

PARENT HANDBOOK

תשע"ב

2011 – 2012



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“Inspiring Our Children Today to Meet the Challenges of Tomorrow”



תמוז תשע"א
July 2011

Dear Parents שיחיו,

We are pleased to present to you the 5772 / 2011-'12 issue of the Yeshiva Darchei Noam Parent Handbook. We are profoundly aware of the critical importance of maintaining a close bond between school and home. As *shutfim* in your children's *chinuch*, this handbook serves as a guide in our relationship. We hope that it contains the necessary information that will enable our partnership to blossom.

Kindly read the Yeshiva's Handbook at your earliest convenience and become familiar with its contents. Please review these pages as carefully as possible.

Always remember that if you have any questions or concerns, we invite you to call us directly so that we may be of personal assistance to you.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your entire family a productive and fulfilling year!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yonah G. Lazar
Principal, *Limudei Kodesh*

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Principal, General Studies

YESHIVA DARCHEI NOAM MISSION

Yeshiva Darchei Noam provides an academically challenging *Limudei Kodesh* and General Studies program of instruction and essential skills development.

Our *talmidim* are taught in a positive, nurturing and child-oriented environment, reflective of “דרכיה דרכי נעם” – the ways of the *Torah* are ways of pleasantness.

It is our goal to develop within each child a sense of *derech eretz*, a heightened sense of self-esteem, along with a clear recognition of individual and collective responsibility to the community.

Our superior program, along with a positive partnership with the home, will stimulate our *talmidim* to become *bnei Torah* and *machzikei Torah*, leading meaningful, happy and productive lives.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

As a Darchei Noam *chinuch* partner, it is understood that the way a parent dresses, whether on a Sunday, at a *simcha* or out shopping, has a tremendous effect on our *talmidim*. “Do as I say, not as I do,” is a recipe for confusion at best. All the more so when coming to the yeshiva grounds, all fathers and mothers are requested to not only dress with *tznius*, but with proper *koved rosh* for our *Makom Torah*. Men should wear shirts and slacks. Women are to follow all guidelines of the *Shulchan Aruch*. Please see to it that clothing is of proper length and sufficiently loose-fitting. Proper hair covering is required and legs must be fully covered. These guidelines apply at all times, including the times that parents come to drop off or pick up their children. Please be extra sensitive as we share a campus with a *Yeshiva Gedolah* and *Beis Medrash*.

Please don't place our *Hanhalah* in the uncomfortable position of having to approach a Yeshiva parent directly regarding this issue.

BEHAVIOR / DERECH ERETZ

The *talmidim* of Yeshiva Darchei Noam are required to conduct themselves according to the guidelines of *Torah* and *Yiddishkeit*. They are expected to behave with respect and in a pleasant fashion towards their *Rebbeim*, teachers and to one another. They should expect to be treated by all in the same fashion as well.

Bully-Free Zone

As per our mission outlined on the first page of this Handbook, YDN's goal is to develop *talmidim* who demonstrate *derech ertz* and have high self-esteem. Allowing *talmidim* to bully one another is the antithesis of this mission. A culture of bullying unfortunately can infiltrate and affect even the finest of *talmidim*. To ensure that no child's self-esteem should be damaged and that no child should fall into the habit of bullying, Yeshiva Darchei Noam continues to work towards making our Yeshiva a Bully-Free Zone.

Bullying is when a person or group repeatedly tries to harm someone who is weaker. Sometimes it involves direct attacks such as hitting, name calling, teasing or taunting. Sometimes it is indirect, such as spreading rumors or trying to make others reject someone. Bullying behaviors can include bossing others around, embarrassing, making others feel inferior, leaving others out, making others do things they don't want to, name-calling, refusing to talk to someone and getting others to do the same, picking on others because they are “different”, teasing & writing hurtful things about others.

Often people dismiss bullying among kids as a normal part of growing up. But bullying is harmful. It can lead children to feel tense and afraid to come to school. For some, the effects of bullying can last a lifetime. Children surveyed around the country rated bullying as the second worst childhood experience, second only to the death of a loved one.

Yeshiva Darchei Noam is committed to taking a proactive role in providing a safe environment for each of our *talmidim*. Although studies show that only 4% of school bullying is observed by school staff, nevertheless all efforts must be made to assist the victims of bullying incidents.

