

Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School

ישיבה תיכונית בית יוסף



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Phone: 862-437-8000

www.jkha.org

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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Students,

Welcome to an exciting year of learning, discovery and exploration. As a student in Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School, you will have many opportunities to engage in the process of learning that will help you broaden your perspective, challenge your assumptions, and enrich your lives.

Learning takes place in the classroom, during co-curricular activities and social engagements. Although your teachers will encourage you to reflect upon and learn from your academic and co-curricular experiences in school, learning is ultimately your responsibility and privilege. We urge you to take advantage of every opportunity offered to you, both in person and remote. We are confident that our well-developed curriculum and broad array of co-curricular opportunities will challenge and inspire you.

Your faculty, advisors and administrators are deeply invested in your educational experience at RKYHS. Seek them out, learn from their wisdom and benefit from their commitment to you. Contribute to our school community wherever possible.

The Student Handbook carefully delineates and describes our educational program, our expectations, and our responsibility to you to maintain a healthy and vibrant school environment. That environment will support your learning and preserve the integrity of our Yeshiva. Please read the Handbook carefully and discuss it with your teachers and parents. By partnering with you to create a positive school culture, we are building a community that will promote intellectual growth and emotional maturity.

I am eager to help support your journey through high school. I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with me, and to discuss your challenges and reflections. My door is always open to you. I look forward to a successful year at RKYHS.

Shalom,

Eliezer E. Rubin

ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

Rabbi Eliezer Rubin – Head of School

Mr. Howard Plotsker – Associate Principal

Mr. Gary Berger – Assistant Principal

Ms. Davida Stadtmauer – Dean of Academic Affairs

Rabbi David Chamudot – *Sgan Rosh HaYeshiva*

Rabbi Steven Hirschey – Dean of Students

Art:

Ms. Debbie Buechler

Athletic Director:

Rabbi Richard Kirsch

English:

Ms. Diane Bohs – Department Chair

Ms. Ashley Crater

Ms. Chaye Kohl

Ms. Deborah Orens

Guidance:

Mr. Gary Berger – Assistant Principal Guidance and Student Services

Ms. Sarah Guttman – Assistant Director of Guidance

Ms. Hilary Levin – Registrar

Dr. Ben Madsen - Psychologist

Mr. Logan Singman

Ms. Sarah Stiefel

College Guidance

Ms. Cara Levine

Ms. Michele Levine

Religious Guidance

Ms. Chaya Miriam Gerson

Rabbi Chayim Gerson

Rabbi David Schlusberg

Israel Guidance

Rabbi Steven Hirschey

Ms. Norma Mintz

Rabbi Shlomo Landau

History and Social Sciences:

Mr. Justin Bryant –Department Chair

Ms. Henny Bochner

Mr. Daniel Cipriani

Rabbi Richard Kirsch

Dr. Hal Levy

Mr. Howard Malitz

Rabbi Dr. Sacha Pecaric

Holocaust Studies:

Rabbi Dr. Sacha Pecaric

Math:

Ms. Katie Formato

Ms. Ellen Kirson – Department Chair

Ms. Taylor Moskovich

Mr. Brandon Tobal

Media and Computer Science:

Ms. Abbey Roth –Department Chair, Library and Media

Judaic Studies:

Rabbi David Chamudot

Rabbi Mayer Erps

Ms. Alex Fuchs

Ms. Chaya Miriam Gerson

Rabbi Chayim Gerson

Rabbi Shlomo Landau

Rabbi Yair Menchel

Ms. Norma Mintz – Tanach Dept. Chair

Rabbi Yaakov Mintz – Talmud Dept. Chair

Rabbi Jamie Pearlberg

Rabbi Dr. Sacha Pecaric

Ms. Danielle Rosenzweig

Rabbi Eliezer E. Rubin

Rabbi David Schlusberg

Rabbi Yosef Sharbat

Physical Education/Health/Driver's Ed.:

Mr. Craig Goldman

Mr. Jason Neuhof – Department Chair

Ms. Anat Niv

Professional Development:

Ms. Debbie Finkelstein – Dean of Instruction

Science:

Ms. Gabrielle Elkaim

Mr. Howard Malitz

Mr. Jason Neuhof

Ms. Abbey Roth

Dr. Steven Stein – Department Chair

Dr. W. Scott Stornetta

Ms. Alina Suarez

Ms. Sri Sundaram

Student Support Services & Learning Lab

Mr. Logan Singman

Rabbi Harry Sinoff

Ms. Sarah Stiefel - Guidance

Ms. Davida Stadtmauer – Director

Student Activities:

