



July 2018

Dear Parents,

First and foremost we are returning invigorated and with renewed energy to facilitate a most successful and rewarding school year. We are excited to work with a very fine staff of creative and caring teachers.

A new building is so exciting. It is more than a physical enhancement. It is an opportunity to enhance academics and every facet of our Yeshiva. The Mesivta is always looking to be proactive in addressing the various needs of our students and at the same time maintain a focus on striving for excellence. We have always striven for excellence in all areas and this year will be no exception. I look forward to being available to address any issues that may arise and being available to parents as well. I anticipate holding students to a “standard”- allowing them to actualize their potential. This applies to all students whether in honors or regular program. Students wishing to be in the honors program will be challenged at an honors level curriculum and work load. Students wishing to remain in the accelerated class, will need to maintain at least a B average (in Limudei Kodesh as well). *Students can expect homework in all classes but a heavier workload in honors classes.*

With our sights always on maintaining what is beneficial and on continual improvement, you can look forward to these enhancements.

- ❖ AP Language and Composition - 11th Grade
- ❖ AP US History Class in its 2nd year - 10th Grade
- ❖ STEM Class for 9th grade Science
- ❖ Beautiful new Science Lab
- ❖ 2 new computer labs in a new building
The next two exciting developments are in final planning stages.
- ❖ Computers for grades 9-11 in addition to our already great 12th grade computer class.
- ❖ Introduction to Cyber Security for 11th and 12th graders. More information to follow in coming weeks.

Finally, two more major and exciting additions:

** Mr. Gavriel Brown has joined high school as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Brown is a graduate of Yeshiva University and an alumnus of Teach for America and New Leaders for New Schools. Mr. Brown brings expertise in teacher coaching and pedagogy. He will be working primarily with new teachers to support rigorous, engaging instruction through coaching and curriculum development and that high standards are being implemented throughout the program.

** Our esteemed Rabbi Shlomo Weiss will join General Studies in the afternoon to help supervise the afternoon program.

Some of you may not be familiar with the above-mentioned STEM class so I will add a brief explanation:

We are partnering with The Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE) to bring a STEM Program to TA. This is an engineering based model that allows the students to increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) learning. The CIJE-Tech programs is an interactive hands-on and creative learning experience. More can be seen at <http://www.thecije.org/>

English teachers will be assigning a greater number of essays and focus on enhancing writing and research skills. I am pleased that Rabbi Katz will again be offering 11th graders his stimulating and challenging Jewish History class. Twelfth grade will again be offered a second track in which aside from past choices they will be offered a Jewish History course and a business course. We are very proud of the seniors who signed-up for a more rigorous class schedule including College English 101 and PSYCH 101. These courses are given at our Yeshiva under the auspices of BCCC.

I would also like to remind students and parents about our math requirements. It is obvious that getting by with a "D" is just not enough to maintain reasonable proficiency in math. We will therefore continue the policy that "C" is a passing grade for Math in High School and 8th grade Algebra I. In high school, we use numeric grades so a minimum of 70 is required for all high school math classes. Passing grade for all other subjects is a 65. This is a change from the previous requirement of 60. Additionally, please be aware that 12th graders who opt to take 12th grade electives must pass them for graduation. This includes Introduction to Business/Jewish History II /2nd Seder.

PLEASE NOTE; The office records attendance daily. Once recorded, the absence/lateness is assumed unexcused unless we have been provided a viable excuse with proper confirmation. At the end of a trimester the computer, will automatically deduct the points from the trimester grade. Once the trimester has passed and report cards were printed, points are not "refundable."

To avoid miscommunications we always send an email home when recording an unexcused absence. You should reply immediately to those emails if the absence is genuinely

“excusable.” You will need to explain the reason for the absence as it is up to the administration to determine what is considered excused.

Also, if you know of the absence in advance (e.g. family simcha, medical appointment) please email/call me prior to the absence. In the past, people have erroneously assumed that certain absences would be deemed a valid absence. It cost them points on their final grade!

We do not send emails home for latenesses. However, a student can check with the office if he wants to see his lateness record. In truth, there should be no need to lose points for lateness since the first 3 lates do not cause a point deduction and no one should be late more than 3 times in a single trimester, in the same class.

The above is a brief synopsis of some of what we look forward to in the upcoming school year. We are anticipating a productive and enriching learning environment- helping to shape budding Bnai Torah with the skills that will ready them for the future. We hope that you will not be a stranger but rather an active participant in your son’s education. To this end, please do not hesitate to contact me throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Rabbi S. Steinberg
Principal, General Studies