



Bnos Leah  
Prospect Park Yeshiva  
**Parent-Student Handbook**  
תשפ"ב • 2021-2022

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בנות לאה



Bnos Leah

Prospect Park Yeshiva

בס"ד

July 2021, 5781

Dear Parents, עמו"ש

Teachers and parents are the שותפים in each child's חינוך. When both parties: school and parents are on the same page, there is a more successful חינוך experience. Rules and goals that we need to agree on are found in the Parent-Student handbook which also contains information designed to aid your child to a successful school outcome. I hope that you will read it and discuss it with your daughter(s).

Our Yeshiva strives to develop and to instill in our students מדות טובות, a love of learning, sensitivity to others, discipline and דרך ארץ. In addition, we want our תלמידות to grow into mature and responsible women fully accepting, with אהבה, their roles as בנות ישראל and future אמהות.

No one rule is important in and of itself. It is the sum total of the atmosphere they create and the students' and parents' willingness to accept them that is important.

Together we look forward to another successful year. Best wishes for *Hatzlacha*.

Rabbi Leib Kelman  
Dean



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK

This handbook has been developed to answer some of the questions that come up during the school year. It is designed to inform parents of the communication channels at the school and should be referred to whenever needed.

Mrs. Esther Salamon, *Principal Hebrew Studies*

Mrs. Hadassah Fruchthandler, *Assistant Principal Hebrew Studies*

Mrs. Chaya Michaeli, *Principal English Studies*

Mrs. Batsheva Berkovits, *Assistant Principal English Studies*

Mrs. Osnat (Arlene) Klestzick, *Principal Emeritus*

## ... ATTENDANCE ...

Your daughter's regular attendance in Yeshiva is a prerequisite for achievement, especially in a dual program where every precious moment counts. Every attempt should be made to schedule medical, dental and other appointments outside of class time.



Children should not be pulled out of class for extended family matters (i.e. vacations) without contacting the Principal beforehand for special permission. If we are not notified in advance, children may receive un-excused absences placed on their permanent records.

### \* **ABSENCE**

In case of absence, parents should arrange for assignments and books to be sent home with a friend. This should be done from home early before school begins or after school for the following day. Please do not call the school office to make these arrangements. When a student is absent, a note written by a parent or doctor explaining the absence should be submitted to her *limudei kodesh* teacher on the day the child returns to school.

### \* **PROMPTNESS**

It has been said "better late than never." A better maxim is "better never late." The child who comes late not only misses crucial components of class time, but also disrupts those who are on time. If a student does come in late she must have a note written by a parent. The student should submit the note to the secretary and the secretary will then give her a late pass. Repeated lateness in Junior High students will result in detention with a \$25 charge for related supervision.

## ... DRESS CODE ...

Our school has a uniform dress code for all students grades 1-8.



### \* BLOUSES

Grades 1 - 4      **Blue** uniform blouse (or polo)  
with PPY logo

Grades 5 - 8      **Blue** uniform blouse with PPY logo

All students should wear white oxford blouses with collar only on Rosh Chodesh.

### \* SKIRTS/JUMPERS

Grades 1 - 5      A gray pleated skirt or gray jumper purchased by one of our uniform suppliers. **The skirt must reach at least 4 inches below the knee.**

Grades 6 - 8      High-school length skirts required

Grades 1 - 8      Skirts and knee-socks must overlap.

### \* SWEATERS AND SWEATSHIRTS

Grades 1-8      Black sweaters or sweatshirts with no emblems, words or designs. Black V-neck sweaters and velour zip up sweaters with the PPY logo are available at all school uniform vendors

### \* FOOTWEAR

Only knee socks or tights are permitted. **Leggings are not permitted.**

If boots are worn to school, shoes should be sent to be worn during class hours. It is not healthy for children to sit in warm boots during the long school day.

### \* HAIR and MAKEUP

Long loose hair must be pinned back or put in a ponytail for hygienic reasons.

Make-up and nail polish are not permitted for any student in the elementary school. Jewelry should be refined and age appropriate.

