

תשפ"ד Student Handbook

To be ascribed the title of תמים is the greatest compliment one can be given. תמים denotes perfection, purity, humility, and erenstkeit, epitomizing the values and goals of a חסידישע education.

Our רביים invested countless hours in Tomchei Temimim, considering the תלמידים their children. It is a privilege to attend תומכי תמימים, a ישיבה that follows the teachings of our Rebbeim.

The basis and foundation of a תלמיד's success is משמעת and קבלת עול. This handbook is intended to help a בחור understand what is expected of him so he can truly grow to be worthy of the title תמים.

Daily Schedule

A תלמיד is expected to be on time to all סדרים, with a ספר open, and ready to learn. During סדר he will utilize his time only to learn. תלמידים may only leave the classroom after the מגיד שיעור indicates that סדר is over. If one needs to leave during class time, he must ask permission from the מגיד שיעור. All his needs should be taken care of before the start of סדר.

The same applies to זמני תפילה; each תלמיד should be ready on time to Daven, with his hat, jacket, and a סידור. All the תלמיד's needs should be attended to before the start of davening.

Breaks and General Curfew Rules

All breaks should be spent in an appropriate manner.

When playing in the parking lot, תלמידים must return to the building 5 minutes before the beginning of the next Seder.

All stores are off-limits, unless the Talmid is specifically granted permission. A Talmid who needs permission to go to a store should ask the Menahel after שחרית or מנחה. There will usually be time to go to the supermarket once a week. If the need to go to the dorm arises during the day, it will only be permitted during the lunch break.

A local bachur is expected to remain in yeshiva during meal and break times. If a need to go home or to the store arises, he is expected to ask reshus from the menahel.

בין הסדרים

"עס גייט א חסיד, עסט א חסיד, שלאפט א חסיד" We act like Chassidim twenty-four hours a day, characterized by living our lives לפנים משורת הדין, both in ישיבה, the dorm, and outside of ישיבה hours as well. As a תלמיד in a chassidishe ישיבה every בחור is expected to conduct himself with Eidelkiet and צניעות according to the שלחן ערוך, and his dress should reflect that - i.e. dressed in long pants until the ankle, and wear ציצית at all times, even while asleep.

When going on any significant walk or outing (like going to the park, dorm, a store, etc,) תלמידים are required to wear a hat and proper suit jacket. A sweater or sweatshirt will not suffice.

Local bachurim when walking or driving to and from yeshiva should ensure that a hat and jacket should be worn.

A tamim is expected to conduct himself with eidelkeit at all times therefore chewing gum is not permitted. Any form of Alcohol is strictly forbidden No talmid shall be found drinking or in possession of alcohol.

תלמידים should focus their discussions on topics that are constructive and conducive to the overall spirit of ישיבה. In addition, תלמידים must be careful to refrain from coarse or foul language, and saying things that can hurt someone or that have negative connotations towards others. There is a zero tolerance policy towards any תלמיד who bullies, makes fun of, or hurts another תלמיד.

זמן השינה / Dormitory

A key component to staying physically healthy, emotionally fit, and succeeding in learning is for a תלמיד to be well rested. Sleep is very important and every תלמיד is expected to follow the rules and timetable of his dormitory supervisor to ensure he gets the adequate amount of sleep.

Although a dormitory supervisor is not present at the homes of the local talmidim, keeping to the yeshiva sleeping schedule is vital for the success in yeshiva and should be followed.

The dormitory supervisor is the representative of the הנהלת הישיבה. When a תלמיד is instructed to do something by the dormitory supervisor, at any point during the day, the תלמיד must comply and respect his decision. Ignoring, disobeying, or making disrespectful comments to the dormitory supervisor is equivalent to doing so to a שיעור מגיד in ישיבה.

The dormitory is a house that is located in a residential neighborhood. Talmidim must be considerate of their neighbors. You have the opportunity to make a tremendous קידוש שם ליובאוויטש; people are watching to see how בחורים behave. There is to be **no loud**

noise, loud music, jumping, screaming or running around inside or outside the dormitory. Ball playing or any other activities are strictly prohibited inside the dormitory. The Dormitory and its contents (beds, dressers etc.), belong to the Mesivta and are הקדש. Furniture may not be moved around. No Talmid may knock any nails, wires, hooks, or anything else into any walls or furniture. Besides for a picture of the Rebbe in every room, nothing may be hung up in the dormitory. No roommate changes may be made without clear permission from Rabbi Posner.

