



**YESHIVA DERECH HATORAH**  
2810 NOSTRAND AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11229  
(718) 258-4441 • FAX (718) 692-2285 • WWW.YDH.ORG  
CHARTERED BY THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

בס"ד

Jacob Abilevitz  
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*Executive Director*

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Rabbi Elimelech Chanales  
*Principal*

Yehuda Goldstein  
*General Studies Principal*

Sima Schulgasser  
*Early Childhood Coordinator*

*Dear Parents & Students,*

*Yeshiva Derech HaTorah would like to welcome you to a new school year. Our Yeshiva aspires to develop its students into Torah living, learned, and observant Jews. Students of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah must also realize how important it is to exhibit Ahavat Yisrael by respecting one another. A commitment to being part of Am Yisrael is underscored by teaching the language of Ivrit and creating a strong tie to Eretz Yisrael. Additionally, our students are guided to strive for excellence in General Studies so that they can proudly take up their place in society.*

*To achieve these goals, it is necessary that our school be conducted in the most efficient manner. In this handbook, you will find rules, regulations, and policies that pertain to our Yeshiva. Please review this booklet with your child so that you will enable us to provide your child with the best possible education.*

*The Principals, Board of Directors, and our staff join in expressing their best wishes to you for a most successful and productive school year. May we all be privileged to share much Nachat and joy as we see our children grow into B'nei Torah, committed to the fulfillment of Torah and Mitzvot, as well as productive members of our community.*

*Sincerely,*

*Rabbi Elimelech Chanales,  
Principal*

*Mr. Yehuda Goldstein,  
General Studies Principal*

"In the way of wisdom I instructed you" (Proverbs 4:11)

"בדרך זוכמה הרתיך" (משלי ד:יא)

## 1. IDEOLOGICAL OUTLINE

Yeshiva Derech HaTorah (YDH) was founded on the premise of clearly defined philosophies and firm commitments that lend to it the quality of uniqueness. Below are some thoughts in this direction:

- ! YDH is an all-boys Yeshiva dedicated exclusively to the intensive Torah environment and educational program necessary for boys to become prepared as Talmidei Chachamim and for placement in the Yeshiva high school of their choice.
- ! Our Yeshiva is firmly committed to the ideals of Torah-based religious Zionism. We educate our students to view the establishment of Medinat Yisrael as miraculous: Yom Ha'Atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim are celebrated joyously.
- ! We view the eternal language of the Jewish nation to be that of Tanach and Chazal. The Yeshiva views instruction in the understanding of the Hebrew language, Ivrit, as providing a more meaningful and living experience in learning, as well as in Tefillah.
- ! Our Yeshiva is dedicated to the concept of "Torah Im Derech Eretz". General Studies is presented with seriousness. Additionally, the importance of general knowledge is viewed as enriching an individual's life, as well as an understanding of Torah.
- ! The Yeshiva seeks to develop a well-rounded young man not only academically, but socially as well. In addition to an intensive educational program, our Yeshiva instills in its students a sense of responsibility, personal as well as social. This is achieved by providing a varied program of extracurricular activities.

## 2. ARRIVAL

- ! Grades 7 and 8 students are expected to arrive at the Bet HaMidrash **promptly** by 7:30 A.M.. Doors will be open at 7:15 A.M..
- ! **Students of Grades 1-6 may arrive after 7:30 A.M.** Students **must not** arrive before this hour as adult supervision is not yet available. **Please do not endanger your child's safety!**
- ! Grades 1-6 students are to report to the gym by 8:25 A.M.. They will be supervised and later escorted by their teachers to their classrooms. Students are **not** permitted to proceed to classes on their own.
- ! Early Childhood children (N-Pre-1A) should go directly to their classrooms upon arrival **after 8:15 A.M.** **At that time, teachers have arrived, and children will be supervised.**

## 3. LATENESS AND ABSENCE

- ! Daily and timely attendance is essential for good progress. Students of Grades 1-6 arriving to school after classes begin will not be admitted without a late pass from the office. **Please provide your child with an explanatory note to avoid delay and embarrassment.**
- ! A child returning after an absence **must** have a signed note from a parent. Additionally, if he was out due to an infectious illness, he must have a physician's note. No child who has been absent will be admitted to class without an admittance pass. No pass will be issued without proper notice from parents.