### \* **UNIFORM SUPPLIERS**

Shanie Brodt	1865 East 22nd Street	718-336-4651
	Email: sbrodtuniforms@gmail.com	
Engelic	4414 Ft. Hamilton P'kwy.	718-853-6483
Gold Label Uniforms	1488 Coney Island Avenue (K&L)	718-676-0872
Fraylich School Uniforms	4505 14th Avenue	718-871-8253

### \* **USED UNIFORMS**

We have a large collection of previously owned uniforms. Parents are welcome to take whatever they need from the closet at the entrance of the building.

## *SCHOOL POLICIES & PROCEDURES...*

### \* **ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

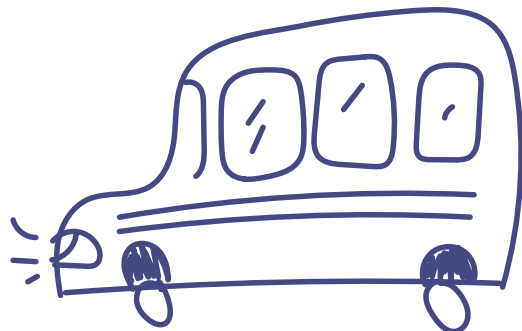
School hours are as follows:

Grades 1 - 6 8:20-4:00      Grades 7 - 8 8:20-4:15

There is no supervision in the Yeshiva building before 8:00 a.m.

Drop off is at the Avenue R entrance. If, due to unforeseen circumstances you arrive past 8:30, you must go the East 17th Street entrance.

We hope to once again be able to use a private bus company. The use of private bus, in most cases, allows for a bus stop closer to your home, as well as bus service on all school days, including legal holidays. This is a tremendous help to parents who no longer have to carpool. We ask that you please send all forms that you received regarding bus service back in a timely fashion. Without all forms, we cannot guarantee service for your daughter(s).

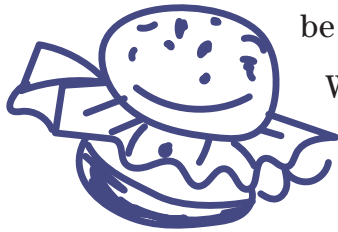




## \* CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

For school closure and all other important matters (i.e. bus delays), the Yeshiva uses a wonderful and efficient system to notify parents via text and email. We urge you to utilize the School Messenger System. (If you have not yet signed up, please call Rabbi Shor at 718-376-4400.) You may also call the Elementary School info line at 718-307-6036. Our Yeshiva generally follows the Public School decisions for school closings.

## \* SCHOOL LUNCH



We have withdrawn from the Government Program and we will be offering a private lunch program.

We serve MEAT lunches on Mondays and DAIRY lunches the rest of the week. If you send lunch from home, please conform to this schedule.

Please send healthful snacks from home, but please **do not send *milchig* snacks on *fleishig* days.** Our school serves only *cholov Yisroel* products, therefore, all *milchig* snacks sent to school **should** be *cholov Yisroel*.

## \* KASHRUS

The Yeshiva upholds a strict policy on *kashrus*. Please do not send in home-made items for *siyumim*, parties, or any class gatherings. All food items must have a reliable *hechsher*. Only *pas yisroel* and *cholov yisroel* will be accepted. Please only send in *parve* items when meat lunches are served.

## \* MESSAGES

Please limit your calls to important messages only.

## \* CONDUCT IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING

- No students are permitted to leave the school building.
- Parents who wish to pick up their daughter, must sign her out with the security guard.
- No student is allowed in the elevator without written permission from a Principal or nurse.
- No ball playing in the halls or classrooms. Ball playing is permitted only in the yard and gym.

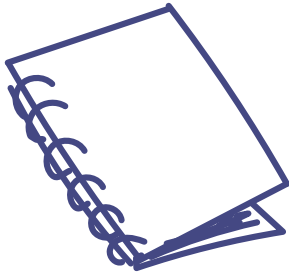
- No glass bottles are allowed to be brought to school.

### \* **REORGANIZATION OF CLASSES**

The Yeshiva reserves the right to reorganize classes. From time to time there are specific issues within the class dynamics which requires the reorganization of that class, grade or student.

### \* **REPORT CARDS and PTA CONFERENCES**

The school year is divided into three marking periods. Report cards will be distributed in December, March and June. Parents must be paid up in tuition to receive their daughter's report card.



We schedule an orientation meeting in September. Parents are invited to meet the teachers and are given an overview of the curriculum. There will be one P.T.A. conference in December. Individual conferences are scheduled throughout the year. If you wish to schedule a conference with a teacher please arrange it through the school office.

