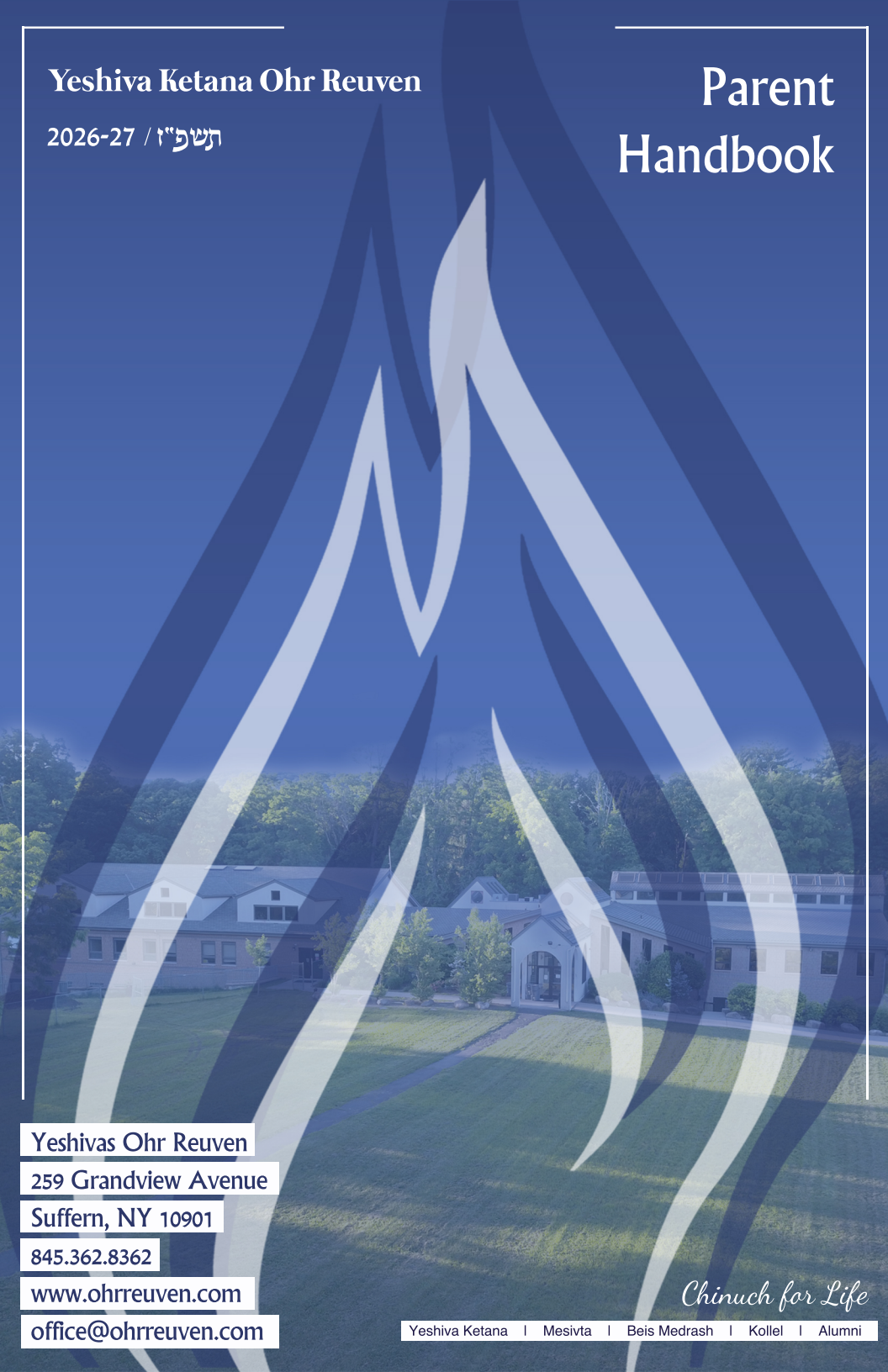
Yeshiva Ketana Ohr Reuven

2026-27 / תשפ"ז

Parent Handbook



Yeshivas Ohr Reuven
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Chinuch for Life

Yeshiva Ketana | Mesivta | Beis Medrash | Kollel | Alumni

תמוז תשפ"ז
July 2026

Dear Parents שיחיו,

As a *yeshiva* community, we are all partners in the education of each and every one of our *talmidim*. As a *chinuch* community, it is essential that we are aligned with shared values, ideals, and beliefs, and that we develop and articulate common standards reflective of those shared values.

