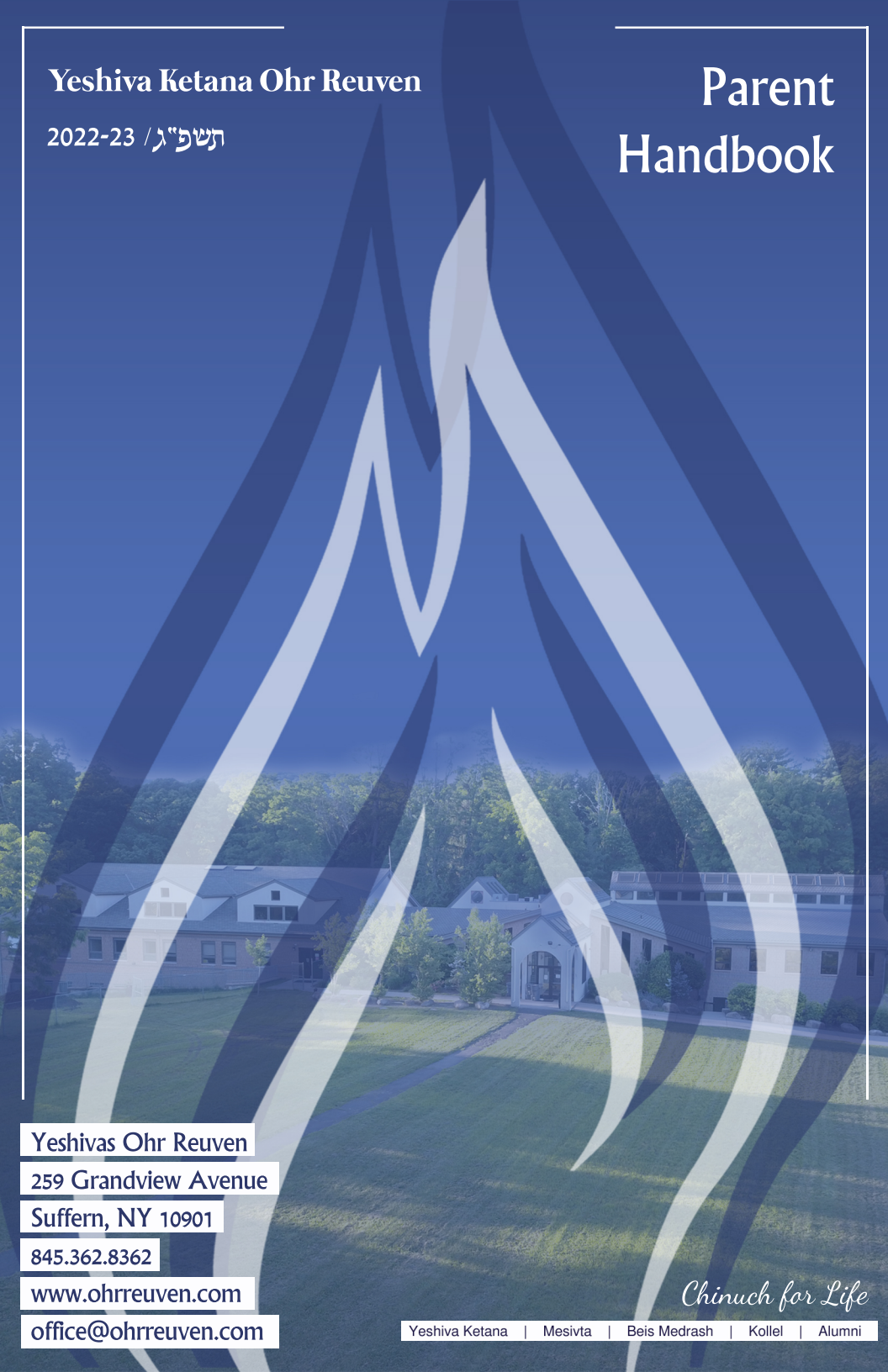
Yeshiva Ketana Ohr Reuven

2022-23 / תשפ"ג

Parent Handbook



Yeshivas Ohr Reuven
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Chinuch for Life

Yeshiva Ketana | Mesivta | Beis Medrash | Kollel | Alumni

OHR REUVEN אור ראובן
YESHIVA KETANA

תמוז תשפ"ב
July 2022

Dear Parents שיחיו,

We are pleased to present to you the 5783 / 2022-2023 issue of the Yeshiva Ketana Ohr Reuven Parent Handbook. We are profoundly aware of the critical importance of maintaining a close bond between school and home. As partners in your children's *chinuch*, this handbook serves as a guide in our relationship. We hope that it contains the necessary information that will enable our partnership to blossom.

Kindly read the Yeshiva's Handbook and become familiar with its contents. Please review these pages as carefully as possible.

Always remember that if you have any questions or concerns, you can feel free to call on us.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your entire family a productive and fulfilling year!

Sincerely,

HaRav Bezalel Rudinsky
Rosh HaYeshiv

Harav Benzion Brodie
S'gan Rosh HaYeshiva

Rabbi Yosef B. Rawicki
Menahel

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Principal



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OHR REUVEN אור ראובן
YESHIVA KETANA

YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN

Our goal is to provide every single *talmid* with a "*Chinuch* for Life". With *siyata dishmaya*, our dedicated staff exemplifies living by the *Toras hachaim* with *simchas hachaim*. *Talmidim* develop into *lomdei Torah* with a true sense of *ahavas Hashem*, *ahavas haTorah*, *ahavas yisroel* and a healthy understanding of *ahavas atzmo*.

