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# Yeshiva Ketana of Long Island

## Parent Handbook for Students in Grades 1-8

August 2026 - June 2027

בס"ד

# YESHIVA KETANA OF LONG ISLAND

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! Our aim is to create a learning environment in which your son will grow in אהבת תורה, יראת שמים, מידות, and דרך ארץ while maintaining a healthy self-image, taking pride in who he is and in all of his accomplishments. By working together, we can ensure that your son's school experience is a successful one.

This handbook is designed to familiarize you with the goals, rules, policies and procedures of Yeshiva Ketana. Should you require assistance or want to discuss your son's progress, feel free to contact the administration or staff. It is through the joint efforts of the school and home that your son will achieve his full potential. Please read this booklet in its entirety and discuss its content with your child.

We wish you הצלחה and ברכה for a happy and healthy new school year.

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# Administration & Faculty

| Administration | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Email: | Extension: |
| Rabbi Tzvi Krigsman | Menahel | TKrigsman@ykli.org | 1008 |
| Rabbi Shlomo Dovid Pfeiffer | S'gan Menahel | SPfeiffer@ykli.org | 1009 |
| Rabbi Avi Schulman | S'gan Menahel | Aschul-man@ykli.org | 1010 |
| Rabbi Eliezer Feuer | Manhig Ruchani | EFeuer@ykli.org | 1051 |
| Mrs. Larissa Steele | Director of General Studies | LSteele@ykli.org | 1011 |
| Rabbi Shaya Baum | Principal Grades 1-5 | SBaum@ykli.org | 1025 |
| Mrs. Frumie Feig | Preschool Director | FFeig@ykli.org | 1004 |
| Mrs. Chaya Kleinman | Assistant Preschool Director | CKleinman@ykli.org | 1026 |
| Mrs. Danielle Robinson | Resource Coordinator | DRobinson@ykli.org | 1020 |
| Rabbi Ari Ginian | Executive Director | AGinian@ykli.org | 1017 |
| Rabbi Moshe Katz | Director of Development | MKatz@ykli.org | 1013 |

| Faculty | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Grade** | **Rebbe** | **Morah/Teacher** |
| Nursery | | Mrs. Michal Eisikovic<br>Mrs. Chani Guberman<br>Mrs. Rocky Lugassy |
| Kindergarten | | Mrs. Aviva Greenbaum/Mrs. Eli-sheva Kreindler<br>Ms. Tzippy Kaluszyner/Ms. Rachelli Stern<br>Mrs. Chanie Pearlman |
| Pre1A | Rabbi Alter<br>Rabbi Ettlinger<br>Rabbi Wollman | Mrs. Mrs. Chani Rosenberg<br>Mrs. Sarah Ritholtz<br>Mrs. Jemma Cunningham |
| Grade 1 | Rabbi Morgenbesser<br>Rabbi Y.B. Pfeiffer<br>Rabbi Schloss | Mrs. Yocheved Clapman<br>Mrs. Adina Lugassy<br>Mrs. Lisa Lachman<br>Mrs. Fraidy Spirgel (STEM) |
| Grade 2 | Rabbi Brenner<br>Rabbi Danzger<br>Rabbi Fayazi | Mrs. Rikki Chinskey<br>Mrs. Yehudis Ozeri<br>Mrs. Daniella Liechtung<br>Mrs. Fraidy Spirgel (STEM) |
| Grade 3 | Rabbi Fruchthandler | Mrs. Estee Silver |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Grade 3 (cont.) | Rabbi Messner<br>Rabbi Spiegel | Mrs. Esther Malka Parnes<br>Mrs. Miriam Rosenberg<br>Mrs. Fraidy Spirgel (STEM) |
| Grade 4-5 Cahal | Rabbi Spirn | Mrs. Leah Ross |
| Grade 4 | Rabbi Bornstein<br>Rabbi Weissman<br>Rabbi Willner | Mrs. Dorie Shoshana<br>Mrs. Batsheva Kelemer<br>Mrs. Allison Silver<br>Mrs. Fraidy Spirgel (STEM) |
| Grade 5 | Rabbi Elefant<br>Rabbi Friedler<br>Rabbi Hersh | Mrs. Donna Simantov<br>Mrs. Chava Barax<br>Mrs. Rachel Gulamov<br>Mrs. Fraidy Spirgel (STEM) |
| Grade 6 | Rabbi Finkel<br>Rabbi Teitelbaum<br>Rabbi D.S. Teitelbaum | Mrs. Tzipporah Paull (Science)<br>Rabbi Danzger (ELA)<br>Mrs. Rachy Webber (Social Studies)<br>Mr. Simcha Klein (Social Studies)<br>Mrs. Amy Bodner (Math & Science) |
| Grade 7 | Rabbi Eisikovic<br>Rabbi Weinstock | Mrs. Rena Friedman (Social Studies)<br>Mrs. Amy Bodner (Science)<br>Mrs. Gitty Horowitz (Math)<br>Mrs. Rachy Webber (ELA) |
| Grade 8 | Rabbi Greenspan<br>Rabbi Richter | Mrs. Rena Friedman (Social Studies)<br>Rabbi Greenspan (Math-Accelerated)<br>Mr. Mandelbaum (Math-Regents)<br>Rabbi Moshe Rabinowitz (Science)<br>Mr. Simcha Klein (ELA) |
| Resource Center | Rabbi Burke<br>Rabbi Bruckenstein | Mrs. Danielle Robinson<br>Mrs. Sarah Pfeffer<br>Mr. Simcha Klein<br>Mrs. Hila Mayer<br>Mrs. Risa Sonnenblick<br>Mrs. Aviva Golombeck<br>Mrs. Sylvia Fuksbrumer<br>Mrs. Lisa Pantiliat |