- ! **J.H.S. Lateness Policy (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades):** All 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are expected to arrive to the Minyan on time. Any student who arrives late will have the time noted and recorded in the school office. Chronic lateness (3 or more times), or the accrual of more than 30 minutes, will result in supervised detention.
- ! **Important:** Medical and/or other appointments should not be scheduled during school hours. This will assure good continuity of learning.

**🔔 Please review with your children the importance of being on time to Yeshiva.**

#### 4. TRANSPORTATION

- ! All guidelines regarding “Board of Education” busing are decided by the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) and not by YDH.
- ! Free bus service is provided according to the chart below:

<u>Grade(s)</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Minimum Distance From School</u>
Pre 1-A	*5 years by Dec. 31	½ mile
1-2	6-7	½ mile
3-6	8-11	1 mile

**\*[Kindergarten children cannot access OPT service. Children must be 5 years old by December 31 of the current year for eligibility.]**

There is a 5-mile limit from the school building after which bus service is disallowed.

- ! “METRO CARDS” will be issued to Grades 7 & 8 students during the 1<sup>st</sup> week. “Half” fare or “free” passes are determined by OPT.
- ! BUS STOP DESIGNATIONS are assigned by OPT and not by the Yeshiva. According to present OPT regulations, these locations **cannot** be changed.
- ! Until an exact pick-up and drop off time can be determined (in consultation with your driver), for the first few days begin your morning wait at 7:30 and your afternoon wait some time after 3:00 (Pre 1-A) or after 4:30 (1-6). If there is no one at the bus stop/home, your child will be brought back to YDH where he can be picked up.
- ! OPT is the responsible agency relating to bus service. You may, however, call the Yeshiva for assistance.
- ! **Identification Tags** must be filled in with name, address, phone number, and method of getting home. Please be sure to have your child (Nursery to Grade 4) wear this tag each day during the 1<sup>st</sup> three weeks of school.
- ! Safety and conduct rules on the bus are a serious matter, especially as no adult supervision is present (other than the driver). OPT reserves the right to withdraw riding privileges from any child who does not comply. Drivers’ and safety patrol monitors’ instructions must be obeyed. Violation of bus rules or poor conduct will result in suspension or expulsion from the bus.
- ! The **School Calendar** provides vital scheduling information relating to “NO BUS SERVICE” DAYS. Please refer to it regularly. It is found on the inside of the front cover for your convenience.

## 5. DISMISSAL

Dismissal will take place according to the following schedule:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mode of Transportation</u>	<u>Point of Dismissal</u>
N-Pre 1-A	3:00	Walk or Car pick up	From classroom
N-Pre 1-A	3:00	Bus/Van	Nostrand Avenue
Playgroup	4:30	Walk or Car pick up	East 29 <sup>th</sup> Street
Playgroup	4:30	*Bus	Nostrand Avenue
1-6	4:30	Walk or Car pick up	East 29 <sup>th</sup> Street
1-6	4:30	*Bus	Nostrand Avenue
7-8	4:30	Car pick up	East 29 <sup>th</sup> Street
7-8	4:30	Walk, city bus	Nostrand Avenue

\* On “NO BUS SERVICE” days, regular car pool students will be dismissed from East 29<sup>th</sup> Street as usual. Students who normally ride the school bus will be dismissed from Nostrand Avenue (in the front).

\* **IMPORTANT:** During Bus Service Days, cars **MAY NOT** pick students up in the front! Please line up on the right side of East 29<sup>th</sup> Street to avoid blocking traffic.

\* **IMPORTANT:** Parents are may not go up to the classroom during dismissal. This causes delay and confusion.

\* **IMPORTANT:** Parents are required to pick their children up in a timely fashion. This is especially critical on Fridays (Erev Shabbat) during the winter months.

☞ Please review with your child the manner in which he will be going to and from school and the procedure involved.

## 6. EARLY PICK-UP PROCEDURES

When absolutely necessary to pick a child up before dismissal, please follow these guidelines:

- ! Please go to the office on the floor where your child’s class is located.
- ! Sign the child out.
- ! Your son will be called out of class by intercom. Parents may not go directly to the classroom.

## 7. SCHOOL CLOSINGS

- ! In the event of an unplanned school closing (e.g. inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances), notice may be given by your class mother. Please call the YDH Infoline at 718-258-4441, Ext. 7, after 6:00 AM, for up-to-date information. You can also visit our website, [www.ydh.org](http://www.ydh.org), and look for information on school closing. [Rule of thumb: Yeshiva is closed when New York City public schools are closed.]

