

RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

ישיבת בית יוסף

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

RKYHS

110 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE, LIVINGSTON, NJ 07039

862-437-8000

WWW.JKHA.ORG

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.

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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. And most importantly, grow to be *b'nei Torah*, inspired and religiously observant.

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 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 religious commitment, 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

Ms. Henny Bochner – Dir. of Educational Advancement
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 – Asst. Principal Guidance & Student Services
Ms. Gladys Graham
Ms. Hilary Levin – Registrar
Dr. Ben Madsen – Psychologist
Mr. Logan Singman
Ms. Frada Stone – Guidance Consultant
Ms. Sarah Stiefel – 9th Grade Advisor

College Guidance

Ms. Cara Levine
Ms. Michele Levine

Religious Guidance

Ms. Chaya Miriam Gerson
Rabbi Mayer Erps
Ms. Alex Fuchs
Rebbetzin Sarah Proops
Rabbi David Schlusberg

Israel Guidance

Rabbi Steven Hirschey
Rabbi Yair Menchel
Ms. Norma Mintz
Ms. Danielle Rosenzweig
Rabbi David Schlusberg

History and Social Sciences

Mr. Justin Bryant – Department Chair
Mr. Eliot Bank
Ms. Henny Bochner
Mr. Daniel Cipriani
Rabbi Richard Kirsch
Mr. Howard Malitz
Mr. Blake Michael
Rabbi Dr. Sacha Pecaric
Mr. Howard Plotsker
Ms. Abbey Roth

Media and Computer Science

Ms. Abbey Roth – Department Chair, Library & Media Sciences
Mr. Gary Berger
Dr. W. Scott Stornetta

Professional Development

Ms. Debbie Finkelstein – Dean of Instruction

Math

Ms. Ellen Kirson – Department Chair
Mr. Blake Michael
Mr. Josh Samot
Mr. Andrew Smicklas
Mr. Brandon Tobal

Judaic Studies

Rabbi David Chamudot
Rabbi Mayer Erps
Ms. Alex Fuchs
Ms. Chaya Miriam Gerson
Rabbi Chayim Gerson
Rabbi Steven Hirschey
Rabbi Yair Menchel
Ms. Norma Mintz – Judaic Studies Dept. Chair
Rabbi Yaakov Mintz – Judaic Studies Dept. Chair
Rabbi Jamie Pearlberg
Rabbi Dr. Sacha Pecaric
Rebbetzin Sarah Proops – Mashgicha Ruchanit
Ms. Danielle Rosenzweig
Rabbi Eliezer E. Rubin
Rabbi David Schlusberg
Rabbi Yosef Sharbat
Rabbanit Chamutal Shoval

Science

Dr. Steven Stein – Department Chair
Mr. Eliot Bank
Mr. Howard Malitz
Ms. Abbey Roth
Dr. Jay Smallwood
Dr. W. Scott Stornetta
Ms. Alina Suarez

Student Activities

Ms. Chaya Miriam Gerson – Director
Mr. Logan Singman

Student Support Services & Learning Lab

Ms. Alina Laboy
Mr. Logan Singman
Rabbi Harry Sinoff
Ms. Davida Stadtmauer – Director

World Language

Ms. Michal Ben-Guy – Department Chair, Hebrew Language
Mr. Blake Michael
Ms. Azita Moradi
Ms. Etti Steinberg