# Schedules & Attendance

## Daily Schedule

| | Mon – Thurs | Friday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|---|
| Preschool | 9:00 - 3:00 | 9:00 - 11:30 | No School |
| Grades 1-5 | 8:25 - 12:45 Heb<br>12:45 – 4:20 Eng | 8:25 – 12:00 | 8:25 - 12:15 |
| Grade 6 | 8:25 – 1:55 Heb<br>2:00 – 5:10 Eng | 8:25 - 12:00 | 8:25 - 12:45 |
| Grades 7-8 | Shacharis 8:00<br>8:25 – 1:55 Heb<br>2:00 – 5:10 Eng | Shacharis 8:00<br>8:25 - 12:00 | Shacharis 8:25<br>End time 12:45 |

## School Arrival

Talmidim in grades 7-8 should arrive at school no later than 7:50 a.m. and proceed to the Bais Medresh or dining room. Talmidim in grades 1-6 should arrive at school no later than 8:15 a.m. and proceed directly to the gym. Dismissal to class from the gym will be at 8:20. Classes for grades 1-6 begin at 8:25 a.m.

## Morning Minyan (Grades 7-8)

There is a daily minyan for shacharis for grades 7-8. This minyan will, IY"H, begin Friday, August 21, the second day of yeshiva. Starting Tuesday, September 1 (when busing begins), and continuing through the remainder of the year, shacharis will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday-Friday. Shacharis begins promptly at 8:25 a.m. on Sundays, legal holidays, and any other time there is no busing.

Our YKLI מנין has created a wonderful opportunity for the תלמידים to daven בציבור at an appropriate pace and provides them with the opportunity to take part in the davening as a שליח ציבור, בעל קורא, or one of the many other כבודים that occur during שחרית. The מנין has given our children a tremendous geshmak in their שחרית davening, and we hope that this experience will help them grow in their עבודת התפילה until the age of 120. Once boys begin putting on תפילין (even before they become a Bar Mitzvah), they are expected to wear a hat and jacket to all school minyanim.

If you have any issues with your sons attending the morning minyan, please contact Rabbi Pfeiffer at Ext. 1009.

## Daily Attendance

The importance of regular attendance cannot be emphasized enough. Absentees not only impede their own educational progress, but also affect the rest of the class. **This is especially true with absentees before and/or after Yom Tov or mid-winter vacation.** Sundays and legal holidays have regular Limudei Kodesh classes scheduled, and tests may be given on these days. *We ask that you please respect and adhere to our scheduled school days.* In case of extenuating circumstances, please discuss the matter with the הנהלה.

If your son is absent due to illness, **ח"ו**, it is his responsibility to make up the work he misses. Upon request, work will be sent home with a sibling or neighbor. Please send him with an explanatory note upon his return to school.

We request that doctor and dentist appointments not be scheduled during school hours. <u>In case of special circumstances, please request permission.</u>

**Please note that children will not be allowed to leave class to participate in friends' or brothers' in-school events.**

## Absenteeism

Simchas and family vacations are exciting and wonderful experiences. While much can be gained from family time together, as parents you must realize that when children miss yeshiva, there is usually a negative academic and emotional impact. With this in mind, we

ask that you please not take off extra days beyond what is allotted. If necessary, please ask permission before making any plans and/or purchasing tickets. Our success in being mechanech your children is dependent on your true partnership with us.

## Late Arrival

The "lateness" record on our report card reflects late arrival to yeshiva. This information allows you to contact your carpool drivers and the bus company to request that this concern be addressed.

A talmid entering class late has lost the morning momentum and is coming in at a disadvantage for the remainder of the day. He also disturbs the entire class during his entry. Valuable classroom time is lost due to tardiness. In the event that a lateness cannot be avoided, he should first go to the main office where his attendance record will be switched from 'absent' to 'late', after which he should proceed immediately to class.

## Early Departure

Students will not be permitted to wait at the front door for an early pickup. A student will only be called out of class once a parent arrives at the Yeshiva. All students who leave early MUST receive permission from the administration first and be signed out by their parents before leaving the building. Parents must come into the main office to sign out their son. DO NOT ask the secretary to sign out for you! A parent must physically enter the building and sign out the child. We cannot allow children to wait outside or leave before they are signed out by a parent. Please make sure to close the front door behind you upon entry and exit.