Research shows that for a school to succeed in creating a bully-free environment, similar expectations must come from the home. Boys who struggle with bullying others will require direct parent involvement towards modifying this serious behavior. Yeshiva Darchei Noam will be there to assist parents in this crucial *chinuch* challenge.

It is expected that parents will be diligent in following recommendations made by the school. Recommendations may include psychological services and/or counseling. Failure on the part of parents to comply with the school's recommendations will be grounds for expulsion.

Please note that this emphasis on anti-bullying is in addition to the Interpersonal Requirements listed below.

Interpersonal Requirements

Specifically regarding their interaction with peers, students should be mindful of the following rules of interpersonal relationships:

- 1) Students must respect and empathize with the **FEELINGS** of their fellow *talmidim*, avoiding doing or saying anything that would be hurtful.
- 2) Students should demonstrate **EMPATHY & SUPPORT** for one another; speak out on behalf of one another, mindful that in Torah living, there is no such thing as an “innocent bystander” in the face of someone's mistreatment.
- 3) Students must recognize that **AGGRESSION** is an unacceptable solution to a problem. This includes any form of fighting or bullying behavior.
- 4) Students must maintain the proper **PHYSICAL SPACE** between themselves and fellow *talmidim*. Inappropriate touching is never

permitted. This also means that students must refrain from touching the belongings of other students unless given permission.

Bus Behavior

All *talmidim* are expected to behave appropriately on school buses. *Talmidim* must be seated at all times that they are on the bus. Children who are out of their seats, disturbing the driver and/or other children, making excessive noise or doing anything deemed inappropriate by the driver, are likely to lose the privilege of school bus transportation for a given period of time. Drivers are instructed to inform the *Hanhalah* of any behavior infractions through filling out a Bus Company Disciplinary Form, a copy of which will be mailed home.

Should a *talmid* continue to be disruptive or aggressive after discussion and warning is given as a path of last resort and after other interventions have been implemented, a student may be removed from daily bus transportation.

We urge you to discuss the seriousness of this matter with your child. A full list of East Ramapo District Transportation rules is enclosed in this packet.

COMMUNICATION

At the end of each school week, *Rebbeim* send out a Weekly Newsletter. This highlights class accomplishments, includes a list of *limudim* to be reviewed and exciting classroom news. Please make sure to ask your son for it on a weekly basis.

If you have any specific questions regarding your child's academic level, classroom behavior or curriculum, please feel free to communicate with your child's *Rebbe* or teacher. If the question or issue remains unresolved, please communicate with the *Limudei Kodesh* or General Studies Principals who will be happy to help you if they can. To reach a staff member, please leave a message on their extension and include the best numbers that you can be reached at. Additionally, many staff members communicate through e-mail. Please feel free to ask them directly for their preferred way to be contacted.

Open and direct communication is the best way to further the educational and social development of your son(s). Toward this goal, a Parent-Teacher Conference will be held in the month of December. Please consult your school calendar for this year's conference date. Please note that appointments are required by all families for each conference. Appointments are generated via our computer system and then mailed to parents.

Please inform your son's *Rebbe* and teacher immediately if anything occurs in your family or your son's life that could add stress to his normal functioning (such as a birth in a family, or *lehavdil*, a tragedy *r"l*.) This will allow our staff to immediately be sensitive to your son's needs. Should the information be confidential in nature, you may wish to contact the *Rosh HaYeshiva* to see how to best handle and possibly disseminate this information.

DRESS CODE

Grades 1-5:

- Pants (*dark colored are preferred*)
- Shirts with collar, either button down or three button pullovers
- Shoes or sneakers

Grades 6-8:

- Dark blue or black pants
- Full button down shirts
- Black or brown shoes or sneakers
- Jacket and hat for *davening* (students above *Bar Mitzvah* age)

The following clothing items are not permitted:

- Jeans, sweat pants or patch – pocket pants
- Open back shoes, slippers, crocs, sandals or shoes or sneakers with any type of wheels

The following clothing items are not permitted to be worn inside the school building:

- Baseball caps
- Shirts or sweat shirts with large letters or logos

Yarmulkas should not contain any writing other than a boy's name and should be large enough to remain in place without clips or pins. Clips or pins can be used at recess play if necessary, but may not be worn in the classroom. In addition, *talmidim* should be well-groomed, have regularly scheduled haircuts, and their hairstyles should be of proper length, conforming to the appearance of a *ben Torah*. Boys must wear *tzitzis* at all times.

