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Yeshiva of Virginia

**GUIDE FOR STUDENTS**

**2023-24/5784**

**A Handbook for Students and Parents**

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## SECTION I: GENERAL GUIDE

### **1) The "Right" Attitude!**

The following policies and procedures do not include every issue nor every conceivable scenario. In fact, there are many issues that were deliberately left out of this handbook. Ideally, our handbook would be empty except to say that; "In accordance with the philosophy of the school and our belief in the importance of true personal growth, each student should seek to improve himself through understanding and embracing the *Hashkafa* of our *Mesorah*." An attitude such as this will render a handbook with detailed rules, regulations, policies and procedures obsolete.

### **2) Matriculation Policy**

A student who wishes to join The Yeshiva after the first day of his 9<sup>th</sup> grade year will be accepted as a non-matriculated student. This means that enrollment is provisional and grades and credits will be awarded pending matriculation. Prior to that acceptance, the student must go through the interview process which will take place over a period of no less than two weeks. TO MATRICULATE: After the completion of one (1) grading period the student must not have failed any subject and hold at least a 75% grade point average. He will be given an attitude rating from each teacher of 3=good, 2=fair, and 1=poor. The student may not have received more than one rating of poor and must have an overall rating of "2" or better. Students who do not matriculate after two (2) quarters may not be allowed to continue at The Yeshiva.

### **3) Attendance Policy**

Any student not in the classroom when the door closes at the start of class will be considered late unless excused by the teacher. In-town students arriving late or leaving early from school must have their parents notify the school to receive an excused absence.

Any student who "cuts" class (i.e. shows up for class past the midway point or not at all, without just cause as determined by the school) will be suspended from school for a minimum of one day and a maximum of one week, to be determined by the Administration. Students from out-of-town who are suspended will be sent home. The suspension may be noted on the student's transcript and indicated on college/yeshiva applications.

In-town students who do not feel well enough to attend class must go home. Out-of-town students must be seen by a doctor This will be considered an excused absence. A student who misses more than fifty percent (50%) of class time (whether excused or not) in any one subject will receive an incomplete on his report card and will not receive credit for that quarter in that subject. Students who miss between ten (10%) and fifty (50%) percent may have their grades affected at the discretion of the teacher. Students who do not feel well enough to attend class may not participate in any school activities that day. Dormitory students must remain in the building until the next day.

### **4) Miscellaneous**

Students must wear collared and buttoned shirts, slacks (no cargo pants, jeans, sweat pants, etc.), socks and shoes to school/class/davening. Sneakers must be all black including the soles. Two-toned or multi-colored shoes are not acceptable. A suit or sports jacket is required for davening. Hats are encouraged.

No food (except water) is allowed outside the gym/cafeteria (except shabbos seudah).

Laptops brought into the Yeshiva may only be used in the classrooms or bais medrash, and for education purposes only when approved by the teacher. Cell phones may not be on during school hours in the school building; they may not be used inappropriately as defined by the administration; they may not be used for internet use. "Smart" phones, pre-paid phones, ipads, ipods, tablets or any other device (including video games) with internet or wifi capability are not permitted. No other media device is permitted to be brought into the Yeshiva without authorization from the administration. Any violation of any of these guidelines will result in the immediate and permanent confiscation of the item.

Students may leave the building during breaks in the school day (i.e. lunch) as long as the student signs out. Parents who do not wish their child leave the premises during the school day should notify the school administration in writing. Students who drive to and from school may not drive during the school day unless prior arrangements are made with the administration and parents.

Students are required to participate in daily and weekly chores. The dormitory supervisor will determine the schedule of responsibilities.

Students are required to respect and conform to any request of any adult representing the school.

### **5) Medication Policy**

Every student (day and boarding) taking any medication during school must deliver it to the dormitory counselor or the office.

This medication may be taken only when:

- discussed with and supervised by the administration
- a Medication Release Form and a Permission for Medication Form are completed and on file in the school office

With written parental permission, students may carry over-the-counter medications, to be taken at school only when approved by the administration and only in its original container or bottle.

Please Note: The school has some over-the-counter medications available for student use for pain/discomfort, fever, cough, congestion, skin rashes, cuts/abrasions, etc. See parent Authorization for Medical Treatment form.

### **6) Policies and Procedures for students who wish to "opt out" of a course, take (a) course(s) at the University of Richmond, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College or other college credit programs.**

A student may, with the permission of the administration, "opt out" of a given course to take another class or an internship approved by the administration. To qualify for a University of Richmond program a cumulative Grade Point Average of a A- or higher must be earned in the quarter prior to enrollment. Additionally, all of the student's teachers from the prior quarter will rank the attitude of the student; good – (3), fair – (2), and poor – (1). Students who receive more than one "poor" or whose average attitude rating is less than 2.5 will not be eligible for the program.

