



PARENTS' HANDBOOK 2011–2012

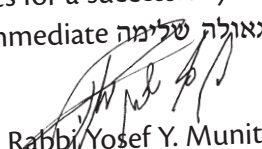
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Dear Parents' שי,

It is my pleasure to present you with this year's Parents' Handbook. Here you will find all the information you and your son will need before coming to learn at Mesivta Menachem of Amherst. The הנהלה anticipates your son's commitment to growth and will be there to help him excel to the best of his abilities. We hope he will have a successful year בגשמיות and ברוחניות. Please take the time to review the information in this handbook with your son; it is important that everything is clear. Feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments.

With wishes for a successful year,
and blessings for the immediate שליחה גאולה!


Rabbi Yosef Y. Munitz

MESIVTA RULES & REGULATIONS

The Mesivta Rules and Regulations are designed to provide the optimal learning experience for every bochur. The goal is to remove any obstacles and distractions that might impede the individual and collective growth of the bochurim. As chassidim of the Rebbe, we are all held to a higher standard, especially in a neighborhood where the bochurim are part of a very small frum community. The opportunity to create a tremendous Kiddush Hashem exists alongside the possibility for the opposite G-d forbid. The rules and regulations ensure that the bochurim will always create a chassidishe environment and make a good impression.

As a parent, you certainly want the best for your son. Therefore we ask that you review these rules with him, and impress upon him their importance. If there is any rule that you do not understand please feel free to call and discuss it.

General Guidelines

The Mesivta rewards good behavior. There is a point system in place that rewards consistent adherence of the rules with trips ranging from an unplanned visit to a local market, small trips like bowling, and major trips like ice skating and skiing. The הנהלה prefers to enforce the rules with positive encouragement.

Every bochur is expected to behave in a manner consistent with the teachings of the Rebbe, and according to the Shulchan Aruch. The Mesivta uses the three strikes rule to enforce most of the rules. First strike will receive a monetary קנס and/or be required to memorize Tanya or other material. Strike two will mean being grounded for a week, and loss of any trip privileges they may have earned. The third strike can result in suspension. A suspended student will need to return home at the parents' expense for at least three days before being allowed back into the Mesivta. You will be charged a re-registering fee of \$250. Alternatively, the parents may be able to come in person to meet with the Rosh Mesivta and the bochur will not need to leave the Mesivta premises. However, obvious and blatant disobediences are so severe that they can result in immediate suspension. Most of these will appear in bold in the following list of rules and regulations.

The student and his property

A. Every bochur is expected to dress neatly and conservatively. This means straight leg dress slacks in dark colors such as black, dark blue, or dark grey. Plain white button down collared dress shirts. Solid, conservative colored pullovers or cardigans. Comfortable black shoes or loafers.

In the spirit of creating a chassidishe environment the Mesivta has certain standards representing the attire of a chassidishe bochur. Mesivta bochurim are to wear woolen Lubavitch ציציית . A black /dark blue blazer or suit jacket should be worn for *davening*. (Wind breakers, jackets, or sweaters cannot be used as a substitute.). It is self understood that "playing" with one's beard or styling ones hair has no place in a chassidishe Yeshiva, this includes going to non-Jewish barbers or taking fully bald haircuts.

TZITZIS: No Cotton, netted, or undershirt ציציית

YARMULKAS: Only black or dark blue Yarmulkas. No knitted, leather, or yarmulkas w/o inner lin-

ing. Must be size 5 (five) or larger.

PANTS: No brown, green or light colored. No exterior side pockets. No exterior back pockets (as in jeans). No jeans or denim. No corduroy. No sweat pants (except for sleeping). No casual pants. No baggy pants. No torn cuffs. No shorts.

SHIRTS: No polo or sport. No stripes or plaids. No exterior labels. No T-Shirts.

SWEATERS: No loud colors. No loud patterns. No exterior labels. No sweatshirts.

SHOES: No sneakers. No canvas shoes. No tan colored shoes or boots.