## 8. SCHEDULES

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Mon.-Thurs.</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Nursery, Kindergarten, & Pre 1-A	8:30-3:00	8:30-12:45	No sessions
Grades 1-4	8:25-4:30	8:25-12:50	No sessions
Grades 5 & 6	8:25-4:30	8:25-12:50	8:15-12:20
Grades 7 & 8	7:30-4:30	7:30-12:50	8:15-12:20

### Mishmar schedule:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Grades 7 & 8	Thursday	4:30-5:10 PM (mandatory)

## 9. DRESS CODE

! Please review the dress code designated for your child's class. Codes will be **strictly enforced** as a means of providing our students with sense of dignity that is appropriate in a Torah and learning environment. If a child is found non-compliant, the student will not be admitted to class until the proper attire is brought to the Yeshiva.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Code</u>
1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Button-down collared shirt (No tee, polo, rugby, golf, or denim shirts)</li><li>• Dress or casual slacks only (No jeans of any color, shorts, sweat suits, or jogging outfits.)</li><li>• Sweatshirts (solids or with Yeshiva logo) and sweaters are permitted.</li><li>• Shirts must be tucked in during Tefillot as well as during learning.</li></ul>
Early Childhood	No formal dress code applies.

**IMPORTANT:** The dress codes apply to field trips as well as regular school days. (School shirts with logo may be required on trips.)

**IMPORTANT:** White shirt and blue pants are required on Rosh Chodesh and special assembly days.

 Please review with your son what he is allowed to wear to school and make sure he has tzitzit for every day.

## 10. CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Inculcating respect for the school and its property, such as the building, desks, etc., is part of our educational program, and we enlist the aid of our parents to emphasize these values. Deliberately damaging school property will result in a repair payment and other punitive measures.

## 11. SCHOOL DECORUM

To insure that our Yeshiva instills within our students and concept of *Yafeh Torah Im Derech Eretz*, i.e. that a Torah way of life cannot exist without behavior befitting *B'nei Torah*, discipline must play an essential part in our school program. Students are expected to maintain proper respect toward each other, their rebbeim, teachers, and elders, as well as abide by the rules and regulations of the school. Please consult the Yeshiva Behavior Code for more specific guidelines.

In order for the school to motivate students to achieve their full potential, a positive, but a respectful and serious learning environment must be established. Yeshiva Derech HaTorah is determined to foster such an atmosphere. High standards for behavior, as well as academic achievement, will be vigorously pursued.

We anticipate parental support and cooperation without which our mutual goals cannot successfully be attained. We hope to build and maintain a high level of confidence with our parents. To this end, good communication is imperative. A formalized system of teachers contacting parents will be in effect for the school year. We encourage our parents to feel free to call and leave a message for their child's rebbe/teacher or the Principals, in order to discuss any educational matters.

In the event a problem arises in the classroom, we strongly urge you to speak to the rebbe/teacher to resolve the matter before calling the administration.

## YDH CODE OF BEHAVIOR

As a YDH student . . . .

- 1 - I am representing my family and Klal Yisroel.
- 2 - I will do my best to arrive at Yeshiva on time, ready to learn and grow.
- 3 - I will respect at all times the decorum of the Yeshiva hallways as it is a מקום תורה where learning occurs. This is done by walking calmly and with dignity at all times.
- 4 - I am responsible for my classwork, homework, and all books and materials.
- 5 - I will treat my Yeshiva and the people in my Yeshiva with respect.
- 6 - I understand the Yeshiva dress code and will follow it at all times.
- 7 - I will use appropriate language and tone to settle any problems and differences. If this does not work, I will seek an adult to help me.
- 8 - I know that if I own a cell phone or electronic device that plays movies, it must remain off at all times while in the Yeshiva. I understand that if I use it, it will be confiscated until my parents pick it up.
- 9 - I know there is zero tolerance for fighting, cursing, or disrespect to an adult.
- 10 - I cannot leave the classroom or school building without permission.
- 11 - I understand that following the Behavior Code will enable me to continue on the path of becoming a Ben Torah. I will be able to succeed and grow as a Jew, a student, and a mensch.
- 12 - I understand that not following the Code will result in penalties ranging from denial of school privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion from school.