Our first-rate educational programming, along with a positive *Yeshiva* and parent partnership, encourages our *talmidim* to become true *lomdei Torah*, *bnei Torah* and *machzikei Torah*, leading meaningful, happy and productive lives.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

As a Yeshivas Ohr Rueven *chinuch* partner, it is understood that the way a parent dresses, whether on a Sunday, at a *Simcha* or out shopping, has a tremendous effect on our *Talmidim*. "Do as I say, not as I do," is a recipe for confusion at best. All the more so when coming to the yeshiva grounds, all fathers and mothers are requested to not only dress with *Tznius*, but with proper *Koved Rosh* for our *Makom Torah*. Men should wear shirts and slacks (and jackets when joining the Yeshivas Ohr Reuven *Minyan*). Women are to follow all guidelines of the *Shulchan Aruch*. Please see to it that clothing is of proper length and sufficiently loose-fitting. Proper hair covering is required and legs must be fully covered, not with a look more appropriate for the gym, (i.e.: leggings). **These guidelines apply at all times** especially when parents come to drop off or pick up their children. Please be extra sensitive as we share a campus with a *Mesivta, Beis Medrash* and Kollel.

Please don't place our *Hanhalah* in the uncomfortable position of having to approach a Yeshiva parent directly regarding this issue.

BEHAVIOR / *DERECH ERETZ*

The *Talmidim* of Yeshivas Ohr Reuven are required to conduct themselves according to the guidelines of *Torah* and *Yiddishkeit*. They are expected to behave with respect and in a pleasant fashion towards their *Rebbeim*, teachers and to one another. They should expect to be treated by all in the same fashion as well.

Bully-Free Zone

As per our mission outlined on the first page of this handbook, Yeshivas Ohr Reuven's goal is to develop *Talmidim* who demonstrate *Derech Eretz* and have high self- esteem. Allowing *Talmidim* to bully one another is the antithesis of this mission. A culture of bullying unfortunately can infiltrate and affect even the finest of *Talmidim.* To ensure that no child's self-esteem is damaged, and that no child should fall into the habit of bullying, Yeshivas Ohr Reuven continues to work toward making our Yeshiva a Bully-Free Zone.

Bullying is when a person or group repeatedly tries to harm someone who is weaker. Sometimes it involves direct attacks such as hitting, name calling, teasing or taunting. Sometimes it is indirect, such as spreading rumors or trying to make others reject someone. Bullying behaviors can include bossing others around, embarrassing, making others feel inferior, leaving others out, making others do things they don't want to, name-calling, refusing to talk to someone and getting others to do the same, picking on others because they are "different", teasing and writing hurtful things about others.

Often people dismiss bullying among kids as a normal part of growing up. But bullying is harmful. It can lead children to feel tense and afraid to come to school. For some, the effects of bullying can last a lifetime. Children surveyed around the country rated bullying as the second worst childhood experience, second only to the death of a loved one.

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven is committed to taking a proactive role, wherever possible, to provide a safe environment for each of our *Talmidim*. Although studies show that only 4% of school bullying is observed by school staff, nevertheless all efforts must be made to assist the victims of bullying incidents.

Research shows that for a school to succeed in creating a bully-free environment, similar expectations must come from the home. Boys who struggle with bullying others will require direct parent involvement towards modifying this serious behavior. Yeshivas Ohr Reuven will be there to assist parents in this crucial *Chinuch* challenge.

It is expected that parents will be diligent in following recommendations made by the school. Recommendations may include psychological services and/or counseling. Failure on the part of parents to comply with the school's recommendations will be grounds for expulsion.

Please note that this emphasis on anti-bullying is in addition to the Interpersonal Requirements listed below.

Interpersonal Requirements

Specifically, regarding their interaction with peers, students should be mindful of the following rules of interpersonal relationships:

1) Students must respect and empathize with the **FEELINGS** of their fellow *Talmidim*, avoiding doing or saying anything that would be hurtful.
2) Students should demonstrate **EMPATHY & SUPPORT** for one another; speak out on behalf of one another, mindful that in *Torah* living, there is no such thing as an "innocent bystander" in the face of someone's mistreatment.
3) Students must recognize that **AGGRESSION** is an unacceptable solution to a problem. This includes any form of fighting or bullying behavior.
4) Students must maintain the proper **PHYSICAL SPACE** between themselves and fellow *Talmidim*. Inappropriate touching is never permitted. This also means that students must refrain from touching the belongings of other students unless given permission.

Bus Behavior

All *Talmidim* are expected to behave appropriately on school buses. *Talmidim* must be seated at all times that they are on the bus. Children who are out of their seats, disturbing the driver and/or other children, making excessive noise or doing anything deemed inappropriate by the driver are likely to lose the privilege of school bus transportation for a given period of time. Drivers are instructed to inform the *Hanhalah* of any behavior infractions through filling out a Bus Company Disciplinary Form.

Should a *Talmid* continue to be disruptive or aggressive after discussion and warning is given as a path of last resort, and after other interventions have been implemented, a student may be removed from daily bus transportation.

We urge you to discuss the seriousness of this matter with your child. Please see the full list of the Transportation rules. A full list of East Ramapo District Transportation rules is available from the district's website at https://www.ercsd.org/Page/517.

COMMUNICATION

At the end of each school week, *Rebbeim* and teachers send out a Weekly Newsletter. This highlights class accomplishments, includes a list of *Limudim* to be reviewed and exciting classroom news. Please make sure to ask your son for it on a weekly basis.

If you have any specific questions regarding your child's academic level, classroom behavior or curriculum, please feel free to communicate with your child's *Rebbe* or teacher. If the question or issue remains unresolved, please communicate with the *Limudei Kodesh* or General Studies Principals who will be happy to help you if they can. To reach a staff member, please leave a message on their extension and include the best numbers that you can be reached at. Additionally, many staff members communicate through e-mail. Please feel free to ask them directly for their preferred way to be contacted.
During school hours, please call the office to relay a message instead of trying to contact the *Rebbe* /teacher via his/her email or text.

