

MESIVTA
Birkas Yitzchok
מתיבתא ברכת יצחק

MANUAL

5785-86

2025-26

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MESIVTA BIRKAS YITZCHOK

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of Mesivta Birkas Yitzchok is to produce G-d fearing and Torah observant students who excel academically in both Torah and General Studies. The environment of the school will be one that nurtures religious growth, refinement of character, and encourages a lifestyle wherein Torah, its study and culture, are primary.

MBY graduates will be well prepared to further their education in both Torah and General Studies. A rigorous General Studies program will enable the students to successfully pursue any profession or vocation they may choose as a means to earning a livelihood. The teaching of Torah's primacy will be manifest in our students' continued devotion to Torah learning even while engaged in study towards a profession and once they will be engaged in that profession.

For those students who will be inspired to devote their lives to the study and teaching of Torah, they too will be well prepared both tangibly and intangibly to continue their Torah education in the finest post-secondary yeshivos.

EXPECTED SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING RESULTS (ESLRS):

The following ESLR's will be the hallmarks of graduates of MBY:

1. Committed to live the life of what is referred to in the Torah observant community as a *ben-Torah*. This entails a life long commitment to diligent and serious Torah study, while maintaining the highest standards of observance of Torah law and mores.
2. Well prepared to further their Torah Studies in advanced post-secondary Torah institutions. Graduates will be capable of independent navigation of the Talmud and its accompanying literature in the original Aramaic and Hebrew sources.
3. Have a solid classical high school curricula background which can be a basis for further education.
4. Instilled with a background of Torah and Jewish Thought which will enable the graduate to engage in these professions and vocations without compromising religious commitment and devotion to Torah study.
5. Refined *middos* (character traits and manners) and a recognition that continued character refinement is a lifelong exercise.
6. Analytical, Critical and Creative Thinkers.
7. Effective Communicators who:
 - a. Effectively express their ideas and opinions orally and with the written word.
 - b. Listen to and respect the views of others.
 - c. Are willing to ask questions and voice concerns.
8. Collaborative Workers who:
 - a. Work effectively with study partners (chavrusa) to prepare, analyze, review and present challenging material.
 - b. Effectively participate as members of a team working together to achieve a common goal.
9. Socially Responsible Citizens, utilizing the school community as the laboratory within which to learn sensitivity towards others and an awareness of communal responsibility.
10. Good students with effective study skills, including note taking, research skills, organization, and technologically proficient.

RELIGIOUS STANDARDS

Students of MBY are expected to aspire to become true *bnai Torah*. This includes...

1. Refining their middos so that all dealings with people in and out of the yeshiva will create a Kiddush HaShem.
2. Creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and kindness within the student body.
3. Davening like a true *ben Torah* which means.
 - a. Consistent and punctual attendance at all tefillos. See the section below regarding Davening.
 - b. No talking during Tefilla.
 - c. Approaching Tefilla in a meaningful fashion.
4. No co-ed activities in or out of the school. This includes summer camps and activities.

Food brought into the yeshiva should be of the highest level of kashrus. Please note that the Yeshiva's own standard includes Cholov Yisrael, Pas Yisroel and Glatt Kosher. Therefore, products which are not Cholov Yisrael or Glatt Kosher should not be placed in the yeshiva's microwaves or toaster ovens.

Products with national hashgacha should be limited to OU, OK, Chaf K, Star K, or the Chassidische Hashgachos. Products from Eretz Yisrael should have either the OU, OK or Badatz. **In terms of local hashgachos, establishments under the RCC, OU, OK, should be used.** Students and their families are requested to adhere to these standards when inviting fellow students to their homes.

DAVENING

MBY talmidim are expected to conscientiously attend every tefilla with the yeshiva minyan. This is an absolute requirement for any bochur to be considered a talmid in good standing. It would be easily understood that a talmid who appears in school without a yarmulke would not be allowed to continue in the yeshiva – the same holds for talmidim who chronically miss or come late to Shacharis.

