

August 2015
Elul 5775

Dear Magen David Yeshivah Families,

Thank you for choosing Magen David Yeshivah for your family. Our school is committed to providing an excellent education to our community. We emphasize Torah study and tefillah along with the values that have been part of our communal life for generations. We also strive to provide our children with the strongest possible academic experience. We are uniquely equipped to meet the needs of each of our students by providing enrichment opportunities as well as learning assistance when appropriate. When you send your children to MDY, we want you to know that they are safe and well cared for.

This handbook is the articulation of what you need to know about school life. From year to year, based on our observations and parent input, there may be changes in policies or procedures (this year there are many) and we encourage you to use this handbook as a source of information.

We believe that you will find that our policies are fair and appropriate and that they are consistent with the values you hold dear and teach at home. It is very important to us to maintain a strong relationship between home and school and we want you and your children to view MDY as an extension of your home and the community as your extended family.

The administration and faculty are committed to providing your children with an outstanding educational experience that they will enjoy today and from which they will benefit throughout their lives. Please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions or concerns.

Tizku Leshanim Rabot,

Rabbi Alan Berkowitz,
Elementary School Principal

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Please be aware that the MDYES Code of Conduct accompanying this Handbook represents a clear statement of expectations for our students' behavior. All MDYES students in grades 1-8 are required to read (or have read to them) the Code of Conduct. Parents and children are required to sign the accompanying Pledge of Commitment to the Code and return the signed Pledge to their teacher on the second day of classes. All children will be held responsible for the content therein.

CALENDAR:

The school calendar is published and posted online prior to the start of the school year and includes all the important dates for each grade and the school community. Still, we cannot anticipate all the valuable educational opportunities that may arise during the school year and there may be some additions to the calendar and at times it may be necessary to change the date for an event. If a change to the calendar becomes necessary, we will provide you with as much advance notice as possible.

DAILY ROUTINES:

TO MAINTAIN SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS, DOUBLE PARKING OR PULLING UP ALONGSIDE OTHER CARS IS NOT PERMITTED AND AT NO TIME MAY A CAR BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT THE CURB. Because it is important for children to start their school day with a positive attitude, we urge all adults to demonstrate patience and a calm demeanor while waiting to drop off their children for the safety of our students. **Please refrain from using your cell phones while dropping your children off in front of, or bringing your children into the school building, and when picking your children up from school.**

Arrival:

Please note that children are expected to be at their morning locations when the bell rings. It is important for children to arrive in school in time to prepare for the day ahead. If your children come to school by bus, they most likely will arrive a few minutes before the official start time and have an opportunity to greet teachers and friends as they prepare for the day ahead. If you bring your children to school, you should plan to arrive in time to provide them with this same opportunity. **A calm start to the day is very important for children in school.**

The elevators in the school building may only be used by students in grades 7 and 8 at the start of the day, or with an elevator pass issued by the school nurse for medical reasons.

Grades 6-8 Boys – The school day starts with Minyan and students must be in their Minyan locations by 7:30. At the conclusion of Minyan, breakfast is available. Students arriving early must wait in the lobby until they are given permission to go upstairs to the Midrash or enter the auditorium. Boys over the age of Bar Mitzvah are expected to have their tefillin in school every day.

Grades 6-8 Girls – The school day starts at 8:15 AM with Tefillah. Starting at 7:45 AM, girls in grades 6-8 may go upstairs to their assigned rooms for Tefillah.

Grades 3-5 –The school day starts at 8:15 AM with Tefillah. Children arriving between 7:45 – 8:00 AM must remain in the Lobby. Children who arrive beginning at 8:00 AM, should report directly to their Tefillah classrooms. **At 8:15 AM, we will begin the school day with the Pledge of Allegiance and Tefillah L'shlom HaMidinah recited over the PA system.** At this point, there will also be some announcements for the day.

