

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

The performing arts curriculum covers three areas of skills: vocal, instrumental, and drama. Students of all grades are exposed to these skills at all grade levels. The students become proficient in vocal skills at the same time they are introduced to musical instruments. Movement and dramatic arts are a large part of the curriculum. All students receive one period per week of performing arts in our music room.

### **VOCAL SKILLS**

The students will:

- Master traditional Jewish holiday songs.
- Learn modern Israeli music.
- Learn integrated songs from Hebrew language programs (Tal Am and Neta).
- Learn patriotic American songs.

The Academy Choir is the main vehicle for learning Israeli music in the upper grades. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grades are eligible to join the choir. There are no “try-outs” and any child interested may join. The choir meets once a week, in addition to the one music period given to each class. The Academy Choir performs at many school occasions, and it is the main group that represents the school in the community. The choir performs at many community celebrations and also has sung the National Anthem at local minor league baseball games. Our choir brings spirit and joy to the school community.

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

Instruments are an integral part of the Academy curriculum. In the music room there are guitars, keyboards, recorders, bells, and other instruments. The music teacher integrates these tools while teaching songs. Each keyboard is equipped with earphones, thus giving the students an opportunity to work on different music. The room is open during recess to allow students extra access to the instruments.

- Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders are taught bells.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders are taught recorder.
- 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are taught keyboard, guitar, and djembe drums

### **DRAMA**

Movement is introduced to all students during music classes, and teachers incorporate drama and dance in a variety of lessons during regular class activities and holiday presentations. A school-wide Chanukah program is presented each year, and each class sings and may incorporate dance or musical instruments into their performance.

Talent shows are presented during the year. All students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades are given the opportunity to display their talents in music, drama, or any other medium they choose. The music teacher coordinates the show and works with each child. The show strengthens the students' self-esteem and boosts their confidence in public speaking and performing in front of a large audience.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Purim play is the culmination of the music and drama curriculum and the highlight of the graduating year. A special director is hired for this purpose, and the class spends three to four months writing the play with their language arts teacher and rehearsing with the director. The play is performed for the student body during the day and for the parents and extended Hebrew Academy family in the evening. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders perform the duties of a stage crew, learning about props, lighting, sound, and other aspects of play production.