



Lower School

Parent - Student Manual

2017 - 2018

5777 – 5778

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Introduction

Our School

Founded in 1917, Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim – Talmudical Academy of Baltimore is one of the most venerable institutions of Jewish learning in the United States. Over these many years, TA has succeeded in producing young men of stature in Torah learning, secular scholarship, and communal leadership.

The mission of the TA Lower School is to provide a program that will assist the student achieve his highest potential as he strives for excellence in Limudei Kodesh and General Studies. Based upon the principles of Torah, halacha and derech erez, and by emphasizing the “total person,” TA aims to develop the general character of the student as he prepares to become a responsible and productive member of the Jewish community.

We believe that there are additional educational experiences for which the school, home, and community are jointly accountable. The school will assist the home and community by providing experiences that help students:

- Understand and respect themselves as individuals.
- Understand and respect others.
- Become responsible citizens.
- Foster interest and appreciation of the arts, sciences, and humanities.
- Develop skills and interest in making personally rewarding and constructive use of leisure time.
- Develop and maintain sound health and safety habits.
- Value life-long learning.

TA Lower School presents an educational program that is designed for higher education and for the business world. For this reason, the school admits students who have the essential learning potential to accomplish these goals.

We take pride in our excellent rebbeim and teachers. We have an outstanding staff of dedicated and devoted individuals whose sole interest is the chinuch and well-being of the children in their care. They strive for continued growth and elevation in the pursuit of excellence.

Our Rebbeim have spent many years in yeshivos learning intensively day and night, devoted to Torah study and the acquisition of yiras Shamayim and ahavas Hashem. During these years of study, our Rebbeim were ordained with smicha, which in the secular world would be the equivalent of a post graduate degree. Because of these years spent in Torah study, the erudition and expertise that each Rebbe brings to his classroom is extraordinary. Even more important, however, is their deep seated belief that functioning as a Rebbe is their calling. Recognition of their responsibilities as an integral link in the mesora translates into an incredible degree of love and devotion toward each and every talmid in their respective shiurim.

We are extremely proud of our professional and dedicated General Studies teachers. In addition to Bachelor’s degrees, many faculty members also have Master’s degrees. Our teachers take part in continuing education and professional development trainings. As a result, they are constantly applying new strategies and techniques to our programs and classrooms. Reaching every student at his level helps ensure that he reaches his potential. Our teachers are well known in the community for going the extra mile to meet each student’s needs.

Philosophy of Education

We believe in the value and dignity of all individuals, recognizing and respecting that there are differences in background, mental and physical development, or socio-economic status. In accordance with this belief, TA Lower School is open to all Jewish school-age males who are able to benefit educationally from the program provided by the school.

We believe that there are unique educational responsibilities for which this school is accountable. Therefore, we provide programs that:

- Develop within the student comprehensive Torah knowledge, which includes skills in reading, Chumash,

- Navi, Mishna, Gemora, and Halacha, as well as an understanding of the structure of the Hebrew language.
- Instill within the students a foundation of Torah knowledge.
- Imbue the students with a Torah oriented outlook and attitude and integrate those values into everyday life.
- Prepare the students with the skills needed to study the Torah.
- Help students achieve proficiency in a variety of disciplines with an emphasis placed on reading, writing and mathematics.
- Encourage students to develop and apply their higher level thinking skills.
- Assist students to integrate technology with the educational program.

In order to accomplish our goals, the educational administration and the Vaad Hachinuch of our yeshiva have mandated specific student ratios for our classes. The maximum nursery ratio is 1 teacher/assistant per 9 children, and the maximum Kindergarten (pre1a) ratio is 1 teacher/assistant per 11 children. However, on average, each nursery class has approximately 2 teachers/assistants per 16 students and each Kindergarten (pre1a) class has approximately 2 teachers/assistants per 20 students. The maximum Elementary ratio is 1 rebbe/teacher per 25 students. However, on average, Elementary classes have approximately 1 rebbe/teacher per 21 students.