 **Please review these codes and make sure your son understands each item clearly.**

## 12. HOME-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

In order for either the home or the school to be successful in achieving its goals, communication must be maximized. Some of the forums are:

- ! Parent-Teacher Orientation Night takes place at the beginning of the new school year. At that time, Rebbeim and teachers outline their plans for the coming year.
- ! Reporting pupil progress: Report cards are issued in December, March, and June. For an adequate interpretation of a child's progress, parents are urged to consult with rebbeim, teachers, and Principals.
- ! Interim Progress Reports are issued mid-trimester (between report cards).
- ! Parent-Teacher Conferences are held after the issuance of the first and second report cards.

**☞ Please review: Teachers and parents are partners, and they will often share information with regard to your son's progress.**

## 13. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

The school will supply pupils with the necessary materials such as textbooks, workbooks, etc.. A \$50.00 book deposit (refundable) is required for Grades 3-8 in order for students to receive their books. Students are responsible for their materials, and any loss or damage to school books will be deducted from this deposit.

Rebbeim and teachers will apprise students of supplies (paper, pens, glue, etc.) which are required.

## 14. HOMEWORK POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Homework serves an important purpose in your child's school life. It is a means of reviewing and reinforcing the lessons taught during the day. Additionally, it is a way to help a child develop his work and study habits, as well as the self-reliance and discipline necessary throughout his years at school.

- ! YDH homework policy is that it may be assigned nightly by all teachers of both departments.
- ! Homework is an integral part of learning, and the care and quality with which it is done will be reflected in the final grade.
- ! If a child misses homework without an explanatory note from a parent, a yellow card will be issued. This may affect the final grade. All missed homework must be made up.
- ! If a pattern arises of neglecting homework three or more times, parents will be called in for conference to discuss ways to resolve this problem.

**☞ Please review with your son the importance of doing homework in a timely manner.**

## 15. HALACHIC STANDARDS

As Yeshiva Derech HaTorah is a Torah institution, Halachic standards are required. Please note the following:

- ! Students are expected to wear “kipot” and “tzizit” daily.
- ! Birthday Parties: In the event that you choose to celebrate your child’s birthday with a party in school, please check the date with the teacher at least one week before the scheduled event.
- ! To maintain uniformity regard to the Kashrut of food brought in by the students, all products must be under the Hashgacha acceptable to the Yeshiva. ( e.g. O.U., O.K., Star-K, Kaf-K, Vaad Harabbanim of Flatbush). If you have a question, please do not hesitate to consult the Principal.
- ! No home-baked or home-cooked foods will be permitted at parties in school. Purchased or catered food must bear a Hashgacha acceptable to the Yeshiva and must be identified as such on the packaging.
- ! Parents/relatives visiting the Yeshiva or waiting outside the building are expected to dress in accordance with *Halachic tradition*. **Men should wear kipot, and women should not wear pants or shorts.**

## 16. BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATION GUIDELINES

The school office will be keeping a calendar of Bar Mitzvah events and celebrations. Please notify the Yeshiva of your date by the end of September in order to avoid conflicts.

- ! Catering establishments must be under Kashrut supervision agencies acceptable to the Yeshiva. Please consult with the Principal for further clarification.
- ! Celebrations may not conflict with class time.
- ! Use extreme discretion with your invitations. We urge you to invite the entire class rather than excluding anyone.
- ! Parents are asked to reinforce with their son their expectations of proper behavior when he is a guest at another’s simcha. A child’s behavior reflects on his home as well as on his Yeshiva.
- ! There is a Bar Mitzvah Workshop scheduled for November 20th. We urge all 7<sup>th</sup> Grade parents and their sons to attend.

## 17. SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS

- ! Students disembarking from school buses must proceed directly into the building.
- ! In the event that you bring your Early Childhood son/daughter to school in the morning, please escort him/her all the way to the classroom (rather than dropping him/her off at the door).
- ! Children **may not**, under any circumstances, cross the street to purchase food. (Do not encourage this by providing permission notes.) Failure to comply will result in serious consequences.

- ! Children **may not** bring glass bottles for drinks or any other reason into the school building.
- ! Chewing gum is not permitted in school.
- ! Student **may not** bring wooden bats or hardballs to school. Bicycle riding, rollerblading, etc., are not permitted on school grounds.
- ! PLEASE BE SURE TO INSTRUCT YOUR CHILDREN TO CROSS ONLY AT CORNERS, HEEDING THE “WALK/DON’T WALK” SIGNS. NEVER LET YOUR CHILDREN CROSS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BLOCK. CAUTION THEM TO BE SUSPECT OF STRANGERS AND CAREFUL WHEN CROSSING STREETS.

