

**מכינה**  
ד'סאוט פלורידא



**Mechina**  
of South Florida

**5784-5785**

**2024-2025**

# Parent – Student Handbook

# **MECHINA OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

Striving for excellence in

**TORAH IDEALS**

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

**PREPAREDNESS FOR LIFE**

# WELCOME

Dear Parents,

We are honored that you have chosen to partner with the Mechina of South Florida in the *chinuch* of your son. As partners working towards the goal of producing stellar *b'nai Torah*, it is essential that we work in tandem with each other to convey a unified message regarding our values and Hashkafah. Please take some time to review and familiarize yourself with this student handbook. It contains a wealth of information concerning our *hashkafa* and resultant school policies. Some paragraphs have been bolded and highlighted for clarity and simplicity. Please ensure that your son is familiar with the stated guidelines. At the booklet's end, a statement page requires a signature. Please submit the signed statement to the office prior to the start of the new school year.

We eagerly look forward to working together with you and are excited for the upcoming year. We trust that together we will see much success. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Nisson Friedman



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# **1.0 Mission Statement**

We, at Mechina of South Florida, aspire to develop *talmidim* with those character traits which create ideal *b'nei-Torah*. We strive to produce a successful and responsible individual by challenging their intellectual ability and academic scope. Through collective efforts we aim to stimulate them to become caring, committed citizens of Klal-Yisroel.

## **1.1 Objectives:**

- Instill Torah ideals and fine character traits that will permeate through all aspects of life.
- Instill devotion towards Torah learning so that Torah study continues to develop and grow throughout the life of each *talmid*.
- Provide an academic program of excellence that will enable each *talmid* to attend any yeshiva or post high-school institution he desires: a program that fosters thorough learning through questioning, research, analysis and expression.
- Enable each *talmid* to properly organize both physically and mentally the researched, read, and discussed material.
- Ensure that each *talmid* effectively communicates (in both the written and verbal forms) in Torah and within the four disciplines: Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math.
- Engender a sense of responsibility and appreciation for academic studies in this yeshiva and in his future schooling.
- Maintain an academic environment conducive to learning.

## **1.2 Notice of Non-discriminatory Policy as to Talmidim**

Mechina of South Florida (The Mesifita of Greater Miami) admits talmidim of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to talmidim at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

## 2.0 Admissions Policy and Process

The admissions policy of the Mechina of South Florida reflects its philosophy and objectives: The applicant must be committed to the Jewish religious ideal and its way of life, adhering to Torah laws and tenets. He must show a desire to be successful in his academic efforts.

Completing the Mechina application is the first step to insure that your son will receive a world class education. Supporting documents: Transcript Request and Menahel and Principal Reports are submitted by you to your son's present and, if applicable, previous school. Interviews are scheduled once a completed application and supporting documents are received.

### **2.1 Scholastic Requirements:**

Grade level fluency is expected in Talmud and its commentaries, Chumash and Halacha. Interviews are given by the Rosh Mechina and class Rebbe. Exams are administered to evaluate reading and translation fluency and comprehension. Grade level capabilities are evaluated for General Studies. Placement tests are administered in Language/Arts and Mathematics.

Following your son's interview and once you are notified of his acceptance, a registration packet and tuition information will be sent to you. The registration fee is \$500.00. If required, you may submit a Tuition Assistance form together with two years' of tax returns and meet with the tuition committee. Payment arrangements for tuition are accepted in the form of post dated checks or a credit card on file. A Give/Get obligation per family can be fulfilled monetarily or with service hours. A signed tuition contract and payment arrangements are a prerequisite for admittance to class.

### **2.2 Registration Packet**

The registration packet consists of the following forms which must be completed before admittance to class:

- Registration Form
- Internet Form
- Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- Emergency Contact/ Medical Release Form
- State of Florida School Entrance Medical Form and Immunization Record completed by your son's physician.
- A copy of your son's **birth certificate, social security card** and **insurance card** is required for admission.

### **2.3 Financial Assistance**

A family in need of scholarship may submit an Application for Financial Assistance to the office, where in turn the request will be considered by the Scholarship Committee. This committee is made up of lay leaders from the community appointed by the President of the Board. The committee will handle all such requests with strictest confidentiality.

## **3.0 Before the Year Commences:**

### **3.1 Internet Form:**

The Internet can be a very useful tool in the process of education, but it also presents many dangers. As such, the Gedolim have cautioned that it is best not to use the Internet. In cases of need, there is some allowance to use the Internet, but only when very strict filters and safeguards are in place. The Internet Form is in place in order to protect Mechina talmidim and safeguard them from the dangers of the Internet. Talmidim and parents must sign this form in order for talmidim to be able to benefit from use of the Internet while at the Mechina. Please make sure this signed form is handed into the office before the first day of classes. (See further details below, section 6.4)

### **3.2 Handbook Form:**

This Handbook contains much information which is needed to be able to navigate the school system and school year successfully. It can also be referred to as the year proceeds, as new situations arise. As much of the information relates directly to how a student conducts himself each day at the Mechina, it is imperative to sign that the student is aware of the responsibilities and obligations that are upon him each day. By doing so, the student is better equipped to traverse his educational experience successfully. Please make sure this signed form is handed into the office before the first day of classes.