There is to be no cooking of any kind in the dormitory. The cleanliness and condition of your dorm room and the hallway outside your room is the responsibility of all those sleeping in that room. If any damage is discovered, it will be the responsibility of those sleeping in that room to cover the cost of repairs and any cleanup caused by the mess not of normal use.

It is the responsibility of הנהלה to maintain a proper Chassidishe environment in order to help each bochur grow to his utmost potential. In order to preserve ישיבה's atmosphere and ensure the proper standard, הנהלה reserves the right to check the dorm and a תלמיד personal belongings (including devices) periodically throughout the year to uphold the standard of Chasidishkeit in ישיבה.

Absence/Illness

If a תלמיד is ח"ו feeling too ill to attend סדר, he must receive רשות according to the following guidelines.

- A תלמיד who wakes up in the morning and is not feeling well must make sure to attend Chassidus and Davening. Afterward, he may receive רשות from the מנהל to return to the dormitory to rest.
- If a תלמיד feels too ill to leave the dormitory, he must call 647-784-5150 by 7:15 AM. If a doctor's appointment is necessary, it will be scheduled.
- A תלמיד who becomes sick anytime during the day even during general studies and wishes to leave סדר early, must receive רשות from Rabbi Posner only.

The same steps should be followed for those talmidim staying at home. The parent of the talmid that is not feeling well should reach out to the manehal at the earliest convenience.

If these guidelines are not followed, the lateness or absence will be unexcused.

Headaches, not hearing your alarm clock, or sleeping in, etc. are not valid excuses for absence.

Lateness due to Bad weather is not a valid excuse. Please make sure to come prepared with the proper gear (rain coat, boots etc,) to protect against the winter elements.

In order for a תלמיד to pass a particular class, his absences or lateness may not exceed more than 25% of that particular subject.

Yeshiva Calendar

Every תלמיד is responsible to plan his travel arrangements according to the ישיבה calendar, allowing himself enough time to settle down so that he will be ready for סדר at the indicated time. The calendar has allotted vacation days that give ample time around each יום טוב to schedule all necessary appointments (doctor, dentist, etc.) A תלמיד that leaves early or returns late without explicit permission will be considered absent without an excuse, and may result in subsequent consequences.

The same would apply for those talmidim living in the GTA. Please make an effort to schedule all appointments during bein hazmanim.

Other than the pre-determined dates on the ישיבה calendar, there are no official shabosim off. If the need to take off for a shabbos arises, please refer to the שמחה Policy

שמחה Policy

When a שמחה arises ב"ה and a תלמיד wishes to join in the celebrations, he must speak with the מנהל before making travel arrangements. For a sibling's wedding, a תלמיד will be granted 6 days leave for the שמחה. A תלמיד will be granted 3 days leave for a sibling's Bar Mitzva. All other situations should be discussed with the מנהל.

The allotted days for simchas are specifically for those needing to travel out of town. Please reach out to the Menahel to seek reshis for a simcha taking place locally.

יום הולדת/Birthday

As chasidim we place great emphasis on birthdays. The Rebbe taught us that one's birthday is an important day - a time for cheshbon hanefesh, self reflection, and growth. Therefore, bachurim are strongly encouraged to make a farbrengen in honor of their birthdays. Extravagant parties, pizza parties, etc. are discouraged. Any celebrations should be channeled to fulfill the rebbe's directives befitting such a day.

Any and all arrangements in honor of one's birthday need to be discussed and approved by Hanhala beforehand.

מקוה

Every תלמיד is encouraged to go to the מקוה daily. It is the תלמיד's responsibility to go to the מקוה and be on time for סדר chassidus. There is a separate מקוה fee, to be made payable directly to the מקוה. We will notify about the mikva fee amount in the information package that will be sent out at the start of the new year. (It can be paid on chabad of Ontario's website, please make sure to include your son's name on the donation page).

שבת קודש

Seder on שבת is mandatory for local and out of town תלמידים. The exact Shabbos schedule will be posted every Friday morning. Out of town תלמידים will eat with ישיבה on Friday nights and שבת day. Permission to eat out may be given for שבת day, only after the invitation is approved by the מנהל by Thursday morning. A תלמיד's behavior during the סעודה should be befitting of a תמים in תמימים, i.e. wearing בגדי שבת and discussing appropriate topics of conversation.