Our school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin. A child must be 5-years old or older on or before September 1 of the school year to be age-eligible for Kindergarten (pre1a).

General Information

Address: Talmudical Academy of Baltimore / 4445 Old Court Road / Baltimore, MD 21208

Phone: 410-484-6600 / Dial "1" for Early Childhood / Dial "2" for Elementary

- Rabbi Nachman Kahana, Menahel ext. 319
- Mrs. Shoshana Berzon, General Studies Principal ext. 323
- Mrs. Beily Rosen, Early Childhood Director ext. 326
- Rabbi Norman Lowenthal, Guidance Counselor ext. 322
- Mrs. Rivky Danziger, Learning Center ext. 373
- The Nurse ext. 330

Emergency Hotline: 410-484-0636 (see "communication" on page 7)

Lower School Fax: 443-725-2058

Lower School Email: elemoffice@talmudicalacademy.org

Website: talmudicalacademy.org

Curriculum

We use the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) for all core areas of secular instruction: English-language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. You may access a copy of the Maryland VSC by going to <http://mdk12.org/instruction/curriculum/index.html> or requesting a copy from the elementary school office.

Special Education Services

We are fortunate to offer special education services at our school with the support of SHEMESH, an educational support program for students with learning differences. Mrs. Rivky Danziger, TA's Learning Center Director, leads a team of special educators who are employed by TA, with partial funding from SHEMESH. Students can be referred for services by teachers and/or parents, and children with identified learning differences are serviced through specialized learning plans. Services range from in-class support and case management to individualized instruction in our Learning Center and support in a self-contained classroom. Students in the Elementary can access services through Mrs. Sarah Ottensoser, SHEMESH's executive functioning coach. Additionally, our Early Childhood benefits from the SHEMESH services of Mrs. Ickovitz, reading specialist, and Mrs. Gila Haor, behavior specialist.

Mrs. Stacie Arfa, our Elementary reading specialist, works with small groups of students with identified lags in reading skills on a daily basis. She uses carefully selected strategies and leveled materials to help students improve their abilities. Mrs. Arfa is available on Parent-Teacher Conference night and can be contacted through the Elementary office.

Mrs. Helen Hexter, our Early Childhood kriaH specialist, works with all Early Childhood students to ensure their kriaH skills are developing and up to par. She spends additional time with students who require greater assistance.

Guidance Counselor

Rabbi Norman Lowenthal, msw, m.ed is our Lower School Guidance Counselor. The School Counseling Program supports and enhances the school’s educational program by addressing the needs of children comprehensively and systematically. When children have worries connected to school or home, it can adversely affect their ability to be successful in school and in life in general. Through prevention and intervention programs, these barriers to learning are addressed. Rabbi Lowenthal consults with parents and teachers and interacts with students in three basic ways: classroom guidance lessons, small group counseling sessions, and individual counseling. **Classroom guidance lessons** consist of activities on topics of particular concern or interest as identified by the classroom teacher or the developmental needs of students, i.e. self-esteem, responsibility, and social skills. **Small group counseling sessions** are designed around a particular topic such as making friends, changing family structures, and organization skills. Students are recommended for groups by parents, faculty, or Rabbi Lowenthal himself. Students can also receive **individual counselling** from Rabbi Lowenthal. Referrals for individual counselling are made by parents, faculty and the students themselves. Rabbi Lowenthal can be reached at 410-484-6600 ext. 322. Students can communicate directly with Rabbi Lowenthal through a special mailbox located in the Elementary lobby.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Arrival/Dismissal Timetable

| | Arrival Times | Classes Begin | Dismissal #1 (Grades N – 3rd) | Dismissal #2 (Grades N – 3rd) | Dismissal #3 (Grades 4th & 5th) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 9:00 am- 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 12:15 pm (2 nd -5 th) | | |
| Monday | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 am | 3:25 pm | 3:35 pm | 4:30 pm |
| Tuesday | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 am | 3:25 pm | 3:35 pm | 4:30 pm |
| Wednesday | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 am | 3:25 pm | 3:35 pm | 4:30 pm |
| Thursday | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 am | 3:25 pm | 3:35 pm | 4:30 pm |
| Friday | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 am | 1:40 pm | 1:50 pm | 2:00 pm |
| Half-Day | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 am | 12:10 pm | 12:20 pm | 12:30 pm |
| Early Dismissal | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 | N/A | N/A | 3:45 pm |
| Half-Day Nursery | 8:30 am- 8:45 am | 8:45 am | Monday-Thursday 12:30 pm Friday 12:00 pm | | |

