



Bnos Leah
Prospect Park Yeshiva
Parent-Student Handbook
תשפ"ד • 2023-2024

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בנות לאה



Bnos Leah

Prospect Park Yeshiva

בס"ד

עמו"ש, Dear Parents,

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 orient parents to the rules and routines of our School and ensure a seamless partnership between school and home.

Rabbi Leib Kelman, Dean
Mrs. Estee Salamon, *Principal, Hebrew Studies*
Mrs. Chaya Michaeli, *Principal, Secular Studies*

... ATTENDANCE ...

Your daughter's regular attendance in school 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 in advance for special permission. If we are not notified prior to the absence, 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.

* **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 may result in detention. Parents will be expected to arrange transportation home at 5 P.M. following detention.

... **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

On Rosh Chodesh students should preferably wear **collared** white oxford blouses.

* **SKIRTS/JUMPERS**

Grades 1 - 5 A gray pleated skirt or gray jumper purchased by one of our uniform suppliers. **The skirt must reach several 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.**

Students should not come to school in Ugg clogs or open backed footwear.

* **HAIR and MAKEUP**

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

Make-up and nail polish are not permitted. 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

* **GENTLY WORN UNIFORMS**

We have a large collection of gently worn 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 for grades 1-8 are as follows:

Monday - Thursday 8:20-4:00, Friday 8:20-12:25

Please be aware that classes begin promptly at **8:20**.

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

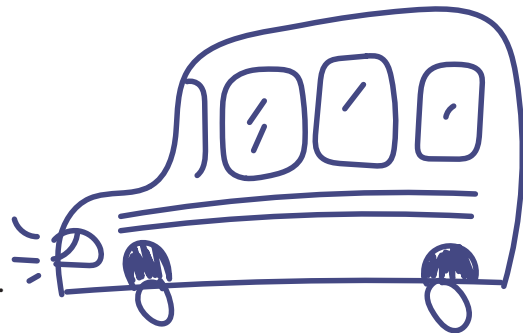
Drop off is at the Avenue R entrance. If, due to unforeseen circumstances you arrive past 8:30, you must go to the East 17th Street entrance. Pick up upon dismissal is from the Avenue R entrance.

Our school uses a private bus company.

This allows, in most cases, 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

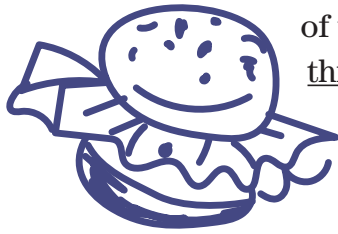
no longer have to carpool. We ask that you please send all forms that you received regarding bus service back in a timely fashion. Without all forms, we cannot guarantee service for your daughter(s).



* CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

For school closure and all other important matters (i.e. bus delays), we use 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. We generally follow the N.Y.C. D.O.E. decisions for school closings.

* SCHOOL LUNCH



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

Please do not send any foods requiring hot water (ie soup cups). The school can not provide hot water as it presents a safety hazard.

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.

* BIRTHDAYS

In order for school to run efficiently and to avoid ill feelings amongst our students, we do not allow birthday celebrations in school. Please do not send in any food, decorations, balloons etc. We are happy to make note of your daughter's special day in the newsletter.

* MESSAGES/PACKAGES

Please limit your calls to important messages only.

Drop offs of lunches, materials, assignments etc. should be the rare exception, not the rule.

Help us as we foster independence and responsibility in our students. Please refrain from sending restaurant deliveries.

* **CONDUCT IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING**

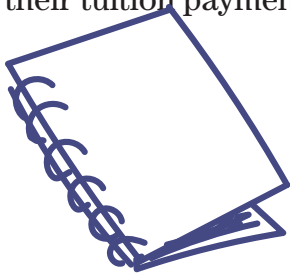
- No student may leave the building during school hours.
- Parents who wish to pick up their daughter, must sign her out with the security guard.
- No student is allowed in the elevator without written permission from a principal or nurse.
- No ball playing in the halls or classrooms. Ball playing is permitted only in the yard and gym.
- Students may not use smartboards or computers without teacher supervision.