Ms. Chaya Miriam Gerson

Dr. Hal Levy – Director

Rabbi Yair Menchel – Senior Programming

World Language:

Ms. Michal Ben-Guy – Department Chair, Hebrew Language

Ms. Gail Hausdorff

Ms. Azita Moradi

Ms. Daphna Shemesh

Ms. Etti Steinberg



RKYHS MONDAY – THURSDAY BELL SCHEDULE

Monday – Thursday	Time
Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 8:50
Period 1	8:55 – 9:30
Period 2	9:35 – 10:10
Period 3	10:15 – 10:50
Period 4	10:55 – 11:30
Period 5	11:35 – 12:10
Period 6	12:15 – 12:50
Lunch	12:53 – 1:28
Period 7	1:30 – 2:05
Period 8	2:10 – 2:45
Mincha	2:48 – 3:03
Period 9	3:05 – 3:40
Period 10	3:45 – 4:20

FRIDAY A/B SCHEDULE

Fri A	Time	Fri B	Time
Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 8:45	Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 8:45
D'var Torah	8:45 – 9:00	D'var Torah	8:45 – 9:00
Period 1	9:10 – 9:50	Period 2	9:10 – 9:50
Period 3	9:55 – 10:35	Period 4	9:55 – 10:35
Period 5	10:40 – 11:20	Period 6	10:40 – 11:20
Period 7	11:25 – 12:05	Period 8	11:25 – 12:05
Period 9	12:10 – 12:50	Period 10	12:10 – 12:50
Lunch		Lunch	

FRIDAY A/B SEED SCHEDULE

Fri A SEED	Time	Fri B SEED	Time
Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 8:45	Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 8:45
D'var Torah	8:45 – 9:00	D'var Torah	8:45 – 9:00
Period 1	9:10 – 9:45	Period 2	9:10 – 9:45
Period 3	9:50 – 10:30	Period 4	9:50 – 10:30
Period 5	10:35 – 11:10	Period 6	10:35 – 11:10
SEED	11:15 – 11:50	SEED	11:15 – 11:50
Period 7	11:55 – 12:30	Period 8	11:55 – 12:30
Period 9	12:35 – 1:10	Period 10	12:35 – 1:10
Lunch		Lunch	

RKYHS FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Month	Day	A/B
September	4	No School
	11	A
	25	B
October	16	A
	23	B
	30	A
November	6	B
	13	A
	20	B
December	4	A
	11	B
	18	A
January	8	B
	15	A
February	5	B
	12	A
	19	B
March	5	A
	12	B
	19	A
April	9	B
	16	A
	23	B
	30	A
May	7	B
	14	A
	21	B
	28	A
June	4	B
	11	Finals

DAILY ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE

Regular attendance is a basic precondition for learning. When a student must be absent, parents and students are asked to adhere to the following procedures. RKYHS always makes every effort to accommodate any special events and exceptional disruptions.

- If a student is absent, a parent must send an e-mail alerting the school before 8:00am to attendance@rkyhs.org or call the high school attendance line, 862-437-8178 stating the name and grade of the student, the reason for the absence and the number of days that may be missed. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain all missed work and assignments.
- If a student arrives late to school or must leave school early, a parent email or phone call is requested at least two hours in advance.
- If a student arrives late to school or leaves school early, he/she must sign in/out at the office of the Associate Principal.
- An absence from class without prior parental approval is considered an unexcused absence or a cut. Parents may not excuse their students after the absence.
- Students are reminded that they are responsible for all school work covered during the class they missed.
- Students must ask for permission to miss class for special events and/or for meetings with guidance and administration.
- If a student will be absent for an extended period of time for any reason, a "Planned Absence Form" should be submitted to Rabbi Hirschey for approval.

TEFILLA

Our school day begins with *Tefilla*, which is regarded as the foundation to a personal relationship with *Hashem*. At RKYHS we strive to create a positive and appropriate atmosphere during *davening*. At 8:00 am, the first bell rings and all students should enter their appropriate room for *davening*. We begin *davening* promptly at 8:03am with *b'rachot* led by the *shaliach tzibur*. Students should proceed directly to *davening* after the first bell.