### \* **PROTOCOL FOR RESOLVING PROBLEMS**

On occasion a parent feels the need to intercede on behalf of their child in a school related academic, social or discipline problem. We recommend the following steps:

1. First, please talk directly to the classroom teacher involved. Call the school office to set up an appointment. In 90% of the cases this problem will be pleasantly resolved. Only after you have talked directly to the teacher should you go further.
2. If you feel the issue is not completely resolved, feel free to call Rabbi Leib Kelman, Mrs. Osnat (Arlene) Klestzick, Mrs. Esther Salamon, or Mrs. Batsheva Berkovits
3. Please be aware that we have a superb professional guidance staff. Their services are discreet and cost-free to the parents. Please make use of their services if necessary.

## ... HEALTH AND SAFETY ...



Pupils should have a complete check-up before school begins. Visual and hearing functions should be assessed; physical problems should be called to our attention, in writing. Often learning difficulties can be rectified by appropriate attention to physical needs.

### \* EMERGENCIES

In case of emergency, parents will be notified immediately. Please fill out an emergency card before the start of every school year. No students will be admitted to school without this emergency information.

### \* ALLERGIES

If a child has a specific allergy, a written note should be sent to all her teachers and the school office.

### \* CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

Please inform the school office if your child has a contagious disease. Do not send your child to school when she is sick and contagious.

### \* IMMUNIZATIONS

The Board of Health has issued strict orders that all students of **grade one** and **all new students** will not be admitted to school without a current immunization history form, completed by a physician. Please have your daughter give it to her teacher on the first day of school. Please do not mail it.

New York State law requires that every school child have a complete record of a recent physical examination. Please have your child examined by her pediatrician and have him/her complete a medical form including all immunizations and required tests. **Please see the enclosed immunization chart for vaccine requirements.** Students will not be permitted to remain in school unless they have all their required immunizations.

## \* SECURITY

In view of the climate of the day, the school has taken security precautions and has employed a guard, and installed new video security systems including sixteen cameras and a computer network link.

## \* LOCKDOWN

Our Yeshiva has invested in a closed circuit lockdown system. When a lockdown is in effect, an electronic system controlled in the main office automatically locks all hallway doors. The lockdown system has its own power source. Students and teachers are alerted to the fact that we are in a lockdown via flashing blue lights and an announcement on the intercom. Immediately, all teachers lock their classroom door and shut the lights as the students make their way to the designated “safe corner”.

## ... MEDIA ...

## \* DIGITAL MEDIA

Television, movies and videos all have newer digital counterparts, that do not require large TV screens. Digital media is available on computers, iPhones, iPads, and other similar devices, which seem innocuous and are all innocently used by your children to play games and view funny age appropriate YouTube videos and children’s programming. But that soon changes to their viewing Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime, TikTok all YouTube, etc. that are not “child-rated” and are absolutely dangerous and subversive for a *frum* child.

All of the above devices can also be used by any age child to communicate (texting and messaging) with less desirable and unknown people to communicate with your child.

We strongly recommend that your child not have any device that can connect to the internet, at all! Buy your home one or two kosher (מאושר) certified phones that do not even have texting – just voice. Let your child begin to use it in the 7th or 8th grade, but no texting, internet, or computer access even while supervised, unless you do not have internet or WIFI.

## ... HOMEWORK ...

Homework is assigned to children to review what they learned during the day with their teachers and to ensure that they remember key concepts and ideas. Homework is not meant for parents, but for children. If you find that homework in the lower grades (grades 1,2,3) takes too much of your time, ask the school for a digital recorder so that your daughter can do her *kriah* homework herself by talking into the recorder, which the teacher reviews.



The school has a “No *Written* Homework Policy” on Tuesday night and a “No Homework Policy” on Thursday night. This is a great opportunity for family bonding.

Classroom learning is not sufficient in itself; homework is a key component of a child’s learning, in addition, regular review enables a child to study less for tests. Summer homework, when assigned, helps many children retain the level they achieved at the end of the school year.

## ... BAS MITZVAH ...

Our school has a wonderful *בת מצוה* program which is very meaningful for the girls, mothers, and grandmothers. Parents are only charged a minimal amount because the Yeshiva heavily subsidizes the cost of the beautiful event.