Should a parent have a concern, the best and most direct route to take is to approach the school first. The yeshiva will not take kindly to hearing about discussions or seeing postings of *Lashon Hora* directed at the school, especially if the proper course of action has not been taken. Continued admittance to Yeshivas Ohr Reuven may be contingent on this.

Open and direct communication is the best way to further the educational and social development of your son(s). Toward this goal, we have Parent- Teacher

Conferences. Please consult your school calendar for this year's date. Please note that appointments are required by all families for each conference.

Please inform your son's *Rebbe* and teacher immediately if anything occurs in your family or your son's life that could add stress to his normal functioning (such as a birth in a family, or *Lehavdil*, a tragedy *r"l.*) This will allow our staff to immediately be sensitive to your son's needs. Should the information be confidential in nature, you may wish to contact the one of the Principals to see how to best handle and possibly disseminate this information.

DRESS CODE

Grades 6-8:

- Dark blue or black pants
- Full button-down shirts
- Sweatshirts: only solid dark colors, black or navy blue, no writing or logos at all, without hoodies.
- Black, navy blue or dark grey shoes or sneakers. This includes the entire shoe: sole, laces, etc. If you are unsure if the shoes meet these requirements, please ask before purchasing.
- Jacket and hat for *Davening* (students above *Bar Mitzvah* age)
- *Yarmulkas:*
    - Dark colored. This includes the entire *yarmulka*.
    - Leather, suede, etc. *Yarmulkas* should not be worn in yeshiva.
    - May not contain any writing other than a boy's name.
    - Large enough to remain in place without clips or pins.

Grades 1-5:

- Pants *(dark colored are preferred)*
- Shirts with collar, either button down or three button pullovers
- Sweatshirts: only solid dark colors, navy blue, no writing or logos at all, without hoodies.
- Shoes or sneakers

Pre School:

The preschool does not have a specific dress code. We recommend that you dress your child in comfortable clothing so that he can participate fully in all activities. The only request that we have is that you not send your child in crocs. Crocs can cause injuries during active play, which occurs often throughout the day in the preschool. Any other supportive, comfortable shoe or sneaker is acceptable. All boys must wear a *Yarmulke* and *Tzitzis* every day.

For Grades 1-8:

The following clothing items are not permitted:

- Jeans, look-alike jeans, sweat pants, sweatpants style with elastic or drawstring, patch – pocket pants or tight-fitting pants
- Shirts or sweat shirts with large letters or logos
- Open back shoes, slippers, crocs, sandals or shoes or sneakers with any type of wheels
- Ankle socks
- Baseball caps

The following clothing items are not permitted to be worn inside the school building:

- Shirts or sweat shirts with large letters or logos

Yarmulkas should not be brightly colored, should not contain any writing other than a boy's name, and should be large enough to remain in place without clips or pins. Clips or pins can be used at recess play if necessary, but may not be worn in the classroom. In addition, *talmidim* should be well- groomed, have regularly scheduled haircuts, and their hairstyles should be of proper length, conforming to the appearance of a *ben Torah*. Boys must wear *tzitzis* at all times.

The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any article of clothing and to exclude a boy from class if his clothing does not conform to Yeshivas Ohr Reuven's dress code. The student may be asked to wait in the office until a parent can bring in an appropriate change of clothing.

HEALTH RECORDS

According to New York State law, health records must be up to date for a child to be admitted to school. Any updated records should be sent to the Nurse's attention: nurse@ohrreuven.com. She can be reached in yeshiva at extension #109.

It is imperative that the contact information on your child's emergency contact info be kept up-to-date. If you change any of your telephone numbers (including cell phone numbers, etc.) during the school year, please inform the office so that the information in our system can be updated.

Please inform the school if your son has a particular medical or dietary need, such as asthma, allergies, etc.

The Yeshiva employs a trained lice checker, Mrs. Fischer, who will provide opportunity for each *talmid* to be checked before the school year begins. Details are sent out to parents in advance of the nit check. Additionally, periodically throughout the year she will come to Yeshivas Ohr Reuven to check the *talmidim*'s hair.

Should you know that your child has had head lice or any other communicable disease (i.e. pinworms, etc.) please be sure to contact our school nurse, ext. 109.

HOME ENVIRONMENT

Reading Material

Parents are advised to always accompany their children on trips to the Public Library. Unfortunately, libraries, along with the great benefits they provide, also allow for easy access to inappropriate reading material and unlimited internet access. Additionally, please screen any books your son borrows from a friend or neighbor and do not allow your son to bring any book to Yeshivas Ohr Reuven that the *Hanhalah* or another *talmid*'s parents might object to him being exposed to.

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven requires parents to be extremely vigilant with the types of newspapers, magazines and catalogs that they allow into their homes. So much of what we strive to inculcate in our *talmidim* can be lost, *chas v'shalom,* with exposure to inappropriate images in a publication left around the house.

Television

Television viewing can be exceedingly harmful to the *neshamos* of our *talmidim*. Yeshivas Ohr Reuven discourages the use of television in our children's homes. The minority of families who currently permit television viewing by their children are urged to consider joining the ranks of the homes that are TV free. In any event, television sets may not be placed in the bedroom of a *talmid*. Students permitted limited TV watching are not permitted to share the contents of those programs with other *talmidim.*

Movies

Aside from appropriate IMAX movies, our *talmidim* should not enter a movie theater at any time, even to view "G" rated children films. Parents who permit their children to view videos at home should be scrupulous about previewing each video in advance, as so much of what is considered entertainment today is in conflict with Torah ideals. Again, students are not permitted to share the contents of the videos with their school mates.

