

YESHIVA OHAVEI TORAH - POLICIES

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance in school is essential. All students are required to be in class and on time throughout the school day. Missed time is detrimental to the student academically, and late entrances have a negative impact on the rest of the class.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: There are a maximum of 9 excused absences per semester [5 months], not to exceed 17 excused absences for the whole year. Absence due to disciplinary measures will be counted toward this total. Doctor's appointments, or other scheduled absences **not cleared in advance** will be considered **unexcused** absences.

If a student awakens to a situation where he is unable to attend yeshiva that morning a message is to be left on the school phone **at extension 108** first thing in the morning with information as to where the student can be reached. Absence due to emergency or the like, must be explained via a note from the doctor or parent, in order to be considered excused. **Travel arrangements** and/or absences for a Simcha **must be cleared with the Menahel before** you finalize your plans. Please let's avoid unnecessary frustration!

During Finals and Regents week, the yeshiva makes every attempt to give the boys ample time to study and is very sensitive to the extra tension during this time. However, the school schedule that is set is applicable to **every** Talmid. If a boy takes off the day before a Final or Regents in order to study, he will not be allowed into school the day of the exam.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: The first incident of an unexcused absence for a student may result in a 1-point reduction of grade in EACH course missed. The second incident may cause a 2-point reduction in each course missed, **plus any other censure deemed appropriate by the Hanhala.**

CUTS: A cut is defined as absence from one or more classes, unsanctioned by both Hanhala and parents. A cut is considered a breach of discipline and will be dealt with as such. If a student is more than 10 minutes late to class, that is considered a cut. If a student leaves class for a reason not approved by the Rabbi or teacher, it will be counted as a cut. Any student who cuts class may be

subject to detention, in addition to the point penalty. Repeated cuts will earn penalties which may include suspension, or any other measures deemed necessary by the administration.

The Yeshiva will make every effort to notify parents at least one day in advance of impending detention, so they can make alternative transportation arrangements for their children.

TARDINESS: Any student coming later than 11:00 am, will not be admitted to any classes for the day, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Any student coming late should go directly to the office, with a note from his parents explaining his lateness, and only with this note signed by the office, should he proceed to his classroom.

LEAVING GROUNDS: Students belong on school **grounds and are not permitted to leave the block of the yeshiva**. Dorm boys will only be allowed to go to Key Food after 9:30pm providing they have received permission from Rabbi Saslow and have a signed parental permission slip on file in the office.

MID-WINTER: Under no circumstances will a boy be permitted to go to Florida unless he is traveling with his parents. Any vacation plans made as a group (not with family only) need to be approved by the Hanhala.

SUMMER: Please understand that your *diamond* is our joint investment in which the Rebbe pours 10 months of all his כוחות. Poor discretion as to how your son spends his summer could severely curtail our mutual efforts. **There are some camps, summer jobs and destinations that are not consistent with Yeshiva standards and are unacceptable. Please check your son's plans with the Hanhala.** The Yeshiva will work with you to insure summer plans that are satisfactory to all.

DRESS CODE: An overall appearance consistent with that of a *Ben Torah* demonstrates that the bochur sees himself and portrays to others that he is indeed a Ben Torah. The dress code will be strictly enforced. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that he is in compliance with the guidelines. Violators of the code **will not be permitted into any classes** until the warranted corrections

have been made. When necessary to help remedy their son's appearance, parents may be asked to pick up their son from Yeshiva. Multiple infractions may result in detention or suspension. Absences and lateness caused by dress code violation will be considered unexcused.

Yamulkas: black velvet or terylene, appropriately sized so as not to require bobby pins. Shirts: Light-colored button down [dress] shirts. Jacket: Boys must bring a proper "davening" jacket [no sweaters or windbreakers] and hat. Dressing properly during davening is a sign of respect for *HKB"H*, therefore the hat and jacket must be in good condition. Sweatshirts or windbreakers will only be permitted during outdoor recess and gym periods, and may not have any writing or pictures. Pants: Dark-colored dress pants. Shoes: Black shoes. No clogs or slippers of any form. Socks must cover the ankles. Hats used in the winter for warmth must be a solid dark color, with no letters or logos on them.

HAIRCUTS

Our hair is certainly a prominent part of our צורה. Overly long or combed straight back hair is not consistent with a Ben Torah. Unfortunately, at times our צורה is altered innocently through the services of others. As of late, there has been a trend among barbers to give a very, very short cut on the sides while leaving a bush of hair on the top traveling to under the yarmulke.

Aside from the Halachic questions that arise, it is certainly not consistent with the צורה of a fine Ben Torah. Please use discretion as to which barber you use and be vocal about what you want in a haircut. If a boy does come to yeshiva with a haircut as described, he will be sent home for a minimum of 48 hours before we have a conversation. He will be expected to trim the top dramatically.

UNAPPROVED ITEMS: Students may not be in possession of the following items while in Yeshiva. Any of these items, if found in the possession of a student will result in **permanent confiscation** of the item, and a disciplinary measure or fine. The list is as follows: Any form of mobile communication, including but not limited to: Laptops, Samsung Galaxy, Game Boys, Blackberry RIMs, iPhones, radios, and MP3 players. No computer games, laser pointers or **cameras**. Absolutely, **no cell phones will be allowed**, not in the Yeshiva, not in the vans and not in the dorm. They will be immediately and permanently confiscated and

July 24, 2019

Dear Parents, עמור"ש

As the summer is progressing, it is our continued תפילות are that the boys rest and rejuvenate their bodies in an environment of Torah and קדושה. I want our precious sons to have the ability to grow to their greatest potential through a harmonious revitalization of body and soul. If there is any way I can help you make your sons' summer more productive, please feel free to contact me on my cell: 732-330-0306.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the first day of yeshiva begins Monday, September 2nd.