Physical Education

Mr. Eliot Bank
Ms. Anat Niv

RKYHS BELL SCHEDULE

MON & THURS	TIME	TUESDAY	TIME	WEDNESDAY SEED	TIME
Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 9:00	Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 8:55	Davening/ Breakfast	8:03 – 8:55
Period 1	9:02 – 9:42	Period 1	8:58 – 9:34	Period 1	8:58 – 9:38
Period 2	9:45 – 10:25	Period 2	9:37 – 10:13	Period 2	9:41 – 10:20
Period 3	10:28 – 11:08	Period 3	10:16 – 10:52	Period 3	10:23 – 11:02
Period 4	11:11 – 11:51	Chug	10:55 – 11:31	Period 4	11:14 – 11:53
Period 5	11:54 – 12:34	Period 4	11:34 – 12:10	Period 5/SEED	11:56 – 12:35
Lunch	12:37 – 1:19	Period 5	12:13 – 12:49	Lunch	12:38 – 1:20
Period 6	1:22 – 2:02	Lunch	12:52 – 1:30	Period 6	1:23 – 2:02
Period 7	2:05 – 2:45	Period 6	1:33 – 2:09	Period 7	2:05 – 2:44
Mincha	2:48 – 3:02	Period 7	2:12 – 2:48	Mincha	2:47 – 3:01
Period 8	3:05 – 3:45	Mincha	2:51 – 3:05	Period 8	3:04 – 3:43
Period 9	3:48 – 4:28	Period 8	3:08 – 3:46	Period 9	3:46 – 4:25
		Period 9	3:49 – 4:25		

FRIDAY A	FRIDAY B	TIME
Davening/ Breakfast	Davening/ Breakfast	8:05 – 9:07
Period 1	Period 2	9:10 – 9:52
Period 3	Period 4	9:55 – 10:37
Period 5	Period 5	10:40 – 11:22
Period 7	Period 6	11:25 – 12:07
Period 9	Period 8	12:10 – 12:52
Lunch	Lunch	12:56 – 1:30

RKYHS FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Month	Day	A/B
September	9	A
	16	B
	23	A
	30	B
October	7	A
	21	B
	28	A
November	4	B
	11	A
	18	B
December	2	A
	9	B
	16	A
	23	TBD
	30	B
January	6	A
	27	B
February	3	A
	10	B
	17	A
	24	TBD
March	3	B
	10	A
	17	B
	24	A
	31	B
April	21	A
	28	B
May	5	A
	12	B
	19	TBD
June	2	TBD

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

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 makes every effort to accommodate special events and exceptional disruptions.

- If a student will be absent or tardy, a parent must alert the school before 8:00am by sending an email to attendance@rkyhs.org or leaving a voicemail on the high school attendance line, 862-437-8178, stating the name and grade of the student, the reason for the tardy or 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 must leave school early, a parent must email or call at least two hours in advance to facilitate the early departure.
- If a student arrives late to school or leaves school early, he/she must sign in/out at the high school office.
- A school-sanctioned absence for trips or programs will not count against residency requirements, provided that the student had permission from his/her teachers to miss class. Any long-term absences should be discussed with the RKYHS administration at least two weeks prior to the absence.
- All other absences will be counted against residency requirements, unless a student presents a note from a treating physician that the absence was due to an illness.

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 are expected to attend classes regularly and must ask for permission to miss class for special events and/or for meetings with guidance or administration. Students are reminded that they are responsible for all school work covered during any class they missed. Unexcused absences are considered both an academic and disciplinary offense, and may result in punitive consequences.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is as important as regular attendance in terms of learning. Students who arrive late to class will receive administrative consequences.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Being present and participating in class is a vital component of a successful educational experience. Students who excessively miss class may be penalized according to rubric below 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

TEFILLA AND DAVENING

RKYHS 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. Students may be assigned a *makom kavua*, and an assigned seat.
2. Students serve as *chazanim* and *gabbaim*.
3. Talking is not appropriate during *tefilla*.
4. It is prohibited to use a cell phone 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)	Parent contact

Late bus arrival will not count against *tefilla* attendance provided that the student attends *tefilla* five minutes after arrival.

DRESS CODE

Our dress code reflects the values of *tzniut* and the importance of appearing presentable. 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 the appropriateness of any particular fashion.

- All clothing must be neat and clean
- No hats, hoods or bandanas may be worn at any time
- No slippers, flip flops, or slides may be worn in school
- No piercings other than the ear
- Hair must be presentable; any hair coloring must remain natural

Students are encouraged to dress 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 piercings are permitted

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 or any sports clothing

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 must reach the knee
- Leggings are permitted so long as the skirt remains an appropriate length
- Avoid tight-fitting skirts
- Flare or skater skirts are permitted if they are of appropriate length

Dress Code Violation

For students who might not yet appreciate the importance of dress code, will be subject to the following consequences:

- With the first infraction the student will change into proper clothing which will be supplied by the school. Students are expected to wear the school-issued clothing for the remainder of the day and return the garment to the school on the following school day. Failure to return the garment to the school on the following day will result in a \$20 charge to the student's account.
- The second infraction will be the same as the first infraction with the addition of a lunch suspension.
- The third infraction will follow the policy as explained above and the student will receive a partial in-school suspension.
- If the undesired behavior continues, we will invite the student's parents to school to discuss further interventions.