### **3.3 Textbook Purchase:**

In the spirit of starting the school year in the most productive way possible, the Mechina requires that General Studies text books will be purchased by the school, and then sold to talmidim for a nominal fee of \$20.00 per book (the Language Arts, Engineering and Computer Science books are more costly, see details in appendix). If the book is in excellent condition at the end of the year, we will buy back the books (see below, section 9.3). This system allows ALL talmidim to come into class on the first day prepared and ready to learn. When a portion of talmidim in a classroom are inadequately prepared, the entire class suffers. Because of this, talmidim will not be admitted into class without proper payment arranged with the office. All textbooks will be distributed on the first day of classes and will not be distributed until payment has been received.

Lost books are the responsibility of the student. Replacement books may be at a higher cost.

### **3.4 Dress Code:**

As stated later on (section 5.10), it is of utmost importance that talmidim come to school dressed in a manner congruent with the Mechina's dress code, which help define a Mechina student as a *ben Torah*. All talmidim should familiarize themselves with the Dress Code requirements, in order that they can fully function in class and at school. All *rebbeim*, teachers and administrators are available to help you conform with these guidelines.



## 4.0 Order of the Day

### 4.1 Davenning:

The strength of any building is first and foremost measured by the steadfastness of its foundation. The foundation of the *ben Torah's* day is davening. Thus it behooves all talmidim to attend davening at the Mechina, and to arrive on time. Part of the foundation is the quality of davening as well; if davening is rushed, or patched together, that will be reflected in the quality of the coming day. So we urge all talmidim to make this a priority. The High School talmidim daven together with the Beis Midrash, and are thus exposed to the Roshei Yeshiva and Rebbeim of the Beis Midrash, as well as their own Menahel and Rebbeim. This influence cannot be underestimated and we urge all talmidim to ensure that they arrive before davening time, to be ready to start with the *tzibbur*.

### 4.2 Attendance:

All *talmidim* are required to attend each class every day. At the Mechina, we are committed to excellence in education. This of course cannot begin without proper attendance. Being absent or tardy to class clearly hampers our ability to teach and causes a tremendous disruption to the flow of the class and skills and content that are being taught. Please make every effort to schedule all doctor/dentist appointments, etc. before or after school or during school breaks. Attendance of every single class is of the utmost importance. As we all know, making up work does not provide the same level of education as a classroom setting.

**Please note: In order to provide a robust education for your children in which the curriculum can be covered effectively, Friday classes are mandatory. Please consider very carefully if your son has to miss Friday sessions, as to do so will result in missing at least 20% of that week's learning time. This applies to both Limudei Kodesh AND General Studies.**

If your son is absent or tardy, HE alone is responsible to get the material he missed and communicate with his teacher(s) how to make up the work. Teachers may institute their own attendance policies with regard to make-up homework, quizzes and tests. This may include partial credit for an excused absence (i.e.: a sibling's out of town wedding) or the teacher may choose not to accept make-up work if the absence is unexcused.

An absence is when a student either misses an entire class or arrives after about a quarter of the class time as already passed. This will be considered **excused** only if permission has been given by the Rosh Mechina or Principal before the day of the absence. Otherwise, the absence will be recorded as **unexcused**. If the student is sick, a parent must call in the morning. As changing school records require extensive amount of administrative time, **an "unexcused absence" will not be changed to "excused" if 48 hours have passed.**

If a student must leave school for any reason, proper permission must be obtained from the Rosh Mechina or Principal at the time the student is leaving school and must be signed out by a parent. The administration understands that the school day is long and sometimes scheduling appointments during the day cannot be avoided, but please be aware of the consequences and plan accordingly.

Each **unexcused absence** will result in a two point deduction off the quarter grade. Additionally, a student with more than twelve (12) absences total (excused/unexcused combined) per semester (two quarters) will not receive credit that semester for the class or classes from which the student has been absent. As such, excessive absences put a student at risk for having to repeat the coursework needed to advance to the next grade and to gain course credit needed to graduate.

#### **4.3 Tardiness:**

Talmidim who arrive late in the morning should go directly to the school office to sign in. Talmidim habitually arriving late not only miss out on their lessons, but also disrupt the class that is in session, a habit which is unfair to all concerned. Parents of frequently tardy talmidim will be contacted by the school to discuss the tardiness with the goal of resolving the situation. Please remember that we need your total cooperation if your children are to receive a quality education. If a student comes late due to the fact that he went to a doctor, she needs to bring a note signed by the doctor with a time frame relating to the beginning and end of the appointment. If this is not brought in by the student, the lateness will be considered unexcused.

Talmidim are required to arrive at class in a timely manner, ready to work, with the correct textbooks, notebooks and writing implements. Not to do so may result in a student being tardy to class. See section 5.2 (below) for further details.

#### **4.4 Lockers:**

Each student will be provided with a locker for their books. Locks are to be purchased only from the Mechina office. Locks are sold for \$10.00 but can be sold back at the end of the school year if in good condition for \$5.00. Again, thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

#### **4.5 Classrooms:**

Typically, each class will be assigned a room which remain their 'home room' throughout the day, both for Limudei Kodesh and Limudei Chol. Classrooms should be kept neat and tidy, not strewn with papers or personal items. Personal items not needed for class should be stored in the lockers provided.