There is really no need for families to make another bas mitzvah ‘event’ for relatives and friends, but if you do choose to make one, it should be low key, and no classmates, nor students from the parallel class may be invited.



# HIGH SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK

## **PARTNERSHIP**

Education is a three - way partnership between parent, school and student. Please let us know how we can make the learning experience in our Yeshiva a more meaningful and memorable one for your daughter.

Mrs. Zlata Press, *Principal*

Ms. Carmi Homburger, *Associate Principal*

Rabbi Eliezer Stern, *Menahel*

The following section will introduce you and your daughter to the basic rules which regulate daily school life in Bnos Leah Prospect Park Yeshiva High School. It goes without saying that the fundamental rule of all our lives, in school and out, is the *halacha*.

School rules, limited as they are in scope, are important for the peaceful, safe, coexistence of the two hundred fifty people who inhabit our building daily. Also, we greatly value the personal discipline developed by adherence to school rules.

- Discipline fosters respectful behavior toward parents, administrators, teachers and peers.
- Discipline is basic training for a life of *dikduk b'mitzvos* and *yiras shomayim*.
- Finally - discipline builds strong, productive, self-confident, responsible, contributive adults.

Parents sometimes take issue with one detail or another of the school rules. Reasonable adults can be expected to see things differently. In choosing Prospect Park Bnos Leah for your daughter from among the wide array of Bais Yaakov schools available, you have chosen our style of *chinuch* as well. We count on you to support us fully in all matters—even if you might disagree with us on one detail or another.

Please read the handbook in full. If you have questions about any of the issues discussed here, you are welcome to call Rabbi Leib Kelman, Mrs. Zlata Press, or Rabbi Eliezer Stern to discuss them.

## THE NEW ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

### \* **HERE COMES REAL LIFE**

In the real world adults are expected to take their responsibilities seriously and to show up regularly to fulfill them.

In college, in a pre-professional training program, on a job, people are expected to **show up every day**. The mother of young children doesn't have the luxury of "sleeping in" because she "doesn't feel well". The children have to be dressed, fed and sent off to school.



It is expected and accepted that serious illness or pressing personal need requires a day off once in a while. If an adult is taking off from work, school, or household responsibilities, it is assumed that the absence is absolutely necessary. No excuses are required or expected.

**But how often? At some point almost no excuse, no matter how reasonable, is acceptable.** When you have missed the third deadline you lose your job. When you have missed the fourth college class session your mark drops a full grade. When you miss a third day of a six week training cycle—for the best of reasons—you are automatically put back to start the training cycle again with the next group.

**We are joining the many high schools that have adopted an attendance policy that, more than the system we used to have, is closely modeled on real life. Ultimately, it doesn't matter how good the reasons for absences are, it matters how many the absences are.**

## \* THE NEW SYSTEM

**We consider the top compliance grade for almost all students to be a 96.** For almost every student this mark will boost her grade point average. This mark recognizes that a student may reasonably be absent for 3 days each semester (September-January, February-June).



With each further absence after the first 3, the attendance grade decreases. The attendance compliance grade is calculated this way:

0 absences = 100	5 absences = 90
1 absence = 99	6 absences = 85
2 absences = 98	7 absences = 80y
<b>3 absences = 96</b>	8 absences = 75
4 absences = 94	

**A student may use these days for any of the following reasons:**

- brief illness
- appointment (medical, DMV)
- catching up with life
- rest and recreation (preferably a day out with a parent!)

The following reasons for absence are completely excused and **will not be counted toward the term total.**

- illness of four consecutive days or more with a physician's letter. (If ל"ר the absence is extensive we will ask you to call us every two weeks to keep us informed as to the situation)
- the day of a sibling's wedding and a day before or after if out-of-state travel is required
- the *bris* of a brother or nephew (only!)
- regularly scheduled therapy appointments with a note from the therapist

In case of family emergencies or exceptional circumstances, we ask our students to please notify the grade *mechanechet* who will arrange whatever accommodations are necessary for the student and her family.

**No student will be excused from finals unless she is seriously ill.** Family trips should be scheduled for the days of inter-session. **No accommodations will be made for students whose families schedule trips during final exam time. Be aware that failure to take a final often results in failure for the course.**

## \* ARE HALF DAY ABSENCES POSSIBLE?

YES.