A local talmid that would like to invite friends over to his house for the סעודה or any other time will need to ask permission from the hanhala before.

In the spirit of שבת, and in accordance with שולחן ערוך, a תלמיד should have special designated שבת clothing to display respect. i.e. a dress suit.

תלמידים are to remain with ישיבה throughout שבת, including davening, סעודות, and on שבת afternoon. בחורים may not join community מנינים, Kidushim or leave the dorm without specific מנהל from the רשות.

As חסידים we conduct ourselves לפנים משורת הדין. Therefore, the policy of ישיבה is to refrain from using the city עירוב and wearing a watch on שבת.

Restaurants & Stores

It is vital to the תלמיד's spiritual growth and success to be completely immersed in the ישיבה environment 24/7. Therefore, תלמידים are not to eat out in pizza shops or restaurants. ישיבה will provide fresh and nourishing meals daily, there will be no need for different venues. If a special need arises, a תלמיד can always reach the מנהל.

All stores are off-limits, unless the תלמיד is specifically granted permission. A תלמיד who needs permission to go to a store should ask the מנהל. Generally, there will be time allotted to go to the supermarket once a week.

Cell Phones, Technology, & Items Not Allowed in ישיבה

It is understandable that a parent sending their child out of town may see it necessary for safety reasons to provide their son with a cell phone. Therefore, a תלמיד is allowed only a simple phone under the following conditions: (no smartphone.) We have been in touch with the TAG office in Toronto and received a list of phones that can be properly secured and meet the standards of TAG. All phones will need to be approved and certified by the TAG organization here in Toronto. If you would like to use a phone at the times allotted by yeshiva, please be sure to purchase the approved phones and we will take it to TAG to be programmed. Any phone brought to yeshiva that is not approved by TAG will need to be handed into Hanhala and will only be returned at the end of the Zman.

Upon arrival, the phone should be handed over to the מנהל and it will be held securely. A תלמיד is able to retrieve his phone on Friday, and will need to return it before שבת. If a תלמיד arrives in ישיבה with a smartphone, it will only be returned at the end of the Zman. ישיבה will provide a working landline with a long distance plan for the benefit of the תלמידים.

Local talmidim:

All policies pertaining to technology apply to local talmidim as well. A talmid should not be in possession of a cell phone, smartphone or any device not approved by Yeshiva.

Only Jewish books of true stories or biographies, written by frum authors and published by frum publishers, will be allowed in ישיבה. The הנהלה reserves the right to check all books and determine if it is befitting a תלמיד in תומכי תמימים.

Lighters, matches, and any other fire paraphernalia is not allowed in ישיבה. Poker cards and anything connected to the poker game are likewise not permitted.

Smartphones, laptops, CD players, tablets, Chromebooks, video players, Playstations, radios, and all Wi-Fi enabled devices are not permitted in ישיבה. If any such materials are brought to ישיבה, they will be taken away **and not returned. A \$200 penalty will be charged to any bachur that is found with a smartphone.** If you wish to bring an MP3 player, make sure that it is not video enabled, does not connect to Wi-Fi, and the SD slot is disabled. It should be brought to the מנהל on the first day and will be returned after the מנהל ensures that the content is befitting for a בחור in תומכי תמימים. As well, the player is subject to random checks any time throughout the year.

Headphones: Only wired in ear headphones are allowed in yeshiva. Wireless, or on ear/over ear headphones may not be used in yeshiva. Speakers are not allowed in yeshiva.

Alarm Clocks should not have radio capability.

Knives, switchblades, lighters and any other sharp or destructive items are not allowed in Yeshiva.

Summer

The Rebbe was very emphatic that ישיבה operate through the summer. We strongly believe that it is crucial for the spiritual growth and יראת שמים of תמים to be in a properly structured ישיבה environment for the duration of the summer. Therefore, we view the summer months as part of ישיבה. As a result, the ישיבה year of 5784 will conclude during the month of Menachem Av. Every תלמיד is obligated to attend the summer program in order to continue his enrollment in מתיבתא. The exact dates will be determined as we get closer. A separate fee will be required for Yeshivas kayitz.

