
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL LOWER DIVISION

2017-2018
5777-5778



Dear Parents:

Shalom! We hope you are enjoying a restful, healthy, and cool end of summer vacation. As we prepare for the 2017/2018 school year, there are a number of important items we wish to bring to your attention at this time. First and foremost, if at any time you would like to discuss a matter of concern with us, please do not hesitate to call. We are committed to each and every student's well-being, and to this end, need your input and feedback. The key to your child's success at the Yeshivah of Flatbush is good communication between parents and school.

We look forward to an exciting, productive year, and seek your cooperation, input, and feedback so as to maximize the learning experience for each and every student in the Yeshivah of Flatbush.

**לשנה טובה תיכתבו ותיחתמו. We wish you and your family a healthy, happy, fulfilling year!
תזכו לשנים רבות!**

Rabbi Lawrence Schwed
Head of Elementary School

Mr. Robert Berkman
Principal, General Studies

Mrs. Rivka Zaklikowski
Associate Principal, Torah Studies

Mrs. Debra Miller
Assistant Principal, General Studies

I. The Calendar

The Elementary School calendar for 5777-5778 (2017-2018) will be sent under separate cover. Please take a moment to review the calendar carefully, noting vacation and other days when the Yeshivah is closed, special days of early dismissal, and days when regular transportation is not available. There may be slight differences in the Early Childhood, Lower Division, Middle Division and High School calendars. We bring this to your attention so that you may plan accordingly. We expect every student to be in attendance every day of school, except in the case of illness. *Please adhere to vacation schedules and not take your child out in advance. Make certain that your child arrives at school on time (before 8:00 A.M.) every day.*

II. School Opening Procedures and Class Admission Cards

Learning begins on the very first day of school. As such, we seek parental cooperation in seeing that schedules and times are adhered to and that school supplies are purchased before school begins. This will help maximize learning time and create a comfortable atmosphere for your child. Please check the list carefully, especially if your child is assigned to a separate Hebrew and English class.

Your child(ren)'s Class Admission Card(s) must be presented to the morning teacher upon arrival on the first day of school. *If you did not receive the card/s, please call 718-377-4040 ext.149 for Naomi or ext.103 for Barbara or email executiveoffice@flatbush.org. Admission cards may be withheld for either financial or academic reasons.* No student will be admitted to class without this card. It is also important that every student return the student information update form on the first day of school. ***Please be sure to complete any missing information, and changes in cell phone numbers and email addresses. In an emergency, the information that you provide on this card is critical to your child's safety and well-being.***

Please note that in Grades 3, 4 and 5, your child may be in two different classes, one for Hebrew and one for English. This was done in order to place your child in the most appropriate class for his/her individual needs.

If you have any concerns about your child's class placement, please allow a six week period of adjustment before you call the school to discuss the matter. Proper class placement is essential to a child's academic and social development. It is determined by the principals after a thorough and objective study of each individual student's academic achievements and abilities, as well as social adjustment, teacher recommendation, and individual student needs. Pupil Personnel Services' staff are also consulted in many cases.

III. First Day of School

a) Grade 1: **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 - 8:00 AM -1:30 PM**. Students report to their classrooms as indicated on Class Admission Cards. There is **NO yellow bus transportation**. Yellow bus begins on **Thursday, September 7th for First Grade**. See Section VIII Transportation for private van service. Also, see separate letter for parents of First Grade students.

b) Grade 2: **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 - 8:00 AM - 4:20 PM**. Students will report directly to the classroom as indicated on the Class Admission Card. **Wednesday, September 6th is a Full Day Schedule**. There **IS yellow bus transportation** on **Wednesday, September 6th, only for Grades 2-5**. See Section VIII Transportation for private van service.

c) Grades 3, 4 and 5: **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 - 8:00 AM - 4:20 PM**.

All students in **Grades 3-5** are to **report to the auditorium**. Teachers will meet the children in the auditorium and escort them to their classroom.

Please remember that on Fridays, as well as those days listed as "Early Dismissal Schedule," dismissal is at 1:20 P.M. for Grades 1-5.

IV. Throughout the School Year:

Grade 1 and 2: Students will report DIRECTLY to the CLASSROOM indicated on the Class Admission Card.

Grade 3, 4 & 5: Students will report to the gym according to their A.M. class.




3rd and 4th Grade assistant teachers are on duty and will escort the 3rd and 4th graders to class at 8:00 A.M.

5th graders wait in the gym until instructed to go to their classrooms at 8:00 A.M.

STUDENTS IN GRADES 3, 4 AND 5 MAY NOT GO TO THEIR CLASSROOMS OR WAIT IN THE STAIRWELLS BEFORE 8:00 A.M.

Please be sure that your child arrives on time to school. Class begins at 8:00 A.M. and students who are late may miss schoolwork, as well as tefillah, gym, or music. Late students will be marked as such on attendance records.