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, Accelerated, 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 are determined 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 to moderate the testing demands on students.

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.

TESTING AFTER AN ABSENCE

1. Students have 3 days to complete a test after an absence due to illness.
2. Students who 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, including the day of the lateness if the student arrives before lunch.
3. After 3 days and up until one week, 15% will be deducted from the test or quiz.
4. After one week and up to two weeks, 20% will be deducted from the test or quiz.
5. After 2 weeks and up until a month, 30% will be deducted from the test or quiz.
6. After a month, student will receive a zero on the test or quiz.
7. If a student is aware in advance that he/she may be absent for a test or quiz, he/she should be in communication directly with his/her teacher.

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. Midterms and final 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.

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 suggested accommodations, while also ensuring the integrity of our assessments. Extra time testing must be completed immediately after the regular time test is completed. Extra time testing is supervised in the designated testing room.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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 diagnosis 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/SAT are extremely rare; the school will evaluate a student's documentation and determine **if the request is appropriate** based on ACT/SAT criteria.

END OF YEAR 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.

Use of a cell phone during an exam will be considered a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarizing policies will be applied to a student who uses a cell phone during an exam.

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, teacher recommendations, and placement tests where applicable. 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 his/her guidance counselor. Placement changes will be considered at the beginning of the year and after the end of the first quarter. 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 religious guidance, 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 Scoir. Paper transcripts will be sent by regular mail to nonparticipating Scoir 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.

The following policies are in effect on all grade levels of Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy and the Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School.

Immunizations

All students must be immunized to meet the NJ Department of Health requirements. Medical exceptions must satisfy the criteria established by the NJ Department of Health. Religious exceptions are not accepted. Covid vaccinations are not required but are encouraged.

New Students/ Emergency Plans and Medications

Immunization records and any Emergency Action Plan relating to conditions such as seizure, diabetes, food allergies, or asthma plan must be submitted to Magnus (<https://secure.magnushealthportal.com/>) before the first day of school. Students with emergency medications must have their medication brought to the nurse's office by the first day of school. Please make sure the medication is not expired.

Important note: The Health Office processes information solely through the Magnus Health portal. Any documentation submitted on paper cannot be accepted.

Food Allergies

For the protection of students with peanut and other nut allergies, students or staff members are not permitted to bring any food or beverages containing peanuts, tree nuts, or sesame to school. This also includes snacks that are labeled "containing traces of nuts," which are not permitted in school.

Prescription Medications

If your child needs to take medication during school hours, he or she must have a prescription from the doctor. The medication must be brought to school in its original container. Please note this includes over the counter medications. Medications that do not meet these criteria will not be disbursed by the nursing staff.

Sick Students

If your child is sick with any of the symptoms listed below, please keep him or her home:

Fever

Coughing

Diarrhea

Vomiting

Cannot perform daily school activities

Students struggle to learn successfully when feeling ill; we do not want other students getting sick either from students who remain in school while feeling ill.

Please wait 24 hours from when the symptoms subside without the use of fever-reducing medications for your child to return to school. In addition, please administer a Rapid Antigen Test for your sick child within 24 hours of their return to school and send a picture to nurses@jkha.org and results@jkha.org.

If your child becomes ill with a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea while in school, the nursing staff will call you to pick him or her up within a reasonable amount of time. Students with any of the above symptoms will not be dismissed on the bus. This is important for the student's welfare and to minimize the spread of illnesses at school. Please ensure you have a plan should your child become ill during school hours.

Sports

If your child plans to participate in any organized sports this coming school year, he or she must provide all necessary health paperwork in order to be cleared to play. All necessary paperwork can be found on the Magnus Health portal. Please make sure you have all the paperwork signed by your physician.

The following forms must be completed and a student is only considered “in good standing” one year from when paperwork was signed.