This handbook is an attempt to outline and present those standards and the consequent expectations for our *talmidim* and ourselves. The information contained within covers what is to be expected from ourselves and our *talmidim bein adam l'atzmo*, *bein adam l'chveiro*, and *beineinu,* in the school-home partnership*,* both in and out of Yeshiva.

Kindly read the Yeshiva's Handbook and become familiar with its contents. Our collaboration in presenting a consistent message to our *talmidim* in *yeshiva* and at home will go a long way towards strengthening the bond of our partnership and will benefit our *talmidim* in every way.

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!

HaRav Bezalel Rudinsky
Rosh HaYeshiva

Harav Benzion Brodie
S'gan Rosh HaYeshiva

Rabbi Yosef B. Rawicki
Menahel

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Principal

Mrs. Shani Plotzker
Director of Preschool
Director of The Learning Center

Mrs. Rena Leibovic
Director of The Learning Center



OHR REUVEN אור ראובן
YESHIVA KETANA

YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN

Our mission is to provide every single talmid with a "Chinuch for Life". With siyata dishmaya, our dedicated staff exemplifies living life by the Toras hachaim with simchas hachaim. Talmidim develop into lomdei Torah with a true sense of ahavas Hashem, ahavas haTorah, ahavas habrios 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, "Shteiging for Life".

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Bein Adam L'Atzmo

Personal

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* /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.

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	4:00 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/calendar (password: yor5787).

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

Please note, on all school days, and particularly during days with early dismissal, we kindly ask that you adhere to formal dismissal times and refrain from picking up your son before classes are dismissed. Early dismissals disrupt classroom learning; therefore, unless there are exceptional circumstances, the secretary may not be able to dismiss students from class within 30 minutes of the school day ending.

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 it 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, 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 not completed within this time.

A letter from the Rosh Hayeshva regarding appropriate vacations:

Dear Yeshiva Ketana Parents,

We value our partnership in the *chinuch* of your children, our beloved talmidim. By working together, we will b'ezras Hashem, see success in their development as bnei Torah.

It has come to my attention that there are vacations and Pesach programs not conducive to the spiritual growth of our young talmidim. Consistent messaging between Yeshiva and the home is crucial.

I therefore request that all family vacations be planned with halacha and Torah hashkafa first and foremost, it is obvious that mixed swimming or going to a mixed waterpark undermines Torah values.

If you have any doubts as to your plans, feel free to reach out to your son's Rebbeim , and they will be happy to advise as to a proper atmosphere for our budding bnei Torah.

Rabbi Bezalel Rudinsky,
Rosh Hayeshiva

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 eat the breakfast that is served in Yeshiva 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 *pareve* lunches on Tuesday and bring non-meat lunches on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday. **There is 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.

MEDICATION

Medication cannot be administered without a signed authorization from you and your child's healthcare provider. This includes all over the counter medications, e.g. Tylenol, Motrin, Benadryl and Tums. You can find the "Authorization for Medication" form on the school website. Completing this form before the start of school will prevent any inconveniences or delays if your son should need Tylenol, Motrin...during the school day.

HEALTH RECORDS

Yeshivas Ohr Reuven complies with NYS Public Health Law 2164 and all NYS medical requirements. Accordingly, students must be up-to-date with all the NYS required age/grade specific immunizations for school attendance.

Students in grades Nursery, Kindergarten, Pre-1A, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades will need a physical exam, that was completed after September 1, 2023, submitted to the health office, as well. 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 your child has head lice or any other communicable disease (i.e. pinworms, etc.) please contact our school nurse, ext. 109.

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.

SAFETY

The 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 most seriously. The consequences for such an offense may include 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 under the parent resources tab and send it in to Yeshiva. When making your decision, please consider the safety of the routes your child will be walking or riding on, who will be accompanying your child, and the time of the day he 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 given access to 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.

DRESS & GROOMING

- As *bnei Torah* and *bnei yeshiva*, our *talmidim* are expected to dress in a manner that shows proper respect for themselves and for their *makom* Torah. The following guidelines help contribute to fostering that respect. If you are unsure if the shoes meet these requirements, please ask before purchasing.

Grades 6-8:

- Dark blue or black pants. All pants must have a zipper up to the waistline with no drawstring. Pants may not have a zipper or elastic cuffs by the ankles.
- Full button-down shirts with a collar.

- All shirts and clothing must be without any lettering, numbers, large logos, or pictures. A small logo is allowed
- Black, navy blue shoes or sneakers. No colorful laces, crocs, natives, slides, or casual footwear.
- 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.
    - Without logos, designs, or any writings.
    - 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
- All shirts and clothing must be without any lettering, numbers, large logos, or pictures. A small logo is allowed.
- Shoes or sneakers. No crocs, natives, slides, or casual footwear.