#### **4.6 Schedule:**

As mentioned above, being late to class will negatively impact each student's learning, in addition to affecting the functioning of the class as a whole. As such, a schedule has been prepared and posted in rooms and on notice boards. Please pay close attention to the schedule as it has been developed for maximum learning. See section 9.1 for schedule

#### **4.7 Dorms:**

Talmidim who are not dormers should not be found in the dorm rooms. Even dormers should not be found in dorm rooms during class time. The Rosh Mechina and/or Principal may spot check dorm rooms during the course of the day. If a dorm student is not well and must use the dorm room to lie down, he must let the Rosh Mechina and/or Principal. (See below, section 6.5)

Most daily activities are exercised by both those who reside in the dorms and those who don't: prayers are held together, classes are held together, all three meals are eaten together and many activities held during the course of the day are done as a group. At recess time, talmidim are encouraged to learn, review or utilize the playing fields together.

#### **4.8 Food:**

Any food which bochorim bring into the Mechina, must bear hechsharim that are acceptable to the Mechina. Additionally being that many families adhere to cholov yisrael, any food that is not intended merely for personal consumption and will be shared or distributed in the Mechina must be cholov yisrael.

#### **4.9 Illness:**

Talmidim that are ill throughout the day will go to the office secretary where bandages and over the counter drugs will be available. She will then determine whether the student's condition will require additional medical care from one of the EMTs in training on staff or isolation in the infirmary, room 211. If an issue occurs after office hours, then the dorm counselors will be notified and use their CPR and EMT training to assess and decide what actions to take. If any matter requires anything more than bandages or an ice pack parents will be notified promptly.

## **5.0 Academics**

The academic program at Mechina of South Florida properly prepares *talmidim* to further their educational studies in yeshivos and any other post-high school institution. It is divided into two sections: Limudei Kodesh (religious studies) and Limudei Chol (secular studies). Within both sections, educators build the skills necessary for the *talmid* to succeed in that discipline. In all areas there is a strong emphasis on research, higher order thinking skills and communication. Talmidim learn to respectfully and vigorously analyze texts amongst the traditional Jewish sources (Gemorah, Chumash, etc.) as well as secular sources (literature, historical documents, etc.). They are encouraged to speak and write their analytic thoughts and questions on these texts and class discussions. Talmidim who sincerely partake in the Mechina academic program acquire the tools to succeed in any further intellectual, academic or professional pursuit.

#### **5.1 Ready to Learn:**

Talmidim who are ready to learn arrive at class on time, dressed appropriately, with any *seforim* or books which they will need, together with any supplies which they need. In this way, the student maximizes his opportunity to learn and succeed.

#### **5.2 Tardiness to Classes:**

The following lists some of the possible situations in which the talmidim do not conform with the above.

##### 5.2-A Student arrives ready to learn:

- Talmidim must arrive on time to class, otherwise they will be marked as tardy.
- If a student arrives in class - ready to learn – but after the start time, he will be marked as unexcused tardy, unless he has an acceptable excuse (as per teacher discretion), in which case it will be considered excused tardy.
- A student who arrives in class after 10 minutes from the beginning of class, will be marked absent (unless he was with another staff member and can provide written confirmation).

5.2-B Student arrives **not** ready to learn:

- A student who arrives in class unprepared to learn - for example, he does not have his books - may retrieve his books and return to class quickly, for an unexcused tardy.
- If he returns to class after 10 minutes from the start of class, he will be marked with an unexcused absence.
- If he remains in class without being unprepared - for example, he cannot find his books or in violation of dress code - he will still receive an unexcused absence.

5.2-C Student arrives **not** ready to learn for a second day:

- A student who arrives at class without books for a second day in a row, should not be let into class and will receive an unexcused absence. He should be directed to the principal's office, where the principal, student and parent will have a three-way conversation.

Three unexcused tardies equals one unexcused absent.

A student with more than twelve (12) absences total (excused and unexcused combined) per semester (two quarters) will not receive credit for the class or classes from which the student was absent, **and will need to redo a course for credit retrieval.**

### 5.3 Graduation Requirements

The Mechina Senior High School of South Florida is a fully accredited, four year program. A student is required to complete at least 32 high school credits and attend a full class load every year.

**Limudei Kodesh / Judaic Studies**

4 Tefila

4 Chavrusa/Night Seder

4 Gemorah B'iyun (Analytical Talmud)

4 Gemorah Bekius (Talmudic overview)

4 Halachah (Jewish Law)

4 Chumash (Bible)

**Limudei Chol / General Studies**

4 Hebrew Language

\*4 English

\*4 Mathematics

\*3 Laboratory Sciences

\*3 Social Studies

\*1 PE

Transfer credits will be accepted from other accredited institutions on a case by case basis.

\*These requirements follow the standards set forth by the Florida Department of Education and our accrediting body, The Florida Council of Independent Studies (FCIS).

The Mechina of South Florida does not promote internet use; as such, on-line courses can only be authorized on a case by case basis.