NIGHT SEDER/MISHMAR

Attendance at Night Seder on assigned nights is mandatory. The following are the mandatory nights:

Grade 9: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Grades 10 & 11: Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays

Grade 12: Monday thru Thursday

Talmidim are encouraged to attend as often as possible on the optional nights. Attendance at the post Thursday Night Seder Mishmar is strongly encouraged.

The yeshiva's optional policy for Night Seder was instituted for two reasons.

1. Ideally, every bochur should be attending every Night Seder.
2. The yeshiva, however, wants to give the talmid the opportunity to gradually become accustomed to attend every Night Seder.
3. The yeshiva deems it healthy for a student who attends every Night Seder to have a pressure valve release so he can periodically take off either to catch up on homework or simply to take a break.

HOMEWORK POLICY

A rigorous General Studies program requires significant homework to ensure the highest quality of learning. At the same time, the MBY faculty is sensitive to the dual curriculum and the long day. Students can therefore be secure in their knowledge that their homework assignments are essential and not “busy work”.

Teachers do not assign homework or any other assignments over the religious holidays. These religious holidays of Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur, Succos, Pesach, and Shavuot are very intense and busy times for our students and their families.

Legal Holidays: Teachers are encouraged not to give homework assignments over Legal Holiday breaks to allow the students to take a “breather”.

TESTING

Because of the length of the day and the dual curriculum, the administration will regulate the frequency of testing:

- There should be a maximum of four tests each week. Short weeks should be prorated accordingly.
- There should be no more than 2 tests on any day.
- These restrictions do not apply to weekly Torah Studies tests such as Parsha and Navi quiz.
- All exams must be announced at least 1 week in advance.

A test regulated by the above restrictions is defined as....

- A graded exam or quiz on material covering more than one day’s teaching or homework assignment. A quiz which covers just one day of learning or one homework assignment is not included in these restrictions.
- Long term assignments such as book reports or essays.

Make-Up Tests. Students who have valid reasons for missing a test should be allowed to make it up. The timing and method of the make up test is at the teacher’s discretion.

In order for the student to be allowed to make up the test, the student must receive permission from the teacher **BEFORE** the exam is given. If the parent is the one contacting the teacher, **the teacher must be notified BEFORE the exam via a verbal communication from the parent. Written notes are not acceptable.** If the parent has difficulty reaching the teacher, a message can be left by the parent on the office voice mail.

Final Examinations. Final examinations are given at the conclusion of the spring semester. Not all courses have final examinations each semester. The administration determines which courses will be giving final exams in any particular semester. These exams cannot count for more than 25% of the student’s grade to the student’s detriment. The teacher has the discretion to count the exam more heavily if it is in the student’s favor, such as if the final exam indicates significant academic improvement in the course of the semester.

Attendance on the day of an exam (this applies to all exams – not only Finals): Students are not allowed to miss any classes in order to study for an exam in another class. **Students who arrive late to school on the day of an exam, missing davening or any classes, will not be allowed to take the exam and will receive a “0” on that exam. The ONLY excuse which can be accepted is a doctor’s note.** Being excused by one’s parent will not allow the student to take the exam.

GRADING

Report Cards/Progress Reports will be issued four times each year. Only the semester grades are entered on the students' official transcript. The first and third quarters are considered progress reports.

Parents and students are urged not to be overly focused on grades. Parents should partner with the school in emphasizing middos, integrity, and learning how to become a happy and content person. Each student should find his sense of academic accomplishment through gradual improvement and striving to reach his potential.

A student's GPA (Grade Point Average) is calculated as follows:

Grade	Numerical value
A+	4.2
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2
C-	1.7
D+	1.3

D	1.0
D-	.7
F	0
I	Incomplete. Becomes an "F" if not completed within 60 days
P	Pass. Not computed into GPA

Parents and students should be aware that MBY is a yeshiva and teachers consider the totality of a student's performance when issuing a grade. It is not just number crunching. Effort, cooperation, and participation may be part of the grading equation.