**Please note that any change in arrangements for transportation must be called into the office no later than 2:30 p.m. If a parent calls after 2:30 p.m., we cannot guarantee that we will be able to forward the information.**

## Tardiness to Class

An essential part of school is building habits that will serve a person for his whole life. It is essential that your son returns on time to all his classes from his recess and breaks. In the Junior High School, every Rebbe and Teacher will take attendance at the beginning of the period. If a student is late three times in one semester for any specific class, he will be obligated to sit a detention. If a boy continues to be late, he will have to sit an additional detention for each subsequent lateness. Please review this policy with your children and encourage them to be on time. Being on time means that he should arrive prepared for the class with his homework and supplies so that his time in the classroom can be used effectively.

# Environment of Kedusha and Respect

## Dress Code and Appearance

The Yeshiva expects our talmidim to dress in a manner befitting a Ben Torah. Although there is no official school uniform, appropriate clothes are important to enhance school decorum and instill in children a respectful attitude towards school.

Please adhere to the following dress code:

- Shirts must have collars; shirts with writing, numbers, logos, or large pictures may not be worn. **Neon colored shirts are not allowed.** For grades 6-7 students, shirts should be solid white, blue or black with no stripes, numbers or colored trim, even on the sleeves or shoulders. Shirts may be either full button down or three button polo, no zippers. All 8th-grade students are required to wear **plain white, collared, full button-down shirts**.
- Boys must wear dark pants. Jeans, cargo pants, sweatpants (even if they look like pants), or shorts may not be worn. **Tight fitting pants will not be permitted** (if you can't lift the pant leg above your knee, it is too tight). The pants

must have a button and a zipper up to the waistline with no drawstring. Any pants with a zipper or elastic by the ankles may not be worn.

- All students are expected to wear either sneakers or shoes (no crocs, slides, or slippers i.e. UGG slippers). Shoes and/or sneakers and their laces must be a conservative color. Sneakers with lights or wheels are not allowed. Ankle socks may not be worn. For Junior High School students, **only fully black sneakers (including soles) with black laces are allowed (even logos and small strips of white trimming are not allowed).**
- Proper sized dark solid-colored yarmulkes are required without anything other than the student's name or initial. For Junior High School students, only solid color (including rim) dark yarmulkes without any writing at all (even initials or Bar Mitzvah logos) are allowed.
- Haircuts must be appropriate in length and reflect the image of a Ben Torah.
- Boys who already wear תפילין (even before they are Bar Mitzvah) are required to wear hats and jackets for all Davening in school.
- All hats must be felt and not rain hat material. All hats and jackets should be dark, conservative colors.
- Sweatshirts should only be solid dark colors, with no writing, brand names, pictures or numbers. **Junior High School students may wear hooded sweatshirt around Yeshiva, but not in class.**
- **Knapsacks may not have any TV/Movie characters or other pop culture references or themes.**
- Bracelet bands/wristbands may not be worn.
- Fitbit, game watches, or interactive watches of any kind may not be worn.

Because it is very difficult to give exact guidelines without a school uniform, please understand that it will remain at the discretion of the administration to determine whether a particular item is considered appropriate dress style for YKLI. We are confident that we

have your cooperation since we know that our parent body wants an atmosphere which reflects the Torah values of dignity and refinement. Your positive attitude in conforming to these expectations is critical for enabling your children to develop a healthy and mature acceptance of authority.

## Expected Torahdik Standards

In keeping with the Yeshiva's high standard of חינוך, please be advised that radios, walkie talkies, iPods, iPads, electronic games, cellphones, smartwatches, cameras, video watches, sports cards, Pokémon Cards or any cards portraying imaginary powers, any movie/TV/Video related cards, or Trump Cards bearing images of any media characters may not be brought to Yeshiva. **Please be aware that these items will not be returned when confiscated.** While parenting today is a daunting challenge, it is a test we can certainly overcome to emerge triumphant! We just need to have clarity about our values and goals, and then stay alert, focused and determined to achieve them. Great thought should be spent on considering whether any of these items should even be allowed in your own homes. As always, our Hanhala is available to discuss concerns.

Our Gedolim have warned us regarding allowing our children to have improper access to the internet and other media outlets, which could adversely affect their קדושה. The Yeshiva requires that every home with internet access must have a proper filter or accountability software in place. The Yeshiva strongly encourages parents to utilize our community's resource of TAG solutions to ensure that the filtering of the technology in your home is up to the highest standards. Whatever provisions are made will have to be on file in Yeshiva. Please sign the Internet Declaration Form that was included in our Parent Packet. Even after filtering, we **strongly** urge parents not to give their children games or other devices for home use that have internet capability.

Smartphones, iPads, texting, WhatsApp, and, chas v'shalom, other harmful forms of social media are ruining our children's lives! Their inability to stay focused, their inability to use their time productively, their failure to cultivate and develop healthy friendships, the void of creative thinking, and the total lack of awareness of their surroundings, are just a few areas where they are impacted. This doesn't even touch upon the potential detrimental usage

of this medium; the lashon hara, the put-downs, the exclusion…

Class chats, where the boys have unsupervised access to text and communicate with one another, have resulted in use of inappropriate language, shared media, exposure, and terrible bullying. All the chinuch we work so hard together to provide at home and in yeshiva can be compromised in an instant, with one unexpected interaction. The Yeshiva does not allow any chats between students on any communication device, or for parents to allow their son(s) to use a parents' device to communicate in such a setting. For detailed technology guidelines from the yeshiva, please CLICK HERE or refer to the attachment in the e-mail.