The administration is vigilant in monitoring the safety in our parking lot. The following procedures were developed to ensure your son’s safety during arrivals and dismissal. We thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please also reference the “Arrival/Dismissal Procedures” letter and the “Arrival/Dismissal Parking Lot Map and Instructions” sent home in the summer mailing.

Arrival Information

It is crucial that children arrive at school prior to 8:45 am on weekdays and before 9:15 am on Sundays. We cannot stress enough the importance of students being in class before class begins. Please keep in mind that tardiness is

disruptive to the education of the entire class. Please do not drop off students before 8:30 am Monday-Friday and before 9:00 am on Sundays as there is no supervision.

- In the morning, the parking lot is designated as a one-way, counterclockwise route to be traveled at no more than 5 mph:
- Cars should enter the parking lot and stay to the right and loop around toward the playground side of the lot.
- Drivers should pull in parallel to the playground sidewalk so that students exit the vehicle along the sidewalk. If no spot is immediately available, please wait patiently in line. Do not double park as it poses a tremendous risk to the boys exiting your vehicle.
- Please drop off students from the **right side** passenger door of your car only, thereby they will not be endangered by cars pulling in and out of spots as they exit the parking area. Carpool drivers must be vigilant as they pull out of their parking spots.
- Carpool drivers who choose to bring their children into the building need to park on the Old Court Road/Beltway side of the parking lot. Carefully escort children around the perimeter to the building.
- No child may walk across the parking lot—even accompanied by an adult.
- Please recognize that cars parked in the driveway in front of the school building create a very hazardous condition that is unsafe for your child and for others. Please do not drop off your children in the driveway. Specifically, no stopping is permitted along the red curb/fire lane. We have been informed by the Police Department that cars parked in prohibited spots will be ticketed.

Signing In a Late Student

The front doors of the Elementary school building will be locked shortly after the official arrival time. After this time, parents assume the responsibility that their children and all children in their carpool enter the building safely. There is a buzzer and intercom system to allow people to enter the building once these doors are closed, and students should be instructed to use both. All students in grades nursery-5th need to stop by the office for a late note before proceeding to class if arriving to school after approximately 8:50 am. This policy applies to students who have class in a trailer (including Al Pi Darko-Montessori). Early Childhood students must be escorted to the office by a parent, and we will call a Morah to pick them up. Sometimes a Morah is not available, or the class is in a location other than the classroom. We will either sign in accompanying parents as a visitor so they can escort their son to class, or, if no parent is present, we will ensure the student is escorted to class. Elementary parents do not need to accompany their child to the office, but they are welcome to do so if they like.

Picking Up a Student Early

All students in grades nursery-5th need to be signed out by the office when leaving school early. **No child will be dismissed from class before a parent arrives.** It is our policy that students may not wait in the lobby to be picked up. Children may not be picked up directly from a trailer (including Al Pi Darko-Montessori). Parents must sign out their children in person at the office. Please come prepared with your license, which we will scan into our school security system to electronically sign your child out. There may be times when your child's class is in a location on our campus that we cannot directly communicate with (i.e. the playground, gym, cafeteria, etc.). In these cases, you will be signed in as a visitor and given directions to pick up your son. Please note: if your son will be returning to school later that day, remind him to stop by the office to sign back in (parents are not obligated to be present).

