Explore the impact of photos in social media and consider the stories they tell about Israel
- Learn how the arts spread influence throughout Jewish history
- Curate a meaningful final exhibit at the end of the school year to be shared with the rest of school community

Goals:

Our program has the potential to be a significant gateway to Jewish and Israel engagement; it has the potential to be a significant milestone in the lifelong Jewish journey of our students. Although this program is arts-based, it is also very much an educational experience. Students will have a break from the familiar textbooks and the everyday school learning. There will be an emphasis on the group and the community. We will explore Israeli and Jewish topics, themes, and questions. The educational aspiration is to provide participants with a setting where they can encounter and inquire about their own connections and unfolding understandings of themselves as members of the Jewish people and Israel. In what ways do I want to incorporate being Jewish in my life? What is my connection to Israel?

Our Team:

Our work is not only focused on the student, it is also focused on the educator. Our educators will be collaborating together as a team, working together with all grade levels and with our teen *Madrichim*, who are also an important part of this work. We think better and perform more competently when we work as a team, when we strive to cooperate and collaborate.

Key Concepts/Ideas of this Program:

- Hebrew Language connects students to the language of the Jewish people. Help the students find key words and phrases that are found in the *tefillot* and Torah.
- Israel is our land. We are connected to Israel through the Torah.
- *Mitzvot* applies Jewish values to modern issues in Israel today.
- Holidays and their connection to the Land (Sukkot, Passover, Shavuot).
- Zionism: Jews have always longed for Israel, and many realized their dream to return to Zion.

Description of the project:

Israel, our **Home Away from Home**, is twenty units throughout the 2016-17 school year. It is designed for Grades Two-Five.

Texts and Primary Sources:

We will use as much primary source materials as possible. We will explore a song by Naomi Shemer, Agnon's Alef Bet Poems, Israeli stamps, texts drawn from the areas of *Tefillah*, Torah, *Mitzvot* and Holidays.

Places to Visit:

During the school year, students will set out on a journey to the Jewish Museum in New York, using the city to explore and learn.