Talmidim must understand that they are ambassadors and representatives of YKLI. Their conduct and behavior, both in and out of school, must reflect the refined character of a Ben Torah. Should a talmid continue to behave in a grossly inappropriate manner after warning is given, he may be asked to leave the Yeshiva, ח"ו. Furthermore, any willful misconduct that has an adverse effect on the reputation of the Yeshiva may be grounds for immediate expulsion, ח"ו.

Starting in first grade, Yeshiva Ketana does not allow its talmidim to attend coed leagues or coed camps. even if they separate boys and girls at an older age. Certainly, they should not be going to coed water parks, coed swimming pools or other coed entertainment settings, even during vacation/free time.

## Using Refined Speech

Remember that your mind and your mouth are made for Torah, Tefillah, Ahavas Yisroel, Mitzvos and the necessities of living.

The Gemara in Maseches שבת לג says בעון נבלות פה צרות רבות וגזירות קשות מתחדשות וכו', for the sin of speaking obscene language, calamities increase and harsh decrees originate, etc. The extreme gravity assigned to the use of obscene language may seem puzzling. It becomes understandable in light of the fact that man is distinguished from other creatures by his capacity for speech. If he degrades this capacity, then he degrades the essence of his humanity. Obscene or inappropriate language severely damages the נשמה of the user, and the נשמות of those who hear it as well and **will not be tolerated in or out of school**. Con-

tinued use of such language after one warning, will lead to expulsion. This is especially applicable in this generation, where internet, TV, newspapers and even radio is so shameful and vulgar. May we be זוכה that our school be a place of קדושה.

## Gaming

Considering the dangerous, addictive nature of gaming and its detrimental impact on other children, **talmidim of Yeshiva Ketana are not allowed to play any multiplayer/interactive/internet-based video games at all,** even on weekends or vacation days! Great discretion should be used with regards to playing <u>any</u> online video game. We urge you to take your parental responsibilities very seriously, considering whether this will allow your children to achieve greater יראת שמים.

## Technology Guidelines

These guidelines reflect our shared commitment to the chinuch and wellbeing of our students. A calm, protected home environment helps our children grow, learn, and thrive. We ask every family to partner with us in creating that environment. Thank you for your care and cooperation.

Family Device: A "family device" is any device kept in the home that more than one person can access, such as a phone, shared computer, tablet, or Smart TV in a common area. Guidelines:

Students in grades N-8 may not own or possess a personal phone, including both smartphones and flip phones. Wearable devices with calling or texting capability, such as cellular smartwatches, count as personal phones for this rule. (Please make sure extended family and grandparents are aware of this rule!)

Students in grades N-8 may not have personal internet-enabled devices. This includes, but is not limited to, iPads, laptops, Chromebooks, and tablets. Because old or decommissioned devices are a leading source of unmonitored access, parents are urged to properly dispose of or secure old electronics.

All shared "family devices" (see Definitions above) must have a TAG-approved filter

installed and active.

Student class chats and group messaging are strictly prohibited. When class activities or student communication need to be organized, a parent should facilitate it by telephone.

Interactive online gaming with peers or outside players is strictly prohibited. Many devices cannot run individual filtering software or lack built-in parental controls. This includes gaming consoles, Smart TVs, streaming sticks, smart home appliances, and smartwatches and other wearables with calling, texting, or internet access. Families must secure these devices at the network level using a filtered router or a controllable DNS option such as OpenDNS or CleanBrowsing.

If your family requires an exception for medical management devices (such as continuous glucose monitors) or other specific circumstances, please speak directly with the school administration.

## Bullying

Healthy self-esteem is critical in the development of happy, balanced children. Bullying, which may involve hitting, teasing or any action which makes others feel inferior, can be destructive, ח"ו to a child's self-image and confidence. There is **never** an excuse to bully, tease, hit, or do something hurtful to another boy, even if **he started it.** The school hashkafa is, when a boy hits or "starts", you go to a Rebbe or Teacher. You are not allowed to 'hit back.' It is a basic right of every talmid to feel safe in school. With this in mind, YKLI has a Zero-Tolerance policy towards bullying. There is also a concept called "religious bullying," where one student makes fun of another student's higher level of Yiras Shamayim and more refined character. This, too, will not be tolerated in our Yeshiva. Students who bully may be suspended or even expelled from the Yeshiva. Please impress this value on your children and encourage them to speak up if they feel bullied. It is critical that you be in touch with the Hanhala if you suspect your son is the victim of bullying. At the same time, we are committed to doing whatever possible to help the bully himself develop a healthy self-image and express himself in an appropriate manner. We hope parents will partner with us in this endeavor and

not resist taking the necessary steps towards addressing this critical concern. Often, help at a young age can correct an issue, saving years of grief, ח"ו.