Schedule at a Glance	Event:
8:00 am	First Bell
8:03 am	<i>Davening</i> Begins
8:15 am	Late to <i>Davening</i>
8:30 am	Absent from <i>Davening</i>

Guidelines for *Davening* at RKYHS:

1. Every student must bring his/her own personal *siddur*.
2. Students may be assigned a *makom kavua*.
3. Students serve as *chazanim* and *gabbaim*.
4. Talking and cell phone use are not appropriate during *Tefilla*.
5. At *mincha*, *shacharit* and *arvit*, students are expected to remain standing and quiet upon the completion of their own recitation of the *Shmone Esrei*.
6. Boys must wear *tefillin* during *shacharit* and they should not be removed until the end of *aleinu*.

Lateness and Absent from *Davening*:

Students are expected to arrive to *davening* no later than 8:03 am. Any student arriving after 8:15 am will be considered late to *davening* unless excused by the Dean of Students. Students who are unexcused from *davening* are subject to the same consequences as a student marked absent from class, as *Tefilla* is considered a vital part of our school's education and identity.

Unexcused Lateness to <i>Tefilla</i>	Consequence
1-3	Warning
4-6	Lunch Detention
Subsequent Unexcused Lateness(es)	Parental contact

MISSING CLASS

Attendance is a necessity for the safety and academic success of our students. All members of the school community work together to stress that class attendance must always be students' first priority. Students and parents are expected to follow these procedures if, for any reason, a student is going to be absent from class.

Failure to adhere to these policies will result in the absence being considered unexcused. Missing class unexcused is considered both a serious academic and disciplinary offense that also may jeopardize our students' safety. Therefore, students should be aware of the following penalties for missing a class unexcused.

Cut Class	Consequence
First	One Lunch Detention; parental contact
Second	Two lunch detentions; parental contact
Third	After school detention; parental contact
Fourth	In-school suspension or after school detention; parent/ administrator conference; disciplinary probation.
Fifth	Indefinite suspension until parent administrative conference. Re-evaluation of admissions standing.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is as important as regular attendance in terms of learning. The third lateness to class will result in a lunch detention. The fourth through sixth infraction will result in a two-day lunch detention. After three late arrivals in two or more classes, parents will be contacted and further disciplinary consequences may result.

DRESS CODE

Our dress code is guided by the value of *tzniut*; as such, our dress code reflects the value of modesty and appearing presentable. We encourage students to dress modestly and comfortably. Students must be in dress code throughout the entire school day. The dress code, like other school policies, must be observed at all school-sanctioned events or activities. The staff and administration reserve the right to decide on individual cases as to appropriateness of any particular fashion.

- **Masks covering the nose and mouth must be worn at all times**
- All clothing must be neat and clean
- No tattered, torn, or fraying clothes
- No hats, hoods or bandanas
- No slippers, flip flops, or slides
- Hair must be presentable; any hair coloring must remain natural
- Students are encouraged to dress comfortably and in ways that resonate the goals of *tzniut*, or modesty

BOYS

General

- *Tzitzit* and a *kippah* are expected to be worn at all times
- Hair must be kept neat, with sideburns in accordance with *Halacha*
- No earrings

Shirts

- Shirts must be full button-down with collars or three-button collared shirts (no inappropriate branding or slogans)
- Sweaters and sweatshirts may be worn, but a collared shirt must be visible
- Button-down shirts should remain buttoned for the duration of the school day
- T-shirts are only permitted during gym class. Sleeveless undershirts not permitted

Pants

- No jeans, sweatpants, track pants etc.

GIRLS

Shirts

- Sleeves must reach at least to mid-bicep
- Shirts should not be low cut or tight-fitting
- Undergarments cannot be visible
- Sheer clothing is not allowed

Skirts/Dresses

- Dress and skirt length (including any cutout fabric) must reach the knee cap
- Leggings are permitted so long as the skirt remains an appropriate length
- Skirts should not be tight-fitting
- Flare or skater skirts are permitted if they are of appropriate length

Skirts are available for purchase from Mr. Plotsker's office

Dress Code Violation

If a student is called to the office because of a dress code infraction, he/she must change the garment in question (school supplies skirts and shirts). After the third dress code infraction, students will be given a new skirt or shirt to keep and will be charged for it. A fourth infraction will result in a one-day lunch detention, a fifth infraction will result in a two-day lunch detention, and a sixth infraction **will result in repercussions at the discretion of the administration**. Disputing or refusing to comply with the instructions of any member of the faculty or administration regarding a dress code infraction is regarded as a significant disciplinary event.

