



Dear Parents,

It is with a great sense of enthusiasm that I welcome you all back to school. For those families that have been with us in the past I say "hello friends," and commit myself once again to provide your children with a quality Chassidishe Chinuch in the comfort of your home. To all the new families joining us this year, I say "hello friends"- and welcome aboard! I am confident that you child will benefit not only from the lessons with the teachers but will also gain tremendously from the extracurricular activities and warm social environment the Online School will make available to your children, our new students. We are happy to have you join our close-knit Online School family body.

The word Chinuch means dedication. At the start of the new school year we are once again dedicating ourselves to educating your children, our students to grow in the ways of Torah and Toras Hachassidus.

At the same time, dear parents, thank you for dedicating yourselves to help us along in our task of being Mechanech our students, your children.

Together, working as a team we will make a difference and we will succeed!

In this handbook, you will find general information about our school, and important rules and guidelines. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with the contents of this handbook.

May this school year be blessed with much success, and may we all meet this year in Yerushalayim, with the Rebbe at our lead.

Wishing us all a year of great success,

Sincerely yours,

### Mrs. Gitty Rosenfeld

The Shluchim Online School Principal

## **The Student Body**

The Shluchim Online School caters to Chabad Shluchim from all over the world, from Shainghai, China to Caracas, Venezuela to Stonybrook, NY. Children living in isolated areas with limited Jewish social interaction now have the opportunity to benefit from being in a social atmosphere and sharing their experiences with other children they can relate to, all within the comfort of their homes. Our students flourish under the care of our dedicated, professional and creative teachers, benefiting from this innovative learning environment designed specifically to meet their needs.

## Structure: The World in Three Divisions

The Nigri International Shluchim Online School is comprised of three divisions, each custom tailored for a specific demographic:

- The Americas Division English/Yiddish speaking (Serving children in North, South and Central America)
- The European Division English/Yiddish speaking (Serving children in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia)
- The Hebrew Division Hebrew speaking
  (Serving children in Israel and the former Soviet Union)

## **Materials and Equipment**

Our online classroom makes long distance learning a stimulating and interesting adventure. In order to ensure proper connection, your child will need the following equipment:

- A computer, not more than 3 years old
- ✓ High speed internet connection
- A webcam, a headset and a microphone (preferably a hands-free convenience mic as seen in the picture below)
- ✓ Access to a printer and scanner

<u>Click here for more information on technical</u> <u>requirements.</u>

No student will be allowed to attend class without a headset, mic and webcam. Please make sure to have it ready for August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Our online classrooms enable the lessons to be very interactive. As a visual aid, the whiteboard is utilized in many ways. The teacher can post sheets, draw, write and highlight text, present multimedia and pull up a website. The students have ability, by permission from the teacher, to be involved in the class through texting, speaking and using the whiteboard. Webcams greatly enhance the learning environment of the class. Teachers have noticed a great difference in the comprehension, focus and participation of those students with webcams to those without. Please be aware that webcams give those in the class full view of the room in which the student is sitting. Pay attention to the orderliness of the room and limit other distracting activity while classes are in session.

### **Additional Safety Precautions**

To enable your child to be protected from the internet during class time and to fully participate, you must install a special program onto the computer that will be used for the Online School. It should be installed on the 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders' computers. This security program is designed to be a deterrent and it's ultimately the parent's responsibility to make sure the student is properly protected at all-times while using any computer.

It is very important to make sure your child **always** uses that computer on which the program was in – stalled or your child will **not** be under our protection. The cost for this program is \$4.00/month **per computer.** 

Please make sure your child is not on other internet sites during class if the security system is not installed yet. In addition, please be aware that students often forward e- mail forwards along to their friends. Please monitor these e-mails to ensure that they do not contain pictures or links to questionable websites.

Please note that a **wireless** internet connection is not advisable because at times it can supply a weak connection and cuts the student off of class.

# **Internet Connection**

Please make sure to have the required internet connection based on the

number of children that you will have in one location.