* **REORGANIZATION OF CLASSES**

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

* **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 up to date with their tuition payments to receive their daughter's report card.



We schedule an orientation meeting in September/October. 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 ADDRESSING CONCERNS**

On occasion, a parent feels the need to intercede on behalf of their child with a school related academic, social or discipline issue. 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 spoken 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 or one of the school principals.
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 ...



Students 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 student 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 to the school nurse.

* 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 a strict policy 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 the doctor 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

The school has a full-time security guard and 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

One of the greatest challenges parents and educators face today is that of digital technology. We conduct both parent and student workshops designed to educate and encourage healthy and safe technology practices.

Additionally, **students may not bring any cell phone or any Internet or phone capable devices to school.** This rule will be strictly enforced. Please help us maximize your childrens’ foundational educational years by keeping them free of technological distractions.

... HOMEWORK ...

Homework is assigned to children to review what they learned during the day and to ensure that they remember key concepts and ideas. Homework is not meant for parents, but for children. Parents should support and supervise homework as necessary.



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

Classroom instruction is not sufficient in itself; homework and review are additional components of a child’s learning experience. Furthermore, 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 *Bas Mitzvah* program which is very meaningful for the girls, mothers, and grandmothers. Parents are charged for this beautiful event, but the Yeshiva heavily subsidizes the cost as well.

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 students from either 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*

Mrs. Chani Greenfeld, *Associate Principal*

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, though limited in scope, are important for the peaceful, safe, coexistence of the two hundred 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 Akiva Kelman, Mrs. Zlata Press, Ms. Carmi Homburger or Mrs. Chani Greenfeld to discuss them.

THE 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 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 ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

The attendance compliance grade will be calculated into the Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) as a 4 time a week course. It will appear on the January and June report cards and on the official transcript. The top grade is 100.

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

2 absences or fewer = 100

3 absence = 95

4 absences = 90

5 absences = 85

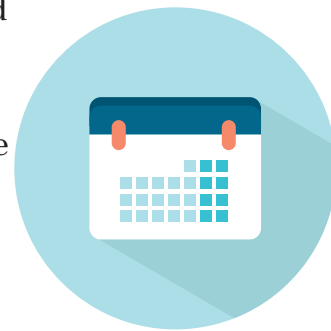
6 absences = 80

7 absences = 75

8 absences = 70

9 absences = 65

more than 9 absences = 45



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!)

STUDENTS - AND THEIR PARENTS ASSUME THAT IF AN ABSENCE IS LEGITIMATE IT DOESN'T COUNT TOWARD THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS ABSENT. THIS IS INCORRECT. EVERY DAY OUT OF SCHOOL - FOR VALID REASONS INCLUDED - IS COUNTED TOWARD THE TERM TOTAL AND WILL LOWER THE COMPLIANCE GRADE.

Only the following reasons are completely excused and will not be counted toward the term total.

- extended illness with a physician's letter. 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.**

* SIGN-INS AND SIGN-OUTS

- 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. After 10:30 she will be asked to return home.
- A student will be permitted to sign in after 10:30 AM only if a parent calls with extenuating circumstance.



EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM CLASS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Absences are excused IF:

- The student is meeting with a teacher or participating in a school activity AND an activity sheet is completed, signed and submitted no

later than 3 days after the activity. Activity sheets submitted late will not be accepted.

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.

The attendance grade will be entered on both the report card and the transcript each January and June. It will be computed into the G.P.A. as a four-time a week class.

*** WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT?**

This 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 four days off a year for a grade of 100, 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 latenesses to school in the morning. **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. Regular lateness to school lowers the compliance grade.
- We absolutely insist that every student coming into school “late”- after Tefilla attendance - sign in at the front office desk.
- **We still do expect a student to bring in a formally written note after an absence upon her return to school** to ensure that parents were aware of her absence from school.

A formal note is written on a full sheet of paper and contains:

- Date
- Student’s name clearly written
- A parent’s signature and name printed

We provide each student with a form to enable her to track her own attendance record. We strongly urge her to fill it out. It will enable her to corroborate (or challenge!) our computer record.