SEFARIM AND TEXTBOOKS. The responsible student comes prepared to class with all the paper and writing utensils required and with his *sefarim* and textbooks. **Write your name in your book and place a unique cover or identifying sign on it.** Teachers perceive a student who lost or forgot his book as being immature and irresponsible. A teacher has the right to mark a student absent if he does not come prepared for class.

Students are not permitted to use the yeshiva's *sefarim* for class!!!

ATTENDANCE. Attendance is an integral part of the educational process and plays a major role in the quality of education. As a result, students who have excessive absences will have their grades penalized and lowered as displayed in the following chart:

Should a student have an extended illness, parents should contact the Administration immediately to make special arrangements. The penalty is not intended to apply to cases of extended illness.

However, the student whose frequent doctor appointments during school time or consistent "not feeling well" for a day or two at a time exceed the limit allowed, will be penalized even when excused by the parent.

Students should not miss class for driving instruction, tests, or anything involving obtaining a driver's license.

Penalties for Excessive Absences			
Frequency with which class meets each week	3-5x	2x	1x
If a student <u>exceeds</u> this # in a single semester, the grade is lowered one level (i.e. A becomes A- or B+ becomes B). For each additional absence, the grade will be lowered one additional level	8	5	4
A student who exceeds this number will receive no credit for the class. This applies even in cases of extenuating illness unless tutoring arrangements are made with the administration.	15	8	6

Tardiness. Students are responsible to be in class on time and ready to learn. A student who is present at the start of class but must leave to get his book or a drink or anything else is considered tardy. **Each teacher may formulate their own policy regarding how many minutes is considered an official tardy and the consequences for chronic tardiness which may include lowering of the grade, disqualification from taking a test or quiz (and getting a “0”), or detention.**

A student who comes between 5-15 minutes late will be marked absent. This will count towards their total number of absences for the semester. Tardiness of 15 minutes or more will be considered “ditching” and subject to the “zero tolerance” policy stated in the next section.

“DITCHING”

“Ditching” is defined as a student skipping a particular class or classes without administrative permission (e.g. student attended school but skipped a Math class or left school early without permission skipping those classes scheduled for the remainder of the day).

MBY has a zero tolerance for ditching. Not only is this irresponsible and disrespectful, but it raises safety concerns when the school is unaware of a student’s whereabouts.

- First offense: student receives a warning and parents are notified.
- Second offense: Student will receive the equivalent of a zero on a test to be averaged into his grade for the ditched class(es).
- Third offense: Student fails the course(s) he ditched.

LEAVING SCHOOL WITH PERMISSION

If a student has a legitimate reason to leave school for part of the day (e.g. medical appointment), permission must be obtained **beforehand** from the Administration and the student must sign out. Parents should take note that if they pick up their son and the Administration is unaware, this raises serious safety issues for the school in case of an emergency.

AP COURSES/TOURO COLLEGE FRESHMEN CENTER/TTI

AP: MBY offers only selected AP classes. To date, MBY offers AP English Language and Composition every other year. AP Calculus is also offered.

Touro Freshman Center: In addition, in conjunction with Touro College of Los Angeles, seniors can register for Freshman Center. MBY’s English Language and Mathematics offerings in the senior year have been approved by Touro College as being college level courses. Students who register for both English and Mathematics will have 12 college credits on a Touro transcript. In order to qualify for the Freshman Center, students must take a placement exam before the school year and an Exit Exam in English Language at the conclusion of the year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Note: MBY has a residency requirement for the senior year and will not issue a diploma to any student who does not take the senior year in MBY.

Note that students are always expected to take the full schedule of courses offered. Students who wish to skip a course not required for graduation must receive permission from the Rosh HaYeshiva or General Studies Principal.