The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any article of clothing and to exclude a boy from class if his clothing does not conform to Yeshiva Darchei Noam's dress code. The student may be asked to wait in the office until a parent can bring in an appropriate change of clothing.

HEALTH RECORDS

According to New York State law, health records must be up to date for a child to be admitted to school. Any updated records should be sent into the office to the Nurse's attention.

It is imperative that the contact information on your child's emergency card be kept up-to-date. If you change any of your telephone numbers (including cell phone numbers, etc.) during the school year, please inform the office so that the information in our system can be updated.

Please inform the school if your son has a particular medical or dietary need, such as asthma, allergies, etc.

The Yeshiva employs a trained lice checker who will provide opportunity for each *talmid* to be checked before the beginning of the school year. Please see the enclosed notice for more details. Additionally, periodically throughout the year she will come to YDN to check the *talmidim's* hair.

Should you know that your child has had head lice or any other communicable disease (i.e. pinworms, etc.) please be sure to contact our school nurse.

HOME ENVIRONMENT

Reading Material

Parents are advised to always accompany their children on trips to the Public Library. Unfortunately, libraries, along with the great benefits they provide, also allow for easy access to inappropriate reading material and unlimited internet access. Additionally, please screen any books your son borrows from a friend or neighbor and do not allow your son to bring any book to YDN that the *Hanhalah* or another *talmid's* parents might object to him being exposed to.

Yeshiva Darchei Noam requires parents to be extremely vigilant with the types of newspapers, magazines and catalogs that they allow into their homes. So much of what we strive to inculcate in our *talmidim*, can be lost *chas v'shalom* with exposure to inappropriate images in a publication left around the house.

Television

Television viewing, especially when unsupervised, can be exceedingly harmful to the *neshamos* of our *talmidim*. Yeshiva Darchei Noam discourages the use of television in our children's homes. The minority of

families who currently permit television viewing by their children are urged to consider joining the ranks of the homes that are TV free. In any event, television sets may not be placed in the bedroom of a *talmid*. Students permitted limited TV watching are not permitted to share the contents of those programs with other *talmidim*.

Movies

Aside from appropriate IMAX movies, our *talmidim* should not enter a movie theater at any time, even to view “G” rated children films. Parents who permit their children to view videos at home should be scrupulous about previewing each video in advance, as so much of what is considered entertainment today is in conflict with Torah ideals. Again, students are not permitted to share the contents of the videos with their school mates.

Internet

As detrimental as television and movie viewing have become, the danger they pose pales by comparison to the risks of Internet access. With the click of a mouse, our precious children can be exposed to the most vulgar and obscene material.

Yeshiva Darchei Noam forbids the unsupervised use of the Internet by any *talmid*. The Internet may only be used with all of the following conditions:

1. **Constant parental** supervision and oversight.
2. All computers must be located in a public area of the home with no computers in children’s rooms.
3. Filters must be installed in any computer that a *talmid* has access to.
4. No *talmid* is permitted to have his own e-mail address. Instead, there should be a family e-mail address that all children may use.
5. No *talmid* may have a Facebook, Twitter or similar account.
6. A *talmid* may not have his own cell phone. Parents who wish to have their children carry cell phones when they leave home to a non Darchei Noam event, should have “house phones”, meaning that the phone(s) are used by other family members as well and not the exclusive domain of a YDN *talmid*. The cell phone may not have internet access under any circumstances. Please bear in mind that besides internet access, texting is a dangerous cell phone feature for minors.

Please note that these are minimal standards, and we encourage our parents to consider completely restricting children from Internet use. No assignments will be given that require Internet access research.

WE CONSIDER ADHERENCE TO THESE HOME ENVIRONMENT RULES TO BE A PRE-CONDITION TO OUR PARTNERSHIP. IGNORING THEM CONSTITUTES A MEKACH TA'US.

AS SUCH, YESHIVA DARCHEI NOAM RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY CONTINUED ENROLLMENT TO ANY CHILD WHOSE PARENTS PERMIT HIM TO VIOLATE ANY ASPECT OF THE YESHIVA'S READING MATERIAL, MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY RULES.