*During non-class activities such as gym or recreation, allowances will be made for attire such as sneakers, T-shirts, and casual pants. However, everything should still be in good taste, i.e. we will not accept loud or lurid T-shirts even during recreation. **Jeans or denim pants may never be worn.***

- B. No musical instruments.
- C. No radios. This includes any other device that might contain a radio feature (i.e. alarm clock).
- D. No large stereo systems. Ipod touch or any other mp3 technology that is internet compatible are not allowed. All other personal mp3 devices will be allowed but subject to periodic inspection. The Mesivta encourages the use of headphones, unless your roommates share your musical tastes.
- E. Only Jewish music. Non-Jewish music will not be allowed. *Music composed, written or sung by a Jew, does not necessarily mean that it is considered Jewish music. If it sounds non-Jewish, it is. If you are not sure, ask the הנהלה before you buy, bring, or play it.*
- F. Possession or use of popular publications and books, including but not limited to newspapers, magazines, novels and shopping catalogs, is not allowed. *If you are unsure if a publication is permissible or not, ask the הנהלה before bringing, purchasing or reading it. This rule applies outside of the Mesivta grounds as well, you may not borrow, or read any publication/book in a library/store.*
- G. No electronics. Personal electronics including, but not limited to, laptops, PDAs, gameboys, PSP, Palms, wireless internet devices, etc. will not be allowed. Any device brought to Yeshiva unauthorized or with permission but used in a manner not consistent with Yeshiva rules and the guidelines set forth will be confiscated. These items will not be given back at the end of the year regardless of their value. There will be no warnings, first-time leniencies or the like.
- H. Only the KOSHER CELL PHONES will be allowed in Yeshiva. Cell phone usage will be limited to nighttime hours. At all other times הנהלה will hold them.
- I. Bike riding is allowed (with limitations) during the first and last z'manim. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that all safety standards are met; including wearing a helmet, elbow/knee pads, reflectors etc. During the zman between Sukkos and Pesach bikes are OFF LIMITS.
- J. **Possession of alcohol is not allowed.** This applies even to closed containers.

PERSONAL
PROPERTY

PERSONAL
ELECTRONICS

BEHAVIOR

INTRODUCTION

REWARD SYSTEM

DISCIPLINARY
ACTION

DRESS CODE

- K. **Possession and/or use of cigarettes or any other illegal substance is not allowed.** This applies even to closed packages and containers.
- L. Proper language is expected to be used by the bochurim during and outside of seder. Foul or inappropriate language is prohibited.
- M. Proper personal hygiene is expected of you. You are responsible to shower regularly, wear clean clothing, and in general behave in a sanitary manner.
- N. Violent behavior is not allowed. This includes verbal, as well as physical, violence.

The Mesivta and seder

- A. You are expected to come on time to each scheduled class or Tefilla.
- B. You are expected to come to each scheduled class and Tefilla properly prepared.
- C. You may not leave class for any reason without proper permission.
- D. You may not leave the Mesivta grounds at any time except during an emergency. *הנהלה* may grant special permission to leave the Mesivta premises in certain situations.
- E. You are expected to keep your room clean and tidy. You are expected to clean up after yourself during mealtime. You are expected to help keep the Mesivta classrooms and general rooms clean.
- F. You must respect private property. Do not touch what does not belong to you without first getting permission from the owner of said property.
- G. You must respect the privacy of others. Do not look through anyone's personal belongings. Do not invade anyone's private space.
- H. You are expected to behave courteously towards your neighbors. Keep the noise level low and speak respectfully.
- I. You are expected to dress and undress modestly. Wear a robe, Tzitzis and Yarmulka, even when walking to or from the shower. Pajamas should be worn at night. **Blatant disregard of tznius and/or any immoral behavior is not allowed.**
- J. Do not damage Mesivta property. Repairs will be made using your security deposit. If the damage is greater than your security deposit, a bill will be sent home for the difference. Damage caused by a group, or damage not identified with an individual, will be compensated for by the entire group at the discretion of the *הנהלה*.
- K. The Mesivta is not responsible for any valuable objects or documents not deposited with the Mesivta staff. Deposit all valuables with the Mesivta staff for safekeeping.
- L. Due to health, safety, and fire regulations the kitchen is not available for your personal use. Unless you receive specific permission, you should not be in the kitchen for any reason.
- M. Telephone calls can be made or received using the Mesivta student's phone during non-seder hours. Long distance calls can be made with a calling card only.

Mesivta staff

- A. You must show proper respect for all the *הנהלה*. Chutzpah will not be tolerated.

