

CHEDER HANDBOOK

5782 – 5783



CHEDER AT THE OHEL

ADDRESS: 322 N. Corona Ave. Valley Stream, NY, 11580

PHONE: 516-984-1709 * OFFICE: 347-497-9114

חדר שע"י הציון הק' – וואלי סטרים

CHEDER AT THE OHEL

תשפ"ב - תשפ"ג * 5782 - 5783

School Calendar

Wednesday	August	31	Cheder opens; All grades 11:30am – 4:00pm	ד' אלול
Sunday	September	18	Selichos – Cheder starts at 11:00am	כ"ב אלול
Sunday	September	25	Erev Rosh Hashonah – No Classes	ערב ראש השנה
Monday	September	26	Rosh Hashonah – No Classes	ראש השנה
Tuesday	September	27	Rosh Hashonah – No Classes	ראש השנה
Wednesday	September	28	Early Dismissal for all grades at 12:15pm	צום גדלי'
Tuesday	October	4	Erev Yom Kippur – No Classes	ערב יום כפור
Wednesday	October	5	Yom Kippur – No Classes	יום כפור
Thursday	October	6	Cheder starts at 10:00am	י"א תשרי
Friday	October	7		י"ב תשרי
through			Sukkos break – No Classes	עד
Wednesday	October	19		כ"ד תשרי
Thursday	October	20	Regular Schedule	כ"ה תשרי
Thursday	November	17	Tentative Yom Iyun – Professional Day	כ"ג חשון
Friday	November	18	Shluchim Convention – No Classes	כ"ד חשון
Sunday	November	20	Shluchim Convention – No Classes	כ"ו חשון
Monday	November	21	Regular Schedule	כ"ז חשון
Sunday	November	27	P.T.A. – Report Cards - Early Dismissal	ג' כסלו
Sunday	December	18		כ"ד כסלו
through			Chanukah – Early dismissal: 3:00 p.m.	עד
Thursday	December	22		כ"ח כסלו
Friday	December	23		כ"ט כסלו
through			Chanukah break – No Classes	עד
Monday	December	26		ב' טבת
Tuesday	December	27	Regular Schedule	ג' טבת
Tuesday	December	14	Asara B'Teves – Early Dismissal for all grades at 12:15pm	עשרה בטבת
Sunday	February	26	P.T.A – Report Cards - Early Dismissal	ה' אדר
Monday	March	6	Taanis Esther - Early Dismissal for all grades at 12:15pm	תענית אסתר
Tuesday	March	7	Purim – No Classes	פורים
Wednesday	March	8	Shushan Purim – No Classes	שושן פורים
Sunday	April	2	Special Program	י"א ניסן
Monday	April	3		י"ב ניסן
through			Pesach break – No Classes	עד
Tuesday	April	16		כ"ה ניסן
Wednesday	April	17	Regular Schedule	כ"ו ניסן
Thursday	May	9	Lag B'Omer – Special Program - Early Dismissal	י"ח אייר
Thursday	May	25	Erev Shavuos – Early Dimissal at 12:15pm	ה' סיון
Friday	May	26		ו' סיון
through			Shavuos Break – No Classes	עד
Sunday	May	28		ח' סיון
Wednesday	June	21	Last Day of School	ב' תמוז
Thursday	June	22	Gimmel Tammz – Special Program TBA	ג' תמוז

DRESS CODE



*REB YOCHANAN WOULD CALL HIS GARMENTS, "THAT WHICH BRINGS HONOR".
PROPER CLOTHING AND UNIFORM IS PIVOTAL FOR A CHEDER ENVIRONMENT.
WE HAVE THEREFORE SET THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:*



YARLMUKAHS



Solid (darker) colors. No flashy colors, or modern-looking materials.



SHIRTS*



Grades Pre1Alef - 6: Light blue button-down shirts.

Grade 7: Light blue or white button-down shirts.
From Hanochas Tefillin, onward: White shirts only.

Talmidim in grades 2-7 should have their shirts tucked in properly when instructed to do so by the teacher or principals.



PANTS



Grades Pre1Alef - 7: Regular cotton pants of these colors only: blue, black, charcoal grey.

No sweatpants, tight-style pants, or jeans*.

Grade Pre1Alef can wear shorts during summer months.

*Jean-style black pants are not recommended for the younger grades (Pre1Alef - 2) and are not allowed for the older grades (grades 3-8).