Grades 1 and 2 - Children in first and second grades who arrive between 7:45 AM and 8:00 AM will gather in the Library where their teachers will meet them and escort them to their own classrooms. Children who arrive beginning at 8:00 AM should go directly to their own classrooms where their teachers will be waiting to greet them.

Play Group, Nursery, Pre-K and Kindergarten – The school day for Early Childhood begins at 9:00 AM. Children may be brought to school starting at 8:45 AM, when teachers are waiting outside the building to welcome them. If you drive your children to school, please pull up in front of the building so that they can be met safely by a teacher.

TO MAINTAIN SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS, DOUBLE PARKING OR PULLING UP ALONGSIDE OTHER CARS IS NOT PERMITTED AND AT NO TIME MAY A CAR BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT THE CURB. Because it is important for children to start their school day with a positive attitude, we urge all adults to demonstrate patience and a calm demeanor while waiting to drop off their children. **Please refrain from using your cell phones while dropping your children off in front of, or bringing your children into the school building, and when picking your children up from school.**

Lateness:

*Our lateness and absence policies are important for several reasons. Our primary concern is for the safety of our students. An accurate account of who is in school enables us to best care for them. In addition, **prompt arrival** is one of many ways that we teach children that school is a serious endeavor.*

On occasion, there may be a legitimate reason for a child to be late to school. **Lateness will be recorded in the child's electronic record. All students arriving late to school must have a note from a parent explaining the lateness in order to get a late pass to class.** All students arriving after 9:00 AM, must go to the 2nd Floor Office with the note from a parent, to get a late pass in order to be allowed to enter class. **No student will be admitted to school later than 11:15 AM Monday-Thursday and 10:45 AM on Friday.**

We wish to stress that lateness is understandable only on a rare occasion. As stated above, it is important for students to get to school on time. In the event of excessive lateness, the school administration will contact parents to resolve the situation in the best interests of the child's education.

DISMISSAL:

*Our dismissal procedures are designed to maintain a safe environment for our children; **your full cooperation is mandatory and appreciated.*** We expect every member of our community to obey traffic signals and signs at all times. We also expect community members to follow instructions of school personnel and NYC crossing guards.

Dismissal for Playgroup is at 12:30 PM and the extended day program concludes at **3:00 PM**. **Friday dismissal is at 12:30 PM**. Parents on foot may wait inside the building for their children to be brought to them. Parents picking up their children by car must wait in line in their cars for their children to be brought to them. As with morning arrival, when children are brought out, it is the parent's responsibility to help the children and to ensure that they are safely belted into the car. **DOUBLE PARKING OR PULLING UP ALONGSIDE OTHER CARS IS NOT PERMITTED AND AT NO TIME MAY A CAR BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT THE CURB.**

Nursery through Kindergarten students who are picked up or go home by bus are dismissed from the **lobby at 3:20 PM**. Carpools are dismissed from the Gym in the Early Childhood building. For dismissal purposes, children are grouped with the members of their carpools and each carpool is assigned a number and a supervisory teacher. Teachers escort each carpool group to their cars. As with morning arrival, when children are brought out, it is the parent's responsibility to help the children and to ensure that they are safely belted into the car. **Friday dismissal is at 12:30 PM**.

School phones are not available for student use for dismissal time.

Parents who walk to school to pick-up their children should meet them in the Torah Center.

Grades 1-5 are dismissed at 4:20 PM and grades 6, 7 & 8 are dismissed at 4:26 PM. On Fridays, grades 1-5 are dismissed at 1:20 PM and grades 6, 7 & 8 are dismissed at 1:26 PM.

Drivers of carpools must wait in line and are asked to please be patient while waiting for children to be escorted to their cars by school personnel. As with morning arrival, **DOUBLE PARKING OR PULLING UP ALONGSIDE OTHER CARS IS NOT PERMITTED AND AT NO TIME MAY A CAR BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT THE CURB, OR BLOCKING ANY DRIVEWAYS OR PARKING LOTS.** In the event of inclement weather or unsafe conditions, procedures may change. Please follow the instructions of school personnel should this occur. **Do not call your children during dismissal to instruct them to meet you outside.**

If you have made arrangements for your child to go home with a private driver or van, please complete and submit the enclosed carpool registration form before September 1st. **In addition, please make sure the driver knows that he or she is required to wait in the carpool line.** For the safety of our children, we cannot have drivers coming into the building to lead groups of children outside.