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:45AM:	מודה אני, מקוה and Coffee
8:30AM:	חסידות
9:10AM:	שחרית
9:25AM:	שחרית
10:25AM:	Breakfast
11:00AM:	גמרא לעיונה: הכנה
11:20AM:	גמרא לעיונה: שיעור
12:15PM:	Break
12:30PM:	גמרא לעיונה: חזרה
1:30PM:	Lunch; recess
2:30PM:	ענייני גאולה ומשיח
3:15PM:	מנחה
3:40PM:	גמרא לגירסא: שיעור
4:00PM:	גמרא לגירסא: חזרה
4:20PM:	שיעור תניא
4:45PM:	Sunday: Swim; Monday: Laundry; Tuesday: Gym; Wednesday: park/ supervised internet use; Thursday: shvitz/ supermarket shopping
6:45PM:	מעריב (winter months)
7:00PM:	Dinner; recess
8:15PM:	לקוטי שיחות / שולחן ערוך
9:15PM:	מעריב (summer months)
10:45PM:	Lights out

Friday:

(add one hour for summer months)

12:30PM:	Lunch
1:15PM:	Mivtzoim (arranged by local shluchim)
candlelighting:	בשורת הגאולה, חת"ת, שמר"ת, רמב"ם, מנחה

Shabbos:

8:30AM:	מודה אני, מקוה and Coffee
9:00AM:	חסידות
(7:45AM:	מודה אני, מקוה and Coffee
8:15AM:	תהילים on Shabbos Mevorchim)
9:45AM:	שחרית
10:00AM:	שחרית
12:30PM:	Lunch
candlelighting:	סדר ניגונים, מנחה

Motzei Shabbos:

7:30PM-9:30PM:	ברכת הנהנין, Video
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WEEKDAYS

FAMILY SHABBOS:

Two or three times a year the bochurim are invited to share the Shabbos meals with families from the local community.

RESPECT
OTHERS

PHONE
PRIVILEGES

MESIVTA CALENDAR

ELLUL –KISLEV SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER	Friday, August 19	י"ט אב:	Tuition Deadline
	Sunday, September 4	ה' אלול:	Students Arrive (Must be in by 7:00PM)
	Monday, September 5	ו' אלול:	Seder begins
	Tuesday, September 27	כ"ח אלול:	Tishrei break. (Dismissed at 10:15AM)
	Thursday, September 29	ראש השנה:	ראש השנה תשע"ב
	Tuesday, October 25	כ"ז תשרי:	Students Return (Must arrive by 7:00PM)
KISLEV –NISSAN DECEMBER – MARCH	Thursday, December 15	י"ט כסלו:	ראש השנה לחסידות
	Tuesday, December 20	כ"ד כסלו:	End of term—Progress Reports
	Wednesday, December 21	כ"ה כסלו:	*Chanukah break (Dismissed at 10:15AM)
	Wednesday, December 28	ב' טבת:	Students Return (Must arrive by 7:00PM)
	Friday, February 3	י' שבט:	פריערדיקער רבי קבלת הנשיאות, Yartzeit of the
	Sunday, March 25	ב' ניסן:	End of term—Progress Reports
NISSAN –SIVAN MARCH – JUNE	Monday, March 26	ג' ניסן:	Pesach break (Dismissed at 10:15AM)
	Tuesday, April 17	כ"ה ניסן:	Students Return (Must arrive by 7:00PM)
	Sunday, May 27	שבועות:	(All students in Mesivta)
	Monday, June 18	כ"ח סיון:	End of Seder—Progress Reports
	Tuesday, June 19	כ"ט סיון:	(Dismissed at 10:15AM)

IMPORTANT: Students may not leave the Mesivta during the regular זמן. If there is a family emergency ר"ל please call the Mesivta to receive permission before leaving. Permission may be given to attend major family simchas. (Such as the wedding, Bar Mitzva, or Bris of a member of your immediate family.) Contact the Mesivta for more information as early as possible.

Bochurim must arrive to Mesivta dressed in hat and jacket, ready for Seder. (ie. white button down shirt, dress pants.)

* Plan ahead, the break is during a very busy travel season

SEFORIM LIST

- גמרא מסכת קדושין עם מפרשים: נמוקי יוסף, מהרש"א, רא"ש וכו'
- גמרא לגרסא—מסכת מגילה
- שולחן ערוך אדמו"ר הזקן—חלק א
- סליחות, מחזור—חנוכה מנורה
- חת"ת
- רמב"ם—פרקים per day—1 or 3
- ספר המאמרים קונטרסים א'—אדמו"ר הרי"ץ (שיעור א')
- דרך מצותך (שיעור ב', ג')
- Lessons in Tanya—חלק א
- ליקוטי שיחות—חלקים א, ב, ג, ד
- שבח המועדים
- התקופה והגאולה
- קיצור הלכות משו"ע אדמו"ר הזקן (הל' שבת)