Internet

As detrimental as television and movie viewing have become, the danger they pose pales by comparison to the risks of Internet access. With the click of a mouse, our precious children can be exposed to the most vulgar and obscene material.

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven forbids the unsupervised use of the Internet by any *talmid*. The Internet may only be used with all of the following conditions:

1. **Constant** parental supervision and oversight.
2. All computers/devices must be located in a public area of the home with no computers/devices in children's rooms.
3. Filters must be installed in any device (i.e.: computer, cell phone, etc.) that comes into the home.
4. No *talmid* is permitted to have his own e-mail address. Instead, there should be a family e-mail address that all children may use.
5. No *talmid* may have a Facebook, Twitter or similar account.
6. A *talmid* may not have his own cell phone. Parents who wish to have their children carry cell phones when they leave home to a non-Yeshivas Ohr Reuven event, should have "house phones", meaning that the phone(s) are used by other family members as well and not the exclusive domain of an Yeshivas Ohr Reuven talmid. The cell phone may not have internet access under any circumstances. Please bear in mind that besides internet access, texting is dangerous for minors to be involved with

.

Please note that these are minimum standards, and we encourage our parents to consider completely restricting children from Internet use. No assignments will be given that require Internet access.

WE CONSIDER ADHERENCE TO THESE HOME ENVIRONMENT RULES TO BE A PRE-CONDITION TO OUR PARTNERSHIP. IGNORING THEM CONSTITUTES A *MEKACH TA'US.*

AS SUCH, YESHIVAS OHR REUVEN RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY CONTINUED ENROLLMENT TO ANY CHILD WHOSE PARENTS PERMIT HIM TO VIOLATE ANY ASPECT OF THE YESHIVA'S READING MATERIAL, MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY RULES.

Recent Letter to Parents

We at Yeshivas Ohr Reuven aim to be mechanech our talmidim in a responsible and healthy way partnering with families who believe in חנוך לנער על פי דרכו, and will do whatever possible to ensure that their children are not exposed to any negative influences, and that their homes are a safe haven from these influences. The challenges presented by technology know no age limits; no one is too old or too young to fall. However, the appropriate ways of dealing with digital challenges differ for adults and children.

As parents, what would we not do to raise pure, healthy and happy children, who are inculcated with high values?

In our day and age, this is not something that happens passively. The Yeshiva has therefore set the following standards that are the "Digital Safety Guidelines" for Yeshiva Ketana Ohr Reuven families. We trust that these ideal standards will be followed as set forth.

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven forbids the unsupervised use of the Internet by any talmid. The Internet may only be used with all of the following conditions:

1. Constant parental supervision and oversight.
2. All computers/devices must be located in a public area of the home with no computers/devices in children's rooms.
3. It is a family responsibility to have an approved filter be installed on any device that comes into the home. (i.e.: phones, computer, tablet, iPad, game console, etc.)
4. No talmid is permitted to have his own e-mail address. Instead, there should be a family e-mail address that all children may use.
5. No talmid may have a Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok or similar social media account.
6. A talmid may not have his personal cell phone. Parents who wish to have their children carry cell phones when they leave home to a non-Yeshivas Ohr Reuven event, should have "house phones", meaning that the phone(s) are used by other family members as well and not the exclusive domain of a Yeshivas Ohr Reuven talmid. The cell phone may only be a basic phone that has only calling capabilities with no browser, gaming or apps, it may not have internet access under any circumstances. Please bear in mind that besides internet access, texting is dangerous for minors to be involved with. Text Messaging has been a source of ruin to many students. Therefore, any usage of a cell phone by a Talmid must be closely monitored

Please Note: Many issues of inappropriate exposure have come from the phones and devices of babysitters, nannies and family members.

Please note that these are minimal standards, and we encourage our parents to consider completely restricting children from Internet use.

May our collective resolve to protect the קדושה of our homes be a זכות for continued הצלחה in the חינוך of our children.

Rabbi Bezalel Rudinsky
Rosh Hayeshiva

HOMEWORK

The Yeshiva's homework policy calls for limited daily assignments on Sunday through Thursday nights. Although homework assignments usually involve written activity, all boys should be *"chazering"* their *Limudei Kodesh* studies on a regular basis as well. Long-term assignments may be assigned to be completed over the weekends. Care will be taken to lessen the homework load before the busy *Pesach* season, allowing the boys to "do their share" of the *Yom Tov* preparation.

Parents are asked to provide their sons with an environment conducive to effective study (e.g. quiet, comfortable and well-lit). Please be sure that students complete their homework nightly. Although it is helpful for parents to *review* their children's homework on occasion, please avoid *doing* any assignments for your child unless specifically requested by the teacher. Students should also learn not to rely on others to determine the nightly homework assignments. In the younger grades, *Rebbeim*/teachers may provide students with a particular system to record their assignments, which may require a parent's signature each night.

A parent who notices that his son takes excessive time to complete his assignments, or is unable to complete assignments, is asked to be in touch with the *Rebbe* or teacher.

LOST & FOUND

The Yeshiva Ketana's lost and found is located on a table near the Yeshiva Ketana's shul/lunchroom (during the school year). The lost and found locations may get emptied at the end of the week or other intervals. Items left unclaimed may be given away, discarded or donated. Please remember to label all personal belongings - the labels may not be able to prevent the items from getting lost, but may help them be returned if they are found.

MEDICATION

According to the law, *talmidim* are not permitted to come to school with any medication – including antibiotics, Tylenol or any other over-the-counter or prescription medicine. Should your child need to take any medicine during the school day, please contact our school nurse (at ext. #109 or at nurse@ohrreuven.com) who will administer it.

