

Yeshiva of Virginia

GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

5768/2007-08

A Handbook for Students and Parents



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 leave 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 freshman 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 C 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. Each unexcused lateness will result in a detention (to be served Sunday afternoon). 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 will be noted on the student's transcript and indicated on college/yeshiva applications.

A student who has three (3) unexcused class absences (including lateness, being sent out of the classroom, etc.) in a grading period in any one class will automatically lose one full grade point.

Students who do not feel well enough to attend class must go home. 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 cannot participate in any school activities that day. Dormitory students must remain in the building until the next day.

4) Miscellaneous

Students must wear collared shirts, slacks (no cargo pants), socks and shoes to school/class/davening. Sneakers must be all black. Jackets are 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; they may not be used inappropriately as defined by the administration; they may not be used for text messages, nor internet use. 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 not leave the building during breaks in the school day (i.e. lunch) unless a supervisor is notified, and 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.

5) Medication Policy

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

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:

- in a dosage amount for one day
- only in its original container or bottle

Please Note: The school has over-the-counter medication 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 take (a) course(s) at the University of Richmond or at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

To qualify for the University of Richmond program a cumulative Grade Point Average of a B+ 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.

All schedules, fee information, catalogues, and forms are available in the Yeshiva office.

SECTION II: GUIDE FOR OUT-OF-TOWN STUDENTS

1) 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.

2) Transportation

Every attempt will be made by the school to meet the transportation needs of all students. Two weeks advance notice to the office increases the chances of securing volunteer drivers.

Students may not sit as a passenger in a vehicle with a driver under the age of 25 nor drive a passenger under the age of 25 without the consent of the Administration.

3) 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, entertainment, and the round-trip cost of visits home. It is recommended, therefore, that parents provide the student with some cash or an ATM card to access a hometown bank account.

In advance of the student's arrival in Richmond, the student's parents will provide the school with \$100.00 to be used in the event of unforeseen circumstances involving the student. The student's parents upon notification by the school must replenish any amount used; any unused portion will be refunded when the student leaves the school.

4) The Student's Room

Students are expected to keep their rooms in neat condition, e.g. emptying trash, changing bed sheets, putting away clothes, and tidying the bathroom. 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, of course, not be offensive to either roommates or the school administration.)

5) 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.)

6) 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 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.).

7) Out of Town Trips

It is expected that students will return home for the major breaks (Succoth, Thanksgiving, winter, Chanukah, Pesach, etc.). Weekend and other holiday trips are also 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. (All related forms are available in the school office.) In all cases, the school may determine whether any trip might be detrimental to the educational well-being of the student.

8) 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. Boys are not permitted to socialize with girls unless approved by the Administration.

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: Sunday through Thursday 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11:00 p.m. (unless 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 receive a detention to be served on Sunday afternoon and will not be permitted to leave the building or to attend basketball practice that evening.

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

9) Telephone Usage

A telephone line is provided for student use. 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); 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 text messages, nor internet use, and copies of all bills may be requested by the school administration. Any violation of any of these guidelines will result in the immediate and permanent loss of all cell phone privileges.

10) Yeshiva Student Progress Report for "Out-of Town" Students

The Yeshiva maintains the confidentiality of student records. Students who come to The Yeshiva from outside Richmond will have copies of their report cards sent to their parents.

11) 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