Bikes

תלמידים may only use bicycles for going to ישיבה in the morning and returning to the dorm or home at night. One may not ride around the streets of Toronto other than for the purposes listed above without explicit permission from the מנהל. A תלמיד riding a bicycle or motorized scooter must wear a jacket, helmet, and reflective gear for night riding.

Tests, Worksheets, Diploma, and acceptance for the following year

תלמידים are responsible to fill out and complete all handouts and worksheets that are provided by your שיעור מגיד and hand them in before they are due. A תלמיד must take every test that is administered. Exceptions may only be given by the מגיד שיעור. A passing grade is 65%. The General Studies Diploma is intertwined with Judaic subjects. As such, a תלמיד must pass his קודש subjects in order to receive his General Studies Diploma.

The בחורים eligible to return to מתיבתא for another year, will receive a letter around Lag B'omer time notifying them that they are welcome to return for the new הלימודים. A תלמיד that does not receive such a letter will need to discuss his continuation of enrollment for the coming year with the מנהל. Acceptance for the following year should not be assumed automatically .

Although our general studies program can be completed in three years, diploma programs are generally a four year program. As חסידים we know how strong the Rebbe encouraged בחורים to dedicate a full year completely immersed in the study of תורה without any involvement in other subjects. Therefore, diplomas will only be issued after the בחור concludes his first year of Beis Medrash (Zal.)

Dress Code

The רמב"ם writes, "תלמיד חכם ניכר בלבושו" "A Torah scholar is recognized by his manner of dress." Appropriate dress plays a very important role in the dignity and atmosphere of ישיבה. The image that our בחורים portray should reflect the ציור of a תמים. Please study the dress code carefully and make sure it is followed at all times.

The dress code includes:

- Clean and presentable clothing
- Hats and jackets during davening, bentching, קריאת שמע על המיטה, and when walking in the street. During the winter months, ear-muffs or 180's should be worn (as opposed to ski hats etc.) in order to allow for the regular black hat to be worn.
- Jackets: Regular looking conservative suit jackets, black or navy blue only. No suede, cotton, or casual looking such as corduroy, linen jackets, 5 button jackets etc.
- Pants: Black or navy blue pants only, **no tight fitting pants**. No suede, corduroy, jeans or jean look are allowed. If pants are cotton they must resemble regular looking dress pants, and not be tight or fitted. Pants may not have extra embellishments such as rigid stitching on the seams or extra and odd-looking pockets etc. שבת requires a suit.
- Shirts: White dress shirts, regular looking (not tight or very fitted etc.), button-down only.
- Regular looking socks: they may be black, navy, or blue. Please avoid bright color socks. No ankle or below ankle socks.
- Yarmulka: Solid black Yarmulkes only.
- Shoes: Regular looking solid black dress shoes or sneakers that look like dress shoes and are solid black. No other colors are ok. Please make sure there is no white or any other colors on the shoe or sneaker (even on the soles) . No high tops, suede, or casual looking types are permitted. Slippers or crocs are reserved for dorm use only. Outside and in ישיבה, the bochurim should be wearing their regular shoes. **Solid black sneakers are required even while playing sports**. Snowboots and rainboots should be a conservative dark color.
- Sweaters: Only regular button down or dress pullover sweaters are permitted. Casual looking sweaters, **sweaters with hoods, or sweaters with writing are not permitted**.
- Haircuts: Haircuts should be short enough so that the hair cannot be combed into a part. The front and back should be the same length. No bangs.

Every תלמיד should make sure to arrive to ישיבה with all of the clothing he needs for the זמן. Permission will not be granted for a תלמיד to shop at malls in Toronto. In extreme circumstances the הנהלה must be consulted. Any clothing worn in ישיבה that does not comply with the dress code will be confiscated and given back at the end of the year.


Mesivta Ohr Temimim is here to facilitate the success of each one of our dear תלמידים. The הנהלה is here to help you in any way possible. If at any point the תלמיד has any questions, concerns, or thoughts, please remember that our lines of communication are always open. Should the parent ever have a question or an issue to discuss, please feel free to reach out to the מנהל, Rabbi Posner, at r.posner@gmail.com or 647-784-5150.

Please ask your son to read through this guidebook carefully. After he has read it, please have him sign it and bring it along to ישיבה.

I, Chaim Yosef Bendetsky, have read and understood the Mesivta Guidelines and agree to abide by them at all times.

Student's Name: Chaim Yosef Bendetsky

Student's Signature: 

Parent's Signature: 

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