MINYAN

Our oldest *talmidim* in grades 6-8 begin their day at the Yeshiva Ketana minyan. *tefillos*, *krias haTorah* and *gabbaus* are all led by our *talmidim*, providing them with important opportunities in c*hinuch bais haknesses*. Attendance is taken each morning. Boys arriving to *minyan* later than 7:55 a.m. will be marked as

late. These attendance records will be reflected on the *talmid's* report cards. Please note that missing *minyan* on a regular basis requires advanced permission.

MISHMOR

As our *talmidim* prepare for their years of *Mesivta* and *Beis Medrash*, we begin official evening *limud haTorah*. To meet this end, a *Mishmor* program is available for our oldest *talmidim*. Carpool pickup will be necessary following the *Mishmor* program. Details of the *Mishmor* program are available at ohrreuven.com/elementary.

NEWS & NACHAS

Our Reuven Review is Yeshivas Ohr Reuven's window into the happenings in Yeshivas Ohr Reuven. We would love to share the nachas with *talmidim's* parents and grandparents. Please email us at reuvenreview@ohrreuven.com with email addresses you would like Reuven Review sent to and we will happily email them out.

If you would like to notify us of any simcha, etc. to be listed, please email reuvenreview@ohrreuven.com.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY TO STUDENTS

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven (all divisions, including Yeshiva Ketana Ohr Reuven formerly Yeshiva Darchei Noam) 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 any basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school- administered programs.

NUTRITION

For best performance during the school day, a nutritious breakfast is essential. *Talmidim* in 1st through 5th grade should eat their breakfasts before coming to Yeshiva. Boys in grades 6-8 joining *Minyan* may bring breakfast from home or may sign up for school breakfast which is eaten following *Davening*.

A healthy morning and afternoon snack should be sent with your son. As children often share snacks with each other, and many families eat only *cholov yisroel* products, we appreciate your sensitivity and encourage you to send only *cholov yisroel* products to school with your son. Gum is not permitted in school.

Talmidim bringing lunch from home should bring meat or *parve* lunches on Tuesday and bring non-meat lunches on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday.

There will be no lunch period on Sundays or Fridays. Please send an extra snack with your son on those days.

Please be advised that although Yeshivas Ohr Reuven cannot consider itself a "nut free" environment, nevertheless, on behalf of those students who suffer from nut allergies, we ask that parents refrain from sending any food to school that contains nuts or nut derivatives, particularly in the younger grades where snacks are often shared. We have asked the caterer and the N'shei not to serve any foods containing nut ingredients. Please follow our lead, should you be sending in any food for a class *siyum* or party.

PARENTAL VISITS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

While child-parent interaction is of great value, visits by parents during the school day can be very distracting and disruptive to students. Students who deal with separation anxiety will have a harder time when their day is punctuated by a parental visit. In addition, students who are expecting the visit of a parent are often distracted from their learning during the time leading up to that visit and have difficulty re-acclimating to the classroom routine after seeing a parent in their school day. Visits to the classroom by any parent are a distraction to all the boys in the class.

School policy requires that any parent visiting school first report to the office. If the parent is dropping off something for the child, the school office will have that item delivered to the classroom. If the parent is signing out and dismissing the student, the office will page him. Please be aware that the reception office is on the second floor of the yeshiva building near the main Yeshiva Ketana entrance. Please use the upstairs entrance where the receptionist will be available to greet and assist you.

PARTIES

Bar Mitzvos

Please make sure that the entire class, your son's *Rebbe* and the *Hanhalah* are invited to at least some part of your son's *simcha*.

Should your son choose to celebrate his first time *leining* in Yeshiva, please contact his *Rebbe* beforehand to make certain that the כיבודים are available for your family at our *minyan*. Please inform the *Rebbe* if you will be marking the occasion with some type of celebration (i.e. donuts for his class, etc.)

Birthday Parties in School

Parents wishing to observe their son's birthday in school may do so. This enables a practical and inexpensive way for your son's birthday to be marked and celebrated with all of his classmates. The best time to schedule a birthday party is generally during snack or lunch time. Arrangements must be made with

your child's *Rebbe* or teacher. Parties held during *Limudei Kodesh* sessions should mark the *talmid*'s Hebrew birth date.

All products brought into the school, to be shared with the class, must meet universal *kashrus* standards; dairy products must be *cholov yisroel,* baked goods must be *pas yisroel* and should be sensitive to any student in the class that has a food allergy. **It is the Yeshiva's policy that no home baked goods be brought in.**

Birthday Parties Not Held In School

Optimally, when scheduling a party out of school, the entire class should be invited. If financial constraints prevent extending an invitation to all students, a small number (less than half the class) may be invited. However, invitations may be distributed in school only if all members of the class are included. Otherwise we ask that you send the invitations by mail.

When inviting students to your home, whether for a party or other social occasions, please be sure to follow the same *kashrus* guidelines that apply to in-school parties. Under no circumstances should there be any "theme" birthday parties based upon television characters or other popular culture figures, and no television or videos of non-Jewish content should be shown to the boys.

PERSONAL ITEMS

It is highly recommended that all personal items brought to Yeshiva be labeled with your name and phone number. Any items left in Yeshiva for over 30 days will be deemed hefker. Please see the Lost & Found section.

PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

Having your son assemble personal effects and school belongings before he retires for the evening will result in a well-organized student who is fully prepared for school the next morning. Seeing to it that homework assignments and schoolbooks are placed in a school bag or knapsack and assigning a particular area for safekeeping will help ensure that they are not forgotten at home. A checklist of certain important items may be helpful for those *talmidim* who need a more structured approach.

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION

If you transport your child to school, it is your responsibility to have your child arrive at school on time, and be picked up on time. **We will make no changes in carpool arrangements (i.e. a child verbally informing us that he is going home with a friend's carpool) unless we are notified in writing.** If there is an emergency and you need to change the homebound instructions for your child, please call the receptionist a minimum of 30 minutes before dismissal to allow for arrangements to be made.

