

August, 2019

Dear Parents,

First and foremost, we are returning invigorated and with renewed energy to facilitate a successful and rewarding school year. We are excited to work with a fine staff of creative and caring teachers. Most exhilarating is the opportunity to work with our new Menahel Rabbi Oppen, *Shlita*. In the few weeks I have known him he has already proven himself to be an asset and an innovator.

The upcoming school year ushers in an exciting and innovative program. As you have read and heard about during this summer, many facets of our Yeshiva have been revised and enhanced. 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. Our afternoon program has received a major remodel with new academic and career programming. We owe Mr. Gavriel Brown gratitude for his amazing work in many areas but in particular in the areas of curriculum planning, scheduling and professional development.

I look forward to being available to address any issues that may arise as we transition into this new year. I will be available to answer questions you have regarding new policies, classes, and programs. At the same time, I anticipate holding students to a new standard- allowing them to actualize their potential. This applies to all students whether in our academic or career program. *Students can expect homework in all classes but a heavier workload in our AP and college credit classes.*

We look forward to rolling out the following enhancements this year:

- ❖ AP US History Class in its 3rd year. Now with double the class time.
- ❖ STEM Class for 9th and a STEM II class 10th grade Science
- ❖ Many new classes including Anatomy and Physiology, History of Israel, and Applied Science
- ❖ Revised math classes and choices
- ❖ New computers in our Auxiliary Lab
- ❖ Computers for grades 9-11 in addition to our already great 12th grade computer class.
- ❖ Official Microsoft Certification for Students
- ❖ Revised curriculum for Cyber Security and Business Basics

❖ Return of our library and a new room outfitted for STEM classes

One of the greatest improvements is simply the sheer number of choices students have to tailor their schedule to their personal preferences and styles.

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. 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 also 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