Torah Studies		
Course	Required	Offered
Talmud	Four years	Four years
Talmud Survey	Three years	Three years
Advanced Talmud (12 th grade)	One year	One year
Chumash (Bible)	Four years	Four years
Navi (Prophets)	Four years	Four years
Halacha (Jewish Law)	Four years	Four years
Hebrew Language	Four years	Four years

General Studies		
Course	Required	Offered
English Language	4 years	4 years
Lab Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Environmental Science 	3 years	3 years
World History	1 year	1 year
U.S. History	1 year	1 year
U.S. Government	1 semester	1 semester
Economics	1 semester	1 semester
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II • Pre-Calculus • Calculus 	4 years	4 years
Physical Education	2 years	3 years
Foreign Language (part of Torah Studies curricula)	4 years	4 years

SPECIAL EVENTS Students are expected to attend all of the yeshiva's special events. Examples of recurring special events are:

- Selichos Program the first Motzaei Shabbos of Selichos
- Simchas Torah in the morning
- Chanukah mesibah
- All events on Purim
- Shavuos night learning in the yeshiva
- School-wide Shabbaton
- Class Shabbaton

There may be other events which the yeshiva will require talmidim to attend.

In addition, talmidim are strongly encouraged to attend

- Simchas Beis HaShoeva in the Succah of the Rosh HaYeshiva
- Oneg Shabbos in the home of the Rabbeim
- Seudah Shelishis in the homes of the Rabbeim
- Friday night and/or Shabbos Afternoon Seder
- Motzaei Shabbos Learning during Standard Time

IN-SHABBOSIM. There will be periodic in-Shabbosim which students are expected to attend fully. There is no additional charge for these in-Shabbosim. However, out of town Shabbatons and school trips are at the parents' expense.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Due to the rigor of a dual curriculum and the length and intensity of the school day, MBY does not require its students to perform Community Service outside of the school community. Within the school, students are expected to accept communal responsibilities.

There is a strong emphasis within the culture of the school of sensitivity, kindness, and helping other students. The school community is looked at as a laboratory for learning how to relate with sensitivity to fellow students.

CLOSED/OPEN CAMPUS. Students are permitted off campus to walk to neighboring stores or restaurants if the following conditions are met:

- It is during an official recess, such as lunch or dinner.
- The student returns to class on time. Late returns can result in temporary or permanent loss of off-campus privileges.
- The student is in yeshiva dress code.
- No student may go off campus in any vehicle, not Uber, taxi, friend or relative without express permission from either the Rosh HaYeshiva or General Studies Principal.
- There are no off campus privileges during the Thursday night post-Maariv Mishmar.
- Parents are not authorized to allow a student to go off campus without clearing it with the Administration.

Driving to Yeshiva



DRIVING. Only students in Grades 11 and 12 may apply for permission to drive to school.

A student who wishes to drive to school must....

- First have a meeting with the Rosh HaYeshiva, attended by at least one of his parents.
- Fill out a form obtained from the office which must be signed by both the student and a parent.

Among the expectations of students who drive to school are...

- Hand in their car keys to the office immediately upon arrival. The car keys cannot be retrieved until the student is leaving for the day and not returning.
- No rebbe or teacher can give the student permission to use the car during the day.
- Parents cannot authorize a student to use the car during the school day. If the student needs to travel for a medical appointment, the parent should contact the office and request permission before the fact.
- Students cannot enter even an idle car for any reason during the day.
- No student may enter a car as a passenger during the school day unless permission is obtained from the Rosh HaYeshiva.
- Students are requested to park on the street.

CARPOOLS. Students who drive carpools have responsibility for the atmosphere in the car both בין אדם למקום and בין אדם לחבירו. Such drivers should speak to the Rosh HaYeshiva on the very first day of the school year to receive guidance.

**Cell Phone Policy
2025-26**

SMART (that is a matter of opinion) PHONES

- **No talmid of MBY is permitted to OWN or even have access to a non-kosher Smartphone even if it is not brought to school.**
- If you feel your son needs a phone, it is highly recommended that you give him a basic phone and bring it to TAG ([www.TAGLos Angeles.com](http://www.TAGLosAngeles.com)) for filtering.
- An easy way to see which phones are available and recommended is to send an email to one@tag.org and write the word phones in the subject line. You will, within a few minutes, automatically receive a list of available phones
- The FIG phone is another acceptable option, also available through TAG.