Students	Download (Mb/s)	Upload (Mb/s)	
1	1	1	
2	2	1.5	
3	3	2	
4	4	2.5	
5	5	3	

### **Punctuality**

Please make every effort to have your children to have your children log onto class five minutes before class begins. This will allow ample time to manage any unforeseen technical difficulties and enable the students to be completely ready when class begins. Encourage and help your children prepare all school supplies before class.

### Lateness

Lateness is disruptive to the lesson and distracts the students and the teacher.

Parents are expected to call and inform the office of any planned lateness.

All lateness is recorded in the attendance logs.

In the event of internet problems in your area, causing students to get frequently disconnected please inform the school office and the lateness will be excused.

### Absences

It is required that your child be present at each class in order to keep up with the daily lesson and master the material and skills being taught.

All appointments should be scheduled for before or after school hours.

Planned absences (i.e. due to a family simcha) should be discussed with the administration and teachers in advance. Students with excessive unexcused absence may be asked to leave the school.

In the event that a student must leave our school it is imperative that the administration be notified, otherwise you will continue to be charged tuition. There will be no refund of tuition if the administration is not informed.

In the event that a student leaves after Pesach, there will be no refund of tuition.

Tuition is charged by the month. If your child leaves before the month is over, you will be charged for the full month regardless.

### NEW: All correspondence regarding lateness and absences should be communicated to <u>attendance@shluchim.org</u>

Be aware that you will receive automatic emails of your child(ren)'s absences unless we were notified in advance.

### **Tests and assignments**

All tests are to be taken on the scheduled day and all assignments are to be sent on the day which they are due. If the student is aware that they will miss a test due to an unavoidable absence, the student should speak to the teacher on the next available day regarding a makeup.

We expect full parent cooperation (especially parents of the younger grades) in making sure that the tests and assignments get sent back to the teacher (via e-mail, e-fax or fax) immediately, in order for the teacher to properly monitor the progress of the student.

All students should have access to a scanner, fax machine and printer so they can always be up to date with returning homework, quizzes and tests to the teachers. Students' computers should be Hebrew enabled.

### **Communication with Administration**

*Most of our* communication is done via e-mail. It is of utmost importance that you read any emails you receive from Online School, Mrs. Rosenfeld or the teachers and that you respond when asked. Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address throughout the entire school year. Notify the office and your child's teachers of any e-mail changes **immediately**.

The success of your child's school year relies heavily on your involvement with their classes, the teachers and administration. We ask that for the benefit of your own child you are in full contact with the school and **specifically** with your children's teachers.

### **Dress Code**

Although we are an Online School and have only "limited viewing" of our students, we feel that a school uniform creates a sense of belonging to the students as well as ensures the students having the proper dress. We are asking all our parents to please comply with the uniform rules and convey them to your children. Help us enforce this rule without having to resort to punishments or dismissing students from class.

Boys (Pre K-B4)	Boys (B5-B8)	Girls (Pre K - G8)
Polo Shirt with Collar or Button Down with Collar	Button Down Shirt with Collar only	Long Sleeve Polo Shirt with Collar or Button Down Shirt with Collar
Color: White Light Blue Navy	<b>Color:</b> White Light Blue Navy	Color: Pink White Light Blue Navy

Every child can wear either the uniform vest (on top of any shirt they please) or a uniform shirt. The chart below shows what requirements are for each group. These shirts can be conveniently purchased at any local store such as the Gap, Old Navy, Children's Place, Target or Walmart. Any student wearing the uniform shirt need not wear the vest on top. We also offer an Online School sweatshirt available to order on landsend.com using our school number 900130169. For more information on how to order the sweatshirt please see instructions on the website. We now carry Online School baseball caps for purchase through the Shluchim.org store.

## **School Supplies**

There is a booklist available on our website listing which books are required for your child in his/her grade. All workbooks necessary for class are available to order, but we do not carry most seforim. Please see the booklist for further details. In addition, each student is expected to come prepared with notebooks, pencils, folders and general school supplies. Please have all supplies ready in a timely fashion and continuously check throughout the year that your child is properly prepared for class.