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
- Athletic pants including tyros and break-aways.
- Shirts with large letters or logos
- Sweatshirts, other than the Yeshiva approved sweatshirts
- Open back shoes, slippers, crocs, sandals or shoes or sneakers with any type of wheels

- Ankle socks
- Baseball caps

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. Please ensure that the halochos of peyos are properly observed.

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,

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.

As Parents of *bnei* Yeshiva, we too bear a responsibility to dress in a manner consistent with the Yeshiva and its values:

Appropriate Attire

As a Yeshivas Ohr Reuven 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 dress not only 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 and feet must be fully covered. Parents should not enter the Yeshiva building in athletic wear. 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.

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, except for *Torah* or *Gedolim* cards, are not permitted in Yeshiva. Electronic games, iPods/iPads, CD players, DVD players, radios, 24/6, smart watches, MP3 players, Digital Fit Bits, touch screen watches (even ones without cell or data service enabled), 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 contacting of a student during school hours, please call the receptionist.

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.

MINYAN

Included in our duty to be *mechanech* our children is the responsibility to educate them in *tefilah* and *tefilah b'tzibur*. Our oldest *talmidim* in grades 6-8 begin their day at the Yeshiva Ketana minyan. *Tefilos*, *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. Missing *minyan* on a regular basis requires advanced permission.

Please note: Children do not always develop and mature on the same schedule. There are times where individual *talmidim* in grades 6-8 may not be fully ready for daily *teflah b'tzibur.* In those cases, we will work with parents to develop a plan and schedule to acclimate that *talmid to* minyan based on his maturity and needs.

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.

Bein Adam L'Chaveiro

Interpersonal

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 respectfully and pleasantly towards their *Rebbeim*, teachers and to one another. They should expect to be treated by all in the same fashion as well.

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.

PARTIES

Parties marking milestones in our children's lives provide a great opportunity to celebrate them and those milestones. They also provide a *chinuch* opportunity in teaching our children the value of considering the feelings of all those around them. Consequently:

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.)

A beautiful and encouraging trend that has emerged in recent years is parents making a Bar-Mitzvah *seudah* in Yeshiva after *shacharis*. Some have invited friends and family to join and made a full, festive celebration in Yeshiva together with the *bar-mitzvah* and his class. Others have made a *seudah* for classmates and friends in Yeshiva and another for family elsewhere.

In either case, the in-school *seudah* is a beautiful way to welcome a young man to Torah in his *makom Torah* while minimizing the disruption to learning that nighttime *bar-mitzvah* parties can cause for our *talmidim*. We strongly encourage all parents to follow this trend.

Birthday Parties Outside of 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.

Birthday Parties in School

POLICY CHANGE: Parents wishing to observe their son's birthday in school may do so. For *Talmidim* in grade 1 and higher, any in-school party must take place either Friday morning at 11:30 or Sunday at 12:30 PM.

An in-school celebration provides a practical and inexpensive way for your son's birthday to be marked and celebrated with all of his classmates. Arrangements must be made in advance with your child's *Rebbe*. Parties in Yeshiva 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.**

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as "the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power." Sometimes bullying takes the form of 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.

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.

Not all disputes or fights between children involve bullying. Only where there is repeated abuse through an imbalance of power is behavior considered bullying and dealt with as such. Other disputes will be dealt with appropriately. In all events, we are committed to taking a proactive role to provide a safe environment wherever possible 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.

It is not only the bullying victim who requires help and intervention, but the bully, as well. Boys who struggle with bullying others will require direct parent involvement in taking all necessary steps 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.

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.).

Beineinu

Between Yeshiva and Home

There may be no single greater component to our children's *chinuch* than the home-school partnership. If the ideas taught to our T*almidim* in Yeshiva reflect those instilled at home, and the home environment continues to reinforce and strengthen them, we will succeed in imbuing our *Talmidim* with the values we hold dear.

Choosing to be part of the Ohr Reuven family means choosing to align with the standards and values of that community. Parents and the broader Ohr Reuven community look to us to quantify and articulate those standards and to ensure that the children and families who join the Yeshiva community share those same values and standards. We take seriously our responsibility to protect our *Talmidim* from influences that do not meet the standards of our parent body and Yeshiva.

The bullet points below reflect a home environment in consonance with the values of the Yeshiva community:

READING MATERIAL

Public libraries are great resources and repositories of information. They are also filled with much inappropriate material designed to inculcate young people to values foreign to Torah beliefs. Public libraries also provide open, unfettered, and unrestricted access to the internet, making them extremely dangerous for our children. The library may look the same as the one you went to as a child, but it is far different and far more treacherous.