#### 5.4 Post Graduation Counseling

The Head of School and the General Studies Principal provide services to the seniors as to their continuing education, post-graduation. After meeting with each student on numerous occasions and hearing the talmidim' career goals, the administration will guide and help place the talmidim in a Beis Midrash program, college or year of study in Israel.

#### 5.4 Grading

Each student will receive one final grade per class at the end of the year. This grade will be comprised of four terms. Please note, that multiple absences will effect the grade; each unexcused absence will result in a two point deduction in number grade (for example, 96 to 94; 90 to 88, etc). Please note further that 3 tardies equal 1 absence, as per our attendance policy. Excused absences must have prior written approval by the administration as listed above under Attendance, section 4.2. Even if excused, **student is responsible for all work and or tests missed.**

The Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated each semester and at the end of each year. GPA is calculated based on a 4.0 scale-where a 4 is the highest on the scale and a failing grade earns no points. The raw score is averaged and the semester or year GPA is expressed using the 4.0 scale. Three possible academic distinctions may be earned by each student based on his academic GPA (assuming he earned a B or above in all conduct/middos grades):

- 1) **The Dean's List** – Student earned an “A” in every class
- 2) **High Honors** – Student earned a 3.67 GPA
- 3) **Honor Roll** – Student earned a 3.00 GPA

#### 5.5 Exams, Mid-term Exams and Cumulative Final Exams

If a student will not be in attendance on the day of an in class exam, a mid-term exam or cumulative final exam, prior arrangements must be made in order to take a make-up exam on an alternate day.

Although we understand that the period of exams is challenging, it is of utmost importance to have full attendance and focus on what is being taught each class period. **Talmidim who miss ANY class on test day will lose their right to take the exams.**

The percentages and points associated with each grade earned are the following:

A+= 98-100%, 4.00	C+ = 78- 79%, 2.33
A = 92- 97%, 3.90	C = 72- 77%, 2.00
A- = 90- 91%, 3.67	C- = 70- 71%, 1.67
B+ = 88- 89%, 3.33	D+ = 68 - 69%, 1.33
B = 82- 87%, 3.00	D = 65 - 67%, 1.00
B- = 80- 81%, 2.67	F = 0 - 64%, 0

### 5.7 “Skipping Midterms/Skipping Finals”

**Mid-terms:** With demonstration of excellence in **behavior** and **attendance**, and **solid academic effort**, a student may be exempt for up to 50% of the GS Mid-term exams held at the end of the **1<sup>st</sup> Semester (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters)**. All the following criteria must be met before any exemptions are granted.

1. Punctuality at all tefillos
2. Adherence to dress code at all times
3. No disciplinary action in any class
4. No more than 1 unexcused absence during 1st Semester (in any class). (Three unexcused absences are equal to one unexcused tardy.)
5. No more than 5 excused absences during the 1st Semester in that class
6. No failing grade in any class during 1st Semester, including Lemudei Kodesh and Tefila
7. An earned B in that class for 1st Semester

**Finals:** With demonstration of exceptional **academic achievement**, **behavior** and **attendance**, a student may be exempt for up to 50% of the GS Final exams held at the end of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters)**. All the following criteria must be met before any exemptions are granted.

1. Punctuality at all tefillos
2. Adherence to dress code at all times
3. No major disciplinary action in any class
4. No more than 1 unexcused absence during 2nd Semester (in any class). (Three unexcused tardies are equal to one unexcused absence)
5. No more than 5 excused absences during the 2nd Semester in that class)
6. No academic letter grade below a B in any class during 2nd Semester, including Lemudei Kodesh and Tefila
7. An earned A- or above in that class during the 2nd Semester

Please note: a student who qualifies to skip Mid-terms AND Finals may not skip the exam of the same subject twice in any given year. Requests to skip finals must be made one week before exams begin.

### 5.8 Interaction with Beis Midrash Program

The Mechina is located on the campus of the Yeshiva V’Kollel Beis Moshe Chaim, and the Rosh HaYeshiva, HaRav Yochanan Zweig, is directly involved with this program. The opportunity to interact with the older Beis Medrash bochurim and Kollel Yungeleit of the yeshiva is one of the highlights of the program. Many of the Mechina talmidim review their daily learning with them every evening during night seder. The older bochurim make themselves available for our Masmidim program and for other extra-curricular sederim. The time spent together helps form meaningful keshorim with them. This is essential to the young talmidim, especially those who find themselves far away from home.

Most meaningful are the Shabbosim spent by the Mechina talmidim together with the Kollel Yungeleit in their homes. There they share Divrei Torah and hear Mussar and Hashkafa from the Yungeleit. Singing and refreshments create a very *heimishe ruach* in a *shabbosdik* atmosphere. The Mechina *talmid* is able to feel at home, though away from home.

## 5.9 “Schmoozen”

Every Friday the talmidim are privileged to hear a “schmooze” from the Rosh HaYeshiva, shlit’a, Rosh Mechina, or guest speaker, who presents original thoughts developed from the content of the weekly Sedra.