V. Lunch

1. Students who bring their own lunch to school may only bring **dairy** or **parve** - NO MEAT – The Laws of Kashruth must be carefully observed. All packaged food must bear an , , or  Kosher certification. Other Rabbinic certifications or questions should be checked with Rabbi Schwed or Rabbi Hertzberg. **ONLY DAIRY OR PARVE PRODUCTS MAY BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL.** Afternoon milk or juice will be provided for all students.

2. **Tuesday** is **Meat Day** - The Ladies Auxiliary sells meat lunches for those who sign up in advance. Please note: Kashrut observance requires that **ALL home lunches every Tuesday** must be **parve** not dairy. You may send pasta, salad, tuna (parve only), eggs, and jelly, etc. - **NO** milk, cheese, yogurt, chocolate, etc.

3. Students may order lunch from the Ladies Auxiliary through the online ordering system, which will be explained under separate cover. Snacks are sold at lunch and after school by the Ladies Auxiliary. Students may NOT go to the ice cream truck or neighborhood stores/gas stations to buy snacks after school.

4. Due to nut allergies among some of our students, **we are a NUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL.** Please do not send **ANY TYPE OF NUT** butter sandwiches or snacks that contain or may contain nuts/traces of nuts or sesame and/or nut or sesame oil. **In some classes where there is an identified child with a potentially life threatening allergy, parents of the students in that class will be permitted to send only specifically designated snacks with their child.**

VI. Dress Code - The Flatbush Wardrobe

Students in grades 1-8 are to be dressed in the Flatbush wardrobe. The wardrobe manual is attached to this email. You can access the Wardrobe Manual online on our website www.flatbush.org. Just click on the large circle on the front page of the website. You will be able to read/download a PDF of the wardrobe. The Principals in our Yeshivah are responsible for the application of the dress code policy at their sole discretion. If a determination is made that your child is not dressed in accordance with the Flatbush Wardrobe, you may be required to bring the appropriate clothing to school before your child will be allowed into class. If you have any questions about our policy or if we can be of further assistance, you can email Ruth Waide at rwaide@flatbush.org.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to maintain our standards of tzniut (Jewish laws of modesty) and ask you to please dress appropriately when visiting our Yeshivah building.

Lands' End provides rewards back to Yeshivah of Flatbush for all school apparel purchases, when you use the link below:

<http://www.landsend.com/pp/SchoolSearch.html?action=landing&selectedSchoolNum=900156316>. Please support our vendors as many give back.

VII. Cell Phones

From the moment a child enters the building until dismissal, cell phones must remain turned off in the child's knapsack. Students are not permitted to make calls from a cell phone during the school day. If a child's cell phone rings or the child is found using the cell, the phone will be taken away. The phone will be returned only when a parent comes to school to retrieve it. In addition, please note that students are not permitted to wear an Apple watch to school.

VIII. Transportation - Please read carefully

Private van transportation will be available for those students in Grades 1 - 5 who have signed up for it, beginning the first full day of school. Please note that Meyer Transit is the only school authorized van service. ***Only students using Meyer Transit will be accompanied to their van by an adult at dismissal.***

Please be sure that your child knows the name of their van driver as well as the route number that the Yeshivah assigns to the van.

If you elect to use another van service or driver, please be very clear with your child about where she/he will be picked up and the name of the driver.

Yellow bus service (free) will begin on Wednesday, September 6th for Grades 2-6.

The AM yellow bus company is Consolidated. The PM bus may be Consolidated, Jofaz, or All American.

Yellow bus service (free) will begin on Thursday, September 7 for Grade 1.

Mr. Eli Orner is our transportation coordinator. If you have any questions regarding your child's yellow bus transportation, you may leave a message for him at Ext. 184.

Please note the following important telephone numbers:

Yellow Bus Company: Consolidated 718-346-9600

Meyer Transit: (Private Van) 718-646-7400 or meyertransit@aol.com

****** PLEASE NOTE: Your child may only travel on the yellow bus to which he/she has been assigned. Students may NOT go to school or home from school with a friend on a yellow bus that is not their own. This is not a Yeshivah policy, it is a City of NY Office of Pupil Transportation policy.***

IX. Parent-Teacher Orientation

These evening meetings are an important opportunity to meet your children's teachers, hear their expectations and ask questions. Please make every effort to attend. THIS IS NOT AN EVENING FOR INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES BETWEEN PARENT AND TEACHERS. These are scheduled for later in the term.

Parent-Teacher Orientation Dates:

Grade 1	Wednesday, September 6 7:00 PM in the classrooms
Grades 2 & 3	Wednesday, September 13 7:30 PM in the classrooms
Grades 4 & 5	Monday, September 25 7:30 PM in the classrooms

For classroom orientations, please go directly to your child's classroom. For children in different Hebrew and English classes: go to the AM class first - then the PM classroom as indicated on your child's admission card.