REPORT CARDS

The school year is divided into three marking periods. Report cards will be issued at the end of each marking period and will be mailed home. An interim Progress Report will be mailed home midway through each of the marking periods by your son's *Rebbe* and Teacher should he be struggling in any of his Limudei Kodesh subjects. This notice will come well in advance, allowing him time to make any necessary changes prior to the upcoming report card. Please note that grades may drop even further should interventions not be put in place before the report cards are issued. The financial policy of the Yeshiva is that tuition accounts must remain current at all times. If delinquent, students may not be allowed to attend classes and grades/transcripts may be withheld.

SAFETY

Safety of *talmidim* is of utmost importance to parents and Yeshiva alike. To this end, a *talmid* leaving school grounds without adult supervision will be dealt with in a most serious manner. Consequences for such an offense can result in school expulsion.

The school district provides transportation to and from Yeshiva. Should you, nevertheless, want your son to walk or ride his bicycle to or from Yeshiva, please fill out the permission form available at ohrreuven.com/elementary under the parent resources tab and send it in to Yeshiva. When making your decision, please take into consideration the safety of the routes that your child will be walking or riding on, who will be accompanying your child, and the time of the day they will be going.

No Yeshiva Ketana *talmid* may enter the Mesivta building during school hours without explicit permission from one of the Principals. No *talmid* may obtain boiling water or hot food from the teacher's room for any reason, without exception. Please do not allow your son to bring food or drinks that require boiling water to be added as they will not be permitted to receive the hot water. At this time, individual thermos bottles containing hot foods/drinks may be brought to Yeshiva. Additionally, vending machines in the Yeshivas Ohr Reuven Mesivta Building are not available for *talmidim* of the Yeshiva Ketana.

SALES BY STUDENTS

No buying, selling or trading of any items may take place in Yeshiva. This includes but is not limited to food items, toys, etc. Both the materials being sold and the money being transferred will be confiscated. Any permitted sales must be okayed by the Administration (i.e.: 8th grade fundraisers, etc.).

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

General Guidelines

The importance of regular attendance cannot be overemphasized. Children who are absent or who leave early, fall behind in their own work and can slow the progress of the class as a whole. A day missed is a day lost.

Children are required by law to attend school every day that school is in session. When illness occurs, please have your child arrange with his *Rebbe* /teacher to make up the missed work upon his return.

Getting to school on time is extremely important. Lateness is detrimental to the child's academic progress and is disruptive to the rest of the class. Should a child arrive in school later than 5 minutes after starting time (other than a late bus), **a parent must notify the Receptionist either in person, in writing, or by phone that they are aware of their child's lateness.**

The Receptionist will then provide your son with a late note to give to his *Rebbe* or Teacher. Arriving to Yeshiva without notification by parents may result in a *talmid* not being allowed into class. This rule is instituted for your child's safety.

Please make every effort to schedule social and recreational engagements and even doctor and dentist appointments during non-school hours, whenever possible. Should the need arise for a student to leave school early, please send a note along with your son in the morning. The note should be addressed to the *Rebbe*/teacher that your child will be leaving at the scheduled pick up time. Upon arriving at school to pick up your child, please come to the front office to sign him out and ask the receptionist to call your child out of class. Students may not wait at the front door, in the office, or outside of the building.

Vacations

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven invests considerable time and energy to coordinate the vacation schedules of many boys and girls *yeshivos* in the Monsey area, towards the goal of enabling our families to spend quality time together. School days missed cause *talmidim* to miss important learning. Experience has shown us that some *talmidim* never recover the missed learning and are constantly trying to catch up.

Should parents feel that is absolutely necessary for their child to miss a day of yeshiva, the Student Leave Request Form (must be submitted to the main office.

The form is to be submitted at least one week prior to the child's absence (unless unforeseen circumstances arise). Once this form is completed and signed, you will be contacted and the information will be given to your son's

Rebbeim and Teachers and placed in the *talmid's* file.

Following your son's return to school, it is the responsibility of the student and his parents, to see to it that any missed work [class work, homework, tests, projects, etc.] is completed within 7 school days. Please understand that the yeshiva cannot be held responsible for missed work that is not completed within this allotted time.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event of inclement weather forcing school closings or delays, we generally follow the decision of the East Ramapo Central School District. If they determine that road conditions warrant a closing or a delay, we usually do the same. YOR has an automated system to email/text, informing you of any important, timely school information such as a school closing, etc. Additionally, you may **call our Yehiva Ketana Ohr Reuven message line at (845) 362-8362 x 199** after 6:30 a.m. to listen to a recorded message. On Sundays or non-transportation days, a recorded message will be left on that line no later than 7:30 a.m. When possible, an email will be sent out to those Yeshivas Ohr Reuven parents on the yeshiva email list.

Please keep in mind that a planned delayed opening may be followed by a decision to cancel school entirely. If there is a one or two-hour delay, call back later, especially if weather conditions are worsening.

In the event that weather conditions dictate that the Yeshiva conduct early dismissal, in addition to our automated call/text, you may call our message line to hear the most current dismissal update. Parents who are on the Yeshivas Ohr Reuven parent email list will receive notification as information becomes available to us.

At Ohr Reuven, we believe that Torah should be learned daily – regardless of the weather. Should we be closed for a "snow day," please encourage your son to learn what he can wherever he is. It is our hope that Yeshivas Ohr Reuven will be able to continue its special learning opportunities on such days for the older *talmidim* in Grades 6 – 8 who are able to come to Yeshiva. Please listen to the instructions on the message line for exact details. Additionally, the Yeshiva has a "בשבתך בביתך" program for such days. The form is available at ohrreuven.com/elementary.