Children in grades 5-8 may pick up their younger siblings from the back of the Auditorium and walk home with them.

While responsible for your children's safety, we cannot allow them to leave the premises unescorted. Therefore, children waiting for a bus or carpool may not leave the building to purchase food, ice cream or anything else. Similarly, children who will be participating in an after-school activity or meeting with a therapist may not leave and then return to the building.

Changes in Dismissal:

For the safety of all our children, please adhere to the following procedures:

To make a change in a child's normal dismissal routine, parents must contact the office by phone or by email **prior to 2:00 PM in the Elementary School** (dismissalchanges@mdyschool.org). **and 12:00 Noon in the Early Childhood School** (ecdissmissalchanges@mdyschool.org). The bus companies do not allow any changes and do not accept additional passengers. **Children will not be allowed to call home to make alternative dismissal plans or confirm dismissal information.**

Leaving School Early:

It is our expectation that students will be in school until the end of the school day. However, should it be necessary to pick up your child early, please go to the reception desk in the Lobby. A staff member will call your child to the Lobby and provide you with a pass to leave the building. **Do not go to the classroom,** as your short visit **will** be disruptive to the class. In addition, teachers will not release children without instructions from a staff member. **Security personnel will not allow children to leave the building without proper documentation.**

Children may not be signed out between 4:00 PM and regular dismissal time.

BUS TRANSPORTATION:

It is important that parents discuss the need for safe behavior on the school bus with their children. Please emphasize that children must be respectful to the bus driver and everyone else on the bus and must follow the bus driver's and matron's instructions. Concerns about a bus or a bus driver should be brought to the attention of David Shamah. Concerns about student misbehavior on the bus should be brought to the attention of the administration. Be aware that bus drivers will be submitting reports of any student who misbehaves on the bus.

Our school offers two options for busing. The DOE (a.k.a. Seth Yellow Bus) provides bus service for families that qualify and wish to take advantage of this option. This service is from NYC and is regulated by NYC laws. Seth Transportation is a private bus company and families may contact them directly to make arrangements at 718-676-2121.

We urge all parents to use discretion if they choose to have their children travel with a car or van service. Please check on appropriate licensing and safety. **Parents are responsible for informing drivers whom they hire of all school policies and procedures and making sure that**

these procedures are respected. If necessary, a driver may be denied entrance to school premises.

ABSENCE:

When a child is absent, it is important to notify the school office either by phone or email. When a child returns to school after an extended illness, parents should notify the school nurse of any concerns or limitations that need to be addressed.

A planned extended absence must be discussed with the school administration. Students are expected to attend classes when school is in session. The academic calendar provides ample opportunity for vacations. In the event of a family celebration that requires extended absence from school, please contact Rabbi Berkowitz **2 months** prior to the event. While our community appropriately values travel to Israel, this should be done when school is not in session. When families choose to take extra vacations, **parents rather than teachers are responsible for their children's assignments. Teachers are not responsible for providing work in advance and cannot be expected to re-teach any material missed because of the chosen vacation.**

STUDENT HEALTH:

For the safety and well-being of all children, no student will be admitted to school at the start of the academic year, unless complete health records (vaccinations, communicable diseases, allergies, etc.) **and emergency contact forms are up to date. Please be certain that the Emergency Forms are accurate and up-to-date and notify the school immediately of any changes. By law, children are not allowed to attend school if they have not had certain vaccinations.**

The school nurse is the only person legally permitted to administer medications during school hours. Children may not carry medicine to school. Medications must be brought in by an adult in an original prescription bottle, labeled by the pharmacist.