We cannot call your son out of class until you are in the office (unfortunately, this applies even if you are running late, or have a young sleeping passenger in the car). Helpful tip: for pre-planned early pickups, we suggest sending your son with reminder note that he can show his teacher. This way, his teacher will be prepared to dismiss him, and you will have minimal wait time. For student safety, please linger in the lobby until your son makes his way to you from his classroom so we can witness parents escorting their sons out of the building. As a courtesy, please notify your carpool driver if your child is absent or is picked up early.

Please check with the office prior to scheduling appointments for your child to ensure that there are no special school events or activities scheduled that day.

Dismissal Information

Whenever possible, please relay information regarding an early pickup, a change in carpool, etc. through a note to

your son's teacher to minimize the inundation of calls to our office.

4th and 5th grade students will NOT be allowed to be dismissed early on Fridays, or other days with closely spaced dismissals, to carpool with younger siblings. Likewise, please do not plan on having your Nursery - 3rd grader wait in school on Fridays, or other days with closely spaced dismissals, to go home with the 4th and 5th grade classes. As there is no supervision for them, this is a safety issue that we take very seriously. Please plan accordingly.

- As with arrivals, the parking lot is designated as a one-way, counterclockwise route to be traveled at no more than 5 mph:
- Head-in Parking: carpool drivers who arrive early may back into their spots if no children are present. However, for safety reasons, once any children are present only "head in" parking is allowed.
- All cars will be designated a numbered parking space from which children are to be picked up.
- Early Childhood students will be walked out to their carpool spots by their Morahs. We recommend that the carpools have enough booster seats to accommodate the entire carpool. It is very challenging for the children to carry boosters.
- In order to facilitate the smooth flow of dismissal, it is extremely important that you do your utmost to arrive at your designated space on time. Should you arrive early or late for your carpool, you may be asked to wait until you are permitted to proceed to the parking lot.
- Students who live in the Scott's Hill neighborhood will receive a "Walker's Pass", and will be crossed to go home. Please yield to students crossing in the crosswalk.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY

We recognize there may be traffic or other unplanned situations that arise, and we therefore allow parents a grace period for late pick-ups. However, TA charges a fee for carpools that are chronically picked up late, as this imposes on our staff members who must stay late as well to supervise them. We thank you for your understanding of the importance of being on time.

MTA BUS

The MTA is continuing to offer bus service to TA Lower School students. The MTA bus is a public transportation service. This means that the bus operates and follows policy in the manner of other public buses. Please note that TA **does not** provide a bus monitor, nor does TA have any input regarding bus routes, bus stops, changes in schedule, or bus delays. Please be aware that the MTA recently changed the TA bus route number from 18 to **92** and increased their ticket price per ride to **\$1.30**. TA students must adhere to TA and MTA behavior conduct and policies. The Monday-Friday **arrival** bus is for **nursery-5th grade** students. The Monday-Friday **dismissal** bus is for **4th-5th grade students only**. The Sunday arrival and dismissal buses are for **2nd-5th grade** students.

Communication

Parent/Teacher Communication

Effective communication between parents and teachers is essential to the success of every child. Parent questions, concerns, and comments can be communicated directly to the rebbe or teacher. Unless otherwise directed by your son's rebbe or teacher, we request messages for rebbeim or teachers be left through the Elementary School office. Teacher-parent communication is the first line of contact, and the administration is available when further interaction is needed.

School/Parent Communication

TA communicates messages, information, updates, and reminders to parents through various mediums. This includes emails, letters, and flyers. Please note that a majority of communication is relayed through email, and parents are encouraged to check their email frequently.

TA Emergency Hotline/Text Message Notification

For school related announcements regarding inclement or questionable weather, emergency closings, or other unusual circumstances, please call the school hotline at 410-484-0636. When needed, this number will also be used to give you updated information concerning school trips.