## 5.10 Guest Lectures

As Miami is a popular destination throughout the winter months, it is frequented by many Rabbonim and dignitaries from all over the world. The Mechina frequently invites these individuals to speak. These inspirational talks serve to strengthen the talmidim and give them food for thought.

## 5.11 Dress Code

It is of utmost importance that your son comes to school dressed in a manner congruent with the Mechina’s dress code. Please ensure that any clothing purchased for school fits with the Yeshiva’s standards. Talmidim will not be allowed into class without proper attire:

- a. Dark pants, solid color only. Pants must fit properly, not baggy or tight. No embellishments or exterior pockets. The High School talmidim are required to wear dress pants.
- b. White, button-up shirt with collar; **shirts must be tucked in at all times.** Tzitzis to be worn under the shirt.
- c. Only white undershirts or t-shirts under the white button-up shirt.
- d. **All black shoes- Shoes or sneakers must be completely black, without any other colors.**
- e. **All black yarmulkas-velvet or cloth.**
- f. Hat and jacket during davening for all talmidim.
- g. Sneakers, hats and T-shirts may be worn during P.E. or sports only in designated areas. Colored sneakers may be worn during PE. **Talmidim must change back into complete dress code following P.E. before returning to class.**
- h. **No shorts allowed whatsoever** – including on the basketball court.
- i. **All shirts must have sleeves, including those worn during PE or at recess.** ‘Tzitzis t-shirts’ may not be worn at PE or recess (unless a shirt is worn on top).
- j. All clothing must be free of large emblems and other trade marks.
- k. **Sweatshirts may be purchased directly from the Mechina office. Sweatshirts must have solid, conservative colors (black, gray, dark blue) and may not have hoodies.**
- l. Socks of sufficient length covering all skin must be worn at all times.

## 6.0 School Rules

### 6.1 General Rules

- 1) Talmidim will demonstrate respect towards other talmidim, teachers, rebbeim, administrators and all other Mechina faculty and staff.
- 2) Talmidim will respect the Mechina of South Florida property by using its facilities with the appropriate care. Parents will be held financially responsible for damage incurred by talmidim.
  - a. Talmidim may not damage the walls, chairs, desks or any other property of the Mechina of South Florida.
  - b. Borrowed library books and other school material must be returned in the same condition as they were lent out.
  - c. Sports and outside equipment should be used appropriately and returned when finished.
- 3) Fighting of any kind will not be tolerated. Physical contact, hitting or touching a fellow student, is absolutely forbidden. Any student involved in any such altercation will be dealt with seriously. Depending on severity, there will be a meeting with the parents and/or suspension from school.
- 4) Eating and drinking within the building is limited to the dining hall, vending machine area and dorm rooms. All food items and accessories MUST be cleaned up after use.
- 5) Smoking, the use of e-cigarettes or vaping in any form is not permitted.
- 6) Cell phones, electric hand held games, MP3 players (Dormers may use MP3 players that do not have picture, internet, or video capabilities.), iPods and any electronic means of communication/internet access or entertainment are **not allowed whatsoever (see #7 for exception). If these items are brought on campus, they will be confiscated and not returned, regardless of who the item belongs to. If a student is found to have a smart phone, he will be sent home.**
- 7) The only phone allowed on the Yeshiva premises and for use during Mechina functions is the Mechina-approved FIG phone. No other phones, whether smart or dumb, will be allowed. This applies to all phones, even those not connected to the internet or even if they are filtered. No smartwatches, mp3 players, or any other smart device capable of internet connectivity will be allowed at any time on the premises of the Yeshiva and cannot be used during Yeshiva hours. Bringing any phone other than a FIG phone to Yeshiva will be considered a violation of the Yeshiva Phone policy, and all applicable consequences will apply. This FIG phone-only policy will be effective for all trips, Shabbos retreats, and other Mechina functions, even off the Yeshiva premises. The approved FIG phones may only be used by dorm talmidim after 8:30 PM until curfew. Non-dorm talmidim may only bring a FIG phone to Yeshiva with explicit permission from the Hanhala.
- 8) Recorders and cameras for educational purposes may only be brought in with the explicit written permission from the Rosh Mechina, Principal or Rebbi.
- 9) All outside reading material must be approved by the Rosh Mechina.
- 10) Electric Scooters, E-bikes, or any other electric personal transportation device may not be brought to Yeshiva. If any of these items are brought to Yeshiva, they will be subject to confiscation.



- 11) Talmidim may not drive cars or motorbikes/motor scooters to Mechina.
- 12) Talmidim may not possess knives or any other weapon(s) that may compromise the safety of himself or another person. Doing so will result in removal from the Mechina.
- 13) Talmidim come to learn and should not bring anything that distracts from their studies.
- 14) Talmidim are **not** permitted to leave the premises without permission from the Rosh Mechina or Principal. For safety of the student, the school must know where the student is at all times.
- 15) Talmidim are assigned lockers for storage of personal items. Books, backpacks, articles of clothing or any other items may not be left unattended in the building.
- 16) Talmidim are expected to maintain proper decorum at all times, i.e., loud talking, running, banging, ball bouncing are all not permitted in the yeshiva building and hallways.
- 17) Talmidim require adequate sleep to learn and perform productively. Parents are expected to ensure a reasonable bedtime.
- 18) Haircuts must conform to the standards of a Ben Torah as defined by the Mechina. If you need clarification, please speak to the Rosh Mechina. Any questions related to this topic should be asked before getting the haircut.