HOMEWORK

The Yeshiva's homework policy calls for limited daily assignments on Sunday through Thursday nights. Although homework assignments usually involve written activity, all boys should be "*chazering*" their *Limudei Kodesh* studies on a regular basis as well. Long-term assignments may be assigned to be completed over the weekends. Care will be taken to lessen the homework load before the busy *Pesach* season, allowing the boys to "do their share" of the *Yom Tov* preparation.

Parents are asked to provide their sons with an environment conducive to effective study (e.g. quiet, comfortable and well-lit). Please be sure that students complete their homework nightly. Although it is helpful for parents to *review* their children's homework on occasion, please avoid *doing* any assignments for your child unless specifically requested by the teacher. Students should also learn not to rely on others to determine the nightly homework assignments. The purchase of a Student *Yoman/Planner* has proven to be very helpful in keeping on top of daily and long-term assignments. In the younger grades, Rebbeim/teachers may provide students with a particular system to record their assignments, which may require a parent's signature each night.

A parent who notices that his son takes excessive time to complete his assignments, or is unable to complete assignments, is asked to be in touch with the *Rebbe* or teacher.

MEDICATION

According to the law, *talmidim* are not permitted to come to school with any medication – including antibiotics, Tylenol or any other over-the-counter or

prescription medicine. Should your child need to take any medicine during the school day, please contact our school nurse who will administer it.

MINYAN

Our oldest *talmidim* in grades 6-8 begin their day at the YDN Minyan. *Tefillos*, *Krias haTorah* and *Gabbaus* are all led by our *talmidim*, providing them with important opportunities in *Chinuch Bais Haknesses*. Attendance is taken each morning. Boys arriving to *minyan* later than 7:45 a.m. will be marked as late. These attendance records will be reflected on the *talmid's* report cards. Please note that permission to miss *Minyan* on a regular basis (i.e. *davening* with fathers in shul, learning during *Minyan* time, etc.) will not be granted.

MISHMOR

As our *talmidim* prepare for their years of *Mesivta* and *Beis Medrash*, it is necessary for them to begin official evening *limud haTorah*. To meet this end, a *Mishmor* program is available for our oldest *talmidim*. Carpool pickup will be necessary following the *Mishmor* program. Details of the *Mishmor* program will be sent out to parents after the school year begins.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Yeshiva Darchei Noam admits *talmidim* of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

NUTRITION

For best performance during the school day, a nutritious breakfast is essential. *Talmidim* in 1st through 4th grade should eat their breakfasts before coming to Yeshiva. Boys in grades 5-8 arriving at 7:30 a.m. for classroom *davening* or *Minyan* may bring breakfast from home or may sign up for school breakfast which is eaten following *Davening*.

A healthy morning and afternoon snack should be sent with your son. As children often share snacks with each other, and many families eat only *cholov yisroel* products, we appreciate your sensitivity and encourage you to send only *cholov yisroel* products to school with your son. Gum is not permitted in school.

Talmidim bringing lunch from home should bring meat or *parve* lunches on Tuesday and bring non-meat lunches on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday. **There will be no lunch period on Sundays or Fridays and on days that**

there are no General Studies. Please send an extra snack with your son on those days.

Please be advised that although YDN cannot consider itself a “peanut free” environment, nevertheless, on behalf of those students who suffer from peanut allergies, we ask that parents refrain from sending any food to school that contains peanuts or peanut derivatives, particularly in the younger grades where snacks are often shared. We have asked the caterer not to serve any foods containing peanut ingredients, nor will the N’shei provide any school wide snacks that contain peanuts. Please follow our lead, should you be sending in any food for a class *siyum* or party.

PARTIES

Bar Mitzvos

Please call Mrs. Devora Bechhofer in the Yeshiva’s Educational Office as early as you know the date of your son’s Bar Mitzvah celebrations. She will mark the dates down on our YDN *Simcha* Calendar. This will help avoid difficult student dilemmas by making certain that your *simcha* doesn’t conflict with a previously scheduled *simcha*. Please make sure that the entire class, your son’s *Rebbe* and the *Hanhalah* are invited to at least some part of your son’s *simcha*.