GRADING SYSTEM

Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School issues interim and semester grade reports. Report cards are issued twice per year. At the midpoint of each semester, quarterly progress reports are issued. Some courses have final examinations which are factored into final grades.

Transcripts reflect the final numerical average, which is calculated from the numerical grades from the two semesters plus the midterm and final exam grades. Advanced Placement, Honors, Accelerated and college-offered courses are weighted. Classes are tracked as Regular, College Prep, Honors, and Advanced Placement. Grade point average (GPA) is determined based on the conversion chart. RKYHS does not rank students. RKYHS calculates two separate GPAs for Judaic and General Studies courses of study indicated on each student's transcript along with the combined GPAs and the cumulative GPA for each academic year. Courses completed at other schools are not calculated into a student's RKYHS GPA.

Final grades are calculated based on the following formula:

A year end class grade is calculated differently based on the following conditions of a particular class.

- A class with no midterm or final will calculate: Semester 1 – 50%; Semester 2 – 50%
- A class with no midterm but with a final will calculate: Semester 1 – 45%; Semester 2 – 45%; Final exam – 10%
- A class with a midterm and a final will calculate: Semester 1 – 40%; Midterm – 10%; Semester 2 – 40%; Final – 10%

RKYHS GRADING SCALE

Numerical Grade		Letter Grade		Unweighted GPA (non-accelerated)	Accelerated Weighted GPA	Honors Weighted GPA	AP Weighted GPA
93-100	=	A	=	4.0	4.25	4.5	5.0
90-92	=	A-	=	3.66	3.91	4.16	4.66
87-89	=	B+	=	3.33	3.58	3.83	4.33
83-86	=	B	=	3.0	3.25	3.5	4.0
80-82	=	B-	=	2.66	2.91	3.16	3.66
77-79	=	C+	=	2.33	2.58	2.83	3.33
73-76	=	C	=	2.0	2.25	2.5	3.0
70-72	=	C-	=	1.66	1.91	2.16	2.66
65-69	=	D	=	1.0	1.25	1.5	2.0
<65	=	F	=	0	0	0	0

HOMEWORK

We recognize the rigor of our dual curriculum, and faculty and administration work hard to give assignments that are reasonable and manageable. In order to help students to manage their workload, teachers are encouraged to limit homework to about 20 minutes per subject per night, on average. A test schedule is maintained by the administration so that a student will not have more than two tests on any given day.

TESTS AND QUIZZES

Tests are designed to assess learning at appropriate intervals. A test is defined as an examination that is designed to take most or all a period to complete. A quiz is defined as an assessment that is designed to take up to 15 minutes to complete and may include material taught up to 3 days prior to the quiz. **Since phones cannot be collected, they must be turned off and placed upside down on the desk during class and tests.**

Students who are studying remotely on the day of an assessment are encouraged to take the assessment with the class if they feel well and are absent due to underlying health issues or due to possible contact with COVID positive person(s), or learning remotely due to family health concerns.

REMOTE TESTING POLICIES

- Camera must be at an angle to show the desk
- Student must sit at a table
- Speaker View must be enabled to minimize distractions

Students who are absent on test days and too sick to take the test remotely will take make-up tests in grade-specific testing rooms at lunch:

- 9th and 10th grade testing rooms will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays
- 11th and 12th grade testing rooms will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays

TESTING AFTER AN ABSENCE

1. Students have 3 days to complete a test after an absence due to illness.
2. Students that arrive late to school and miss a test or quiz must complete the test or quiz during lunch on the closest scheduled make-up day.
3. After 3 days and up until one week, 15% will be deducted from the examination.
4. After one week and up to two weeks, 20% will be deducted from the examination.
5. After 2 weeks and up until a month, 30% will be deducted from the examination.
6. After a month, student will receive a zero on the examination.
7. If you know that you will be absent (non-illness), please contact Rabbi Hirschey.

MIDTERMS AND FINAL EXAMS

Examinations are given in some subjects. No quizzes, tests or papers will be due during the week prior to final examinations. High stakes exams are an important part of the academic experience. If for any reason a midterm or final exam is going to be missed, the Dean of Students should be notified as soon as possible. A doctor's note may be necessary in case of illness.

RKYHS Residency Requirements

Being present and participating in class is a vital component of a successful educational experience even while learning remotely. Students who miss class, excessively unexcused, may be penalized according to the following rubric from their class participation grade. The administration may assign additional academic penalties to students who frequently violate the residency requirement.