DRESS CODE



“As חסידים and תמימים we have a uniform that clearly identifies us wherever we go”

SWEATERS



Grades Pre1Alef - 7: Solid dark colors without letters or designs.

Sweater hoods should not be on inside of the school.

Chidon sweaters are allowed and recommended.



SHOES



Grades Pre1A – 6: Dark colored shoes or sneakers.

Grade 7 black shoes or sneakers only.

No High-Tops or “Light-Ups”. Sneakers with flashy colors or large bright-color soles are not allowed.



SOCKS



Grades Pre1A - 7: Regular (crew) solid color socks.

No ankle socks or flashy colors/designs.



HAIRCUTS



Short length / Chassidish haircuts (recommended numbers 3-5) with the required payos length. Long bangs or any type of hairstyles are not allowed.

TZITZIS



Grade 7: At least size 20 (per the Shiur of the Alter Rebbe).

DRESS CODE

HATS

Bar Mitzvah age students must wear solid black hats.
Hats for outerwear should not contain any letters, designs, or logos. Sun hats / caps are not allowed.

JACKETS / BLAZERS

Bar Mitzvah age students should wear blue, black, or charcoal grey blazers for davening.

OTHER

Anything else (coats, backpacks, etc..) with characters or secular themes will not be allowed.

*The Cheder may ask students to refrain from wearing or bringing other items to school which is not befitting for a Talmid in the Cheder.

DRESS CODE Q&A

ARE THERE UPDATES TO THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE?

No, the dress code is the same as it was in previous years.

WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE THAT A CLOTHING ITEM FITS THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE?

Please reach out to the principal for any questions or clarifications regarding the school dress code in advance.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A SCHOOL DRESS CODE AND UNIFORM?

Studies show that uniforms can be beneficial in various ways, such as:

- Creating a sense of togetherness, unity, and cohesion.
- Helps with establishing decorum and an orderly environment.
- Is in accordance with our ideals, that Chassidim should dress with certain (higher) standards.
- Can alleviate peer pressure and comparison between what others are wearing.
- Can help children feel more confident and have a healthy self-esteem.
- Encourages children to express their individuality in more meaningful, creative, and productive ways.
- Helps promote school identity and school pride.
- Can help simplify morning routines for students and parents.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Grade:	Starting time	Dismissal	
	Sunday - Friday	Sunday - Thursday	Fridays
Pre1Alef	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm
1	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm
2	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm
3	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm
4	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm
5	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm
6	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm
7	9:00am	4:00pm	12:15pm

- ▶ Supervision begins 15 minutes before starting time (Sunday - Friday: 8:45am)
- ▶ Talmidim will daven Shachris and Mincha in their classrooms
- ▶ Please refer to the school calendar for changes to the schedule on special days

ARRIVAL

GRADES PRE1A – 7

Drop-off begins at 8:45am at the main entrance.

We cannot take responsibility for Talmidim who arrive at an earlier time.

DISMISSAL

DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

- Dismissal is at 4:00pm Sunday – Thursday and 12:15pm on Friday, unless noted otherwise.
- Talmidim who are waiting for their bus or ride should wait inside the building or by the steps until called out by a dismissal monitor.

- In case of a delay with pickup, it is the parents' responsibility to notify the school at least 1 hour prior to dismissal time at 347-497-9114
- If you are unable to pick up your son(s), and arrange for a relative, friend or neighbor to pick up your child(ren), please notify the school in advance.

BUSING & TRANSPORTATION

STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- Be at the bus stop early when coming to Cheder
- Remain seated while in transit
- Speak quietly - No screaming or shouting
- Leave the bus/van in an orderly manner
- Follow instructions from the driver or staff member
- Keep the bus/van clean
- Be respectful and courteous to the driver and other students
- Remember to always make a kiddush Hashem

If a student does not follow these expectations, he may not be able to participate in the bus/van transportation service.

Our staff drive a van for students to and from Crown Heights. The van cannot wait for students and will not come back to pick up a student if he missed the van. Being on time is the responsibility of the student.

ATTENDANCE

IMPORTANCE OF BEING ORGANIZED AND PUNCTUAL

In יום of תמוז, The Rebbe quotes:

דער בעש"ט [בעל שם טוב] איז געווען א מסודר, דער מעזריטשער האט מדקדק געווען אויף סדר, און דער עלטער זיידע - רבינו הזקן - האט געלערענט חסידים זיי זאלען זיין מסודרים..

