



Lower School

Parent - Student Manual

2018 - 2019

5778 – 5779

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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 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.

TA Aims To:

- Instill Ahavas HaTorah – love for learning
- Foster Simchas Hachaim – love of life
- Develop a sense of pride in being a part of the greater Klall (community)
- Instill a sense of responsibility to the Klall (community)
- Develop character (Middos)
- Encourage each student to reach his highest potential
- Cultivate proficiency in all subject matters
- Prepare our students to be future leaders and role models who will create a Kiddush HaShem (sanctify God).

We take pride in our excellent rebbeim, morahs, 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 teachers 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.

Lower School General Information

The educational administration and the Vaad Hachinuch of our yeshiva have mandated specific student ratios for our classes, which are as follows for 2018-19. The maximum nursery ratio is 1 teacher/assistant per 9 children, and the maximum Kindergarten ration is 1 teacher/assistant per 11 children. However, on average, each nursery class has approximately 2 teachers/assistants per 16 students and each Kindergarten 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.

Lower School Contact 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. 7319
- Mrs. Shoshana Berzon, General Studies Principal ext. 7323
- Mrs. Beily Rosen, Early Childhood Director ext. 7326
- Rabbi Hillel Hexter, Assistant Menahel ext. 2
- Rabbi Norman Lowenthal, Guidance Counselor ext. 7322
- Mrs. Rivky Danziger, Lamdeinu Learning Center Director ext. 7373
- Mrs. Elisheva Weinberger, Director of Behavior Programming and Support ext. 2
- The Nurse ext. 7330

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 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. Services range from in-class support and case management to individualized instruction in our Learning Center and support in a self-contained classroom. 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. 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, 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. 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 through classroom guidance lessons, small group counseling sessions, and individual counseling. **Classroom guidance lessons** consist of activities on topics of concern or interest as identified by the classroom teacher or the developmental needs of students, i.e. self-esteem, responsibility, and bullying. **Small group counseling sessions** are designed around topics such as making friends, changing family structures, and social skills. Students can also receive **individual counselling**. Referrals for individual counselling are made by parents, faculty, and the students themselves. 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.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Arrival/Dismissal Timetable

	Early Childhood Arrival Times	Elementary Arrival Times	Early Childhood Classes Begin	Elementary Classes Begin	Early Childhood Only Dismissal	Mixed Early Childhood / 1 st -3 rd Grade Dismissal	1 st -3 rd Grade Only Dismissal	4 th -5 th Grade Dismissal
Sunday (2nd-5th Grades)	N/A	9:00am-9:15am	N/A	9:15 am	N/A	12:15 pm		
Monday-Thursday	8:30am-8:50 am	8:30am-8:45 am	8:50 am	8:45 am	3:20 pm	3:25 pm	3:35 pm	4:30 pm
Friday	8:30am-8:50 am	8:30am-8:45 am	8:50 am	8:45 am	1:30 pm	1:35 pm	1:45 pm	1:55 pm
Mishmar (2nd-5th Grades)	N/A	6:15 pm	N/A	6:30 pm	N/A	7:20 pm		
Early Dismissal (4th-5th Grades)	N/A	8:30am-8:45 am	N/A	8:45 am	N/A	N/A	N/A	3:45 pm
Early Childhood Half-Day	8:30am-8:50 am	N/A	8:50 am	N/A	12:20 pm	12:25 pm	N/A	N/A
Elementary Half-Day	N/A	8:30am-8:45 am	N/A	8:45 am	N/A	12:10 pm	12:20 pm	12:30 pm
Daily Half-Day Nursery	8:30am-8:50 am	N/A	8:50 am	N/A	Mon-Thurs 12:30 pm Fri 12:00 pm	N/A	N/A	N/A

Arrival Information

It is crucial that children arrive at school prior to 8:45 am (Elementary) and 8:50 am (Early Childhood), 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 your child before the arrival times listed in the timetable above, as there will not be supervision for them. This is a safety issue which we take very seriously and we cannot allow any exceptions. **Please note that in case of a late opening, planned or unplanned, students are expected to daven at home, unless otherwise instructed.**

Signing In a Late Student

The front doors of the Early Childhood / Elementary buildings 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. Early Childhood students must be escorted to the office by a parent, and a Morah will be called to pick them up. Sometimes a Morah is not available, or the class is in a location other than the classroom. Accompanying parents will be signed in as a visitor so they can escort their son 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. 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, he must first stop by the office to get signed back in (Early Childhood parents must accompany their child / Elementary parents are not required to do so).

Your son cannot be called 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 wait in the lobby until your son makes his way to you from his classroom. 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.

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.

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 Elementary 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 TA bus route number is **#92** and the ticket price per ride is **\$1.30**. TA students must adhere to TA and MTA behavior conduct and policies. The Monday-Friday **arrival** bus is for **1st-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 Early Childhood / 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. These include 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, school trips, 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-K)	81010	@ycctapre
Elementary MTA bus	81010	@mtaelem
General TA Updates for All Divisions	81010	@talmudic

TA Times

The TA Times is a school-wide 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 parents an opportunity to briefly touch base with their son's morah / rebbe and teacher regarding the progress of their child.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home three times a year for Elementary. Kindergarten students receive report cards twice a year as well as one mid-year progress report. Report cards/progress reports 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.

