CURRICULUM ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS and ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS
K-2	What does it mean to be Jewish? Who is in my Jewish community? What are the basic symbols, places and people of Jewish life? What are Jewish holidays and Shabbat, and how do we celebrate them? How do my Jewish acts connect me to the Jewish story and the Jewish people? How is my life connected to Torah values and the cycle of the Jewish year? What are Jewish stories? What is Israel?	The synagogue and community are my home. Jewish holidays center around certain themes. Torah stories teach us about what it means to be Jewish and our history. Hebrew is the language that Jews from all over the world can use to communicate. The Jewish concept of values and mitzvot can be observed. We use blessings to mark special moments and to say thank you. Israel is a Jewish state.
3-5	How can I find space in my everyday habits for connection to being Jewish? How can Torah help me live a meaningful Jewish life? How can I understand and express my relationship with God or the Jewish people? How do I connect to Jewish holidays and Shabbat? Why do I celebrate them? What can I learn from Torah? Why does Israel matter?	Judaism has meaningful rituals, expectations and customs. Mitzvot can be both ethical and ritual, and observing them helps me to make my life more holy. Reading Hebrew allows us to participate in synagogues and be part of the Jewish communities everywhere. Tefillah is a personal and communal experience. Israel is the Jewish homeland.
6-7	How does ritual help me connect with my Jewish community? How can participation in Jewish life help me grow spiritually, communally and morally? What is my role in the Jewish community? What makes a good Jewish leader and how can I become a good Jewish leader? What are our historical connections to the Land of Israel?	Judaism has meaningful rituals, expectations and customs that allow me to form a Jewish identity. Reading Hebrew allows us to participate in synagogues and be part of the Jewish communities everywhere. We have many leaders in the Torah from whom we can learn. I can have a unique role in the Jewish community. Israel gives Jews from all over the world a homeland. Tefillah is a personal and communal experience.