"The Baal Shem Tov was systematic and orderly. The Maggid, insisted on order. And my great-grandfather - the Alter Rebbe - taught Chassidim to be orderly.."

As Chassidim, we must do our utmost to be orderly and organized in all areas of our lives.

Being on-time and punctual is essential for an organized lifestyle and integral to the overall success of Talmidim in Cheder.

LATENESS

Talmidim who arrive late should go to the school office to be admitted into class.

A Talmid who arrives more than 15 minutes late must bring a note with an explanation.

The school will determine whether an explanation qualifies as an excused lateness. If needed, we will take the necessary steps to address and help resolve any chronic lateness issues.

ABSENCE

If a student is absent, he must bring a signed note with a reason upon returning. It's best for parents to contact the school by email or phone to report an absence.

PLANNED ABSENCE

In the event of a planned absence (family Simcha, etc..) parents should notify the school in advance and reach out to the teacher for learning material that will be missed.

As we are concerned about your child falling behind his class, we urge parents to do their utmost to help their child be on par with their class upon returning.

LEAVING EARLY

Talmidim cannot leave the building during school hours without permission from the school. Parents must contact the office in advance or send a dated note with a reason, for their son(s) to obtain permission to leave early.

Medical appointments should be scheduled in the afternoon hours, if possible.

LEARNING

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

For Talmidim to have success in their learning, they are expected to:

- Be punctual for every class.
- Have all the necessary Seforim, materials and supplies needed for class.
- Achieve the learning goals for each subject set out by the teacher.
- Complete all work and material that the teacher instructs the class to do.
- Participate in all learning activities and projects.
- Complete learning assignments and homework.

Talmidim are required to make up whatever they missed while absent and be ready to take or retake any tests, if needed.

HOMEWORK BOOKS

Homework is a valuable tool for students to progress in their learning. Parents should make sure their child does his homework as soon as possible.

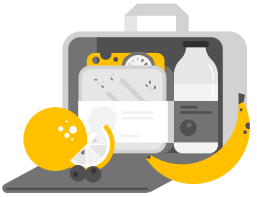
We may provide homework books to the Talmidim. This homework book will also be a means of communication between teacher and parents.

- Students should have their homework books with them every day.
- Each day, the homework assigned will be recorded there.
- Parents should sign the book when the homework is completed. (Notes will be included in the homework book, as well.)
- If the homework book is misplaced, the Talmid will have to purchase a new book.

LUNCH AND SNACKS

LUNCH & SNACKS

Nutritious lunches and snacks are important for the overall well-being of our Talmidim. Please carefully select the food you send with your child(ren) to school.



Please send:

- Nutritious and well-balanced lunch
- Three healthy snacks which includes fruits and/or vegetables
- Bread for washing and Benching
- Water bottle for lunch

Please do not send:

- Candy, chocolate, and high sugar content foods.
- Soda - not allowed.
- Chewing/bubble gum - not allowed in school at any time.
- Glass bottles and jars - not permitted.
- Any food that may contain nuts as the Cheder is peanut free.

Grades Pre1A – 7 will be eating lunch at different allocated times between 11:45am – 1:00pm

RECESS

Recess is a time for Talmidim to play and recharge. Students should report to their designated recess area and not loiter around in the building.

Weather permitting, recess will be outdoors during the winter months. Please make sure that your son is dressed appropriately (hat, scarf, gloves, boots, etc.)

We will try to arrange a student lounge which will be available during most recesses for Talmidim who prefer to read books or play board games.

The Cheder will provide sports equipment for recess. Talmidim who bring a ball to school must keep it in a bag when outside of the recess area.

Talmidim cannot bring their own Hockey sticks to school. Rollerblades or any similar items are not permitted in school.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

SAFETY PROCEDURES:

- Only the main entrance should be used for entering the building during school hours.
- Please use the buzzer at the intercom system for entering the building.
- During certain times and for evacuation purposes, emergency exits may be used per the instructions of school staff.
- Parents and visitors must report to the school office upon entering the building for authorization to enter the school area.
- If you see anything suspicious in or around the school building, please report it to the office right away.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

FEELING UNWELL

The health and well-being of our Talmidim is very important to us. We ask that parents work with us by following our health guidelines.

If your child is not feeling well, please keep him at home.

Please send your child to Cheder only when he is feeling better and is strong enough to be active. If a child is sent to Cheder while not feeling well, he will be sent home.

As a guideline, a child should remain home if he has:

- A fever
- A heavy nasal discharges
- A constant cough
- Other symptoms such as: sore throat pain, body aches, diarrhea, nausea, etc...