## **6.2 Bullying**

No student may bully another student through words or actions. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves *a real or perceived power imbalance* (e.g. Older on younger, stronger versus weaker, popular against one lacking popularity). Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically, verbally or in writing, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

This policy applies to talmidim on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity.

## **6.3 Discipline Plan**

Please be advised that violation of the yeshiva rules can result in, but are not limited to, the following disciplinary actions (not necessarily in this order):

1. Parents will be called.
2. Warning will be issued (both written and oral)
3. Parent, teacher, and administration meeting will be held.
4. Effects on GPA
5. **Detention:**

**Friday 12:30-1:30**

**Sunday 3:45-4:45**

**During PE period** (student will be marked Unexcused Absent from PE)

6. During detention, the student will be given a special assignment by the teacher detaining him. This will not be an opportunity to do homework. Detention will be placed on the student's permanent record.
7. Possible suspension.
8. Possible dismissal from the Yeshiva.

**There cannot be a rule made for every situation that might occur. However, you are expected to always follow the dictates of common sense and conduct yourself with the highest degree of *Derech Eretz* at all times.**

#### **6.4 Internet and Cell Phone**

As indicated above, a form has been sent home to be filled out regarding internet access in your home. We must have that form on file in the Mechina before your son begins the school year.

If you have internet access at home, ie: computer, smart phone, iTouch, iPad, etc., it must have a secure password and be properly filtered. If your son will be using it for valid purposes, in or out of the home, it can only be done under direct supervision of the parents. Talmidim may not have Facebook, Twitter, iMessage or any other Social Media accounts. We expect the parents to enforce these standards. For safe and proper filters, please contact the TAG office at 732-730-1824

If a student displays a device that is capable of internet or texting, even off school grounds, it is the Mechina's prerogative to review that device. Furthermore, Mechina reserves the right to review any student's internet or similar activity.

**It is the opinion of Gedolei Yisroel and leading Mechanchim that no yeshiva student should have a smartphone. Having a smartphone has proven to be detrimental to the emotional, spiritual and academic well being of yeshiva talmidim.** If the need for cell phone use arises, a family phone (non-smart phone) should be purchased to have available for occasional use. Cell phones are not allowed in Yeshiva. For dorm talmidim, non-smart cell phones may be used for traveling and submitted to the office or dorm counselor for safe keeping during the school year.

#### **6.5 Technology Use**

Computers at Mechina are for the purposes of its educational mission only.

- No student may make any changes in the default setting or introduce software programs to any computer. Any use of the computer other than its intended purpose is strictly forbidden.
- Interference with the functioning of any electronic device or system belonging to the school is prohibited.
- Recorders, cameras and smart devices, for educational purposes may only be brought in with the explicit written permission from the Rosh Mechina or Principal.

## 6.6 Premises Rules

**During the school day, no student is allowed off premises.** No student is allowed to leave the premises without the written permission from the Rosh Mechina, Principal or his Rebbe. At that point, a parent or student **must** sign “out” at the main office and then sign “in” upon his return.

## 6.7 Permitted/Restricted Areas

Talmidim are **only** allowed in the classroom area, dining hall, vending machine room and play area behind school. No talmidim are permitted at the residential entrance to the main building or elevators, parking lot or construction area. These are all OFF LIMITS. Talmidim may not use the west stairs at any time.

Talmidim are **only** allowed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom area and all other floors are off limits at all times.

**Talmidim are not allowed in the dorm area of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor during scheduled class times.** During breakfast, lunch, supper and recess dorm access is limited to dorm talmidim. Should a dorm student require access to the dorm during class times prior approval must be obtained from the Rosh Mechina, principal, rebbi or teacher.

## 6.8 Leaving Campus

Talmidim are allowed to leave the Mechina premises in order to purchase essentials during their lunch and supper break. **At all other times of the day Talmidim may not leave the yeshiva campus without permission from the Principal, Rosh Mechina or a Rebbe.**

Leaving Mechina campus is a privilege, not a right, and it is the student’s responsibility to return to the Mechina with enough time ready and prepared for the following seder, shiur or tefilah

## 6.9 The Rohr Campus

The 2nd floor of the Mechina is divided into many dormitory suites, each with a private bathroom facility to accommodate high school talmidim who live at the school. Dormitory counselors also live among the talmidim. They provide council, monitor activities, and assist talmidim in every way possible.

Also, on the 2nd level of our building are classrooms, music room and science laboratory equipped with materials and equipment necessary for a sophisticated program in laboratory sciences.

The first level of our school includes classrooms, library, the dining hall, and administrative offices. The physical education program is conducted in the area directly behind the school building, including basketball, soccer and football fields; in a neighboring park; and occasionally at a private swimming pool.

## **7.0 Beyond Academics**

### **7.1 Parent-School Communication**

At the Mechina, we believe that communication with parents is a vital element in our successful operation. Parents are contacted throughout the school year when necessary and are encouraged to contact us about any concern or interest relative to their son's well-being. We strive to develop an open dialogue between school and home that benefits the talmid and his learning. If there are any concerns please contact us immediately.