## Books

When choosing books for our curriculum, our school library, and our class libraries, great effort is expended to ensure that our standards of קדושה and טהרה are maintained. The values which we work on together to inculcate within our children are under constant attack from our immoral society, and unfortunately, often penetrate insidiously. The written word, whether through advertisements, blogs, newspapers or books can be filled with subliminal and sometimes explicit messages and values which are contradictory to our Torah values. It befits us, as a chinuch beacon, to do everything within our power to protect our environment in Yeshiva. With this in mind, students may only bring Jewish themed books to Yeshiva. Other than books assigned for reports, or distributed by the school, secular books, including (but not limited to) fiction or graphic novels, may not be brought to Yeshiva.

## Tznius

As a YKLI חינוך partner, it is understood that the way a parent dresses, whether on a Sunday, at a simcha, or out shopping has a tremendous effect on our תלמידים. When fathers and mothers dress with צניעות, it enhances their own קדושה and corresponds with the רוח of קדושה which our Yeshiva is striving to instill in our תלמידים. This impact is more prominent when parents come to the Yeshiva's grounds, whether to visit, participate in a school activity, or even just to drop off or pick up carpool. All fathers and mothers are expected not only to dress with צניעות, but with proper כובד ראש, seriousness, for our מקום תורה. Men should wear shirts and slacks. Women are to follow all the guidelines of the Shulchan Aruch, including covering knees, elbows, collarbone, and hair. Please see to it that clothing is of a proper length and sufficiently loose fitting. Additionally, proper כבוד for our מקום תורה warrants both mothers and fathers coming to Yeshiva dressed in a manner reflecting that כבוד, not with a look more appropriate for the gym or beach (such as wearing leggings, flip flops, or slides). **By**

**displaying sensitivity to our מקדש מעט, we can be more assured of raising children who are קדושים.**

# Procedures & Systems

## Busing

The Yeshiva considers derech eretz and the safety of their talmidim on the bus to be of utmost importance. Please help your child become familiar with the following procedures, as these rules will be strictly enforced.

1. *Enter and exit the bus in a quiet and orderly manner.*
2. *Never approach a bus before it comes to a complete stop.*
3. ***Respect the authority of the bus driver.***
4. *Remain seated until your bus stop is reached.*
5. *Keep head, hands, and arms inside the bus at all times.*
6. *Speak and act with proper* דרך ארץ *to everyone on the bus.*
7. *Some bus drivers do not allow eating. Please follow your driver's specific instructions.*
8. *Shouting out of a bus window or throwing things out of a bus window, can cause a* חלול השם *and will not be tolerated.*

Sadly, on occasion we have received disciplinary notes written by the driver and sent to Yeshiva and to the district, creating a חילול השם and an embarrassment for the family. Any student repeatedly disobeying these rules may lose the privilege of riding on the school bus. Should this, ח"ו, be necessary, we ask you to fully support this severe measure, ensuring that it will be an effective mechanism in the proper chinuch of your son.

**Please note*:* The Lawrence school district does not allow anyone not residing in their district to ride their buses, nor do they allow any student to change from**

**one bus to another. In case of an emergency situation, please contact the Lawrence Transportation Office at (516) 295-7065, and the Yeshiva Office at (516) 791-2800 so that official arrangements can be made with the bus company.**

## Carpools

Pickup on busing days: All carpools should arrive 10 minutes after dismissal time.

Pickup on days with no busing (such as Sundays and Legal Holidays): The carpools will have staggered timing to avoid any backup onto Doughty Boulevard. Please arrive at the designated time assigned to your carpool.

During carpool, please adhere to the following guidelines to ensure the safety of our students:

1. **DO NOT USE CELLPHONES WHILE DRIVING IN OUR PARKING LOT!**
2. Please obey the posted signs regarding entering and exiting the lot.
3. Please follow directions from staff regarding parking.
4. Please pull up as close as possible to the exit.
5. Please make sure to park as close as possible to the curb.
6. Please DO NOT stop in the middle of the lot to pick up children. This creates a safety concern and is inconsiderate to drivers stuck behind you.
7. **DO NOT pull up on the front sidewalk. This creates an extreme safety hazard, as drivers exiting the lot cannot see oncoming cars.**
8. Children should not be told to cross the lot and not be walked across the lot during arrival and dismissal times without staff guidance.
9. Please be sure to inform carpool drivers if your son will not be going home in their carpool.

If you have any problems regarding your parking situation, please call Rabbi Pfeiffer at ext. 1009.

## Dropping Off Items at Yeshiva

If you need to drop off homework, books, lunch, or other items for your son, you may park in the fire lane for up to three minutes. Please leave your properly marked package at the office. **Parents should not make their way to the classroom,** as this is disruptive to the lesson and makes the other children feel uncomfortable.

## Communicating Vital Home Information

Everything that happens in your home vitally affects your children. Therefore, please inform the Hanhala or your child's teacher of any unusual events that are taking place in your family. This includes births, marriages, special simchos, anticipated trips by parents, illnesses, problems, deaths, ח"ו, etc. Properly informed staff can help your child navigate through difficult periods. Please be assured that all information of this nature will be kept strictly confidential.