Days Absent (% of semester)	Percent Deduction
9 (15%)	15%
12 (20%)	20%
15 (25%)	25%
20 (33%)	Administration Intervention

EXTENDED TIME TESTING POLICY

Students with a documented disability may be entitled to extended time during exams. By following RKYHS's Extended Time Testing Policy, students are provided with their legally mandated accommodations, while also ensuring the integrity of our assessments.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, all tests will be planned as 24 minute tests to enable extended time to fit in the scheduled class period. The only exception will be Friday remote tests which will be used for specific classes and may be arranged to be longer.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Students with current documentation who meet the criteria for classification are eligible for 50% extended time. Students who have not been classified with a learning disability through a child study team evaluation and wish to request an accommodation of 50% extended time for a diagnoses of ADHD or Generalized Anxiety Disorder, must provide the school with documentation from a **neurologist or psychiatrist**, regarding onset of diagnosis and current treatment plan. Accommodations of multiple day testing for ACT are extremely rare; the school will evaluate a student's documentation and determine **if the request is appropriate** based on ACT criteria.

END-OF-YEAR ACADEMIC REMEDIATION

Should a student receive an F in a course, the school administration will be in contact with the parents about an appropriate course of study to makeup the academic requirements. A maximum of two classes can be made up during the summer. If classes are not made up, students may jeopardize their registration for the fall. Failure to make up coursework can delay graduation and issuance of the RKYHS Diploma. A student who fails two or more classes will be placed on academic probation and risks the re- evaluation of their admissions status.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism and cheating have no place in our school. Plagiarism is copying another's work and submitting it as your own. Consequences for plagiarizing academic work are as follows:

Infraction	Consequence
First	The student will receive a failing grade on that exam/test/quiz and incident is documented
Second	Parent administrative conference.
Third	Possible suspension until parent administrative conference. Reevaluation of admissions standing.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

The administration and faculty encourage students to take the most challenging schedule in which they can succeed. All classes offered are rigorous, engaging, and differentiated in a way that is appropriate for each student. Ninth grade placements are based on middle school transcripts, standardized exams, and teacher recommendations. Placements in subsequent grades are based on teacher recommendations and academic performance.

Please note that placements are based on performance. If a student feels that he/she has mastered the material at his/her assigned level and believe that he/she is not challenged, we encourage the student to speak with their guidance counselor. Placement changes will be considered at the beginning of the year and after the end of the first marking period. All changes should be made by no later than the beginning of the second semester.

Seniors may not change placements after the date specified by the Guidance Department yearly. Changing placements beyond this date may affect College Transcripts.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES

Students are encouraged to take advantage of RKYHS's guidance and counseling services. Experienced professionals are available to assist students with academic, social, emotional, career, and religious concerns. Each student is assigned a guidance counselor. In early spring of their junior year, all students receive the assistance of a college advisor, who will work with students and families throughout the college admissions process.

Counseling services offered by our staff include individual counseling, group counseling, resume writing, career exploration, academic reviews, student orientation sessions, parent workshops, and assistance with transitioning to college and university. Counselors meet with their advisees several times a year and as needed. Students and families are encouraged to take advantage of all the valuable resources they offer. All seniors meet with Israel Guidance Counselors to help them explore the benefit of a gap year in Israel and identify the best choice for their gap year experience. Students must make an appointment in advance in order to meet with a guidance counselor.

REQUEST FOR STUDENT RECORDS/TRANSCRIPTS

All requests for transcripts must be made in writing to the Registrar. Upon receipt of the request, the Guidance Office will send out the records/transcripts within five business days. The business office must confirm that all financial obligations have been met before records/transcripts are processed. Transcripts will be sent electronically to all colleges which are participating members of Naviance. Paper transcripts will be sent by regular mail to nonparticipating Naviance colleges.

HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES

The school nurse is responsible for a variety of services, including providing students with prescribed medication, assisting students who become ill or are involved in an accident, maintaining medical files and consulting with the family physician. It is very important that parents inform the nurse about all the medical needs of students and keep medical data up to date at all times. **Any Covid related health concerns must be reported to the school nurse.**

PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS/STAFF WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- If a student/staff member is not feeling well, complete the CDC COVID symptom self-check questionnaire.
 - Take the COVID self-check at <https://self.covid19.nj.gov/>
 - COVID symptoms are highly variable and can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- ANY SUSPECTED COVID symptoms should be promptly reported to the school by calling the school nurse.
 - Any individual, including student/staff with suspected COVID symptoms, SHOULD NOT come to school or enter the school building and should:
 - Get tested for COVID at a local COVID testing center, hospital, Urgent Care Center or health care provider
- Any individual having a positive COVID test SHOULD NOT come to school or enter the school building and should seek the care of a healthcare professional.
 - Remote learning is “always on” and is available to all students who cannot be physically present in-person in the school building.
 - Prior to returning to school, a COVID-positive individual must meet the following criteria:
 - No COVID-related symptoms (see above)
 - Two (2) sequential negative COVID tests separated by at least 24 hours.
- If a cohort member tests positive for COVID:
 - All members of the cohort, including the teacher, SHOULD NOT come to school or enter the school building and must be tested for COVID. If already in school, all members of the cohort should be isolated and leave the building as quickly as possible.
 - Prior to returning to school, a COVID-positive individual must meet the following criteria:
 - No COVID-related symptoms (see above)
 - Two (2) sequential negative COVID tests separated by at least 24 hours.
- If a cohort member is suspected of COVID symptoms but has not yet been tested for COVID:
 - All members of the cohort, including the teacher:
 - Should be monitored for COVID symptoms (see above) and complete the questionnaire.
 - Should be encouraged to take a COVID test within 24 hours.
 - May remain in school pending cohort member COVID test results.
- If a cohort member has a household member (sibling, parent, child, child care provider) who is COVID positive:
 - The cohort member SHOULD NOT attend school, and sickness should be promptly reported to the school by calling the school nurse.
 - Prior to returning to school, the cohort member of a household having a COVID-positive individual must meet the following criteria:
 - No COVID-related symptoms (see above)
 - Two (2) sequential negative COVID tests separated by at least 24 hours with documentation submitted to the nurse.
 - All members of the cohort, including the teacher(s):
 - Should be monitored for COVID symptoms (see above) and complete the questionnaire.
 - Should be encouraged to take a COVID test within 24 hours.

- May remain in school pending COVID test results of the cohort member having a household with a COVID-positive individual.
- If a cohort member tests positive for COVID, follow the protocol listed above for a cohort member with a positive COVID test.

PROTOCOLS FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS DEVELOPED AT SCHOOL

- Students or staff with symptoms, with or without fever, will be isolated prior to going home.
- Students or teachers will be in our isolation room for ill patients in the nurse's wing, monitored by our nurse, who will be wearing a N-95 mask and a face shield.
- Parents must have a plan to come pick up their children within 1 hour of being informed of illness; the school's expectation is that all emergency contacts can come within that timeframe to preserve the health of our greater community.
- Students may return to in-person learning with two sequential (separated by at least 24 hours) COVID negative tests with documentation submitted to the nurse.

ENRICHMENT

We offer an enrichment program that begins in the fall. These opportunities enable students to broaden their horizons by selecting from a diverse list of activities that are additional to the classroom-based instructional program.

ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

RKYHS athletes are encouraged to develop a sense of positive sportsmanship, integrity, values, ethics and *derech eretz* and to display these qualities both on and off the field. Development of leadership, personal responsibility, fitness, self-esteem, sensitivity and compassion towards others are also desired outcomes of the athletic program. **The Athletics program will be modified to maintain the safety of our community.**

At the high school level, teams are competitive and varsity teams are selective. Skill level and commitment are major factors in earning a position on a varsity squad. Membership on a varsity team one season does not guarantee a position the next season. One must earn his/her position on a team each year. All students in grades 9-12 who meet academic and social requirements are eligible to try out for a varsity team. For more information about expectations of athletes and their parents, please see the RKYHS Athletics Handbook.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to act respectfully to all. Every student should feel comfortable and accepted by his/her classmates. RKYHS is a welcoming atmosphere where students can develop religiously and personally while exploring their talents and abilities. The administration at RKYHS reserves the right to address any behavioral situation in any manner it deems reasonable and appropriate to the school's mission.

REMOTE LEARNING PROTOCOLS

Zoom's ubiquity requires that we maintain proper etiquette. When you Zoom, you are in a public forum, even though you are in a private place. As such, your decisions about dress and comportment should be consistent with public, not private, behavior.