Once eligible for the program, students who wish to "opt" out of a Yeshiva course in favor of a University of Richmond course, must receive permission from the Yeshiva instructor.

There are situations where a student may wish to enroll in a course at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. Here too, if the student wishes to “opt” out of a Yeshiva course in favor of one being offered at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, the Yeshiva instructor must approve the plan. (Since J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College has minimal admission requirements and many of the courses offered are remedial in nature and/or are on a lower level than the course being offered at the Yeshiva, no minimum Grade Point Average is required and it is not restricted to seniors.)

Students may, of course, enroll in J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College or if eligible, take courses at the University of Richmond without “opting” out of Yeshiva courses.

Other courses for college credit may be offered to qualified students.

## **7. Yeshiva of Virginia Graduation Requirements**

To receive a high school diploma, students must meet the requirements for either an advanced, standard or a modified diploma. The diploma options are designed so that students will have the ability to pursue education after high school either in Jewish or general studies or to enter the workforce.

### **Standard and Advanced Diplomas**

Students must earn 32 credits from the standard course offerings below for an advanced diploma and 24 credits for a standard diploma.

Discipline Area		Advanced Diploma Credits Required	Standard Diploma Credits Required
English: 9, 10, 11, 12		4 credits	4 credits
Math: Algebra Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus/Calculus		4 credits	6 Credits – At least 2 from each section (Math & {lab} Science). The 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> courses may include approved alternative courses (e.g. Earth Science, Anatomy, Business Math, Engineering, etc.)
Science: Biology (lab) Chemistry (lab) Physics (lab) Earth Science Anatomy		4 credits (Must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	
History and Social Studies: United States Government United States History I United States History II World Geography World History I World History II Economics		4 credits	3 credits
Jewish Studies	Talmud (Includes Bkiyus and Mishna)	12 credits	8 credits
	Halacha	3 credits	2 credits
	Tanach	1 credits	1 credits

## **Modified Diploma**

Those students unable to complete the requirements on a standard level will be evaluated and placed in a modified program to replace standard level courses. With the approval of the administration, a teacher will develop a modified program specific for the needs of that student. At any point, a student will be allowed to pursue the Standard Diploma and will not be excluded from the courses and tests required to earn a Standard Diploma.

Please note: The information above addresses graduation requirements. It does not identify course/schedule requirements. The Yeshiva of Virginia requires that all enrolled students be required to participate in a full course schedule even when graduation requirements have been fully met.

## **8. Post High School Program Guidance**

There are several components of the Post High School Guidance Program

1. PSAT and SAT
2. College and Yeshiva application
3. Essay
4. Financial Aid
5. Personal guidance

SAT and Post High School Program applications are the responsibility of the parents and students. The school will assist students and parents with information and support. All high school students and their parents are given information by Rabbi Klestzick as to PSAT and SAT test dates and are assisted with the registration processes. PSAT exams are held at the yeshiva on the date arranged with the College Board. For SAT exams, (which are held at other locations) Rabbi Klestzick helps arrange for the processing of alternate test date applications (since SAT exams are otherwise on Shabbos) as well as financial fee waivers if applicable.

The English teachers assist students with college essays. The Rabbeim assist with personal guidance for choices of Yeshiva/College. After Chanukah, Rabbi David meets with each student and speaks with his parents to discuss the various options and opportunities. Together, and with the help of various outside resources intimately familiar with the many yeshivas, recommendations are made, interviews are arranged and the process of matching the soon-to-be graduate with the yeshiva is made. Throughout, Rabbi David is in touch with all the parties, including representatives of the yeshivas.

Rabbi Klestzick assists with the college application process as well as with financial aid information. All members of the faculty stand ready to assist all students and parents with guidance and support as requested by parents and students.

## SECTION II: GUIDE FOR OUT-OF-TOWN STUDENTS

### **9) General Overview**

We hope to provide a warm and caring environment for the boys' educational and social development in accord with the school's mission of teaching its students to incorporate Torah values in all aspects of everyday life.

The relationships among the students, their roommates, and the dormitory supervisors will develop over the year. As each begins to understand the needs and desires of the other, the benefits of the living experience will begin to blossom. In this spirit, these rules of conduct have been developed to 1) provide a basis for starting the relationship and 2) to address everyday issues and concerns which, if not anticipated in advance, could lead to future misunderstandings. Of course, each student's situation will be unique, and some issues will have to be dealt with on an individual basis. It is our hope that with the help of these guidelines the boys will have a very successful year.