Please notify the Cheder if your child is not feeling well. If your child has not been immunized and C"V contracts an illness for which immunizations are available, the school should be notified as soon as possible.

SPECIAL NOTE ON THE FLU

The flu can be passed onto others through sneezing and coughing. The most contagious period is while a fever is present and within 24 hours after the fever is gone. If your child has the flu or a flu-like symptoms, please keep him home for at least 24 hours after the fever passed.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency, R"L, the following procedure will take place:

1. Hatzalah will be contacted
2. An attempt to contact the parents will be made.
3. An attempt to notify the emergency contact will be made.
4. The child may be taken to the ER at a nearby hospital.

MEDICATION

Please inform the Cheder if your child is taking medication. Medication that is required during school hours, will be dispensed by the office. The medication should be marked with the student's name and the amount/time of dosage. In addition, a written authorization must be provided in advance.

For the safety of our Talmidim, a student cannot carry medication in school without authorization. Please contact the office regarding dispensing non-prescription medications, such as Tylenol or Advil.

ALLERGIES

Please notify the school office of any allergies in advance of the school year. The Cheder has a peanut-free policy.

LOST & FOUND

Please place name tags on your son's clothing and label all outerwear.

We will arrange a lost and found display periodically for parents and students to claim any lost belongings. All remaining items will be donated at the end of the school year.

There is also a Lost & Found box in the school office where Talmidim can give in or claim any lost items.

CHEDER ATMOSPHERE

Our goal is to provide our Talmidim with חינוך על טהרת הקודש in a positive, structured and Chassidish environment based on the Rebbe's directives. We will continuously do our utmost to provide a proper atmosphere that is conducive for the learning and growth of our Talmidim.

Being that what happens outside of school can affect students inside of school, it is important that the environment at home is in accordance with this goal.

VIDEO GAMES, ETC...

Talmidim should not spend too much time playing video/computer games and should not watch non-educational or non-Chassidish videos at home.

Research shows that too much video games or other non-educational media can cause issues with concentrating and focusing in a classroom environment - negatively affecting a child's chance at having success in school.

INTERNET

Talmidim may not use the internet without supervision of a parent and cannot have access to any device with WIFI/data capabilities that does not have a reputable filter with parental control (even while being supervised). Unfortunately, nobody is immune to the dangers of the Internet where one click in the wrong direction can do unimaginable damage. We urge parents to be extra cautious in this area.

MUSIC

We know the power of a Niggun and how Chassidish music / melodies benefit the Neshama. It is understood that Talmidim should not listen to non-Jewish music or music that sounds non-Jewish.

LANGUAGE

As Chassidim, are careful what we say and how we say it. Talmidim must only use refined language and are not allowed to discuss anything that is not appropriate for a Cheder atmosphere.

DEVICES

Electronic devices such as cell phones, walkie talkies, MP3 players, tablets, cameras, smartwatches (with wifi and/or video/audio features), **etc..** are not permitted at Cheder. The Cheder reserves the right to confiscate these items indefinitely.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Talmidim in Cheder are expected to act as Chassidim in all areas of their lives, including how they conduct themselves outside of the Cheder - while walking on the street or when participating in other activities.

“Once a Tomim, always a Tomim” - even while outside the physical walls of the Cheder.

CONFERENCES AND COMMUNICATION

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

There will be an orientation evening at the beginning of the school year and two P.T.A. conferences during the year. When teachers and parents are acquainted with each other, Talmidim benefit.

We always have an open invitation for parents to meet and consult with the teacher(s) and the principal at convenient times. Appointments may be arranged by calling or emailing the school.

COMMUNICATION

It is important that there be open communication channels between the parents and the school.

Parents are advised to reach out to the teachers and/or principals to verify that they have accurate information before coming to any conclusions. The school will also reach out to report any incidents or concerns to the parents.

Any questions, concerns or feedback should be discussed with the appropriate Cheder staff.

VISITING

Parents and visitors must report to the school office as soon as they enter the building. They are not permitted to enter the school area without authorization.

We respectfully ask that parents and visitors be dressed in accordance with our standards and dress code.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Tzivos Hashem rallies, Trips, Shabbatons, Mishnayos Baal Peh, Rosh Chodesh events, Menorah contests and special projects in honor of Yom Tov are some of our extracurricular activities.