It is therefore imperative that children not be sent to the library unsupervised or even be allowed to roam through the library unaccompanied by a parent. 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Going forward, admission to and continued enrollment in Yeshiva Ohr Reuven and any of its divisions will be contingent upon the following conditions: No parents or students may post themselves or their children on any account on any platform that is publicly visible.

Publicly visible includes accounts that are private but followed or accessed by anyone other than immediate family members.
Should any family have extenuating circumstances that would require them to post for business purposes, they must have their accounts approved by the Hanhala and must allow continued access to the Hanhala to those accounts.
Failure to comply with the policy can result in dismissal from Yeshivas Ohr Reuven.

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.

Because of the great danger the internet poses to our children and because one child's inappropriate exposure can quickly infect his classmates and friends, it is vital that all parents are in full conformity with the Yeshiva's internet policy. Below is a letter sent by the Rosh HaYeshiva to the parent body outlining that policy and the thinking behind that policy:

Letter to Parents from the Rosh HaYeshiva

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 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

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.

COMMUNICATION

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 one of the principals to see how to best handle and possibly disseminate this information.

NEWS & NACHAS

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.

In addition, 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.

COMPLIMENTS & CONCERNS

If you have any specific questions regarding your child's academic level, classroom behavior or curriculum, or if you just want to share how happy you are, 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.

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.

If you have any concerns, please turn to us first. We want to hear from you, and we want to help, but we cannot do so if we are unaware of the problem. Raising concerns and complaints on chat groups and other forms of social media is not only harmful to the Yeshiva, it is extremely detrimental to the parent-school partnership. 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.

REPORT CARDS

The school year is divided into multiple marking periods. Report cards and/ or conferences will be come at the end of each marking period. Repot cards are mailed home giving parents the opportunity to view the report card before their children see it. An interim Progress Report will be mailed home midway through each of the marking periods by your son's *Rebbe* and Teacher should there be any issues or concerns. 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.

PARENTAL VISITS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

The single most important thing in your child's life is his relationship with you, his parents. However, when that relationship interferes with your child's school day, it can be quite detrimental to his well-being and development. 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. It is never OK for a parent or sibling to go directly to a student's classroom without permission. 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.

SPECIAL DELIVERIES

The Yeshiva expects that children will be on the school lunch program or pack lunch from home. We do not allow students to order food for delivery or for parents to drop off food deliveries for students. Of course, exceptions are made for extenuating circumstances, but even then, we ask all foods be delivered in unmarked, non-descript packaging. When food deliveries become a competitive status symbol for children, it creates a distraction that is detrimental to the entire student body.

Special treats are wonderful ways for parents to show their love, but they should be saved for after school.

LOST & FOUND

The Yeshiva Ketana's lost and found is located near the downstairs entrance. The lost and found locations may be emptied periodically. 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.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided by the East Ramapo Central School District, North Rockland, Suffern Central and Clarkstown 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; Suffern Central School District: (845) 357-7783 ext. 1 and Clarkstown (845) 639-6380.

Please notify the school office at office@ohrreuven.com as soon as you anticipate a change of address. Providing us with this information promptly allows us to update our records, confirm your designated school district, and provide the necessary guidance for the transportation application process.

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

Please see your district's website for instructions should your child require a temporary bus change.

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

If you drive your child to school, make sure to arrive at school on time, and pick him up on time.
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.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Last minute changes in homebound transportation can create genuine safety issues if that change cannot be shared with the child and teacher in time. We will make no changes in carpool or bus arrangements unless notified by parents (see below). A child verbally informing us that he is going home with a friend's carpool will not suffice.

To help ensure our *Talmidim* get home safely each day, please note the policies below regarding any homebound transportation updates.

- The district's policy does not allow for changes 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 ultimately the bus driver who will decide to allow it or not. If parents want a guaranteed bus change, they should contact the bus company or district directly.

- If you have a planned homebound transportation change (for example, 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. Please do not contact the office for transportation changes after these times unless there is an emergency.

- 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.

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. Yeshivas Ohr Reuven 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 delayed opening may be followed by a decision to cancel school entirely. In the event of a one or two-hour delay, please call back later before bringing your son to school, especially if weather conditions are worsening.

Weather conditions may sometimes call for an early dismissal. In that event, 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.

One of the lessons we try to impart to our *Talmidim* at Yeshivas Ohr Reuven is that Torah learning must be a part of daily life, regardless of the weather or other impediments. Should we be closed for a snow day, please encourage your son to set aside time for Torah study, either on his own, with a family member, or by participating in the בביתך בשבתך program. We hope to continue our special learning opportunities on these 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 for such days. The form is available at ohrreuven.com.