### Homework

Homework assignments are part of the planned homework within reasonable limits.

We expect parents to take an interest in their child's homework by supervising and checking the homework for accuracy and neatness. Parents who have concerns regarding their children's homework should contact the teacher. Please make sure your child's homework is sent in to the teacher on time. Your cooperation in this matter enables the teacher assess where your child is holding.

### **Homework Assistance**

## To assist students with their homework we offer: Homework Helpers for Girls G1-G8

High school students volunteer as "Homework Helpers" connecting with students by telephone to help with any homework related issues.

### **Parent/Teacher Communication**

Teachers will contact parents in the beginning of the year and provide them with details how to best contact and communicate with them. We strongly encourage parents and teachers to be in contact with one another, so the students can make the most of their school year. We will be organizing parent-teacher conferences throughout the year but communication on a consistent basis is strongly recommended for maximum student results.

### **Progress Reports**

The students will receive a report card at the end of each semester. The students will be evaluated for their effort, participation and scholastic achievement.

Report cards will be available online for the trimester 1 and 2 and a hard copy will be mailed at the end of the year.

In addition, the teachers will be e-mailing the parents general progress reports for parents to know how their child is doing.

### **Recess and Lunch Breaks**

There will be no teacher supervision during recess and lunch break. It is the parents' responsibility to monitor what goes on during break times. Should an alarming situation arise, be in touch with the office so we can work together with all the parents of the class to solve it to the best of our ability. During lunch the classroom is locked. We encourage students to spend their recess/lunch breaks outdoors or in the largest indoor space available, running and playing etc. We strongly discourage students spending their break time playing board games, in their bedroom or otherwise engaging in little physical activity.

### **Disciplinary Consequences**

There will be a no tolerance policy for students' behavior resulting in causing class disruption of any sort and will be treated with extreme disciplinary measures. The teacher will stop the class while the office is called and the issue is resolved.

### **Special School Events**

Special school events are held throughout the year, both virtually and in person. Web rallies, Rosh Chodesh assemblies etc., will be held during school hours and various clubs will be organized for after school hours. Much effort is made to provide opportunities for the students to meet each other in person such as Shabbatons and various trips. A highlight of the year is the Day of Celebration where students get to meet their classmates, friends and teachers in person often for the very first time. New for this year, will be a full day program for parents, teachers and students to maximize this once a year opputinity. It will take place before each Kinus and we strongly encourage all student and parent participation.

### **Eighth Grade Girls Graduating Class**

Please be aware that the girls graduating class will be printing a School Yearbook at the end of the year. The graduates will be responsible to raise their own funds by selling ads in the yearbook. The girls graduating class will be going on a graduation trip. Dates and cost will be emailed at a later date. Please take note of the contact list below. \*changes have been made since last year Feel free to cut out the list and keep it on hand.

Name	Title	Email	Direct Ext
Online School Office			718-713-3060
Rabbi Moshe Shemtov	Director	mshemtov@shluchim.org	718-718-3050
Mrs. Gitty Rosenfeld	Principal	grosenfeld@shluchim.org	718-713-3058
Rabbi Yossi Goodman	Systems Operator	ygoodman@shluchim.org	718-713-3067
Tech Support	Tech help	techsupport@shluchim.org	718-218-3241
General, billing and registration questions Attendance and book questions	Office Office	onlineschool@shluchim.org mrosenfeld@shluchim.org attendance@shluchim.org	Ext: 1 718-713-3070
Mrs. Toby Richler	Administrator	osadmin@shluchim.org	718-713-3057
Online School e-fax number			516-277-0013

## The Shluchim Online School was launched through the generosity

of our dear friends and supporters.

Founding Sponsor Rabbi Moshe & Ruth Weiss – Shluchim in Sherman Oaks, California

### Dedication of the Nigri International Shluchim Online School

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## NIGRI INTERNATIONAL SHLUCHIM ONLINE SCHOOL בית ספר נט לילדי השלוחים



A project of Chinuch Yaldei HaShluchim



A division of the  ${\ensuremath{\textbf{Shluchim Office}}}$ 

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