To help arrange or volunteer for any of these programs, please contact us at 347-497-9114



Parents are strongly encouraged to sign up their child(ren) for Tzivos Hashem and for the Chidon program (grades 4-8).

We will be updating parents with more information on these programs.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In accordance with the Rebbe's request that everyone celebrate their birthday, we encourage parents to arrange birthday celebrations for their child(ren) in Cheder.

Birthday celebrations should consist of a Mezonos treat (from the bakery), such as: cupcakes, doughnuts or Danishes, and grape juice for L'Chaim. (Please do not send Pizza or Ice cream.)

Please contact the Cheder at least a week in advance to arrange a birthday event for the class.

HANOCHAS TEFFILIN AND BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATIONS

We will be sending an email with more information and guidelines to the parents of Kita Zayin.

CODE OF CONDUCT

EXPECTATIONS

Being a Talmid in our Cheder is a special privilege that comes with a higher level of expectations and responsibility. Below, is an outline of some of those expectations:

דרך ארץ קדמה לתורה

Having Derech Eretz and Respect means:

1. Speaking respectfully to staff members and following their instructions.
2. Standing up when a principal, teacher or staff member enters the classroom.
3. Raising your hand for permission to speak and not interrupting when a staff member is speaking.
4. Following all rules and policies of the classroom and the Cheder.

We have a zero-tolerance policy for disrespectful or defiant behavior towards any staff member.

ואהבת לרעך כמוך - זה כלל גדול בתורה

Having Ahavas Yisroel means:

1. Treating other Talmidim with respect and dignity - just as you'd like to be treated.
2. Being nice and pleasant to other students.
3. Trying to include others when playing and looking out for someone who may be left out.
4. Speaking nicely to other Talmidim and never saying anything that can be hurtful.

We have a zero-tolerance policy for aggressive behavior, bullying (verbal / physical), or any form of violence, etc... It is the responsibility of the student to notify a staff member if someone is bothering them.

PROPER DECORUM AND RESPECT FOR THE CHEDER

Proper school decorum means:

1. Walking in the hallways quietly.
2. Keeping our Cheder clean.
3. Respecting Cheder property.
4. Following the school dress code.
5. Being on time to class.
6. Following the classroom rules.
7. Always staying with your class.
8. Staying in your designated area.

CLARIFICATIONS:

1. No running, shouting, or whistling in our hallways. You must walk quietly.
2. All trash must be put into garbage cans. Placing garbage anywhere else is not allowed.

3. Anyone who tampers with, or damages school property will be fined and must pay for damages. Students cannot turn lights on/off without permission from a staff member.
4. Not complying with the dress code can result in an in-school suspension (until proper clothing is brought) or sending the Talmid home to change his clothing.
5. Students must be on-time to class.
6. Each Rebbi has classroom rules which must be followed by their Talmidim. Please refer to your Rebbi for specific clarifications.
7. Students must always be with their class unless they have permission to be somewhere else.
8. Students should not enter other classrooms without a valid reason or permission from a staff member.

חסד & גבורה = תפארת

REWARDS AND CONSEQUENCES

As we guide our Talmidim to grow into their full potential it is important that we utilize both kindness and strength to reach the fine balance of Tiferes.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT TO FOLLOW THE RULES AND EXPECTATIONS WILL RECEIVE:

1. Learning and writing assignments related to what they did or what they are learning in class.
2. Monetary fees that need to be paid* and/or a Mashkoin.
3. In-school or out of school suspension (Suspending a Talmid is a painful but sometimes necessary means of addressing certain behaviors and actions)

**We will offer students opportunities to earn back these funds by doing services for the school.*

STUDENTS WHO FOLLOW THE RULES AND EXPECTATION WILL RECEIVE:

1. Positive recognition awards and incentives. The Cheder has a weekly Shaar Hakovod - Talmid H'Shavuah Award and a Monthly Talmid Chodesh certificate for those who put extra effort into their Limud and Hanhoga.
2. Reward points which can be used to purchase beautiful prizes in the Cheder prize store.
3. Raffles, treats and special activities.
4. A feeling of achievement and Nachas - knowing they did the right thing and met the expectations of a Talmid in Cheder.

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS HANDBOOK INCLUDES SOME OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS. SHOULD THE NEED ARISE; WE MAY ADD OR MODIFY A POLICY AND WILL NOTIFY YOU ABOUT IT.

WITH BEST WISHES FOR A SHNAS HATZLACHA TO ALL OF OUR TALMIDIM AND STAFF