STAR Behavior Program

TA's STAR Behavior Program is a school-wide behavior management system that teaches and reinforces positive behavior and character development. Supervised by Mrs. Elisheva Weinberger, Director of Behavior Programming and Support, it promotes strong behavioral standards, develops self-control, fosters a positive school environment, and encourages students to strive for excellence.

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 email and/or a letter in the mail.
- An assignment from an administrator which must be signed by a parent and returned to the administrator prior to returning to class.
- After-school supervised detention. The parent will provide for the child's transportation home.

- Out of school suspension. (Parents are called and the 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 understand the consequences of his actions.

The school reserves 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 Health Questionnaire and Consent for Administration of Non-Prescription Medications (for all students)
- Parent’s Request to Administer Medication in School (for all students, if needed)
- Health Assessment Forms (for all Kindergarten students and new students)
- Immunization Records (for all Kindergarten 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 2018-19. TA’s complete vaccination policy can be found on our website.

Grade	DTP	Polio	Hib	MMR	Varicella	Hep B
Nursery	4	3	1	2	1	3
K & 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.

For nursery students that turn 5 years old during the school year, Baltimore County Health regulations (COMAR 10.06.04.03) require that the student receive a 2nd dose of MMR within 20 calendar days of turning five or be excluded from school. Please send in an updated immunization record as soon as the vaccine is received so that we can maintain compliance.

MEDICATIONS/FEVER

We discourage administration of medication in school. However, if your physician decides it is necessary for your child to receive any medication REGULARLY 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, prescription AND over the counter, including eye drops and ear drops. All containers must be properly labeled with the child’s name, and name and dosage of the drug. It is recommended that the first dose of medication be administered at home.

Furthermore, the OCCASIONAL administration of over the counter medications (such as Tylenol) can only be done if both the parent and physician have signed the “Annual Health Questionnaire and Consent for Administration of Non-Prescription Medications.” All over the counter medications that are not listed on that form require a separate “Parent’s Request to Administer Medication in School” form to be filled out and the medication provided.

Any child with a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit 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.

General Health Agreement

Keeping your child safe is our primary concern, therefore please note the following consent is implied for all parents who entrust their children in our care:

I hereby give consent for the Talmudical Academy Community School Nurse, or other healthcare providers or designated school staff considered appropriate by him/her, to carry out accepted procedures for my child, including the administration of first aid and/or CPR. In the event of an emergency where the school is unable to contact parents, I give consent for the School Nurse or designated school staff to seek emergency treatment for my child, including transporting him/her to a hospital or other emergency care facility. I give permission for any medical / psychiatric information to be released regarding my child's health situation to the School Nurse and / or other administrative authorities / healthcare providers, if necessary.

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 Early Childhood / 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 these items at the office, pre-labeled with their son's name and teacher. Your son will be called down from class to pick it up.

Homework

Homework is an essential opportunity for students to review and reinforce their daily school lessons. It is important that the proper environment be established for completing assignments at home. We recognize that students need an opportunity to “recharge” after the school day. Therefore, the chart below designates the maximum amount of time per grade/subject that should be allotted for homework each day.

Grade	Subject	Maximum Time Allotment
Kindergarten	Limudei Kodesh	5 minutes
	General Studies	5 minutes
	Total	10 minutes
Grade 1	Limudei Kodesh	10 minutes
	General Studies	10 minutes
	Total	20 minutes
Grade 2	Limudei Kodesh	15 minutes
	General Studies	15 minutes
	Total	30 minutes
Grade 3	Limudei Kodesh	20 minutes
	General Studies	20 minutes
	Total	40 minutes
Grade 4	Limudei Kodesh	30 minutes
	General Studies	30 minutes
	Total	60 minutes
Grade 5	Limudei Kodesh	30 minutes
	General Studies	30 minutes
	Total	60 Minutes

If your child is regularly spending more than this allotted amount of time on his homework, he may be excused with a note of explanation to the rebbe or teacher. Please communicate any concerns about homework directly to your child’s rebbe and/or teacher. Long-term assignments such as book reports are not to be included in the category of daily homework.

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 under adult supervision. 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.

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 grades 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, 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 Nursery through 5th grade have physical education classes weekly. Sneakers should be worn.

Additional Special Classes

Elementary students participate in library and computer classes. Early Childhood students receive music and movement classes.

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.

School Conduct Policy

Talmudical Academy's School Conduct Policy can be obtained upon request from our office or viewed on our website. We encourage parents to familiarize themselves with this policy.

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 these articles, we strongly recommend that you label all items belonging to your children. Disclaimer: unlabeled items which are not claimed after three weeks are considered hefker and will be disposed. Please check the lost and found areas 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.