



## Library Purpose Statement Elizabeth Braverman, Library Teacher

The two main goals of the library program are to foster a love of books and reading, and to teach library and literary skills in a way that incorporates the values and mission of the school. To this end, library class for Gan begins with reading aloud the very best picture books while reviewing concepts such as the definitions of author, illustrator, and title. Gan students pretend they are books on a shelf and learn to arrange themselves in alphabetical order. The middle grades similarly learn to use the Dewey Decimal System and various resources for research. Older students participate in specialized library programs that incorporate the values of dereh eretz and honoring diversity with traditional library learning. For example, fourth-graders learn about literary and illustration techniques by reading aloud and discussing picture books about diversity. Then, they write and illustrate their own books, on this topic, to share with classmates, family, and community. Fifth-graders read and discuss traditional and non-traditional fairy-tales and explore universal themes and differences before writing their own plays in this genre.