HOMEWORK

The Yeshiva does not believe in homework for the sake of homework, but as a valuable tool to help reinforce student learning and to provide a window for parents on their children's progress in class. We suggest Rebbeim and teachers assign limited work on Monday through Thursday nights. 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.

Even on days when specific activities are not assigned for homework, all boys should still be *"chazering"* their *Limudei Kodesh* studies on a regular basis. 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.

Be mindful of your child's homework experience. If he is overly frustrated and/ or is taking unusually long to complete assignments, be in touch with your son's *Rebbe* or teacher. Homework can often serve as a first-level indicator that a child is struggling, and effective communication between parents and staff can set us on the path to remedy that struggle. Doing a child's homework for him only serves to mask the underlying issues, making it harder for the child as he moves along without getting the help he needs.

Homework is also a means of teaching children personal responsibility and accountability. Many younger-grade *Rebbeim* and teachers provide students with a particular system to record their assignments for the purpose of teaching that responsibility. Some require a parent's signature each night. It is important that parents do not undermine the system by relying on getting the homework each night through friends or group chats. Occasionally reaching out to others when a child does not have the homework is fine. Making a habit of it teaches the children to be irresponsible.

SEFORIM AND TEXTBOOKS

Seforim for the *Limudei Kodesh* program are to be purchased by parents. A list of *Seforim* is available at ohrreuven.com. 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 for use. 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 and/or the

school district. It is the responsibility of each student to keep all books in good condition. Parents are responsible for paying for lost or damaged books.

STRUGGLING STUDENTS

Our program is designed to challenge our students while supporting them to meet and surmount those challenges. Most students will do well within our standard framework of education and support. Some may struggle academically, socially, or emotionally, while others may not find the standard program stimulating or challenging enough.

The Yeshiva's Learning Center, under the direction of Mrs. Shani Plotzker and Mrs. Rena Leibovic, provides the structure and support for all students to succeed.

Under their leadership and guidance, the Yeshiva employs a dedicated staff of trained, special educators to bring struggling students to mastery in *kriah*, reading, and math. Services may be provided within the mainstream class or in small-group or one-on-one instruction outside the classroom. Through the learning center, the Yeshiva also provides enrichment to students who need greater stimulation and challenge.

In addition, we provide robust social / emotional support to students through our guidance team. That team includes Rabbi Noam Peikes who serves as our *mashgiach* for grades 6-8 and Mrs. Rena Leibovic who is our guidance counselor for grades P-5. Rabbi Peikes and Mrs. Leibovic meet with each *Talmid*, track the social and emotional health of 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 and both Rabbi Peikes and Mrs. Leibovic provide a crucial bridge to direct *Talmidim* to the attention of our psychological support team when needed.

YKOR works in conjunction with the Behavioral Health Clinic of Bikur Cholim, who operate a satellite clinic in Yeshiva, providing students with in-school access to emotional and behavioral health support that is usually covered by health insurance. The therapists from Bikur Cholim work closely with parents and teachers to create and track practical plans to help struggling students. Services with the on-site clinic are arranged through The Learning Center and Bikur Cholim.

Collaboration

At Yeshiva Ketana Ohr Reuven, we believe children do well if they can. When a child fails to thrive, proper collaboration between all the adults in that child's life is the single most effective route to discover what is getting in the way of his success.

That collaboration involves you, the parents, who know your child best, along with *Rebbeim*, teachers, support staff, therapists, and a specialist involved in the child's education.

When a child fails to thrive in our learning environment, the Learning Center will contact parents and usually arrange for an in-person meeting, providing opportunity for the parents and all in-school adults involved in the child's care and education to consult, collaborate, and develop a plan of action. That plan may include evaluations, outside consults, tutors, and therapists.

The local school districts provide limited services free of charge, including testing and evaluation, and, for children who qualify, related services, occupational and physical therapy, psychological services, resource instruction, speech and language therapy. The district's services can, at times, be a good first option for parents of struggling students. Should the district's services fail to meet the needs of the child, parents may be directed to employ private providers at their expense.

Any private therapist retained to see your son at *yeshiva* during the school day must be registered with the office and must visit the office on their initial arrival to review Yeshiva safety procedures and school protocols. Please reach out to thelearningcenter@ohrreuven.com before finalizing any arrangements.

It is imperative that parents cooperate with and properly implement any plan of action recommended by the school. If we feel we cannot educate a child without specific supports in place and parents cannot or will not provide those supports, we will have no choice but to ask the parents to find an alternate environment in which to educate their child.

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.

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