A student who signs in after **second** period (10:30 AM) and before 1:10 PM will be considered absent for **1/2 day**. (Two halves = one whole!)

- A student will not be permitted to sign in late on a day when she has a scheduled test.
- **Every student will be permitted to sign out after 3:30 PM—once each semester—with no penalty.** You may use this time for *simcha* preparations or a doctor's appointment or a road test.
- Every period signed out before 3:30 PM on the permitted day will count as a period late.
- Beyond these two permitted signouts, every afternoon signout, even as late as 4:20 PM, will be counted as a 1/2 day absence.



## \* SIGN-INS AND LATENESSES



- A student may sign in late until **the start of third period - 10:30 AM.**
- She will be marked late for **three periods** - davening, first and second periods. Entry after 10:30 AM will be counted as a half day absence.
- Lateness to class during the day will count as one period lateness.
- **Three** latenesses either AM or during the day will count as a half day absence.

*The attendance grade will be a report card grade each January and June. It will be computed into the G.P.A. as a five-time a week class. All semester report cards (January and June) and transcripts will also note the number of absences.*

## \* EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM CLASS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

The following absences are excused IF:



- The student is meeting with a teacher or participating in a school activity
- **And an activity sheet is filled out, signed and submitted before the start of the class which is missed so that the teacher can mark the student present.**
- **As always, seniors are required to get green cards signed by the classroom teacher in advance of any class absence.**

**Excessive absence from any one subject will be subject to a grade reduction in that subject at the discretion of the teacher and with the support of the administration.**

As always no student is permitted out of Halacha class to work on a school activity.

## \* **WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?**

This new system places ownership for attendance compliance where it truly belongs—on each student. We expect this system to give our students more accountability, more flexibility and less paperwork.

**With six days a year for a grade of 96, and two more at minimal penalty, a student should have no problem earning almost a full compliance grade to be added to her average and recorded on her transcript.**

- The school records both latenesses to school in the morning and latenesses to individual classes during the day. **Your daughter is responsible for her own promptness in the morning and to each class during the day.** Do not allow her to transfer the responsibility to you.
- **We still do expect students to bring in formally written notes after an absence upon her return to school** to ensure that parents were aware of a student's absence from school. A formal note is written on a full sheet of paper and contains:
  - date
  - the student's name clearly written
  - a parent's signature and name printed

## *Electronic gear in the school building*

*(Thank you to Rabbi Michael Shepard, General Studies Principal of TAG Girls' High School, for permission to use his wording.)*

### \* **CELL PHONES**

Cell phone use, especially the quiet privacy of text messaging, has become ubiquitous in today's world and consequently can turn into a major distraction for a student in school. **Therefore, cell phone possession and use is prohibited during the school day, from arrival to the last bell, anywhere on Bnos Leah premises.** Students who need to contact their parents should come to the office or use the pay phone in the front hall.

Cell phones are not allowed—not in pockets, not in bags and not in personal lockers. (Students are advised not to bring their phones to school altogether.) We will require that the phones remain in the designated cell phone lockers during school activities that take place after hours.

**In order to store phones safely out of reach for the school day, a lockable cabinet whose cubbies are labeled with each student's name will be parked in the first floor hallway when students enter school. Students are to put their phones in these labeled cubbies immediately upon entering school, where they will stay until dismissal time.**

- After the students' arrival, the cabinets will be secured and the cell phones, inaccessible in almost all cases until the end of the day.
- A student who comes to school late should hand in her phone to Mrs. Guberman labeled with her name.
- **With permission beforehand, a student who knows that she will be leaving before the end of the day may leave her phone in Mrs. Press's office to be returned when she leaves.**
- **Similarly, student working on a school project may park her phone in Mrs. Press's office so that she has access to it during the day.**
- Should a student violate the no-phone rule, her phone will be confiscated for a period of two weeks. Should there be a second violation, the student will be suspended and parents will be asked to come in to discuss further action. Deliberate circumvention of these



rules through dishonest conduct will result in severe repercussions.

- Students are advised not to lend their phones to friends. If it rings or is found in a borrower's possession, the phone will still be confiscated and the penalty will be imposed on the owner.