Note: A hand-me-down or newly purchased Smartphone filtered by TAG - or by parents – or by your brother-in-law (who is an absolute expert) - is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Please see the footnote relevant to current students¹

If you have a “special needs” child (i.e. a special need for a phone which looks and feels like a Smartphone) there are phones available from two on-line vendors.

- KosherOS.org
- Koshercell.org

When purchasing these phones, you must choose the MBY App Bundle. Please note that MBY is provided a list of students who purchase from these vendors. If your purchase will not be on that list, that phone will not be considered acceptable.

Reiterated note: MBY urges students 9-12 to have a Basic Phone

No student will be allowed to begin school on August 27 until we can verify that he does not own an unauthorized cellphone. A cell phone verification form signed by a parent and the student must be handed in before the start of school

Parental Cooperation: We expect and assume total parental cooperation. Any parent who feels this rule is Draconian has been living on a different planet. One need not be religious or Jewish to appreciate the ills of Smartphones for teenagers in particular. Just Google the topic and you will find articles in the Wall Street Journal and other reputable sites listing the evils of these phones.

We cannot do this without parental cooperation – and courage! Do not be afraid of your son! Certainly never be impressed by “but everyone does it” – this is **never** true.

¹ Regarding “Tagged Smartphones”. MBY’s policy has always been that kosher smartphones may **only** be purchased from the above mentioned two sources. MBY never officially allowed a regular smartphone to be filtered by TAG. Nonetheless, there are talmidim in grades 11 and 12 who have such phones, some with the tacit approval of the administration. Please note that MBY will no longer allow these Tagged smartphones and no incoming talmid will ever receive an exception. For those who already have such phones, you are required to ensure they remain filtered on MBY standards. If you ever change your phone, it must be purchased from the above two sources

SMARTWATCHES/IPODS/MP3 PLAYERS. These may not be brought to school at all and may not even be placed in the lockers. The Administration will permanently confiscate any of these items.

PHONES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:

- No student may have any cellphone on his possession during the school day.
- This includes no phones in lockers, book-bags, or vehicles.
- Phones must be handed in to the rebbe upon arrival for Shacharis and are kept locked in the office.

MBY LAPTOP USAGE POLICY
2025-26

LAPTOPS. Although Laptops can often be more of a distraction than an educational aid, more and more classes are requiring Laptops so the yeshiva needs to find a balanced approach for their use.

- There is no laptop usage **anywhere in school** other than during certain identified classes **while that class is in session.**
- Students who need a laptop for **homework** will have to do the work at **home.**
- Notes in all classes will be taken with pen and paper.
- The following classes require laptops **during class time only:**
 - Biology Dr. Llamas
 - Biology Ms. Q
 - English Language classes: Laptops should be brought to class only on the days the teacher announces to bring the laptop. Laptops should remain closed and be opened only upon the instruction of the teacher.
 - 10th Grade Honors U.S. History (Rabbi Shulman) which is a Zoom class.
- Students who are discovered using their laptops during class for any other purpose other than the assigned educational task may have their laptops confiscated.

The Yeshiva has a limited number of laptops that students can borrow. If a student brings his own laptop, then besides for following the above rules, in addition, the following steps must be taken:

Process for Receiving Approval to Bring a Laptop to School:

1. The Laptop must have a filter approved by the yeshiva. In addition to the filter, the Administration will install software on each computer which allows it to monitor the usage while on campus.
2. Only devices which are compatible with the yeshiva's software program can be used. **Therefore, iPads and Chromebooks are not acceptable.**
3. Students will be required to bring in their Laptops to make sure a filter is installed as well as to have the monitoring software installed
4. Information will be provided about the process of scheduling the installation of the filter and software.

Rules for Laptop Usage:

1. The student commits to use the Laptop for schoolwork only and follows all rules.
2. The Laptop must be kept in the student's **locked** locker or in the Rosh HaYeshiva's or Principal's office except for the specific times allowed to that particular student.
3. Students who receive permission to bring a Laptop may not allow another student to use their Laptop.
4. Students who wish to use their Laptop for schoolwork outside of class time need explicit permission from an Administrator.
5. Students who receive permission to use the Laptop outside of class time must use it in the Dining Room only. Any Laptop being used in any other place other than the Dining Room; or in any class other than those authorized will result in the owner of the Laptop losing their privileges (regardless of who was using the Laptop).