TA also uses a text message notification system to update parents during inclement or questionable weather, emergency closings, or other unusual circumstances. We have several text notification groups - parents need to sign themselves up to be added to the group. Please sign up for **each group** that applies to your family:

| | <u>Send Text to Phone #:</u> | <u>Message in Body of Text:</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Elementary (Grades 1 -5) | 81010 | @ycctaelem |
| Early Childhood (Grades N – Pre1A) | 81010 | @ycctapre |
| Lower School MTA bus | 81010 | @mtaelem |
| General TA update for all divisions | 81010 | @talmudic |

TA Times

The TA Times is a newsletter issued regularly to parents. It highlights special activities in the various divisions of our yeshiva.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

There are two scheduled conferences throughout the school year. These conferences provide an opportunity to briefly touch base with your son's rebbe and teacher regarding the progress of your child.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home three times a year for Elementary. Kindergarten (Pre1A) students receive report cards twice a year as well as one mid-year progress report. Report cards are a means to communicate with parents, in a clear and comprehensive manner, regarding their child's educational performance and growth. The information relayed in these reports serve as confirmation of what the parent should already be knowledgeable of.

The B.E.S.T. of TA



In an ongoing effort to raise our standards of derech erez, we continue to reinforce the character of our student body through our motto, 'The B.E.S.T. of TA.' BEST reflects our goal of bringing out the best in each *talmid* by representing the *middos* we wish to cultivate in all our students, as expressed in our mission statement. One area which is always a focal point at TA is the emphasis on derech erez, and we are proud of the accomplishments our talmidim make in regard to mitzvos bein adam l'chaveiro. Our goal is to inculcate standards of integrity and self-control within each child. Using a systematic framework, our expectation is that these ideals are taught consistently and reinforced throughout all settings, at all times, and by all adults in our school. Using the motto "Be your B.E.S.T." we encourage students to strive for excellence.

Our school-wide program is intended for:

- ALL students, ALL staff, and in ALL settings, including non-classroom settings within the school environment.
- Individual classrooms, teachers, and students.

Our objective is to bring out the BEST of TA by providing our staff and students with a framework that will greater enable our teachers to teach and our students to learn.

Discipline

The classroom teacher handles most discipline situations. The following course of action is followed when students are sent to an administrator for discipline. There are degrees of rule infraction, which at the discretion of the administration, result in various consequences.

Reasons for being sent to an administrator include:

- Fighting with another student
- Use of inappropriate language
- Defiance to teacher and /or administrators
- Disruptive behavior

The consequences for inappropriate behavior may include any of the following:

- Parents are informed of the situation either by a phone call from the student, office, an administrator or via letter in the mail.
- An assignment from an administrator must be signed by a parent and returned to the administrator prior to returning to class.
- Student receives after-school supervised detention. The parent will provide for the child's transportation home.
- Student receives out of school suspension. (Parents are called and student is sent home.) Parents must have a conference with the administrator and student before student is readmitted to class. The purpose of the suspension is to allow time for the student to reflect on his behavior. This time at home should be used appropriately in order for the student to see the consequences of his actions.

We reserve the right to expel any student due to conduct in or out of the school that is not in accord with the values that the school is trying to cultivate or for lack of sufficient spiritual, behavioral or academic development.

General Policies

Health Regulations

Forms

TA parents must comply with all health policies and submit all required health forms each school year. The following health forms and policies are sent out to parents every summer and are also available on our website:

- Annual Talmudical Academy Health Questionnaire (for all students)
- Parent's Request to Administer Medication in School (for all students, if needed)
- Baltimore County Health Assessment (for all Kindergarten/Pre1a students and new students)
- Immunization Records (for all Kindergarten/Pre1A students and new students)
- EpiPen Policy

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Baltimore County Health Department requires that all immunizations are up to date prior to the start of the school year. Please review the chart below for our immunization policies for school year 2017-18. TA's complete vaccination policy can be found in the parent section on our website.

| Grade | DTP | Polio | Hib | MMR | Varicella | Hep B |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----------|-------|
| Nursery | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pre1A & Grade 1 | 4 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Grades 2 - 5 | 4 or 3 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Read across the row for each required vaccine. The number in the box is the number of doses required for that vaccine based on the CURRENT grade level of the child.