Children diagnosed with a communicable disease must provide a physician's note or evidence of having taken prescribed medication for at least 24 hours before they are permitted to return to class.

On occasion, a school nurse may call a parent to report that a child is not well and must be taken home. This decision is always made at the discretion of the nurse and cannot be subject to debate. Our nurses are responsible for the health and safety of all of our students.

NUTRITION:

Please carefully read the list of ingredients for all food products brought to school: **Magen David Yeshivah is a NUT AND SEED AWARE school. This means that no nuts or seeds, or**

products prepared in factories where nuts and seeds are used may be brought to school. Do not send these products to school.

Proper nutrition plays a serious role in academic success and, therefore, it is important for children to start each day with a healthy breakfast. Boys in grades 6-8 are offered breakfast in school after minyan; all other students should eat at home before coming to school. Boys in grades 6-8 may not bring their own food for breakfast.

Children in the younger grades have their snack time in the afternoon. Snacks brought to school by children should be healthy and nutritious; candy and soda are not permitted. We ask all families to make wise decisions about the food they send to school with their children. It may be helpful to base decisions on the adage "When in doubt, don't."

Parents should not drop off food for snack or lunch, or for any other reason for their children during the school day.

Parents are encouraged to assist in serving lunch only for grades 1 and 2, once or twice a week. Parents serving lunch may not wander to other places in the building. In offering this assistance, we ask that you keep in mind the need to help everyone and avoid lapsing into a "lunch date" with your child or a PTA conference.

Only students in grades 6, 7 and 8 may bring their own dairy or pareve lunches from home. As a safety concern, hot water is not available and students may not bring glass bottles or containers to school.

Please be certain that any food brought into school is certified kosher, with acceptable kashrut supervision. Please contact the school office with any questions about the acceptability in our school of specific rabbinic supervisions.

Should a medical issue arise and it is necessary to send your child to school with lunch from home, please contact the school nurse for proper protocol. Without approval from the school nurse do not assume that sending in a meal for your child is acceptable. In such cases, children will be eating their lunch in the nurse's office.

At no time may hot, uncovered beverages be brought into the building.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION:

Parent involvement includes communication with teachers and administrators. The Liaison Committees provide a forum for open and transparent dialogue between parents and administrators leading to positive change. Our teachers make every effort to be in contact with parents both in response to concerns and in a pro-active manner.

To further improve communication we want to clearly state the following guidelines:
As a rule, any time a parent has a concern regarding a child in a particular class, the parent

should first contact the child's classroom teacher by email or leaving a message with the office.

- A concern that cannot be addressed by the teacher should be directed to the appropriate Administrator.
- A situation that is not resolved by an administrator should be brought to the attention of the Principal.
- For certain sensitive matters or when parents are unsure about who to contact, they may contact the Parent Liaison for direction.
- Broader issues or concerns should be directed to a Liaison Committee representative.

On-going cooperation and communication between teachers and parents create the supportive atmosphere that helps children succeed. The better the teachers get to know the parents and children, the more they can help. With that in mind, Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year. In addition, parents or teachers may request additional conferences, as necessary. If you wish to schedule an appointment with a teacher, please email or call the office and leave a message. Our teachers are always willing to meet with you to discuss your child. **During Parent-Teacher Conferences, teachers provide parents with a check-list report that summarizes each child's progress.**

If you wish to discuss a serious matter with your child's teacher(s), please contact her (or him) to schedule a meeting or conversation at the earliest mutually convenient time.

If you are in the school building during the day, remember that teachers are working and are not permitted to stop and chat. By planning a time to talk, you can ensure that you will have the teacher's undivided attention. When in school teachers have the responsibility of continuous supervision of their children.

To contact a teacher, parents may email or leave a message in the school office. Except in extenuating circumstance, Magen David Yeshivah Elementary School and Early Childhood teachers are expected to return calls or respond to messages in a timely manner.

COMMUNICATION FROM SCHOOL:

In addition to email, the school uses our website, www.magendavidyeshivah.org, and Instagram, (welovemdy) to send out timely information.