Report cards, newsletters, written notes, emails and telephone calls are standard means of communication. Additionally, we encourage parents to view **Gradelink**, our on-line grading system. We do encourage visitations to our school and will be glad to arrange conferences with the administrators, rebbeim, or teachers. **We do ask, however, that parents call for appointments to assure that the party or parties with whom the conference is to be scheduled will be available on the desired day, at an agreed time.** No Parent may enter the school unescorted. Parent/Teacher Conferences provide an excellent opportunity for parents and the Rebbe/teacher to discuss the talmid's progress.

It cannot be repeated enough that while teachers will endeavor to be in touch with parents should *any* issue arise, academic and attendance progress can be tracked by parents and talmidim on a daily basis by utilizing Gradelink.

### **7.2 Health**

Each parent must submit health forms that provide the Administration with the student's medical history. Information regarding the student's health insurance must also be included. If a student becomes ill, the dormitory supervisor is apprised of it and parents will be contacted if he must be seen by a medical professional. The school has various contacts in the medical field to provide proper medical attention as necessary.

### **7.3 Bein Hazmanim**

Please review the calendar thoroughly. The Mechina expects parents to fully cooperate with arrangements that talmidim do not leave before vacation dates and that they return at prescribed dates and times.

## **8.0 In Conclusion**

Talmidim are expected to conduct themselves as B'nei Torah at all times, i.e.: coming to and from school, on and off campus, weekdays, weekends and vacations. This includes how they dress, where they go, and how they act. Talmidim should be aware that their actions are always being observed by the people around them. Every action they do can either cause a Kiddush Hashem (sanctifying Hashem) or Chillul Hashem (degrading Hashem). Thus, they have a responsibility to act with proper decorum befitting a Ben Torah and a yeshiva bochur. Talmidim should be aware that Hashem is with them at all times

## 9.0 Appendices

### 9.1 High School Daily Schedule

<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	
Shacharis	7:45 A.M. Promptly
Chumash / Halacha	9:10 – 10:00
Seder / Shuir	10:05 – 11:30
Break	11:30 – 11:45
Gemorah Iyun shiur	11:45 – 1:05
Lunch / Recess	1:05 – 1:55
Mincha	1:55 (may vary due to seasonal changes)
Bekius	2:10 – 2:55
GS First Period	3:00 – 3:35 PM
GS Second Period	3:40 – 4:20 PM
GS Third Period	4:25 – 5:00 PM
GS Fourth Period	5:05 - 5:45 PM
GS Fifth Period	5:50 – 6:30 PM
Dinner	6:30
Night Seder	7:10-8:10
Maariv	8:15
Dismissal	8:30
Curfew	9 <sup>th</sup> - 10:45PM; 10 <sup>th</sup> - 11:00PM; 11 <sup>th</sup> -11:15PM

<b>Sunday</b>	
Dismissal	3:45 PM

<b>Friday</b>	
Lunch/Recess	12:30-12:50
General Studies Study Hall	12:50-1:50

General Studies Schedule will be issued after the orientation on the first day of classes.

## 9.2 Mechina High School Calendar



# 2024-5 / 5784-5 Calendar



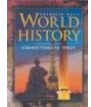
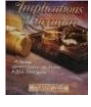


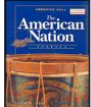
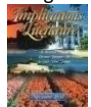
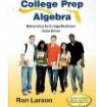
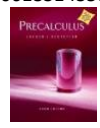


<b>September</b>	2	Monday	Dorm Talmidim return by 8:00 PM
	3	Tuesday	Classes begin - Shacharis at 7:45 AM; GS Orientation
	9	Monday	Back to School Night
	29	Sunday	Selichos/Shacharis
<b>October</b>	2	Wednesday	Erev Rosh Hashana - Dismissal at 12:00 PM
	3-4	Thursday-Friday	Rosh Hashana
	6	Sunday	Tzom Gedaliah - Dismissal at 2:15 PM
	11	Friday	Erev Yom Kippur
	12	Shabbos	Yom Kippur
	13	Sunday	Sukkos break begins; no classes
	28	Monday	Dorm Talmidim return by 8:00 PM
<b>November</b>	29	Tuesday	Classes resume: Shacharis at 7:45 AM
	15	Friday	End of First Quarter
	28	Thursday	Legal Holiday - Dismissal at 4:00 PM
<b>December</b>	29	Friday	Off Shabbos
	1	Sunday	Dorm Talmidim return by 8:00 PM
	2	Monday	Classes resume; Shacharis at 7:45 AM
	9	Monday	Parent Teacher Conferences
	26	Thursday	Chanukah break begins; Dismissal 1:00 PM
	30	Monday	Dorm Talmidim return by 8:00 PM
<b>January</b>	31	Tuesday	Classes resume: Shacharis at 7:45 AM
	1	Wednesday	Legal Holiday - Dismissal at 4:00 PM
	10	Friday	Asara B'Teves - Dismissal 12:30 PM
	27-28	Monday - Tuesday	Mid-terms
	28	Tuesday	End of Second Quarter
<b>February</b>	29 - 2	Wednesday	Mid-winter/Off Shabbos; no classes
	2	Sunday	Dorm Talmidim return by 8:00 PM
	3	Monday	Classes resume; Shacharis at 7:45 AM
	17	Monday	Legal Holiday - Dismissal at 4:00 PM
<b>March</b>	13	Thursday	Taanis Esther - Dismissal at 12:00 PM
	14	Friday	Purim - No classes
	14	Friday	Off Shabbos
	16	Sunday	Dorm Talmidim return by 8:00 PM
	17	Monday	Classes resume; Shacharis at 7:45 AM
<b>April</b>	28	Friday	End of Third Quarter
	3	Thursday	Dismissal at 3:00 PM
	4	Friday	Pesach Break begins; no classes
	21	Monday	Dorm Talmidim return by 8:00 PM
<b>May</b>	22	Tuesday	Classes resume; Shacharis at 7:45 AM
	26	Monday	Legal Holiday - Dismissal at 4:00 PM
<b>June</b>	1	Sunday	Erev Shavuot - Dismissal at 12:30 PM
	2-3	Monday - Tuesday	Shavuot
	4	Wednesday	Late start - Shacharis at 8:30 AM
	23-24	Monday - Tuesday	Finals