MEDICATIONS/FEVER

We discourage administration of medication in school. However, if your physician decides it is necessary for your

child to receive any medication during school hours, a "Parent's Request to Administer Medication in School" form must be filled out. This policy applies to the administration of all medications, including eye drops and eardrops. All containers must be properly labeled with the child's name, and name and dosage of drug. It is recommended that the first dose of medication be administered at home.

Furthermore, the administration of Tylenol and any other over the counter medication can only be done if both the parent and physician have signed the "Annual Talmudical Academy Health Questionnaire."

Any child with a temperature of 100 degrees or above must be sent home. Children should be free of fever for 24 hours (without the aid of fever reducing medications, such as Advil or Tylenol) before returning to school.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Students who have an infectious disease, for example, conjunctivitis (pink eye) or a stomach virus, cannot return to school unless they are clear of symptoms and/or no longer contagious. This is usually 24-48 hours. Please note that the school reserves the right to send home children whose symptoms suggest that they may be contagious to others.

LICE POLICY

A lice outbreak often affects groups of students at a time. When one child is discovered with lice, other children likely have lice as well. We therefore ask that parents immediately inform the school if their child has lice so we can take the steps needed to ensure the health of all students involved. No child who has lice is permitted to be in school. Upon return to school, the child must be checked by the nurse before he will be allowed back into class.

Lunch/Food/Nut Polices

Children should bring lunch and snacks to school daily. Milk is provided by the school. Elementary students are not permitted to use the hot water urn (i.e. for "Tradition" soups, etc.). Students are not permitted to share food with other students, even during recess or lunch.

The Lower School is peanut free, therefore, no peanut products may be brought into the Lower School in any form.

- For example: lunches may not include filled crackers, trail mixes, and any candies with peanuts, such as Reese's, etc. Peanut butter in any form is forbidden.
- Students **are permitted** to bring items that state "may contain traces of peanuts" on the package label.

There may be individual classes that have additional food restrictions, such as tree nuts or sesame, depending on the severity of the allergies found in that class. A notice will be sent home at the beginning of the school year to inform parents if there are additional foods that may not be sent in.

TA offers hot lunch to students in grades 1st-12th, Monday-Thursday, through the National School Lunch Program. Paperwork to sign up for this program is sent out over the summer.

Siyumim and Parties

All refreshments sent in to be shared with the class must be non-dairy or cholov Yisroel and meet the standards of the Vaad Hakashrus of Baltimore. Birthday parties are permitted in the Early Childhood Program and first grade classes with teacher approval. All other parties must have administrative approval. No home cooked or baked refreshments may be distributed in our yeshiva. This does not include food provided by our limudei kodesh staff. All siyumim and class parties must abide by these guidelines.

Visitors to School

To ensure the security of our student body, all parents and visitors are required to report to the Elementary School office prior to proceeding further into the building or the campus. The doors to our buildings are kept closed and locked, and visitors must buzz the office to enter. Visitors must present their licenses to be scanned and receive a visitor's sticker badge. This policy applies even if a parent or visitor is entering the campus only briefly. Parents who are dropping off forgotten lunches, backpacks etc. should leave them at the office, pre-labeled with your son's name and teacher. We will call your son down from class to pick it up. Parents and visitors who arrive during regular school hours should be aware that our students use the parking lot as their play area during recess. The parking lot is therefore unavailable for parking from 10:40-11:35 am, and from 2:05-3:00 pm, Monday-Thursday, and from 10:15-11:00 am, and 12:40-1:25 pm, on Friday.

Homework

It is important that the proper environment be provided for doing homework. It is essential that students regularly complete homework so that the daily school lessons are reinforced. In addition, we have a commitment to ensuring that all children develop a love for reading and become fluent readers which facilitates their success in all subjects. As such, all students in grades 1-5 are encouraged to read for fifteen minutes each evening with adult oversight. Children in first grade may fulfill this recommendation by being read to by a parent. We also recommend that students in grades 1-5 practice their kria skills with adult supervision for 5 minutes each evening. The approximate amount of time recommended for all other daily homework is as follows:

| Grade Level | Subject | Maximum Time Allotment |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Kindergarten (pre1a) | Hebrew | 5 minutes |
| | English | 5 minutes |
| | Total | 10 minutes |
| Grade 1 | Hebrew | 10 minutes |
| | English | 10 minutes |
| | Total | 20 minutes |
| Grade 2 | Hebrew | 15 minutes |
| | English | 15 minutes |
| | Total | 30 minutes |
| Grade 3 | Hebrew | 20 minutes |
| | English | 20 minutes |
| | Total | 40 minutes |
| Grade 4 | Hebrew | 30 minutes |
| | English | 30 minutes |
| | Total | 60 minutes |
| Grade 5 | Hebrew | 30 minutes |
| | English | 30 minutes |
| | Total | 60 Minutes |

If your child needs to spend more than this allotted amount of time for his homework, he may be excused with a note of explanation to the rebbe or teacher. We recommend that you call the rebbe or teacher to discuss this issue. Long-term assignments such as book reports are not to be included in the category of daily homework.

Student Assessment

In order to ascertain your child's scholastic development, various measures will be implemented in the classroom by the rebbeim and teachers. Examples of these methods include written and oral examinations, papers, daily homework, classroom participation, etc. Students will not receive more than one major test in kodesh and one major test in general studies on any given day. (Quizzes and weekly spelling tests are excluded.) Ample notice will be given prior to each examination. Please recognize that the ultimate goal of these evaluations is not to be judgmental, but rather to assess and build upon each student's progress. We encourage parents to review these assessments with their children and assist us in motivating them to reach their potential.

Standardized examinations and administrative evaluations will be given as well. Once again, the intended purpose is for the administration to evaluate the progress of our student body. This will help us to determine the most appropriate educational plan to motivate the students.

Proper Hygiene and Attire

TA Lower School does not have a school uniform. However, we believe that appearance and hygiene influence a student's work habits and general performance. A student whose physical hygiene is poor is a target of ridicule by

his peers. We expect our students to be clean and look well-groomed. Recognizing that appearance can affect one's attitude towards yeshiva and derech eretz, we encourage our parents to dress their children in conservative clothing. Yamulkes only should be worn in the classroom, not hats or caps. Students are encouraged to wear white shirts on Rosh Chodesh.

Dress code for students in grade 1-5:

- Shirts must have a collar and at least 2 buttons. No logos or wording permitted.
- We recommend that students in grades 4 and 5 not wear shorts.

Prohibited clothing/styles:

- Jewelry, cologne and styles that are attention-seeking or excessively informal.
- "Wheeler" shoes and crocs.
- Articles of clothing bearing wording or graphics not appropriate to a yeshiva setting (e.g. Spiderman)
- Jackets, sweaters or shirts with logos other than those given out or approved by the school.
- Blue jeans or dungarees.

Special Programs

Mishmar

Mishmar is on select Thursday evenings for grades 2-5 and begins after Sukkos. Please be sure to pick up students on time after Mishmar so as not to infringe upon the rebbeim's other responsibilities.

Physical Education

Students in Kindergarten (pre1A) through 5th grade have physical education classes weekly. Nursery students have physical education class every other week. Sneakers should be worn.

Additional Special Classes

Lower School students participate in library and computer classes. Early Childhood students receive a music and movement class as well with Mrs. Suri Schwartz.

Special Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend school unless there is an unavoidable conflict, such as a doctor's appointment, or in the event of personal illness. Extended and frequent absences from school may be cause for investigation and parents will be held accountable under the Maryland Compulsory Attendance Law.

Textbooks

All textbooks regularly sent home must be covered within a week of receiving them. Parents will be billed for any lost or damaged books.

Recess

Children are encouraged to play outside during outdoor recess. When warranted, a child should have a written note from home requesting permission to remain indoors. Please make sure your child has a jacket, hat, and gloves during the cold winter months.

Objects Not Allowed in School

In our yeshiva, we take pride in nurturing the learning and achievements of our talmidim in a safe environment that is free of potentially negative distractions. To this end, certain objects are not allowed in our yeshiva. Please note that this policy does not outline every individual unacceptable item, rather, it is meant as a guideline. We use our best judgement to rule on the acceptability of any items called into question, and the administration reserves the right to confiscate such items if brought to school.