IMPORTANT: These seforim can be purchased from most Jewish bookstores. Please make sure that you have them all with you when Seder begins. **They are not available locally.**

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Daily Clothing

- 5 pairs of pants
- 7-10 shirts
- 12-14 pairs of socks
- 12-14 sets of underwear
- Blazer (for davening)
- Black hat
- Shoes
- 2 warm sweaters
- 2 pairs warm pajamas

Shabbos/Yom Tov

- 2-3 Shabbos shirts
- Shabbos suit
- Shabbos hat
- Shabbos shoes

Outerware

- Raincoat
- Winter coat
- Winter gloves
- Scarf
- Boots

Extras

- Sneakers
- Slippers
- Arm reflector
- Bathrobe
- Bathing suit
- Spare Tallis Kotton (wool)
- Spare Yarmulka
- Gym/exercise clothing

Linens

- 2 Bed sheets
- 2 Pillow cases
- Blanket
- Pillow
- Laundry bag
- Bath towels
- Hand towel

Sundries

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Floss
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Medications (non-prescription)
- Nail Clipper
- Deodorant
- Alarm Clock
- Watch
- Shoe polish
- Tissues
- Long distance phone card
- Pens
- Notepad

NOTE:

All clothing must comply with the Mesivta Dress code. Students should bring enough clothing to last two weeks between laundering. Please label your clothing.

ADVISORY:

We recommend a weekly allowance of not more than 5–10 dollars per week for general expenses.

CONTACT INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS: 1080 Maple Road, Williamsville, New York 14221

STUDENT PHONE: 716-689-3673 (during non-seder hours only)

MESIVTA OFFICE: 716-689-9150 Fax: 716-402-1934

EMAIL: MesivtaMenachem@hotmail.com

RABBI YOSEF MUNITZ: 716-568-0121 (for tuition & other Mesivta-related inquiries, or in the case of an emergency)

RABBI MENDEL MUNITZ: 716-689-8591 (for primary correspondence regarding your son's progress, permission for unscheduled absences, or to relay messages.)

TRANSPORTATION & DIRECTIONS

BY AIR: **Buffalo/Niagara International Airport** is serviced by most major airlines. JetBlue Airlines offers some of the lowest fares for flights between JFK and Buffalo.

BY TRAIN: **Buffalo/Depew Station** is serviced by AmTrak with four trains daily to New York and once a day to Chicago and points west.

BY BUS: **Metro Transportation Station** has regular bus service via Greyhound and NY State Trailways.

BY CAR from East: Take the NY State Thruway (I-90) West to Exit 49 (Rt-78 Depew/Lockport) turn left onto Transit Road (78). Proceed approximately 3 miles, then turn left onto Maple Road. Proceed for 2.5 miles to the Mesivta; 1080 Maple Road - on your right.

BY CAR from West: Take the NY State Thruway (I-90) East to Exit 50 (I-290 Niagara Falls). Proceed 2.8 miles to Exit 5B (Rt-263N Millersport Highway North). Proceed for 0.2 miles, take Maple Road ramp (bear right). Turn right onto Maple Road, proceed for two miles to the Mesivta; 1080 Maple Road - on your left.

BY CAR from North: Take the QEW to the 405 - follow signs to Queenston Lewiston Bridge. After toll the 405 becomes the I-190 South. Merge onto I-290E Youngman Expwy via Exit 16 (towards I-90 Tonawanda/Rochester). Proceed for 7.2 miles to Exit 5B (Rt-263N Millersport Highway North). Proceed for 0.4 miles, take Maple Road ramp (bear right). Turn right onto Maple Road, proceed for two miles to the Mesivta; 1080 Maple Road - on your left.

IMPORTANT:

Do not request rides from Hanhalla. Taxi service from the Airport or the Train Station costs approximately \$20. Service from the Bus Terminal is around \$30. You can also call Mark a Local Yid @ 716 983 3280

PLEASE NOTE: If a chaperone is needed for pick up or drop off (waits until actual boarding) from the gate, a \$30 fee (each time) will be assessed for this arrangement.

MISCELLANEOUS

Transportation to the laundromat will be provided once in ten days. (It is recommended that you send enough clothing for two weeks.)

LAUNDRY

The Laundromat is coin operated, detergent is available for purchase. (You may want to buy larger amounts of detergent at a local supermarket.) **The machines only accept quarters.** The cost is approximately \$3 dollars for a full wash and dry cycle (with detergent available for purchase). Please plan accordingly.

Note: Larger machines can be shared.

The Mesivta does not accept responsibility for lost or damaged clothing.