While every effort will be made to maintain the security of the phones placed in the cubbies, the school cannot and will not be held responsible for the loss of any phone, and students who bring cell phones to school agree not to hold the school responsible for any loss. All the more reason to leave expensive equipment at home.

### \* **OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The rule for cell phones applies equally to other electronic toys and entertainment devices (e.g. iPods, MP3 players...) Don't bring them to school. They will be confiscated, and other penalties could apply. If someone else has brought them, don't use them. If others are using them, leave the room.

## *INFORMATION TO PARENTS*

### \* **SNOW DAYS? - YES! THEY WILL STILL EXIST!!**

Now that we are all Zoom comfortable, many expressed concern that the special joy of childhood, "snow-days," would be sacrificed on the altar of Zoom! Be assured we will not deprive our community of the deliciousness of an unexpected day off. But do assume that while we will give off the first day of a major storm, subsequent days will be Zoom days!

We will inform families of snow days via email sent to the parents' email addresses. We are also still maintaining our info hotline at 718-307-6035. We will also use this hotline to inform parents of the estimated time of arrival of busses returning from a school trip. Please make sure we have your updated email addresses on the enclosed contact information card.

## UNIFORMS

**It goes without saying that the primary guideline for our students' dress, in school *and out* is the *Halacha*.** In addition to the halacha, we have a strictly enforced dress code for appropriate in-school wear. Please make sure that your daughter has enough of each of the items of the uniform.



- 1) Skirts must be long enough to cover the knees even while seated. Students must wear a skirt purchased from our authorized supplier only. **Skirts may not be longer than mid-calf.** The school has a supply of “pre-owned” skirts which we are happy to distribute.
- 2) Students must wear the uniform shirt provided by our authorized supplier. This shirt is distinguished by a small B.L. embroidered on the collar and by a *tznius* button under the collar button. The uniform shirt is designed to be long enough to tuck completely into the skirt.
- 3) Students can wear a plain black pullover sweater with the Bnos Leah logo available from our supplier, or a plain, black button-down sweater privately purchased. **We are also accepting as part of uniform wear any plain black non-hooded sweatshirt with no words or logos, except for ones issued by school groups.**
- 4) Legs must be covered with black, navy, or white **knee-high** stockings or tights. No slouch socks, pants socks, or bobby socks may be worn—even over stockings. **Do not wear leggings. Do not wear leggings. Do not wear leggings.**
- 5) Shoes should be simple and conservative. Students may not wear boots, work-shoes, sneakers, platform shoes, shoes on high soles, or any other trendy, faddish, or novelty shoes. **Students must wear shoes that are black or navy. Colors are not acceptable. Boots are not acceptable for school wear except on snowy or stormy days.** Students are encouraged to keep a spare pair of shoes in their lockers for changing into if they want to wear boots for the walk to school.
- 6) Make-up and nail polish are not permitted for school wear.
- 7) Jewelry should be simple and limited. Avoid the excessive or the extravagant, such as chandelier earrings or oversized hoops.

- 8) **Hair longer than chin-length must be worn in a full ponytail, braid or bun with all hair away from the face.** Hair should be worn off the face. Banana clips and headbands when worn alone are not acceptable for containing long hair. **Please do not artificially color your hair.** **A student will be required to return her hair to its natural color before she will be permitted to attend school.**

### \* **ROSH CHODESH, SHABBOS DRESS AND CASUAL DRESS**

The *tznius* challenges of our generation is clothing that is short and/or form fitting. These are issues worth taking a stand on. **Please spend the time necessary shopping and negotiating with your daughter to ensure that her clothing in school and out is appropriately modest in fit, length and coverage.** Many of our lovely, refined students are wearing skirts that are impermissibly short by *halachic* standards.

## LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found bulges with almost new sweaters, sweatshirts, sneakers, *seforim*, books, notebooks, cameras, knapsacks, and other personal items. We try our hardest to return every item that we can identify. We ask that you please label or mark *all* personal items which your daughter brings to school so that we can be *mekayem mitzvas hashavas aveida*.



However, many items, some valuable, remain unidentified and unclaimed. It is difficult to store unclaimed items until Eliyahu HaNavi arrives. **We ask that you be *mochel* on any property which your daughter leaves on the school property over the course of the year that we are unable to return.** We do not wish to be *over* on the laws of *gezel* or *hashavas aveida*.