PROGRESS REPORTS:

In addition to the check lists that are shared with you at Parent-Teacher Conferences, progress reports are posted twice each year, in January and June. These reports are intended to summarize a child's progress for each semester. The nature of a summary is such that it should present a significant amount of information in short form. With this understanding, Progress Reports should contain no surprises, as they are based on information previously known and shared by teachers with parents. **However, please feel free to reach out to the school with any questions regarding your child's progress. It is your responsibility to ask questions.**

GIFTS:

Our school has a no-gift policy with regard to parents giving gifts to teachers. Understanding that parents often offer gifts as a token of appreciation or to say thank you, we nevertheless, do not permit gift giving. We ask everyone to respect this policy and to appreciate the difficult situation thrust upon a teacher who is presented with a gift and is then caught between a parent and a school policy that requires teachers to submit gifts to administration to be returned to the givers.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

Participation:

Recognizing that time is precious, we try to keep demands on parents' time to a minimum. With this in mind, please make every effort to attend events scheduled for the parents of your child's grade. Please also make note of our policy, stated below, regarding adult dress when in the school building. Should you have any guests coming to our school, please share our adult dress policy with them so that they will feel comfortable in our building, i.e. bar-misvah, humash or siddur celebrations.

Liaison Committees:

We are proud to have a Liaison system designed to provide opportunities for ongoing dialogue between parents and the school. Liaison Committees, which include parent representatives, school administration, members of the faculty, and representatives of the Board of Trustees, meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of mutual concern. The purpose of these committees is to foster communication and facilitate cooperation between home and school. The committees discuss issues relating to their specific grade levels and serve in an advisory capacity. Summaries of these meetings are emailed to all parents, who are encouraged to share concerns with their representatives so they can be discussed at a meeting. The main school calendar, which is mailed out the first week in September, lists representatives.

Liaison Committees deal with broad issues affecting the entire school or a significant part of the school population. Parents' concerns about their children or a specific class should be discussed first with the classroom teachers. If necessary, unresolved matters can be brought to an Assistant Principal, the Parent Liaison or the Principal.

FAMILY EVENTS:

Family celebrations and other events often have an impact on young children.

Celebrations:

In school, birthday parties are permitted only in the Early Childhood Division. These celebrations may be attended by siblings who are in other Early Childhood classes, but not by siblings in older grades or by other relatives who are MDY students. Of course, adult relatives are welcome. Should parents wish to order a birthday cake or some special food for this

occasion, they may contact Rochelle Harary (ext. 3356) to order the Birthday Package from the school. Families may bring their own paper goods to personalize these celebrations. However, it is not permitted to bring “give-a-ways” or party bags. **No food should be brought to school at any time.**

There are no in-school birthday celebrations in grades 1-8, nor should any food be sent into school, even in celebration of a milestone. However, at every grade level, families are encouraged to mark milestone events by purchasing a book (or books) for their children’s classroom or school library. Parents may contact the school Librarian for appropriate suggestions.

Out of sensitivity and respect, invitations to parties and celebrations can be distributed in school only when the celebrant’s entire class is invited.

Many families choose to celebrate a boy’s bar misvah in school. On these occasions, all of the boys in the bar misvah’s grade are invited to pray together and to enjoy a seudat misvah (special breakfast) afterwards. Often, the family of the bar misvah hosts a private celebration in school for friends and family. MDY students who are siblings or first cousins of the bar misvah may attend these celebrations, **other cousins and family friends may not.** After the celebration, a family also may choose to use the morning for pictures and other activities related to the simha. Should this be the case, **activity in the school building should be concluded by 10:15 AM.** Arrangements for in-school celebrations should be coordinated through the school office.

We discourage families from planning bar-misvahs or other celebrations outside of school during school hours. In the event that, for personal reasons this is necessary, classmates should not be invited or encouraged to attend.