SCHOOL HOURS

ARRIVAL TIMES:	
Sunday:	
Grades 1 – 8	9:00 a.m.
Monday through Friday:	
Grades K – 5	9:00 a.m.
Grades 6 – 8	7:40 a.m.
There is no Minyan on Sundays.	

DISMISSAL TIMES:	
Sunday:	
Grades 1 – 8	1:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday:	
Grade K	3:00 p.m.
Grade P -1	3:55 p.m.
Grade 2-4	4:15 p.m.
Grades 5-8	5:15 p.m.
Friday:	
Grade K	12:00 p.m.
Grade P-8	12:30 p.m.

On carpool days, dismissal times may vary.

Please carefully consult the Yeshiva Ketana Ohr Reuven school calendar for days with special schedules. The school calendar is available online. https://ohrreuven.com/elementary/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2022/07/22-23-One-page-Calendar-1.pdf (password: yor5783).

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven cannot assume responsibility for *talmidim* who arrive prior to 15 minutes before the starting time of their grade or who remain more than 15 minutes after the dismissal time, unless special arrangements have been made with the school office.

SEFORIM AND TEXTBOOKS

Seforim for the *Limudei Kodesh* program are to be purchased by parents. A list of *seforim* is available at ohrreuven.com/elementary. Before purchasing any new *seforim* please check if your son is being asked to bring back a *sefer* that was purchased and/or used in a previous year.

Should there be a need; the Yeshiva has some used *seforim* in good condition available to be used. Please contact the Main Office for details.

The *seforim* list does not include *seforim* required for Remedial instruction.

The school provides our *talmidim* with the secular studies textbooks and workbooks they will need. These books are loaned to the *talmidim* to use for the school year. They are the property of Yeshivas Ohr Reuven. It is the responsibility of each student to maintain all books in good condition. Parents are responsible for paying for lost or damaged books.

SPECIAL DELIVERIES

There seems to be a trend for parents to drop off lunch and drinks for their children. These deliveries, which disrupt classes and cause envy amongst the students, will no longer be allowed. Please note that it is never permitted for a parent or sibling to go directly to a student's classroom without permission. We encourage parents to treat their children with special items, but please – have the drink waiting for them at home when they finish school.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven strives to meet the educational and social emotional needs of all students.

Should a student require additional academic support in school, our Yeshiva employs a resource staff that is comprised of trained special educators. This team is coordinated by Mrs. Shani Plotzker, Director of Student Services and includes *kriah*, reading and math specialists.

Please note that such services are provided at additional cost to parents and will be billed accordingly.

Services may be provided within the mainstream class or in an individual or small group instruction out of the classroom. Additional school district services may include: testing and evaluation, related services (to mandated children), occupational and physical therapy, psychological services, resource instruction, speech and language therapy.

In addition, we provide robust social / emotional support to our students through our guidance team. That team includes Rabbi Noam Peikes who serves as our *mashgiach* for grades 5-8 and Mrs. Rena Leibovic who is our guidance counselor for grades 1-4. Rabbi Peikes and Mrs. Leibovic meet with each *talmid*, track the social and emotional wellbeing in our classes, and are a crucial support for our *talmidim* who may be struggling in these areas. Support may come in the form of working directly with teachers, *talmidim*, and parents. Mrs. Leibovic also runs social skills workshops for our younger students when needed and both Rabbi Peikes and Mrs. Leibovic provide a crucial bridge to direct *talmidim* to the attention of our psychological support team when needed.

It is expected that parents will be diligent with regard to following any educational recommendations made by the school. Recommendations may include providing a shadow to assist a student, professional testing and evaluation, tutoring and psychological services. The partnership with the home is crucial to meeting the children's needs, particularly when behavioral issues are a factor.

Should the resources in our Yeshiva prove insufficient or ineffective for the student, Mrs. Plotzker will recommend services that can be helpful.

If you are arranging with a private speech therapist or occupational therapist to see your son at the yeshiva during the school day, the therapist needs to be registered with the office and some yeshiva safety and school protocols reviewed. Please always reach out to splotzker@ohrreuven.com before finalizing any arrangements.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided by the East Ramapo Central School District, North Rockland and Suffern Central School District. If a situation arises where you have a transportation concern, i.e.: a driver, a bus coming late, etc. please call the district directly. They can be reached at: East Ramapo Central School District: (845) 577-6490; North Rockland Central School District (845)942-3000; and Suffern Central School District: (845) 357-7783 ext. 1.

Kindly consult the school calendar for information on when transportation is not available.

Please also keep in mind the bus change policy: We can't guarantee that the bus driver will allow the student to change buses. We can give a bus change note but it's up to the driver if he/she wants to allow it. If a parent wants a guaranteed bus change the parents have to contact the Bus Company directly.

Please see East Ramapo School District guidelines for instructions should your child require a temporary bus change.

Please see Safety section above for walking or bike riding to or from Yeshiva.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

When parents reach out last minute with homebound transportation change messages, it can be a safety concern if those messages cannot be shared in time. To help ensure our talmidim get home safely each day, please note the reminder below regarding the district's bus change policy as well as our new internal policy regarding any homebound transportation updates.

- The district's bus change policy is that bus changes cannot be made for playdates. Temporary bus changes should be reserved for emergency purposes only. If there are extenuating circumstances, we can provide a bus change note but it is up to the driver if he/she wants to allow it. If parents want a guaranteed bus change, they should contact the bus company or district directly.