## Use of the Office Phone

As a rule, children are not permitted to use the office phone during the school day. The Hanhala and school staff will use their discretion to decide when to give permission for a child to call home. Students are not allowed to have any cellphones in Yeshiva. Violators may be expelled, and phones will be confiscated **and disposed of.**

## Infoline

The Yeshiva has an Infoline. When necessary, this telephone number will be active with current information regarding school closings and schedule changes. Please call 516-204-4579 if you have any questions regarding school schedules or openings. In case of inclement weather, please call the Infoline, which will be updated regularly. In addition, we will send out email updates with any changes or pertinent information. Please make sure we have your updated email address on file.

## Breakfast

Breakfast is widely recognized as the most important meal of the day. Children who arrive at school having eaten a nutritious, unrushed breakfast are generally better settled and prepared to begin a new day of learning. Please make every attempt to ensure your son arrives at yeshiva well-nourished and ready to learn.

7th and 8th grade talmidim eat breakfast in the dining room after shacharis. Your son should bring his own cereal or other food items, clearly labeled. Containers of milk and cereal will be available at the price of .50 each. Breakfast cards (22 punches) may be purchased in the dining room for $11.00 each.

## Lunch

Once again, we have contracted Elite Caterers to provide nutritious lunches for the Yeshiva. If your son is on the school lunch program and, for some reason, does not like the lunch, **please send him with a lunch from home**. School cereals will not be available as an alternative to lunch! Students **will not be allowed to receive lunch deliveries from restaurants.**

While we understand the doting nature of so many mothers, dropping off lunches for your son disrupts his routine, undermines his acceptance of responsibility, and, in some cases, may even spoil him. Please use great discretion when dropping off a lunch for your son. Even if you are delivering lunch personally, please only bring paper bag lunches rather than something purchased from a restaurant.

Due to safety concerns, **no student will be permitted to use hot water at school,** so please do not send packaged soup or hot cocoa. You may send a thermos with hot water or soup for your son to use at his seat in the lunchroom. Please contact Rabbi Pfeiffer for special arrangements if your child has food allergies.

To maintain the highest standards of kashrus, children are not permitted to bring any homemade food **for distribution** in school. **All food brought in for distribution must be endorsed by a nationally accepted hechsher or Vaad and, if dairy, *must* be Cholov Yisroel.** Parents should be aware that meat lunches are served on Mondays and Wednesdays.

On those days, a pareve snack should be sent regardless of whether your child receives school lunch or not. If you are in doubt about any product, please contact the Hanhala.

## Snacks

**THIS IS A TREE NUT/PEANUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL DUE TO THE EXISTENCE OF SEVERE ALLERGIES. PLEASE BE CERTAIN THAT ALL FOOD AND SNACKS THAT YOUR CHILD BRINGS TO SCHOOL DO NOT CONTAIN ANY TREE NUTS OR PEANUTS.**

**EVEN TRACES OF TREE NUTS OR PEANUTS ARE NOT ALLOWED**

Snacks are an important part of a student's day. Boys should bring **three or four snacks** every day. **Please make sure that at least two of them are healthy snacks.** We cannot emphasize enough the importance of good nutrition especially during a child's formative years.

- Glass bottles are not allowed in school.
- Children are not allowed to enter Yeshiva with large cups of coffee/cocoa/Slurpee or any other drink, hot or cold. Besides the obvious problems caused by spills and lateness, it often creates feelings of jealousy among the other boys. On a more subtle note, it sends a subliminal message to the boy himself and his friends that he is entering a care-free environment rather than one dedicated to work and effort, where his focus is to strive to achieve.
- Chewing gum is never permitted in school or on the bus.
- Extra-large candies are at times unsanitary and dangerous; they should not be brought to school.
- Snacks may not be shared.

## Money in Yeshiva

Other than money for siyumim and trips, students should not bring any money to school. **The Yeshiva does not permit the selling or trading of snacks or any other**

**items.** Such a sale will be considered invalid, and both the items being sold and the money brought to school will be confiscated.

## Homework

Homework assignments are part of the planned curriculum. The teachers in both the *Limudei Kodesh* and secular departments work together to keep the total amount of homework to within reasonable limits.

It is advisable for parents to familiarize themselves with their child's homework by reviewing his homework pads and sheets, and by signing all homework assignments and tests. It is in the best interest of your son that parents refrain from offering "too much" assistance. The homework is the child's work, not the parents'. If your son encounters repeated difficulties in completing his homework, please discuss the matter with his Rebbe, Teacher, or Hanhala.

## Orientation, Semesters, and Parent-Teacher Conferences

We have scheduled a Parent-Teacher Orientation, which will allow you the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the curriculum and give you a chance to meet the Rebbeim and Teachers. We look forward to greeting all of our parents personally at the Parent-Teacher Orientation. Please consult the school calendar for the dates.

The academic year is divided into three marking periods. Report cards are distributed after each semester. Parent-Teacher meetings are scheduled to coincide with the end of the first and second marking periods. For JHS, there will be Hebrew and English Midterms and Finals. Please consult the school calendar for the dates.

If parents wish to confer with a teacher or a member of the administration about a concern, a special conference can be arranged. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

Participation in Orientation and in PTA sends a powerful message to Rebbeim/Teachers that you are an active partner in the chinuch of your son. We urge you to make every

effort to attend.