Significant Events:

It is important to let your child’s teacher know about significant events in your child’s life. If you are more comfortable sharing confidential information with the school psychologist, the nurse, or an administrator, please do so.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Our school uniform is intended to be consistent with halacha and to reflect the importance of a serious academic environment. We have chosen a uniform that presents options and allows for some individual expression. It is our expectation that our students will make choices that demonstrate respect for the values inherent in this uniform. However, the faculty and administration must reserve the right to make decisions regarding some specifics such as footwear or accessories.

Boys: Boys are required to wear white, light blue or light gray polo or button down shirts with either gray or navy pants. You may purchase any navy or gray pants, excluding corduroys, jeans, sweatpants, or cargos.

Girls: Girls are required to wear white, light blue or light gray polo or button down shirts with either gray or navy designated skirts. Skirts must reach below the knee, but not below the calf.

When in the school building or participating in an MDY school event, girls are required to dress appropriately (skirts, not pants, tops with sleeves of appropriate length).

Girls in grades 1-2 may also wear designated jumpers. **Girls in grades 6-8** may wear only full sleeve or $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve shirts.

Boys and Girls:

Boys and girls may wear navy blue sweaters, blazers or sweatshirts in school with no logo or design. They also may wear MDY sweatshirts, which are available for purchase from our PTA.

Seeseet and Kippot:

Boys in Nursery through 8th grade are required to wear *seeseet* and *kippot* of appropriate size in the school building at all times, as well as at any MDY-sponsored event or at any event where they are representing our Yeshivah. **In the event that a child comes to school without a kippah or seeseet, they must purchase in school (\$.50 for kippah, \$8.50 for seeseet.)** Students wearing clothing that is not consistent with our uniform will not be able to attend classes.

Footwear:

Students must wear closed-toe and closed-back footwear at all times. Wedges or heels are not permitted in school. They may, however, wear sneakers to school. On days on which they have PE, students must have sneakers in school. "Wheelies" may not be worn in school.

It is not possible to anticipate all possible changes in styles or fads. Still, maintaining the dignity of our yeshivah is always essential. Therefore, students and all members of our community are expected to dress appropriately and modestly in our school buildings and at school functions.

HOMEWORK:

The primary purpose of homework is to review material learned earlier in the day or in the last few days. It is an opportunity for students to independently process the material they have encountered. Multiple studies have demonstrated that a short review a few hours after an initial lesson deepens the learning and increases the learner's ability to remember the material. Other studies demonstrate a positive effect on memory and learning through review in a different learning environment. Therefore, our teachers assign meaningful homework, designed to review material covered in class. On occasion, they may also ask students to do some work in preparation for an upcoming unit of study. This practice is also supported by meaningful research demonstrating that students "free learning" can have a significant positive impact. Of course, reading literature is always an important part of a student's after-school work.

Please see the guidelines below for the amount of appropriate homework at each grade level.

Grades 1 and 2 – 30 minutes per night combined total. In addition, students should have a nightly reading assignment in either English or Hebrew. The teachers of each class will work together to coordinate the nightly assignments.

Grades 3 and 4 – 45 minutes per night combined total. In addition, students should have a nightly reading assignment in either English or Hebrew. The teachers of each class will work together to coordinate the nightly assignments.

Grade 5 – One hour per night combined total. In addition, students should have a nightly reading assignment in either English or Hebrew. The teachers of each class will work together to coordinate the nightly assignments.

Grades 6, 7 and 8 – Judaic studies teacher may assign a total of 40 minutes per night, Monday through Thursday. Teachers will work together to coordinate nightly assignments. **Math teachers will assign ten minutes per night.** Other general studies teachers may assign up to 20 minutes per night with one "no homework night" per week for each subject. In total, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students may have **up to one hour and 45 minutes per night** of homework. In addition, students may have a nightly reading assignment in either English or Hebrew. Also, students need to be aware and schedule appropriately their work on any long-term assignments. Of course, in assigning nightly homework, teachers will take into account any long-term projects on which their students are working.

Students will not be assigned homework, other than studying, in which they will be tested or assessed the following day.

