

Dear Parents:

We hope you are enjoying your time at home with your children; we certainly miss them!!

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, there are many discussions aimed at continually improving the caliber of your son's education. One of the most significant ingredients for educational success is an environment that fosters the focus of the students on their studies. A significant disrupter of that focus is the ubiquitous connection to the world outside via phones. This unfortunate phenomenon has permeated all educational institutions.

We have had policies in place regarding cell phones and internet connected electronics and strongly feel that further strictures are necessary in order to be more effective.

Besides the distraction of any phone or device, we also find that smartphones, or any unsupervised internet connectivity, is one of the most negative influences by which a child can be affected.

Of course, student safety is paramount and to this end students may bring a non-smartphone for their trip to and from campus. If a student needs to be reached during the day, the office and its manager are prepared, within reason, to deliver a message to your son. We have also provided the students with a dedicated phone in the hallway – operable during normal Yeshiva hours – to call out as necessary.

The new student cell-phone guidelines for 2017-18 academic year are as follows:

- We recommend parents DO NOT send their children to school with a phone.
- Smartphones – of any kind – are not to be brought onto the campus, by any student, at any time. This includes devices such as iPads, iPods, and tablets, etc. with internet capabilities.
- Any student found with such a non-approved device, even if not in use, will have it confiscated and the student will be suspended for at least one school day.
- Any approved phone or device that is brought to school must conform to the following:
 - No internet capability; and
 - Must be turned in to Rabbi Hes before Shacharis and be picked up at dismissal.
- Any student found with an approved cell phone or electronic device in their possession, including locker or backpack, will have forfeited his privilege to bring a phone/device to school in the future.

We would like to ask our entire parent body to partner with us in our one-and-only quest: to be *mechanech* your sons, our students. We ask that you recognize your role in the Yeshiva community and lend your weight to the implementation of these rules. These ideas will not be effective without your support. These rules were not meant to be restrictive, rather they are crafted to be empowering. We want our students to learn, to grow, and to achieve their own personal greatness.

Anyone who would like to discuss this letter further should feel free to contact us.

We look forward to a year of hatzlacha as we partner with you in the chinuch of your sons.

Sincerely,

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