6. Students should note that if they receive permission to work on their Laptops during lunch or dinner, they may not have access to WIFI – so work should be saved onto the computer or a flash drive.

Students who violate these rules may lose their Laptop privileges (and their Laptop).

MBY DRESS CODE 2025-26

Overview: There is a universally accepted (and expected) mode of dress for *bnai yeshiva*. An MBY talmid is expected to be proud of his identity as a *ben yeshiva* and to dress, both in and out of the yeshiva, in a manner that demonstrates that pride.

Slacks. Dark colored dress slacks. No “skinny pants”. No big pockets. If you don’t know what dress pants means, your parents hopefully do know. Anything in the spirit of jeans or sweat pants is unacceptable.

Shirts. White dress shirts. The **preferred** manner of wearing these shirts is tucked in. While addressing our Creator during davening, shirts **must** be tucked in.

Shoes. Solid black *dress* shoes. No clogs, crocs, backless shoes, or regular sneakers. The yeshiva will not fuss if sneakers can somehow pass as shoes. Only plain black sneakers that have no colored trim (or a very minimal thin white trim) and can pass as dress shoes and will fit with the dressy ben yeshiva look are also acceptable. Nothing with any color or brand swishes (swooshes?).

Socks. Of course! And they cannot be invisible.

Sweaters and sweat shirts. During the “severe” L.A. winter, students are encouraged to wear conservative sweaters which support the neat and well-groomed image of a yeshiva bochur. **These sweaters or sweatshirts cannot have a hood (even if tucked in) and cannot have any writing.**

For davening. Traditional *ben yeshiva* black hat and jacket. The yeshiva **requires** that name or initials be attached to the hat and jacket (they all do look alike). Talmidim should have two hats – one for yeshiva and one at home for Shabbos or for attending minyanim or events outside of yeshiva.

Yarmulkes (Kippot). These must be...

- Black
- No writing or design of any sort
- Velvet or Terylene (cloth)
- Of decent size, appropriate for a yeshiva bochur

Hair. No facial hair. Haircuts must be conservative. **The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any hairstyle.** Please note that an inappropriate hairstyle can result in the student not being allowed into school until the hair grows back properly. Some contemporary examples are a big “tchup”, with lots of hair piled up in the front; or a dramatic change in the amount of hair between the sides and the top. If you have a question, it would be advisable to ask before creating an irreversible problem.

Gym. Students may change into gym clothes, including shorts and T-shirts, when using the indoor gym. Sleeveless T-shirts are not permitted anywhere outside the indoor gym. During the long breaks of lunch and supper, students may change into casual clothing when using the basketball court, but no sleeveless T-shirts. During other short recesses, students are required to remain in full dress code, even when playing ball. If one’s yarmulke keeps falling off during gym or on the basketball court, the yeshiva provides bobby pins or thumb tacks.

Shabbos. All talmidim are expected to represent the yeshiva in their community and dress in the traditional *ben-Yeshiva* manner. This includes black hat, suit, and white shirt. It is VERY STRONGLY recommended that each talmid have a separate hat for Shabbos (both for *kavod Shabbos* and for avoiding the weekly forgetting to bring one's hat home or back to yeshiva).

Outside of school. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a yeshiva bochur. This includes dress. When attending public functions such as weddings, *vorts*, bar mitzvahs, graduations, etc, talmidim are expected to represent the yeshiva in their community and dress in the traditional *ben-Yeshiva* manner. This includes black hat, suit, and white shirt.

HONESTY/INTEGRITY

A yeshiva student is expected to be of the highest degree of integrity. Just as we all perceive that taking someone else's money is a flagrant breach of integrity, so must we approach any dishonest approach in the taking of exams or the fulfillment of assignments. Students will often be asked to reaffirm their commitment to integrity within the academic process by signing such a declaration upon concluding an exam or assignment.