 Please review the importance of following safety instruction to the letter.

## 18. HEALTH ISSUES

- ! All entering students, Nursery, Kindergarten, Pre-1A, and new admissions (Grades 1-8) must submit a current immunization form, completed and signed by a physician. The Board of Health mandates that this form be in school **within the first 14 days of the new school year. No child may be admitted to school after 14 days without such a record.** (Forms are available through the office.)
- ! Students entering 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, and all new admissions, may be asked to have a psychological screening by one of the psychologists on assignment with the Yeshiva.
- ! Should the need arise, a guidance counselor is assigned to YDH by “Counterforce” and is accessible to every student.
- ! Minor injuries be handled in the school.
- ! If a child is injured significantly or becomes ill, parents will be contacted.
- ! Medications of any sort **may not** be dispensed by the school faculty.
- ! Any child, who upon examination, is found to have head lice or nits will be removed from class immediately. Only upon re-examination and found nit-free will he be readmitted.
- ! Students must have their hair thoroughly checked for pediculosis before entering school in September.
- ! Report to a teacher whenever a child is exposed to a communicable illness (or lice).
- ! Make sure the school/teacher is aware of:
  - a) any allergies (especially to food)
  - b) any medical problem (i.e. fluid in ear, any medication child is taking, etc.)
  - c) any psychological situation in the family (a new baby, parents away, etc.)

**IMPORTANT:** It is urgent that you provide the Yeshiva with fully completed and up-to-date EMERGENCY CARDS (in triplicate). We must be able to contact parents on the spot in the event of an emergency. WE CANNOT WASTE PRECIOUS TIME SEARCHING FOR YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER. Please include cellular and beeper numbers. (These are kept confidential. Remember, we require this for your child’s safety.)

Make sure to constantly update the YDH office throughout the year should these numbers change.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not send children to school who are not feeling well. Any child who becomes

ill in school will be removed from the classroom and kept in the office until he/she is picked up. We will try to reach the home/ emergency number listed on the emergency card.

## **19. YDH LICE POLICY**

At YDH, we have instituted a lice prevention program which is highly effective in preventing school-wide epidemics. There will be mandated lice checks instituted throughout the school year. A nominal charge of \$10 will be charged for this service. In our attempt to maintain control, we cannot, under any circumstances, accept a physician's note regarding the child's eligibility to enter the class.

What parents may not realize is the extreme importance of reporting cases of lice. By alerting the school that a child of a particular class has a case, we can confine the problem. The entire class will be checked as soon as possible, and any found cases will be handled appropriately. That class will be closely monitored until the issue is resolved.

In accordance with the Board of Health, we have a very strong "no nit policy" in effect. What this means is that any child returning to school for a recheck will not be readmitted to class if there are any nits remaining. We urge parents to check their children often to be sure that they are nit free.

## **20. IDENTIFICATION**

- ! Children's clothing and belongings should be clearly marked (in indelible ink) for quick identification.
- ! Early Childhood through 3<sup>rd</sup>-Grade students should have their "NAME TAGS" pinned to their outer clothing during the first three weeks. Please complete the tags as requested.
- ! **Early Childhood:** There must be a **complete** change of clothes, **labeled with your child's name**, in the classroom at all times.

## **21. MESSAGES**

- ! **MESSAGES CANNOT BE CONVEYED TO STUDENTS UNLESS THEY ARE OF AN EXTREMELY URGENT NATURE.**
- ! **FOR STUDENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE, NO CHANGES FROM THE CHILD'S REGULAR DISMISSAL PROCEDURE CAN BE MADE UNLESS THE TEACHER IS NOTIFIED IN WRITING. THIS CHANGE MUST BE EFFECTED EARLY IN THE DAY. NO REQUESTS FOR CHANGE CAN BE HONORED AT DISMISSAL TIME. NO CHILD CAN BE SENT TO ANY STOP OTHER THAN HIS REGULAR ONE WITHOUT A NOTE AND/OR CALL.**

## **22. ADMISSION CARDS**

Admission cards are issued only to those families who have completed registration, have no unpaid balance, and have submitted their signed tuition agreements and form of payment chosen.

All students must bring their admission cards on the first day of school and give them to their morning

teachers. Failure to bring the card will cause undue delay in placement of the student.

### **23. NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY**

Yeshiva Derech HaTorah, 2810 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.