Rules and Expectations of Remote Learning:

- **Students must comport themselves with proper decorum and respect.**
- **Students must leave their videos on, unless the teacher permits non-video participation.**
- **Students must enter classrooms with their real names as their Zoom names.**
- **Students must mute themselves upon entry.**
- **Students should sit at a table, the floor or a desk for class.**
- **Students should have their books, notebooks and pens or pencils readily available.**
- **Students should not change their backgrounds, unless for privacy reasons. Backgrounds should not distract the class.**
- **Students may not control or write on the screen during instruction, unless instructed by the teacher.**

- Students must put away all other devices during class.
- Students must use their Zoom invites only for themselves.
- Students in a breakout room with other students are expected to maintain these guidelines while unsupervised.
- Students should inform his/her teacher if he/she needs to step away from the Zoom class.
- Students need to be on time for their Zoom lessons.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal cell phones, iPads, laptops and other electronic devices may not be used during class, *Tefilla*, assemblies or special programs, etc. Using electronic devices during class, *Tefilla*, assemblies or special programs is inappropriate. Please refrain from electronic device use during curricular and informal learning opportunities.

DETENTION

Detention may be given for various disciplinary infractions. A detention will result in the student's reporting to the Detention Room during lunch period, no later than 10 minutes after the period begins. The student may bring lunch with him/her but may not leave the room for the duration of the lunch period. Talking is not permitted. Students may not listen to music, use a computer, cell phone or other electronic device. Non-compliance will increase the periods of detention or other disciplinary actions. A conduct report will be sent home upon each detention with the infraction listed. Receipt of the 5th lunchtime detention will result in **further disciplinary action**.

DRIVING PRIVILEGES

Students who are licensed drivers are permitted to drive to and from school. Students who drive to school must obtain a parking tag for their car. All students arriving via carpool are expected to arrive on time. Students may park only in the area designated as student parking. Students may not sit in cars in the parking lot during the school day.

Students in grades 9 through 12 are never permitted off campus. Any student who leaves campus will have a 2-day lunch detention and a parent will be contacted.

DELIVERY SERVICES

Students may not order food or beverages for delivery to the school building during school hours without the explicit permission of the Administration.

EXIT CARD

At the end of each academic year, all textbooks and school materials that were assigned at the beginning of the year will be returned. Students will be given a checkout card that will need to be signed indicating that the following steps have been completed: books

returned, athletic accounts resolved, lockers cleaned out, guidance contacted, and summer assignments collected.

It is the policy of RKYHS to withhold report cards and transcripts for outstanding fees to the school including items such as activity fees (Shabbaton, tiyul, etc.), tuition, unreturned or damaged books, outstanding library accounts, athletic uniforms, equipment, etc. as well as failing to complete an exit card.

LOCKERS

Lockers will not be available during school hours during the 2020-2021 school year.

SAFETY STANDARDS

Students and parents should be aware of the following critical guidelines that ensure compliance with state and local laws or help ensure a safe learning community.

- Alcohol, tobacco and all drugs (including “vape pens”) are not allowed on school property
- The school reserves the right to test students for the use of drugs randomly or with cause
- *Lashon hara*, physical, verbal, electronic, online or other harassment is unacceptable
- Students may not bring a weapon of any kind to school
- Vandalizing school property is illegal and is considered an act against the entire community
- The rules of the Student Handbook govern student behavior on all associated school trips and events

SECURITY

RKYHS is committed to providing for the security of all students. Security guards are on duty to monitor visitors and patrol school halls and grounds. Students are asked to participate in maintaining school security by reporting unfamiliar people in school who lack a visitor’s badge, or any suspicious objects. Students may not open school doors to non-students or prop doors open for the sake of convenience. If you see something, say something.

VISITORS

Visitors are not permitted in the building without prior approval.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

At RKYHS every effort is made to ensure students are learning and a healthy and safe environment. If issues of substance abuse emerge a student's continued enrollment at RKYHS will be contingent on the family participating in all aspects of any prescribed treatment plan. The school may request that a student is tested for substance abuse. Refusing any requested drug testing may be regarded as noncompliance with the treatment. Any student who continues to test positive for drug or alcohol use may be subject to expulsion.

RKYHS is proud to have partnered with our sister Yeshivot over the course of the last year to craft a substance abuse policy that is informed by research and best practices. Should issues of substance abuse arise, parents and students will be required adhere to our policies and treatment recommendations at their own expense. Please see the policy statement below which has been created and agreed upon by a coalition of Yeshivot in the United States.