X. Who's Who In The Lower Division

Rabbi Lawrence Schwed, Head of Elementary School -	- Ext. 143
Mrs. Elkie Peretz, Executive Assistant	- Ext. 143
Mr. Robert Berkman, Principal, General Studies	- Ext. 183
Mrs. Eve Franco, Administrative Assistant	- Ext. 132
Mrs. Rivka Zaklikowski, Associate Principal, Torah Studies	- Ext. 230
Mrs. Vered Cohen, Administrative Assistant	- Ext. 120
Mrs. Debra Miller, Assistant Principal, General Studies	- Ext. 127
Mrs. Sandra Sidoui, Administrative Assistant	- Ext. 188
Mrs. Ruth Waide, Director of Pupil Personnel Services	- Ext. 128
Mrs. Rikki Zano, Administrative Assistant	- Ext. 189
Ms. Esther Stern, Director, Resource Room	- Ext. 146
Mrs. Iris Bukobza, Family Services Rep.	- Ext. 169
Mrs. Libby Taub, Registrar	- Ext. 141
Mrs. Shmuela Nemet, R.N., School Nurse	- Ext. 148
Executive Office Front Desk	- Ext. 149

XI. Homework for Absentees

The policy for obtaining homework for students who are absent will be set forth for each class, by the teacher, at the parent-teacher orientation in September 2017. **Please make every attempt not to call school at the last minute for homework.**

XII. Early Sign-Out

When you take your child out of school before the end of the day, your child misses important learning opportunities. Please try to schedule appointments for after school.

If it is necessary to take your child out, please avoid the hours when your child is in Math

Streaming: **Grade 3** - 1:20 P.M – 2:00 P.M

Grades 4 and 5 - 2:10 P.M – 3:00 P.M.

Sign-outs of your child(ren) are permitted up until **3:45 PM** (Monday – Thursday); Fridays – **12:45 PM** If you arrive after **3:45 PM**, you will be asked to wait until 4:20 PM dismissal for your child.

To facilitate sign outs, ask your child where he/she expects to be at the time you plan to sign him/her out, i.e., art, gym, recess, resource room, etc. as the class may be out of the classroom when you arrive at school.

PLEASE NOTE: SIGN OUT FOR GRADES 1-5 ARE WITH THE FAMILY SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE, MRS. IRIS BUKOBZA, ON THE 1ST FLOOR TO THE LEFT AS YOU ENTER THE LOBBY. If Iris is not at her desk, sign outs are from Libby Taub's office, also on the 1st floor. Please do not call or go to the nurse's office to sign out your child. Your compliance in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please see **XV. Safety and Security** for further details about entering the school.

XIII. Contacting Your Child's Teacher – PLEASE NOTE

The best way to contact your child's teacher directly is by email, using the initial of their first name followed by their last name and _te@flatbush.org. For example, Jane Doe would be jdoe_te@flatbush.org. John Smith would be jsmith_te@flatbush.org.

You can find the teacher's first initial and last name, for both Torah Studies and General Studies classes, on the school supply list, under each class.

You can also send a note with your child, write in the homework pad or leave a message at extension 120, Torah Studies assistant, or extension 132, General Studies assistant.

XIV. HEALTH

- EXT 148

It is important that you inform our school nurse, Shmuela Nemet, R.N., of any medical conditions that your child may have or medications that your child may be taking.

-OTC FORM – Permission for administering over the counter medications must be on file in the nurse's office each year. The form is attached to this email and can also be found under Forms on the YOF website.

-ALLERGY FORM – If your child has an allergy, an allergy information form must be on file each year in the nurse's office. This form is attached to this email and can also be found under Forms on the YOF website.

-3RD GRADE IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Please note that students in Grade 3 this 2017- 2018 school year are required to have 2 varicella (chicken pox) vaccines.

XV. Safety and Security

-EXT 100

In the interest of safety and security, parents may not visit classrooms or speak to teachers during school hours without permission from a Principal and a visitor's pass from security.

PLEASE NOTE: For security reasons, parents and visitors are required to use the East 10th Street entrance only. All other doors are alarmed and will ring when opened.

All parents and visitors must first sign in at the security booth whenever visiting the school. You will be given a visitor's badge to wear during your visit. This is how we know that visitors are authorized in the building.

The safety of our students is of utmost concern to us. To this end, we do not permit students to buy from the ice cream trucks near school, nor to shop before boarding the buses or vans. We request that you reinforce these rules with your children.

XVI. Last Day of School

Grades 1-5 - Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 12:00 Noon.

Please arrange your summer vacation so that your children are in school through the last day of classes.