- ***NEW PROCEDURE*** For the safety of our talmidim, if you have a planned homebound transportation change, such as if you plan on picking up your son at regular dismissal time rather than have him take the bus or vice versa, please email your message to busupdates@ohrreuven.com (or leave a message on extension 197) before 2:15pm on Mon-Thu and before 11:15am on Fridays. Please include your son's first name, last name, grade, and the specific message regarding his

homebound transportation. Barring unexpected extenuating circumstances, which are by nature unanticipated, please do not reach out to the office after that time. Hopefully, this will help minimize the number of classroom interruptions as well as the number of emergency messages needed.

- The busupdates@ohrreuven.com email address should only be used for dismissal updates relating to a student's regularly scheduled dismissal time - not early dismissals related to doctor appointments or similar.

YESHIVA-APPROPRIATE ITEMS

On days that the weather allows outdoor recess, your son may bring basketballs, footballs, tennis balls, gloves etc. to use. *Talmidim* may never bring bats, hardballs or hockey sticks to Yeshiva without a written request from the Yeshiva.

Sports cards or trading cards of *any* nature, with the exception of Torah or *Gedolim* cards, are not permitted in Yeshiva. Electronic games, iPods/iPads, CD players, DVD players, radios, MP3 players, laptops or any device that is video, internet accessible OR HAS WI-FI CAPABILITIES may not be brought to school or on the bus.

Cell phones may never be brought to school or to a yeshiva function (i.e. Bar Mitzvah, etc.). For emergency contact of a student during school hours, please call the receptionist.

YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN PARENT CALENDAR
5783 / 2022-2023

AUGUST 22

Wednesday	17	Office Reopens

SEPTEMBER 22

Sunday	4	Nit checking, 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at YKOR – Please bring along your Admit Card
Tuesday	6	First Day of Sessions Grades 2-8, Arrival: 9:00, Dismissal: 12:30, 1st Grade Student Orientation
Wednesday	7	First Day of General Studies, 1st Grade First Day of Sessions, Preschool Student Orientation, First Day Suffern Central Trans.
Thursday	8	Preschool First Day of Sessions
Wednesday	14	Back to School Night
Sunday	18	1st day of *selichos,* Sessions Begin 10:00
Sun.-Tues.	25-27	*Rosh Hashanah*, No Sessions
Thursday	28	Tzom Gedalia, Dismissal K: 12:00, P-8: 12:30

OCTOBER 22

Sunday	18	*Selichos*, Sessions Begin 9:30
Tues.-Wed.	4-5	*Yom Kippur*, No Sessions
Fri.-Wed.	7-19	*Sukkos Vacation*, No Sessions

NOVEMBER 22

Friday	4	Torah Umesorah Convention, No Sessions
Friday	11	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal Grades K-8: 12:00
Sunday	13	*Hascholas Mishnayos*
Sunday	20	1st Grade *Hascholas Chumash* Celebration
Thursday	24	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal K-8: 1:00, Rebbeim In-Service
Friday	25	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal Grades K-8: 12:00

DECEMBER 22

Sunday	11	*Limudei Kodesh*, General Studies & Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences, Dismissal Grades 1-8: 12:00
Friday-Mon.	23-26	*Chanukah* Vacation, No Sessions
Tues.-Thurs.	27-29	No Suffern Central Transportation
Friday	30	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal K-8: 12:00

JANUARY 23

Sunday	1	Rebbeim In-Service, Sessions Begin 10:00
Monday	2	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal K: 3:00, P-8: 4:00
Tuesday	3	*Asara B'Teves*, Dismissal: K: 12:00, P-8: 12:30
Monday	16	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal K-8: 3:00, General Studies Teacher In-Service
Wednesday	25	Dismissal K: 12:00, P-8: 12:30
Thurs.-Mon.	26-30	Mid-Winter Vacation, No Sessions

FEBRUARY 23

Sunday	5	*Hascholas Gemara*
Monday	20	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Arrival: K-5: 9:00, 6-8: 7:45, Dismissal K- 8: 1:00, Rebbeim, Preschool & General Studies Teacher-In-Service
Tuesday	21	Carnival Day, No Suffern Central Transportation

MARCH 23

Friday	3	Dress Up Day
Monday	6	*Taanis Esther*, Dismissal K: 12:00, P-8: 12:30
Tues.-Wed.	7-8	Purim- Shushan Purim, No Sessions
Friday	10	No Suffern Central Transportation
Sunday	12	Move Clock Forward 1 Hour, Sessions Begin 10:00
Sunday	19	Rebbeim In-Service, Sessions Begin 10:00

APRIL 23

Mon.-Fri.	3-14	*Pesach* Vacation, No Sessions

MAY 23

Sunday	7	Rebbeim In-Service, Sessions Begin 10:00
Thursday	25	*Erev Shavuos*, Dismissal: K: 12:00, P-8: 12:30
Friday	26	*Shavuos*, No Sessions
Sunday	28	*Isru Chag*, Sessions Begin 10:00
Monday	29	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal K-8: 1:00
Wednesday	31	Registration Discount! Return 2023-2024 Registration Forms to the Business Office

JUNE 23

Wed.-Thurs.	7-8	Final Exams Grade 8
Sunday	11	Pre-1A Siddur Play
Mon.-Tues.	12-13	Final Exams Grade 8
Wed.-Thurs.	14-15	Final Exams Grade 6-8
Thursday	15	Middle School Honors Dinner
Sunday	18	Siyum Mishnayos Breakfast
Monday	19	**NO TRANSPORTATION**, Dismissal K: 3:00, P-8: 4:00, Final Exams Grade 6-7
Tuesday	20	Last Day of Preschool, Final Exams Grade 6-7
Wednesday	21	Eighth Grade Graduation (Evening)
Thursday	22	Last Day of Sessions, Dismissal 1-7: 12:30

July 23

Thursday	13	Educational offices closed

*Dates subject to change

CONTACT INFORMATION

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