## Parent Money Collection

Over the years, many parents have reached out to the Hanhala confidentially to voice unease about group pressure to collect money for a Rebbe/Morah/Teacher. While the cause is certainly noble, we request that parents express their הכרת הטוב as individuals rather than collectively, other than on the occasions presented through our Women's League. By doing so, we can show sensitivity for those parents who may have already given, or who, קע״ה, have large families, or who may prefer to demonstrate their הכרת הטוב in some other fashion.

## Women's League

Participation in the Women's League will enable you as a parent to play an active role in our Yeshiva, and to provide the school with many extras to enhance the education of your children. Please contact the Women's League co-presidents, Mrs. Elisheva Aber, Mrs. Ariella Flegmann, Mrs. Suzanne Feit, Mrs. Yonina Blassberger, Mrs. Roizy Sinensky, Mrs. Tovy Adler, or Mrs. Esti Calko to volunteer your time and talents. Everyone's help is vitally needed and greatly appreciated.

## School Supplies

As in the past, the teachers in grades 1-5 purchase supplies for their students to help your son with organization and to save you the bother of looking for specific items that are needed. The fee for these items is included in the $100 supply fee. For students in JHS, please see the supply list included in the parent packet e-mail.

## Lost and Found

All student possessions such as school supplies, jackets, coats, boots, etc. **must be labeled for proper identification**. We cannot overemphasize how much money is wasted

every year due to clothing remaining unclaimed in the lost and found because it is unlabeled. All jackets and coats should have collar hooks for hanging. All items that are found will be placed in the lost and found box. The full contents of the box will be on display by each PTA and again at the end of the school year. After each of these occasions, any unlabeled items will be discarded or donated.

## Sports Equipment

The Yeshiva does not provide sports equipment. Students should bring their own ball, **labeled**, for use at recess. Hard balls, baseball bats, and hockey sticks are not allowed in Yeshiva. (Special permission will be given on "park days" and league days to bring in these items.) Super balls (small rock-hard rubber) should not be brought to school. In addition, bicycles, roller blades (including wheelies), scooters, skateboards, and anything else on wheels may not be brought to Yeshiva at all.

Sometimes, during outside play, balls or other equipment go over the neighbor's fences. Please be aware that we are not able to guarantee the return of these items. If not returned, please understand that others who threw it over would not be responsible, unless it was done intentionally.

# Health & Safety

## Health Office

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL students attending YKLI must be fully vaccinated according to the New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance.**

Health Examination and Immunization Forms from a recent physical exam are mandatory for all **new students**, all **preschoolers**, and all students going into the **odd number grades (ie, grades 1,3,5, and 7)**. Forms must include the physical exam information along with an immunization record. Immunization records showing documentation of the Tdap vaccine must be submitted for all **grade six** students.

If your child is to receive **any** medication in school, whether prescription or over the counter, it must be brought to the health office in its *original pharmacy container*. The Medication Administration Form must be completed and signed by BOTH the doctor and a parent. This includes daily medications, Tylenol, Advil, EpiPens, Benadryl, Hydrocortisone cream, and rescue inhalers, etc.

The Self-Medication Release Form is to be filled out ONLY if you want your child to keep his medication **on him** instead of in the health office. This form may be used for children TEN YEARS OLD OR OLDER, and both you and your doctor must be confident that your child is knowledgeable about his medication and is capable of self-administration. As such, please note that this form is to be signed by both the doctor and a parent. If you opt to complete this Self-Medication Release form, it is to be filled out IN ADDITION TO THE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORM.

The Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan (two sided) should be filled out for any child that has a FOOD, STING, or LATEX allergy requiring EMERGENCY MEDICATION. **The Medication Administration Form must be completed in conjunction with this allergy and anaphylaxis form.**

The Asthma Emergency Care Plan should be filled out for any child whose physician is ordering asthma medication to be taken at school if needed, such as an emergency inhaler. **The Medication Administration Form must be completed in conjunction with this asthma form.**

To obtain these forms, please refer to the email sent out in May, which contains the links for all pertinent forms, or go to our website YKLI.ORG (scroll down to the bottom and click on Parent Portal and go to Forms). Please email all forms as soon as possible to office@ykli.org. **Please note that these forms are State mandated and are due before the first day of class. Students whose forms have not been submitted will be required to remain home until we have received them and the Yeshiva is in compliance with all State laws.** We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Routine vision and hearing screenings will be performed as required by New York State.

Reminder: If a child has a fever, he may return to school after a **minimum of 24 hours of no fever without being on Tylenol or Advil**. Also, remember to call the health office if your child is diagnosed with any communicable disease such as conjunctivitis, flu, lice, or strep throat.

## Lice Check

The Women's League has arranged for lice checkers to come to school to check the boys for nits. There will be a nit check after summer vacation and following Pesach vacation. The dates of these lice checks are in the calendar and are mandatory. Please arrange for a private appointment with a licensed lice removal technician if your son cannot be checked in school. After those days, no boy will be allowed to class without being screened.