Should your son choose to celebrate his first time *leining* in Yeshiva, please contact his *Rebbe* beforehand to make certain that the *כיבודים* are available for your family at our *minyán*. Please inform the *Rebbe* if you will be marking the occasion with some type of celebration (i.e. donuts for his class, etc.)

Birthday Parties in School

Parents wishing to observe their son’s birthday in school may do so. This enables a practical and inexpensive way for your son’s birthday to be marked and celebrated with all of his classmates. The best time to schedule a birthday party is generally during snack or lunch time. Arrangements must be made with your child’s *Rebbe*, or teacher. Parties held during *Limudei Kodesh* sessions should mark the *talmid*’s Hebrew birth date.

All products brought into the school, to be shared with the class, must meet universal *kashrus* standards; dairy products must be *cholov yisroel* and should be sensitive to any student in the class that has a food allergy.

For everyone’s *kashrus* comfort, we ask that home baked goods not be brought in.

Birthday Parties Not Held In School

Optimally, when scheduling out of school birthday parties, out of consideration for the feelings of the students, the entire class should be invited. If financial constraints prevent extending an invitation to all students, a small number (less than half the class) may be invited. However, invitations may be distributed in school only if all members of the class are included. Otherwise we ask that you send the invitations by mail.

When inviting students to your home, whether for a party or other social occasions, please be sure to follow the same *kashrus* guidelines that apply to in-school parties. Under no circumstances should there be any “theme” birthday parties based upon television characters or other popular culture figures, and no television or videos of non-Jewish content should be shown to the boys.

PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

Having your son assemble personal effects and school belongings before he retires for the evening will result in a well-organized student who is fully prepared for school the next morning. Seeing to it that homework assignments and schoolbooks are placed in a school bag or knapsack and assigning a particular area for safekeeping will help ensure that they are not forgotten at home. A checklist of certain important items may be helpful for those *talmidim* who need a more structured approach.

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION

If you transport your child to school, it is your responsibility to have your child arrive at school on time, and be picked up on time. **We will make no changes in carpool arrangements (i.e. a child verbally informing us that he is going home with a friend’s carpool) unless we are notified in writing.** If there is an emergency and you need to change the homebound instructions for your child, please call the receptionist a minimum of 2 hours before dismissal to allow for arrangements to be made.

REPORT CARDS

The school year is divided into three marking periods. Report cards will be issued at the end of each marking period and will be mailed home, as follows:

- First Trimester: Week of November 27, 2011
- Second Trimester: Week of March 11, 2012
- Third Trimester: Week of June 17, 2012

An interim Progress Report will be mailed home midway through each of the marking periods by your son's Rebbe and Teacher should he be struggling in any of his Limudei Kodesh subjects. This warning will come well in advance, allowing him time to make any necessary changes prior to the upcoming report card. Please note that grades may drop even further should interventions not be put in place before the report cards are issued.

SAFETY

Safety of *talmidim* is something parents expect and are entitled to. To this end, a *talmid* leaving school grounds without adult supervision will be dealt with in a most serious manner. Consequences for such an offense can result in school expulsion.

Additionally, towards the goal of keeping our *talmidim* safe, no *talmidim* may obtain boiling water or hot food from the teacher's room or Yeshivas Ohr Reuven for any reason, without exception. Please do not allow your son to bring food/drinks that require boiling water to be added as they will not be permitted to receive the hot water. At this time, individual thermos bottles containing hot foods/drinks may be brought to Yeshiva to be consumed at his lunchroom table only. **Additionally, vending machines in the Yeshiva Ohr Reuven building are off limits to *talmidim*.**

SALES BY STUDENTS

No buying, selling or trading of any items may take place in Yeshiva. This includes but is not limited to food items, toys, etc. Both the materials being sold and the money being transferred will be confiscated. Any permitted sales must be okayed by the Administration (i.e.: 8th grade fundraisers, etc.).

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

General Guidelines

The importance of regular attendance cannot be overemphasized. Children who are absent or who leave early, fall behind in their own work and can slow the progress of the class as a whole. A day missed is a day lost.

Children are required by law to attend school every day that school is in session. When illness occurs, please have your child arrange with his Rebbe/teacher to make up the missed work upon his return.