## RECREATION

All of us, deans, principals, teachers, you, our parents, and of course eternal Torah standards of *kedusha* are in total agreement as to the **unacceptability of boy/girl social interaction in the pre-shidduch years.**



In America's open, permissive society, if we want to uphold these standards, protecting Klal Yisroel, our families and our daughters we must be smart and pro-active. כבודו וחשדו – "Respect and Suspect" is a wonderful motto for dealing with our children.

We can inform you; we can be מחנך your daughter. We will take action when we happen on students in the "wrong" place, with the "wrong" people – **but the burden of responsibility is yours.**

- 1) Your daughter should *not* be spending time hanging out with friends in our local shopping districts (e.g. Avenue J, Avenue M, Coney Island Avenue, Kings Highway, Nostrand Ave.). **Local ice cream parlors, pizza stores and 7-11's are gathering places for girls and boys as our Avenues and parks (Marine Park and the Kings Highway Circle for example) on Shabbos and Yom Tov.** Numerous and extended visits to any of these places should have you asking questions and setting firm limits.
- 2) Bowling, roller skating and ice skating are appropriate recreational activities *when parents accompany their daughters*. Do not drop off your daughter and her friends at a bowling alley or at Aviator Skating Rink and leave her there unsupervised. Daughters who start off at one place can end up at another. Know where your daughter is. Know with whom she is there. Encourage her to enjoy leisure time at home with friends.
- 3) No student may be enrolled in any co-ed program, activity, or course of study during her high-school career.
- 4) Your daughter may not go to a movie theater on her own with friends, or with you, her parents. Parents and students must be extremely selective about the sort of entertainment that is viewed in the home as well. Whether it reaches you by television, cable, DVD, Netflix, YouTube, Amazon Prime, Livestream, Vimeo, Facebook, Hulu, or any other source, entertainment today is a far cry from the relatively wholesome fare of

yesteryear. **In most contemporary “entertainment,” the situations enacted, the moral standards presumed, the coarse language employed, and the social relationships portrayed reflect a world that is totally incompatible with our own. It is impossible for students to spend hours viewing this world without their own conduct and standards of right and wrong being affected, and their commitment to Torah values eroded.** With constant exposure, images, language and values which are abhorrent to our Torah life take up residence in our children’s minds, staying fixed there for years to come R”L to possibly erode the sanctity of their future Torah home. Yes, as a community we do take advantage of many aspects of digital technology but, **the permission we give ourselves to say “yes”, is the mission we must give ourselves to say “NO!”**

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

While the technological advances of the past decade are a permanent part of our lives, and bring unimagined convenience, they also bring horrifying and life-shattering dangers. We are all struggling to find intelligent, realistic guidelines that enable us to use technology while protecting our children and our marriages, our community, and *kedushas* Am Yisroel from defilement חס ושלום.

Gedolei Yisroel, well aware of the suffering and destruction caused by thoughtless, uncontrolled use of technology have directed us, the principals to teach, preach, inspire and set firm boundaries wherever we can.

We can help you, **but again the responsibility is yours.** Ignore the task of creating and maintaining boundaries and limitations, and you allow your children to fall into addictive, destructive conduct. To follow the *hadracha* of our Gedolim and supported by the realities of communal experience, we present the following guidelines:



### \* COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The current generation of personal communication and entertainment devices has gone far beyond the simple cell phone or iPod in the access they afford

your daughter. Cell phones are no longer simple, portable telephones. iPods are no longer personal music players. In their current sophisticated mutations both offer wide-open internet access in a portable hand-held device. Smart phones, iPhones, iPod Touch, ipads, allow the user e-mail contact, web-surfing, movie-viewing and social media activity in a personal device.

Parents insist, “I want my daughter to have a cell phone for her own safety.” Physical safety may be increased by cell phone ownership. (Interestingly, on the few occasions when our students have reported being harassed in public they choose not to take out their phones for fear of the “greater danger” of having their phone stolen.) **But it is a certainty that moral, psychological and religious safety are very much endangered by a teenager having her own personal technological device.**

**Even when used for innocent conversations, heavy cell phone and texting use remove your daughter from family life, school work and normal healthy face to face friendships. We can raise consciousness, discuss challenges, suggest mode of conduct, BUT, we cannot forbid that which is out of our control. We can tell you, the parent, that we, the Prospect Park Bnos Leah community of administrators, teachers and other parents do not want this contamination in our midst.**



What Covid-19 has confirmed is that to control a pandemic every individual must wear a shield for his/her own safety and to maintain the safety of all other members of the community at large!