## Safety and Security

The safety of the students is our first priority. We ask parents to please adhere to the following rules to ensure that the school building is a safe place for our children to learn.

Students may not bike or scooter to school. Parenthetically, it has come to our attention that a number of children in our community who have electric scooters are using them in an unsafe manner. We impress upon you the importance of taking the time to teach your children proper safety when it comes to riding these scooters.

If a student will be walking to or from school, the appropriate form must be filled out. The link to the form is included in the Parent Packet.

While we firmly believe that our security comes from Hashem, our sincere, appropriate efforts and plans are critical in earning His protection. With this in mind, once again, we will be having two armed security guards on campus. We hope this will help ensure a safe environment for our children and staff. Please impress upon your children the importance of treating any security personnel with respect.

Yeshiva Ketana has regular lockdown and fire drills during the school year, to review and practice the safety procedures put in place by the administration. Please help us by explaining to your son that these drills are important to his safety and must be taken seriously.

# Simchas & Parties at Yeshiva

## Bar Mitzvahs and Hanochas Tefillin

A Bar Mitzvah often becomes an opportunity for parents to share their joy with their friends and family in their own unique way. Our policy is that the Bar Mitzvah Seuda and Simcha for the YKLI friends of the Bar Mitzvah boy must be held in our Yeshiva building. We are very happy to offer our Yeshiva Dining Room for you to host this event and milestone. Although there will be a limited capacity, parents who have done this in the past were VERY happy. Besides the economic savings, the boys have a great time and much less time is wasted. Talmidim will still be allowed to attend the Shabbos leining and the kiddush of local Bar Mitzvahs, but they will not be allowed to stay for the seuda. We recognize that some may opt to have a weeknight lavish affair, while others may opt to celebrate with a Shabbos in a hotel. Those decisions are entirely up to you, in consultation with your Rav. However, our talmidim will not be allowed to attend any Bar Mitzvah taking place in any of these alternative venues.

We will speak to our 7th graders about the behavior we expect from them, and send an email to our seventh-grade parents, reviewing those expectations. Suffice it to say that Bar Mitzvahs should not be held during school time, should include all the boys in the class, and should have appropriate music/entertainment (only Jewish music). Your son should NOT bring a cellphone to the Bar Mitzvah. All boys are expected to arrive on time to school the next morning, so please plan to end your simcha at an appropriate time.

On the first day a boy puts on tefillin, many parents provide a celebratory breakfast for the class. Please contact Rabbi Pfeiffer for the exact standardized items allowed for this breakfast or download it from the YKLI website. As with other events during school, friends

from other classes will not be allowed to attend. If you would like to have your הנחת תפילין outside of Yeshiva, please keep in mind that classmates and/or friends from YKLI may not attend. Please respect this rule.

## Siyumim

Some of our students enjoy celebrating siyumim with their class for something that they learned outside of Yeshiva. We encourage this, but please keep in mind that the most that should be sent in is pizza and a drink or just donuts. Please do not purchase Slurpee. If possible, please arrange this celebration on a Sunday or on a half school day.

## Upsherins

When Upsherins are held in Yeshiva, siblings, cousins, or friends who also attend YKLI may not attend unless it coincides with their recess time.

## Birthday Parties

Class birthday parties are wonderful, but to ensure that they do not disrupt the learning process, they are only allowed for Grades 1-2. If you wish to have a birthday party in class, you must receive prior approval from the teacher. Only individual-sized treats like cupcakes, donuts, or cookies, are permitted. Cakes, drinks (soda, Slurpee, etc.), party favors, and prizes are NOT permitted. Birthday treats must be under the Vaad, pareve, and nut free. Should a parent want to be present, please go to the main office upon arrival and wait to be escorted to the classroom by a staff member. Since teaching and learning is paramount, siblings from other grades in YKLI may not attend.

The Yeshiva strongly urges that the whole class be invited when throwing a party outside of school. It can be devastating to a child if he is one of a small group left out. As with all YKLI events, please be sensitive to the standards of all families: All food should be Cholov Yisroel and nut free, and the entertainment, if any, should be acceptable to all. Please keep in

mind that hiring extravagant entertainment for a birthday party creates a spirit of competition and raises the bar for other families. It changes the focus of the occasion, in addition to being insensitive to other families. Please avoid creating standards where this is the norm, and keep birthday parties simple and wholesome, with parent-led activities.

A positive attitude by the parents toward the Hanhala, Rebbeim, Moros, Teachers and staff is critical towards helping your children form positive opinions and enjoy a successful experience. Parents who criticize Rebbeim, Moros, and Teachers in front of their children are guilty- not only of loshon hora, but also of undermining the midos of their children. While it is true that talmidim may have valid and even serious complaints, these should be addressed directly and privately to the staff members involved.

It is our fervent tefilla that Hakodosh Baruch Hu bentsch us with great hatzlacha and abundant nachas from all of our children.

Looking forward to a year of great עליה!

Sincerely,

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|---|---|---|
| Rabbi Tzvi Krigsman | Rabbi Shlomo Dovid Pfeiffer | Rabbi Avi Schulman |
| מנהל | סגן מנהל | סגן מנהל |