The following objects (and items similar in nature) are not allowed in school:

- flammable, sharp, and/or dangerous objects
- Baseball bats, hard balls, and footballs
- Toys guns and noisemakers
- All electronic games, radios, and music/media players
- "Smart" / "Video" watches, Kindles, Ipads, and Ipods
- Cameras, video cameras, or any other recording device

In an effort to maintain the proper atmosphere for learning and growth, we may at times conduct a search of students' lockers, desks, knapsacks, etc. for any of the above-mentioned (or similar) items.

Student Purchasing

We do not allow both the purchasing and trading of any items, whether it is toys, food etc. It is also for this reason that Elementary students are not permitted to use the High School canteen or vending machines.

School Property

Our building upkeep is paid for not only with tuition dollars, but to a great extent, it is subsidized by tzedaka funding as well. Students should recognize that damaging and/or defacing any property other than his own constitutes gezala (stealing). If G-d forbid, a child damages school property, in addition to gezela, he is taking momon hekdish (money that has been set aside for Hashem). Students should understand that such actions are never acceptable to the school or their parents. Students will be held responsible and parents will be liable for defaced or destroyed school property. School disciplinary measures will be taken.

Child Abuse and Neglect Policies and Procedures

Occasionally, there are factors in a student's appearance and behavior that lead to suspicions of child abuse or neglect. Maryland law requires that all educators and other school employees, including volunteers, to report suspected abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.

Our school supports Maryland laws in this regard and requires that school staff report suspected abuse and neglect to the Department of Social Services, Protective Service Division, and the local police department. At all times, the intent is to protect children from harm by providing services to maintain and strengthen the child's family. Should you have questions regarding this information, feel free to discuss them with the administration.

Talmudical Academy Policy Concerning Parental Rights and Responsibilities

Talmudical Academy strives to serve as a partner with our school parents in guiding and educating our students. School policy provides that each parent is given equal access to all educators, administrators and school records. When the school needs to contact a child's parents, the presumption is that contact with either parent is sufficient and the school is under no obligation to contact both parents. At times, however, particular circumstances may dictate different practices. The school policy concerning such situations can be obtained upon request from our office or viewed on our website.

PTA

There are numerous wonderful opportunities throughout the year for parents to lend their talents, energies, time or creativity to the school by volunteering to assist in programs or projects overseen by the PTA. Your participation greatly enhances our programs and allows us to run activities that otherwise would not be possible. We ask you to seriously consider becoming involved as a volunteer. Please contact our PTA presidents, Mrs. Goldie Gross at 917-331-0167 and Mrs. Inbal Elman at 410-849-6888 to learn more about how you can make your valuable contribution.

Miscellaneous

School Supplies

School supply lists are sent out during the summer. Your child's specific teacher may request additional items which should be purchased within the first week of the school year.

Lost and Found

Articles of clothing quickly accumulate in our lost and found collection. To avoid losing articles, we strongly recommend that you label all items belonging to your children. Unlabeled items which are not claimed after three weeks are considered hefker and will be disposed. Please check the lost and found area regularly.

CONCLUSION

It is through the joint efforts of our administration, faculty, and parent body that TA experiences such success and growth. Our rebbeim and morahs are renowned for their warmth, caring and dedication, and for forming indelible impressions while motivating each and every talmid to become the best possible Ben Torah. We recognize, likewise, the professionalism and dedication of our general studies teachers, who reinforce the values instilled by the rebbeim as they imbue in their students the knowledge and the educational experiences that allow them to become productive members of society.

We also recognize and appreciate the efforts of our Leadership, Administrative Division, Maintenance and Kitchen staff, and the PTA, who work so closely with us to offer the best possible chinuch and experiences to our students. We also express our appreciation to our wonderful TA parents whose support and partnership enables us to succeed in the task of being mechanech our shared children.