Getting to school on time is extremely important. Lateness is detrimental to the child's academic progress and is disruptive to the rest of the class. Should a child arrive in school later than 5 minutes after starting time (other than a late bus), **a parent must bring him to the office and sign him in.**

Additionally, next to the sign in form in the office there will be a pad available for you to write a late note for your son's Rebbe or Teacher. The office will not provide late notes for *talmidim*. Arriving in class without a parent note may result in a *talmid* not being allowed into class. This rule is instituted for your child's safety.

Please make every effort to schedule social and recreational engagements and even doctor and dentist appointments during non-school hours, whenever possible. Should the need arise for a student to leave school early, please send a note along with your son in the morning. The note should be addressed to the Rebbe/teacher that your child will be having at the scheduled pick up time. Upon arriving at school to pick up your child, please come to the front office to sign him out and ask the receptionist to call your child out of class. Students may not wait at the front door, in the office, or outside of the building.

Vacations

Yeshiva Darchei Noam invests considerable time and energy to coordinate the vacation schedules of many boys and girls *yeshivos* in the Monsey area, towards the goal of enabling our families to spend quality time together. School days missed cause *talmidim* to miss important learning. Experience has shown us that some *talmidim* never recover the missed learning and are constantly trying to "catch up".

Should parents feel that is absolutely necessary for their child to miss a day of yeshiva, the Student Leave Request Form must be submitted to the office to the attention of Mrs. Bechhofer in the Reception Office.

The form is to be submitted at least one week prior to the child's absence (unless unforeseen circumstances arise). Once this form is completed and signed, it will be mailed home to you, distributed to your son's *Rebbeim* and Teachers and placed in the *talmid's* file.

Following your son's return to school, it is the responsibility of the student and his parents, to see to it that any missed work [class work, homework, tests, projects, etc.] is completed within 7 school days. Please understand that the yeshiva cannot be held responsible for missed work that is not completed within this allotted time.

Please fill out a separate form for each child you are requesting leave for. A copy of the recently updated form is included in this packet. Additional forms are available from the Educational Office.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event of inclement weather forcing school closings or delays, we generally follow the decision of the East Ramapo Central School District. If they determine that road conditions warrant a closing or a delay, we usually do the same. YDN has an automated message line call your home number, informing you of any important, timely school information such as a school closing, etc. Additionally, you may **call our YDN message line at (646) 222-0598** after 6:30 a.m. to listen to a recorded message, without the frustration of receiving a busy signal. On Sundays or non-transportation days, a recorded message will be left on that line no later than 7:30 a.m. Finally, an e-mail will be sent out to those YDN parents on the yeshiva e-mail list.

Please keep in mind that a planned delayed opening may be followed by a decision to cancel school entirely. If there is a one or two hour delay, call back later, especially if weather conditions are worsening.

In the event that weather conditions dictate that the Yeshiva conduct early dismissal, in addition to our automated call to you, you may call our message line to hear the most current dismissal update. Once again, parents who are on the YDN parent email list will receive notification as information becomes available to us.

If you have not yet signed up for YDN e-mail, simply send an email to dbechhofer@darcheinoam.org, and indicate in the subject line that you wish to be added to our parent email list. If you wish to include more than one email address, put the additional addresses in the body of the email.

Should you want an alternate phone number added to our automated phone calling system, please send that information to Mrs. Bechhofer as well, via her e-mail address dbechhofer@darcheinoam.org, and she will update our system.

At Darchei Noam, we believe that Torah should be learned daily – regardless of the weather. Should we be closed for a "snow day," please encourage your son to learn what he can wherever he is. It is our hope that YDN will be able to continue its special learning opportunities on such days for the older *talmidim* in Grades 6 – 8 who are able to come to Yeshiva. Please listen to the instructions on the message line for exact details.

SCHOOL HOURS

ARRIVAL TIMES:	
<i>Sunday:</i>	
Grades 1 – 8	9:00 a.m.
<i>Monday through Friday:</i>	
Grades 1 – 4	9:00 a.m.
Grade 5	7:30 a.m./9:00 carpool days
Grades 6 – 8	7:30 a.m.
<i>There is no Minyan on Sundays.</i>	

DISMISSAL TIMES:	
<i>Sunday:</i>	
Grades 1 – 8	12:45 p.m.
<i>Monday through Thursday:</i>	
Grade 1	3:30 p.m.
Grade 2-5	4:15 p.m.
Grades 6-8	5:15 p.m.
<i>Friday:</i>	
Grades 1-8	1:00 p.m.