If you feel that **your child is spending an excessive amount of time on homework**, or that the assignments are either too challenging or not challenging enough, please contact your child's classroom teacher to discuss this. **If your child is out sick for more than two days and you wish to pick up assignments, please call the office between 7:00 and 7:30 A.M to give teachers time to prepare appropriate materials.**

Students who fail to do homework with a frequency that a teacher deems problematic, may be assigned to after-school detention. The time in detention will be used for completing missed and current assignments. **There may be a fee for this mandatory detention.**

TUTORING:

When a child is struggling academically or has schoolwork to make up, the administration may recommend tutoring. To best support their children, parents should facilitate direct and effective communication between the tutor and their child's teacher.

Prior to the start of the school day and after 4:30 PM, **the school may be able to provide space for a tutor to work with an individual child.** Please refer any inquiries with regard to space to Rachel Weber in the school office.

Magen David Yeshivah teachers are not permitted to recommend tutoring without the approval of a school administrator. Additionally, our teachers are not permitted to recommend specific tutors. These recommendations must come exclusively from the school administration. Furthermore, with the rare exception of some special education teachers, teachers are not permitted to tutor their own students.

Our tutoring policies take into account the needs of individual students and, at the same time, help all involved avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY: Please refer to our Code of Conduct

Electronic Devices: Please refer to our Code of Conduct

PERSONAL PROPERTY AND SPACE:

With the rapid advances in technology, we cannot anticipate all of the changes ahead or the new uses that we will find for existing technology. Therefore, while binding upon all students, this policy certainly will evolve over the months and years ahead.

Use of cell phones during the school day is restricted to teacher directed activities only. Therefore, phones and other devices should be kept in students' bags or lockers except when otherwise permitted by a teacher. Students violating this policy may have their phones confiscated and brought to the principal's office. Should this happen, parents will be able to collect the devices from the Principal.

Parents who choose to call or text with their children during the day, interfere with their children's academic experience and undermine the learning environment.

Students may not use any type of cameras in school without explicit permission from a teacher

because of the grave damage done through the misuse of cameras in this age of digital media. Violation of this rule may result in immediate suspension or other consequences. Whether in school or elsewhere, no MDY student may post online, in any form, information about or pictures of other MDY students without explicit permission from parents of all involved. Similarly, students may not post pictures or other content regarding MDY faculty online without explicit permission from all involved.

The school cannot accept responsibility for personal property brought to school by students.

Playing cards and sports cards are not permitted in school.

No student may engage in any entrepreneurial buying, selling or trading activities in school.

VISITING THE SCHOOL BUILDING:

Parents and relatives are encouraged to visit the school for scheduled special events. There are, of course, many other reasons for parents to come into the school building, including volunteering time to help serve lunch, work with the PTA or to see someone in the business office. Parents are asked to confine their activities to the stated purpose of their visit and not visit their children or other parts of the building. **Please note that you will be asked to sign in and may be asked to show identification to the Security Guard before being issued a pass to your destination when you visit the building.**

Our school is a place of Torah study and we are a Torah observant community. When attending school events, please dress appropriately. Sleeveless tops or shorts are not acceptable dress in our school. All men and boys are expected to wear *kippot* in the school building at all times. Women and girls are expected to wear skirts or dresses that fall below the knee and are appropriate for a yeshivah. Visitors who are inappropriately dressed are not permitted in the school building. In order to avoid an unpleasant and potentially embarrassing situation, we ask every MDY family to demonstrate respect for this policy.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Thank you for reviewing this handbook. By familiarizing yourself with our policies, you will be able to benefit fully from all that our school has to offer.

Our yeshivah has many wonderful qualities and goals and ours is a strong community. We are blessed with outstanding and committed educators, all of whom are excited about teaching your children.

The Educational Leadership Team is ready to collaborate with teachers, students, and families to ensure a successful learning experience. Working together, we can be certain that Magen David Yeshivah will be a school of excellence in which our students thrive.