Plagiarism is considered cheating. The following is a definition of plagiarism from "College Writing Skills" by John Langan.

"If you fail to document information that is not your own, you will be stealing. The formal term is plagiarism – using someone else's work as your own, whether you borrow a single idea, a sentence, or an entire essay.

One example of plagiarism is turning in a friend's essay as if it is one's own. Another example is copying an article found in a magazine, newspaper, journal, or on the Internet and turning it in as one's own. By copying someone else's work, you may risk being failed or even expelled. Equally, plagiarism deprives you of what can be a most helpful learning and organizational experience – researching and writing about a selected topic in detail.

Keep in mind, too, that while the Internet has made it easier for students to plagiarize, it has also made it riskier. Teachers can easily discover that a student has taken material from an Internet source by typing a sentence or two from the student's paper into a powerful search engine like Google; that source is then often quickly identified.

With the possibility of plagiarism in mind, then be sure to take careful, documented notes during your research. Remember that if you use another person's material, ***you must acknowledge your source***. When you cite a source properly, you give credit where it is due, you provide your readers with a way to locate the original material on their own, and you demonstrate that your work has been carefully researched."

Open AI, ChatGPT etc. In light of recent developments in generative AI technology—such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot—it is necessary to clarify that the use of such tools for graded assignments is not permitted. Students are expected to engage with the material independently, produce their own work, and take their own notes. This process is essential for developing both knowledge and academic skills.

Faculty have access to tools that can detect AI-generated content, and may also compare current work with a student's previous assignments to identify inconsistencies in writing style or skill level. Significant discrepancies may reasonably suggest the use of AI.

Students are therefore responsible for ensuring that all submitted work and notes reflect their own independent effort. Any student found to have used AI assistance will receive a zero on the assignment. If a teacher suspects that AI was used, the student will be required to redo the work in a demonstrably independent manner. Failure to do so will also result in a zero.

STANDARDS FOR CLASSROOM DECORUM

1. Students must arrive in class on time, ready to learn. Ready to learn means:
 - a. Having all learning materials.
 - b. Not having to leave the class quickly for a drink or bathroom.
 - c. Students who were in class in a timely fashion but must leave to get their books or anything else will be marked late.
 - d. Concluding all recess activities no later than 5 minutes before class time.
2. Students must speak with the utmost respect to every rebbe or teacher
 - a. Rabbeim and teachers are to be addressed in the third person.
 - b. Students must stand up for all rabbeim or teachers.
3. Once a teacher announces that class has begun...
 - a. Students must **immediately** be in their seat and **stop all talking.**
 - b. Students should never talk to another student.
 - c. Students should contribute to classroom discussions only when called upon by the teacher.
 - d. Students should respect any and all rules established by a teacher for his/her classroom.
 - e. **There is no eating during any class. This is an administrative decision and no teacher has the authority to relax this rule. It is at the teacher's discretion whether to allow drinking water (no other drinks besides water).**

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

MBY admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Please note that, as stated in IRS publication 5578, a school that selects students on the basis of membership in a religious denomination or unit, is not considered to be implementing a discriminatory policy if membership in the denomination or unit is open to all on a racially nondiscriminatory basis.

EMERGENCY EARTHQUAKE PROCEDURES

In case of emergency, in particular an earthquake during school hours, please follow these instructions.

- MBY will keep all students in school until it is safe to send them home.
- In the case of a major earthquake, students will not be released to anyone other than their parent or a pre-authorized agent of their parent (this authorization must be submitted in writing to the yeshiva office).
- MBY will keep and protect the students in school or an alternate safe location until the students are picked up by their parents.
- MBY has food, water, and first aid supplies for several days.
- In cases of major disaster, please be aware that phone and cell phone service may not be immediately available. **Do not panic. We are taking care of your children.**

Administrator Cell Phones:

Rabbi Sholom Tendler, Rosh HaYeshiva 310-913-0245

Rabbi Yehuda Tendler, Menahel 908-910-4822

Rabbi Avi Mann, Principal, General Studies 323-774-3833

Rebbetzin Esther Tendler, Administrator 310-913-0246
