



OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BUILDING TORAH

TALMUDICAL ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE
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Dear Lower School Parents,

August 2018

It is with great anticipation that we await the return of our *talmidim* from their summer break. We would like to share with you some information about our objectives for this school year as well as review some general thoughts concerning the opening of school.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Talmudical Academy 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.

STAR BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

TA's STAR Behavior Program is a school-wide behavior management system that teaches and reinforces positive behavior and character development. It promotes strong behavioral standards, develops self-control, fosters a positive school environment, and encourages students to strive for excellence.

SUMMER PACKETS

Summer packets were sent home in an effort to support the learning your son completed this past school year. Rebbeim and Teachers put tremendous thought into designing the packets so that the boys will begin their new school year with success. When the students return to school in September, summer packets will be collected by the Rebbeim and Teachers, and prizes will be awarded to those who completed their packets.

PARENTS' ROLE

In order for us to be *mechanech* a child to reach his potential, it is important he knows his parents, rebbeim, teachers, and the administration are all on the same page with regard to proper conduct. While a child must feel his parents are his advocates, he must also know they never condone inappropriate behavior. Although you may object to something your child reports to you, please make certain you do not verbalize this in his presence. Please do bring the matter to our attention immediately so that we may address the situation in its proper context. We have the best interest of your child in mind, and it is only with parental cooperation and support that we can be successful in this mission.

In addition, please recognize that when your child enters a new grade and, thereby, a new environment, he will need time to acclimate himself. Remember that *kol haschalos kashos*, all beginnings are difficult. Your child may need your assistance to learn how to adapt to this change. Your calm and understanding reaction to any difficulties that he experiences will certainly help alleviate any misgivings he may have. Allowing a bit of time to pass is often all it takes.

As per the Elementary calendar, Parent Orientation will take place on Sunday, September 2 (Early Childhood and 1st grade) and Wednesday, September 5 (2nd thru 5th). We ask that unless a matter is urgent, and time is of the essence, please wait until **October 10** before contacting us.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

We are fortunate to offer Lamdeinu 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 Lamdeinu 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. Additionally, our Early Childhood benefits from the SHEMESH services of Mrs. Debbie Logue, reading specialist, and Mrs. Michal Tessler, 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. Mrs. Helen Hexter, our Early Childhood kriaah specialist, works with all Early Childhood students to ensure their kriaah skills are developing and up to par.

OVER>>>

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Rabbi Norman Lowenthal, MS Ed., MSW, LCSW-C 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. Rabbi Lowenthal consults with parents and teachers and interacts with students through classroom guidance lessons, small group counseling sessions, and individual counseling. Rabbi Lowenthal can be reached at 410-484-6600 ext. 7322. Parent consultation regarding parenting concerns are always welcome. Students can communicate directly with Rabbi Lowenthal through a special mailbox located in the Elementary lobby. Additionally, when possible, Rabbi Lowenthal provides mentoring to school counseling interns who assist in supporting our school counseling program.

TA EMERGENCY HOTLINE/TEXT MESSAGE NOTIFICATION

For school related announcements regarding inclement or questionable weather, emergency closings, school trips, or other unusual circumstances, please call the school hotline at **410-484-0636**. You can also sign up for the TA Text Message Notification System. 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-K)	81010	@ycctapre
Elementary MTA bus	81010	@mtaelem
General TA Updates for All Divisions	81010	@talmudic

LUNCH/FOOD/NUT POLICIES

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. 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.

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.

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for the joint efforts of our faculty, administration and parent body in continuing to elevate our Yeshiva to higher levels. We also recognize that for an illustrious institution such as ours to exist and function properly it takes more than educational administrators at the forefront. With this in mind we would like to express our sincerest *hakoras hatov* to our Leadership, Administrative Division, Maintenance and Kitchen Staff, and the P.T.A. who work so closely with us to offer the best possible *chinuch* for our *talmidim*. We are looking forward to another successful year as we continue to strive toward *aliyah* in *derech erez*, *yiras shamayim*, *limud haTorah*, and excellence in education. It is our *tefilla* to *Hashem* that He continue to shine His countenance upon us so that we may accomplish our goal of having each and every child reach his greatest potential.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Nachman Kahana
Menahel

Mrs. Shoshana Berzon
General Studies Principal

Mrs. Beily Rosen
Early Childhood Director