I am sure that you will also want to prepare your sons on a more practical level for the next school year. There are sales throughout the summer that you may want to take advantage of, so allow me to discuss the dress code (which will also be included in the yeshiva mailing later this summer) early on. This will allow you to spend your money judiciously and prevent the frustration of hard-earned money going for clothing that is not allowed.

The fact is that clothing does indeed "make the man." Of course, we recognize that teenagers are by definition a more casual social group! Yet, we as the adults in their lives must insist on a modicum of dignity that helps them define themselves as Bnei Torah, boys who represent the privileged group of those who dwell in הקב"ה's court.

To this end, we have developed a dress code that is as tolerant as we feel we can be while still remaining faithful to this principle. We expect the boys to dress this way **both in and out of yeshiva**. They are representatives of הקב"ה at all times. Anything more casual than this will not be allowed and unfortunately will be a wasted purchase.

- Pants should be either black or navy. They may be cotton as long as they can have a crease down the leg. They may not be jean-like. They must be loose fitting and not have a narrow leg.
- Shoes must be totally black including all parts of the soles. Socks must cover the ankles.

- Shirts for 9th and 10th grades may be light-colored button-down or light-colored vertical stripes (no boxes or plaids). Material should be cotton or polyester in the style of a dress shirt, not knitted or clingy. **11th and 12th graders are to wear white shirts only.**
- Yarmulkas must be black velvet or terylene and appropriately sized so as not to require bobby pins. There are many custom yarmulkas today of different colors **and textures that will not be allowed both in and out of yeshiva.**
- The boys should have a **dignified hat and jacket** for davening. We also expect that the boys wear a hat and jacket to all tefillos at home both during the week and on Shabbos. We feel very strongly about this and really expect and appreciate your cooperation. Please make sure that your son has another hat and jacket at home.

Please understand that the world today is not the one you and I grew up in. We need to be more specific about identifying ourselves as yeshiva bochrin. We want to ensure that our sons do not end up included with the very crowd we worked so hard to have them avoid!

There is no question that there are many wonderful people who are strong in their עבודת ה' and do not adhere to these rules. However, we all understand the prudence of committing ourselves to a dress code. Following this code gives them the great advantage of developing a sense of their own dignity and propriety, a keystone of their growing character.

In addition to making the dress code clear, we would like to take this opportunity to articulate two other policies that are similarly important to the development of the boys' sense of themselves as part of a special community and as young men of character and respect: requirements for haircuts and our policy on cell phones.

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Technology's involvement in and influence on our lives has accelerated so rapidly in recent years that it has become ever more crucial to be vigilant and self-aware concerning its use. This is especially important for the bochrin who absorb so much of the stimulus around them, which then becomes a part of who they are. To this end, we

are implementing very specific regulations on the use of cell phones, iPod, iPads, Tablets, etc.

Of course the most encouraged situation is where the תלמיד doesn't have any phone. If one feels he must, then the best option is just a phone with no smart technology, a choice we will be encouraging through incentives.

If one acquiesces to the smart tech, he MUST have a filter put on *in* yeshiva. This filter will restrict even current Apps that we have not deemed acceptable. The yeshiva will set this filter on ALL smart devices [iPhones, iTouch, iPad, Tablets, watches, etc] that a Talmid has as his own.

Please understand that we will not put anything on your phone that your son doesn't already have unless that request comes from a parent. However, what it will do is restrict even current Apps that we have not deemed acceptable.

Thank you so much for your sensitivity and cooperation on these topics.

Our commitment is totally and absolutely to your son's growth. We are committed 100% and look forward to a wonderful partnership where together we reap tremendous nachas in good health.

Have a wonderful summer!



Rabbi Chaim Pechter
Menahel

disciplinary action will be taken. No books other than those included in the Yeshiva curriculum, or approved by the Hanhala. Bicycles [with signed approval slip from parents] may be used to go to and from Yeshiva, but must be locked up from Shacharis through dismissal; they are not to be used during the school day. No skateboards or rollerblades. Some exceptions: During the commute only, boys may use **MP3 players without radios** or the **IPOD SHUFFLE**. Any other IPod is unacceptable. Transportation to and from the Yeshiva is Yeshiva time, and all rules apply.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: A Talmid of the yeshiva **may not** join any sort of gym without explicit permission from the Menahel. In general, many benign activities (e.g. bowling, skating) often become inappropriate for a Ben Torah when considering the entire setting and element. Much discretion must be made before assuming that it is acceptable. An indiscretion could result in dismissal from the Yeshiva. It is always wise to ask!

Our goal here is not to flood the boys with long lists of rules. Rather, we have attempted to clearly state some basic do's and don'ts. It is understood that over the course of the first few weeks of the z'man, we will explain to the boys the levels of hanhagah and midos we're looking for. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please return signed rules paper to Yeshiva by August 28th. Thank you.

NO BOCHUR WILL BE ALLOWED INTO YESHIVA WITHOUT THE SIGNED RULES PAPER!