ELECTRONIC GEAR IN SCHOOL BUILDING

(Thank you to Rabbi Michoel 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 from arrival to departure anywhere on Prospect Park 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. We request that the phones be stored in the cell phone lockers throughout the day, including during after hour school activities.

We ask every student who owns a phone to bring her phone every day and park it in the cell phone cabinet. (Unfortunately we have learned that some students who claim to have left their phones at home are in fact not being truthful.)

- A student who comes to school late should hand in her phone to the front office 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.**
- For students working on school projects, laptops will be available in the office.



Students will be able to send their files from home to the laptop for use in school.

- **A student will not be allowed to remove her cell phone from the locker during the school day to access material which is on her phone, or to retrieve money or credit card. Plan ahead!**

* **OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The rule for cell phones applies equally to other electronic toys and entertainment devices. 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. 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 uniform items.

- 1) Skirts must be long enough to cover the knees even while seated. 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 sweater privately purchased. **We are also accepting as part of uniform wear any plain black sweatshirt with no words or logos, except for ones issued by school groups. All sweaters or sweatshirts must be worn over a collared shirt. We are delighted to see our students wearing one of the many sweatshirts issued by our high school. Ninth graders may also wear 8th grade sweatshirts.**
- 4) Legs must be covered with **knee-socks** or tights. No pants socks, ankle socks or any other short sock may be worn—even over tights. **Do not wear leggings. Do not wear leggings. Do not wear leggings.**
- 5) Shoes should be simple and conservative. **DO NOT WEAR SLIPPERS**, i.e. shoes without a back. **Boots are not acceptable for school wear except on snowy or stormy days.**
- 6) Make-up and nail polish are not permitted for school wear. **A student wearing Gel polish will be asked to go home until she can have the polish removed.**
- 7) Jewelry should be simple and limited. Avoid the excessive or the extravagant. One earring per ear please.
- 8) **Hair longer than chin-length must be worn in a full ponytail, braid or bun with all hair away from the face.** 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.**



A student who repeatedly “forgets” to put her hair back will be dealt with creatively by Mrs. Press.

We do have an option to bypass a dress code rule for cause on any one day.
Do ask about permission to be “legally illegal” on a given day.

- 9) Student not wearing appropriate socks or shirts will be asked to buy the appropriate clothing for a \$10 charge.

* ROSH CHODESH, SHABBOS DRESS AND CASUAL DRESS

Rosh Chodesh is a time to dress up and not dress down. Please do not wear camp or Sunday casual on Rosh Chodesh.

The *tznius* challenge 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, 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 Yemos Hamashiach. **We ask that you be *mochel* on any possessions which your daughter leaves in the school 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*. All items that have not been claimed by the start of the next school year will be considered Hefker. LABEL, LABEL, LABEL, so that we can return, return, return!

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 וחסדו – "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. Central Avenue in the Five Towns). **Local ice cream parlors, pizza stores, 7-11's and municipal parking lots and playgrounds are gathering places for girls and boys as are 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. A teenager regularly "going out to meet friends or for ice cream" on a school night should raise questions. (especially if she applies makeup to do so!)
- 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 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, camp, 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, Hulu, or any other source, entertainment today is a far cry from the relatively tame 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!”**

* 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, VSCO** are examples) or has posted any reels, stories or posts of herself or of someone else on TikTok or Instagram, or clips on YouTube, 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 or 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 patterns of use, numbers called and time of communication in addition to the filtering which we assume is already in place.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Parents often say “I have to choose my battles.” The battle to limit access to technology is a battle well worth fighting.

* TAG-TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS GROUP

Every family should be receiving 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.

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.**

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 \$200.00 each year.**

Additional expenses adjusted for inflation include:

9th, 10th, & 11th Grade Expenses

School Weekend every two years	about \$380.00
Annual grade Shabbaton	about \$225.00

* 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	\$200.00
Yearbook	\$100.00
Annual 12th Grade Shabbaton (optional)	about \$225.00
School Weekend every two years	about \$380.00
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	\$350.00
Senior Photos	\$100.00
Seminary Application fees (optional)	\$150.00 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!