The following applies to "out-of-town" students while in Richmond under the care of The Yeshiva.

### **10) Transportation**

Students should expect to arrange their own transportation to and from airports, train and bus stations, appointments, shopping, etc. However, every attempt will be made by the school to meet the transportation needs of all students. To try and arrange transportation please email the school at least one week in advance.

Students may not sit as a passenger in a vehicle with a driver under the age of 25 without the approval of the Principal nor drive a vehicle unless the student's parents are in Richmond.

### **11) Financial Obligations**

Financial matters will come up in the daily lives of the students and proper advance planning is therefore necessary. The student and/or his parents are responsible for expenses such as snacks, personal hygiene products, laundry soap, etc. It is recommended, therefore, that parents provide the student with some cash or an ATM card to access a hometown bank account.

### **12) The Student's Room**

Students are expected to keep their rooms in neat condition, e.g. emptying trash, changing bed sheets, putting away clothes, etc. Students are encouraged to "make themselves at home" by bringing in items to decorate the rooms. In accordance with our commitment to good taste and sensitivity to others, all such items must be approved by the administration and not offensive to roommates.

### **13) Telephone Usage**

Incoming calls may not be accepted and outgoing calls may not be made after 10:30 p.m. Students may have cell phones with the following guidelines: they may not be on during school hours (including lunch/breaks) in the school building; they may not be used after 10:30 p.m.; they may not be used inappropriately as defined by the administration; they may not be used for internet use and the school administration must have access, if requested, to the phone and the itemized bill. Any violation of any of these guidelines will result in the immediate and permanent loss of all cell phone privileges.

### **14) Medical Care**

While the student's parents bear the general and financial responsibility for all medical care, the school will arrange for urgent/emergency medical treatment while the student is in Richmond. All students must have medical insurance coverage. Parents must provide the school office with a copy of the insurance card or with all relevant insurance information. Prior to the start of school there must be an "Authorization for Medical Treatment" form, signed by the parents, and a medical/physical form, on record in the school office. The school should be notified about pertinent medical information (e.g., allergies, asthma, etc.). It is the responsibility of the student's parents to arrange for ongoing treatment (e.g., orthodontic check-ups, allergy shots, etc.).

### **15) Out of Town Trips**

It is expected that students will return home for the major breaks (see calendar). Weekend and other special purpose trips are permitted, provided they do not interfere with the school schedule. All trips away from school (to home or elsewhere) must be approved by the students' parents, and the administration prior to the purchase of any tickets. Before planning a trip, the student must give ample notification to the school. If a trip home will involve missing class time, a written request by the parents must be submitted and the student must obtain prior approval from the administration (see Form C below).

### **16) Student Life**

The social conduct of the students of The Yeshiva of Virginia should reflect the values of the school in manners of dress, types of entertainment, and general comportment inside and outside of the school environment.

Although the dorm is in what would be considered an extremely safe neighborhood, curfew hours (i.e., the time when students must be back in the dorm) are as follows: Motzai Shabbos through Thursday 10:00 p.m., and Friday at 11:00 p.m. (unless otherwise approved by the administration). It is the student's responsibility to keep the dorm supervisor apprised of his exact whereabouts and of all activities taking place during non-school hours and he must sign out when leaving the premises. Any violation of protocol for leaving the building, including the violation of curfew will result in a one week student grounding.

Lights out at 11:15 p.m. and no talking in the rooms after 11:30 p.m. Students who are late to Shacharis will not be permitted to leave the building (including attending activities such as basketball practice that evening).



**17) Laundry**

The student will need to bring his own laundry, cleaning, and personal hygiene products. He will also need to bring bedding, sheets, and towels and will be responsible for laundering them regularly. (The dormitory's washer and dryer will be available for student use.)

**18) Personal Property and Privacy**

The School considers anything brought onto school grounds, (which includes student residence quarters), to be the property of school. The school reserves the right to search and or confiscate any item or property brought onto school grounds. While the school understands that students wish to retain privacy and personal ownership of property, by attending The Yeshiva of Virginia students forgo those rights and submit to the authority of the school in all such matters. This approach helps us create a healthy, nurturing and loving environment conducive to the personal growth of each student.

The administration may amend, adjust or add to the rules, regulations, policies or procedures at any time.

.....

I have read and happily agree to comply fully with all school expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

I have read and I understand the information and support the expectations outlined in this handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*