**DAILY SCHEDULE:** Shacharis: 7:45 AM | Mincha: 1:55 PM **DISMISSAL:** Sun 3:45 PM | Mon-Thurs 6:30 PM | Fri: Kodesh 12:30 PM English 1:50 PM  
**NIGHT SEDER AND MAARIV:** Mon-Thurs 7:10-8:30 PM (in Mechina) Sun 8:00 PM-9:15 PM (Mechina or NMB Kollel options)

*The Dorm is closed for all Off Shabbosos, Purim and Bein Hazmanim. Talmidim must return home or to relatives, as per Parent-Student Manual.*

Due to unforeseen circumstances at the time of publication, additions to this calendar may occur.

### 9.3 Textbooks

	Math	Science	Social Studies	English	Vocab Wkbk	Total Cost	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>REGULARS/HONORS:</b> \$20 9780130625601 Geometry 	\$20 0321928091 Earth Science 	\$20 013283340 Global II 	\$45 Textword Explorer 	\$10	\$115	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>REGULARS/HONORS:</b> \$20 Algebra II 0131339982 	\$20 Chemistry 0130543845 	\$20 0131817159 US History 	\$45 1930592027 Textword Navigator 	\$10	\$115	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>REGULARS:</b> \$20 Math Studies and Applications <a href="#">1285836782</a> <a href="#">9781285836782</a>  <small>Blair Larson</small>	<b>HONORS:</b> \$20 Pre Calculus 0618314350 	\$20 Computer Science  (not available from outside sources)	N/A	\$45 Textword 1930592043 Pioneer 	\$10	\$95
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	N/A	N/A	\$20 Gov/Economics Glenco Democracy in Action 978-0-07-879985- 2	\$45 Textword Trailblazer 	\$10	\$75	

The Mechina will purchase back textbooks in very good condition at the end of the school year as follows:

Computer Science \$20.00, Mosdos Press and Textword Literature books \$20.00. All other textbooks \$5.00 each. Workbooks will not be purchased back. If you will be acquiring textbooks outside of Mechina, keep in mind that the ISBN number must match exactly with the one listed above.

## 9.4 Contact Information

	Email	Phone Number
<b>Administration</b>		
Rabbi Nisson Friedman, Rosh Mechina/Menahel	office@mechinasf.com	305-742-5921
Rabbi Eleazar Durden, Principal of General Studies	edurden@mechinasf.com	754-232-6441
Rabbi Pesach Shifman, S'gan Menahel	pshifman@mechinasf.com	786-230-0363
Rabbi Avrohom Aaron Elias, Maggid Shiur/Hanhala	aaelias@mechinasf.com	305-534-7050
Mrs. Schneck, Administrative Assistant	office@mechinasf.com	305-534-7050
<b>Rebbeim</b>		
Rabbi Yisroel Weberman	yweberman@mechinasf.com	Please contact the school office at 305-534-7050 to contact any of the Rebbeim or Teachers
Rabbi Yisroel Ginsberg	yginsberg@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Dovid Zweig	dzweig@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Yitzchak Shifman	yshifman@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Simcha Schwartz	sschwartz@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Horowitz	mhorowitz@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Pesach Shifman	pshifman@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Avrohom Aaron Elias	aaelias@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Reuven Cohen	rcohen@mechinasf.com	
Rabbi Gavriel Barishansky	gbarishansky@mechinasf.com	
<b>Teachers</b>		
Mr. Wait (Social Studies/Science)	swait@mechinasf.com	
Dr. Botwinick (Language Arts)	cbotwinick@mechina.com	
Mr. Kuczynski (Math – Honors)	lkuczynski@mechinasf.com	
Mr. Quesada (Math – Regulars/Honors)	equesada@mechinasf.com	
Mr. Nir (Chemistry/PE)	gnir@mechinasf.com	
Daniel Sprung (Math)	dsprung@mechinasf.com	