NATIONAL YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

A yeshiva high school is a community dedicated to fostering students' educational, spiritual, and personal development. We partner with students and parents to nurture this growth in every student. As part of this commitment, we also promote the safety and health of our greater yeshiva community: the families and neighborhoods we serve. To further this noble goal, we have collaborated as yeshiva high school leaders and consulted with mental health professionals to develop guidelines for addressing substance use among our students. Substance use includes, but is not limited to, the use of marijuana or other illegal drugs and substances, non-prescription medications, alcohol, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vapes, juuls, and other similar devices and substances.

Education and Prevention

We strive to educate our students and their parents about the dangers and realities of substance use. This education includes annual programming for our students and their parents. Recognizing the valuable partnership between school and parents, we recommend that each school run an annual parent event attended by at least one parent from each of the school's families.

In addition to programming, schools may mandate drug testing. The goal of this testing is to encourage students to make healthy choices for substance-free living.

Drug Usage or Possession

1. Students who engage in substance use are strongly encouraged to consult with the school's guidance faculty or administration to discuss the problem. Students can be confident that such problems will be addressed professionally, confidentially, and with compassion. In order to best help the students who are facing substance use issues, parents will be involved as early as possible in the discussion. Students can be assured that they are welcomed and encouraged to seek help from the school guidance faculty or administration,

and that the involved faculty members will support them with sensitivity and will only notify appropriate adults (including, always, parents) without disclosing their conversations to anyone else.

2. Upon learning of a student's substance use, the appropriate school faculty will develop a program of treatment, based on conversations with the student, his or her parents, and a professional therapist. The goal of this plan will be to help the student address his or her substance use challenge in a healthy, therapeutic manner while, *b'ezrat Hashem*, remaining in school.

Our school community has entrusted us to provide a safe, wholesome environment for our students, particularly when the students are on school grounds and at school activities. Therefore, any student found to be in possession of or using drugs or any other substance in school, on school property, or while participating in a school event, may be asked to leave the school.

While the school in which the student is enrolled may ask the student to leave, other schools will make a good-faith effort to accept the student, subject to other considerations and factors, at the school's discretion.

3. Dealing: As an extension of our commitment to provide a safe and wholesome environment for our students, a student who is found to be distributing and/or providing drugs or other substances, whether in or out of school, may be asked to leave the school.
4. Hosting or attending an open house/party: Students may not host other students at their homes for parties that include any form of substance use. Students who host such an "Open House" may be suspended from school and may face further disciplinary action including expulsion.

Parents should not leave teenagers home alone for the weekend. Parents should be careful when hosting parties in their homes to ensure that no substances are present. Through social media, when large numbers of teenagers are invited to an event, often many, many more attend, causing the crowd to become too large to supervise and enabling dangerous activity. Parents who host parties where there is underage substance use are violating the law and may face sanctions from the school.

It is our fervent and sincere hope that this policy will encourage our students to feel safe turning to school faculty for help in addressing substance abuse issues, with the knowledge that they will be supported and respected. *B'ezrat Hashem*, we are committed to helping our students pursue healthy life choices that enable them to grow and flourish.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School is a community of students, teachers, parents, administrators and staff. At the center of this community lie the best interests of the students, both individually and collectively. Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School enrolls the students' families, not just the individual students, and believes that a positive working relationship between the school and the family is essential to success.

The school reserves the right to respond to matters occurring beyond school premises and after school hours as deemed appropriate. Parents and families are requested to adhere to the following guideline:

- Become familiar with and support the school's mission, policies, guidelines and channels of communication.
- Follow the instructions of those directing traffic around the school.
- Keep in close communication with the school about your child's physical and emotional health by informing the school about changes in the home environment (for example, the birth of a sibling, separation, death of a family member or close friend, or other conditions that may have an impact on your child's well-being).
- Provide a quiet place for study at home and encourage your child to be responsible for his or her work. Students need to know that their parents understand and value the need for homework.
- Read all material emailed home.
- Attend and support school events.
- Families are strongly encouraged to observe all aspects of *Halacha*, *Kashrut*, observance of *Shabbat*, observance of other religious practices when school is not in session.
- Support the articulated values of the school and cooperate with the school in any matters of discipline or academic concern.
- Avoid taking children on vacation while school is in session.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read our student handbook. The RKYHS handbook establishes general principles that govern our school community. The administration reserves the right to respond to any situation or to revise these guidelines as needed to ensure the safety and welfare of the school community. As always, we are eager to engage and partner with you.