Please carefully consult the enclosed YDN school calendar for days with special schedules.

Yeshiva Darchei Noam assumes no responsibility for *talmidim* who arrive prior to 15 minutes before the starting time of their grade or who remain more than 15 minutes after the dismissal time, unless special arrangements have been made with the school office.

SEFORIM AND TEXTBOOKS

Seforim for the *Limudei Kodesh* program are to be purchased by the parents. A list of *seforim* is enclosed with this mailing. Before purchasing any new *seforim* please check if your son is being asked to bring back a *sefer* that was purchased and/or used in a previous year.

This list does not include *seforim* required for Remedial instruction.

The school provides our *talmidim* with the secular studies textbooks and workbooks they will need. These books are loaned to the *talmidim* to use for the school year. They are the property of Yeshiva Darchei Noam. It is the

responsibility of each student to maintain all books in good condition. Parents are responsible for paying for lost or damaged books.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Yeshiva Darchei Noam strives to meet the educational needs of all students. Should a student require additional academic support in school, our Yeshiva employs a resource staff that is comprised of trained special educators. This team is coordinated by Dr. Miriam Lewis, Director of Special Services and includes a full-time *Rebbe/kriah* specialist, along with reading and math specialists.

Please note that such services are provided at additional cost to parents and will be billed accordingly. All questions or concerns with regard to payment should be made directly to the Yeshiva's business office.

Services may be provided within the mainstream class or in an individual or small group instruction out of the classroom. Additional school district services may include: testing and evaluation, related services (to mandated children), occupational and physical therapy, psychological services, resource instruction, speech and language therapy.

It is expected that parents will be diligent with regard to following any educational recommendations made by the school. Recommendations may include providing a shadow to assist a student, professional testing and evaluation, tutoring and psychological services. The partnership with the home is crucial to meeting the children's needs, particularly when behavioral issues are a factor.

Should the resources in our Yeshiva prove insufficient or ineffective for the student, Dr. Lewis will attempt to direct parents to those individuals or services that can be helpful.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided by the East Ramapo Central School District and Ramapo Central School District. They can be reached at: East Ramapo Central School District: (845) 577-6490; Ramapo Central School District: (845) 357-7783 ext.227. Kindly consult the school calendar for information on when transportation is not available. If you are picking up your child from school on days when there is school bus transportation, please park your car in the lot and walk around the building to retrieve your child. Never park in the circle reserved for the school buses.

Please see new guidelines sent to us by the East Ramapo School District for instructions should your child require a temporary bus change.

“Parents are not to call the transportation office for permission to have their children ride an alternative bus from the school. The parents are to send a written request to the school, then School Personnel will fax a note to acquire permission for the child to ride a different bus. Transportation personnel will determine if there is room on the bus for the child, and will fax a temporary pass for the student to give to the driver.

In order to help keep our students safer and more secure, these temporary passes should be used for **emergency purposes and special circumstances only.**”

VISITORS TO YESHIVA DARCHEI NOAM

Our school is dedicated to working together with our parent body. Parents are therefore always welcome guests in our school. However, all visitors – including parents – must report to the school receptionist first. If it is necessary to see a member of our faculty, please call first. As our Yeshiva grows, the administrative schedules get busier. It is in everyone's best interests to schedule an appointment in advance, allowing the necessary attention to be given to the issue you would like to discuss.

YESHIVA-APPROPRIATE ITEMS

On days that the weather allows outdoor recess, your son may bring basketballs, footballs, tennis balls, gloves etc. to use. *Talmidim* may never bring bats, hardballs or hockey sticks to Yeshiva without a written request from the Yeshiva.

When the weather prevents outdoor play, Yeshivas Ohr Reuven has been kind enough to allow us the use of their gym whenever feasible.

Sports cards or trading cards of *any* nature, with the exception of Torah or *Gedolim* cards, are not permitted in Yeshiva. Gameboys, Palm pilots, iPods, CD players, DVD players, radios, tape recorders, MP3 players, laptops or any device that is video or internet accessible are not to be brought to school **or on the bus.**

Cell phones may never be brought to school or to a yeshiva function (i.e. Bar Mitzvah, etc). For emergency contact of a student during school hours, please call the receptionist.