### **\* TAG-TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS GROUP**

By now every family should have received a letter from us informing you of the requirement that each student have her phone TAGged. We have spent hours working with TAG consultants to achieve maximum personal convenience and protection at a reasonable cost.

Please read the letter and have your phone TAGged before the start of school.

## \* INTERNET ACCESS

**We absolutely oppose internet recreation or socializing.** For your own sake support this stance. If we discover that your daughter has a presence on a social networking site (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, **TikTok** are examples) or has posted a clip of herself or of someone else on YouTube or Instagram, we will seriously consider whether she should continue her association with us. This list is representative, but not inclusive. Every year brings a new “flavor of the month” which should be avoided even if not listed here by name. **A *bas yisroel tzenua* does not display a picture of herself or any personal information on a billboard to be seen, appraised and tracked by any passing stranger - even if that stranger has a Jewish name. And surely, your daughter is forbidden to post pictures of comments about another person.**

If your daughter has internet access ask her to explain in detail how she uses it. If you aren't getting the reassurances you want or trust, act strongly to limit or eliminate.

**Parents should regularly review all the family's technology accounts to see pattern of use, numbers called and time of communication in addition to the filtering which we assume is already in place.**

Please read carefully the accompanying brochure spelling out the High School's technology policy.

## DRIVING

Students may not drive to school. We strongly recommend that high school students not be permitted access to the family car *except* for specific and limited errands. Our teenage daughters should not be using the family car recreationally.

## VACATION

A whole term's worth of growth and maturation can be undone by a week in a lax environment. Do not toss away your child's valuable *chinuch* by allowing her to vacation in an unsupervised place. Unsupervised means without parents. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends are wonderful people, but they are unable to watch and entertain your daughter with nearly the same high level of surveillance that you can provide. **Do not let your daughter travel on her own or with minimal supervision, especially to sun and recreation spots. Miami Beach is off limits during school vacations.**



## PREMATURE "MATURITY"

Personal advanced technological devices, out-of-state intersession vacation, or (for 11th and 12th graders) access to a car, all provide the perks of maturity when the child is not yet mature. We do our best to shelter our children from a dangerous world and to keep their conduct age appropriate. Help us help you raise your daughter well. "No" "No" "No" affirm age old Torah values. They do not deny teenagers their "rights."

## SCHOOL EXPENSES

We respect the financial realities of life and try not to burden our parents with extra costs. However, we provide many extracurricular activities which are an important part of student life. In order to cover the costs of these activities there is a **G.O. fee of \$100.00 each year.** Additional expenses adjusted for inflation include:



**9th, 10th, & 11th Grade Expenses**

School Weekend every two years	about \$230.00
Annual grade Shabbaton	about \$130.00

**\* SENIOR YEAR EXPENSES**

The senior year bring with it many more expenses. Some are optional; many are not. We take very seriously our parents' financial concerns and do our best to minimize the expenses. (All extra expenses are hard to handle and surprises are doubly hard!) Please be aware of senior year expenses at the start of the year and budget for them.

G.O. Fee	\$100.00
Yearbook	\$100.00
Annual 12th Grade Shabbaton (optional)	\$150.00
Senior trip (optional) - Anywhere from \$50 - \$200 depending on the destination.	
Graduation fee--(added to tuition charge)	\$75.00
Touro College credits (optional)	up to \$1500.00
Dor Yeshorim Testing	\$200.00
Senior Photos	\$60.00
Seminary Application fees (optional)	\$100.00 per seminary

**\* TZEDAKAH BEGINS AT HOME**

We occasionally ask parents who can afford to, to contribute money above the amount required to help pay for any student activity for students whose families can't afford the full cost of the activity. We deeply appreciate these contributions when we receive them. Needless to say all money contributed goes directly to defray the cost to students in need. And if you are feeling **very** generous, Mrs. Press yearns for a private "slush" fund for special food treats, small gifts, speakers and other random good ideas!