1. Sports participation form (all the pages must be filled out)
2. Concussion worksheet
3. Cardiac worksheet
4. Health History Fall (if it has been more than 3 months since his or her sport’s physical was complete).

We thank you in advance for your partnership in keeping our school safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the nurses at 862-437-8018 or nurses@jkha.org.

ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

RKYHS athletes are encouraged to develop a sense of positive sportsmanship, integrity, values, ethics and *derech erez* 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.

Teams are competitive and selective. Skill level and commitment are major factors in earning a position on a team. 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.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal cell phones, iPads, laptops and other electronic devices may not be used during *tefilla*, classes, assemblies or special programs, etc. Using electronic devices during *tefilla*, assemblies or special programs is inappropriate.

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 11 are never permitted off campus. Any student who leaves campus will incur consequences 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 other school-owned materials that were assigned at the beginning of the year must 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.

RKYHS will 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

A locker equipped with a combination lock is assigned to each student. We suggest that students keep the combination private. Locker doors must be kept closed during the day and preferably locked. Members of the custodial staff will answer questions or help students experiencing difficulty opening their lockers. All locker decorations must conform to *halachic* standards. If a student does not follow these standards, he/she may lose locker privileges. Lockers must be completely cleaned out by the last day of school, inside and outside. Lockers are the property of the school and may be routinely inspected by the school administration. Students are responsible for the appropriate use of their lockers.

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 (see Substance Abuse policy)
- *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 an offensive act against the entire community
- The rules of this 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.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

The school respects, affirms, and protects the dignity and worth of each member of its community. 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 in accordance with the School’s mission.

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 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.
- 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.
- It is not permitted to take children on vacation while school is in session.

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 to create a coherent and thoughtful drug policy. The policy statement below 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 their use or exposure to substance use. Students can be confident that these discussions 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. 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.
2. 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 or Sharing: 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.

Please note that each school signed below may have additional substance use policies not mentioned in this agreed upon document.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Seth Grauer Rosh Yeshiva & Head of School, Bnei Akiva Schools</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Jeffrey Kobrin Rosh HaYeshiva/Head of School, North Shore Hebrew Academy High School</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Bethany Strulowitz Principal, Bruriah High School</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Eliezer E. Rubin Head of School, Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School</p>

 <p>Bracha Rutner Head of School, Central/Yeshiva University High School for Girls</p>	 <p>Jonathan Cannon Head of School, Ramaz Upper School</p>
 <p>Yisroel Kaminetsky Menahel, DRS Yeshiva High School for Boys</p>	 <p>Zvi Kahn RASG Hebrew Academy</p>
 <p>David Teller Principal, Fuchs Mizrahi Stark High School</p>	 <p>Tully Hartzstark & Jonathan Kroll Principals, SAR High School</p>
 <p>Naomi Lippman Principal, HAFTR High School</p>	 <p>David Block Head of School, Shalvet High School</p>
 <p>Eli Slomnicki Menahel/Principal, HANC</p>	 <p>Sara Munk Principal, Shulamith High School for Girls</p>
 <p>Aryeh Stechler Rosh Yeshiva, Heichal HaTorah</p>	 <p>Bluma Drebin & Elisheva Kaminetsky Principals, SKA</p>
 <p>Leonard Matanky Dean, Ida Crown Jewish Academy</p>	 <p>Tikvah Wiener Head of School, The Idea School</p>
 <p>Ami Neuman Principal, JEC High School</p>	 <p>Shlomo Stochel Head of School, Torah Academy of Bergen County</p>
 <p>Avi Levitt Head of School, Katz Yeshiva High School</p>	 <p>Jeffrey Beer Head of School, Westchester Hebrew High School</p>
 <p>Noam Stein Head of School, Kohelet Yeshiva</p>	 <p>Joseph Beyda Head of School, Yeshiva of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School</p>
 <p>CB Neugroschl Head of School, Ma'ayanot Yeshiva HS</p>	 <p>Joshua Kahn Head of School, Yeshiva University High School for Boys</p>

 <p>Daniel Vitow Head of School, Magen David Yeshivah High School</p>	 <p>Yitzchak Goldberg Principal, Yeshivat Darche Eres (YDE)</p>
 <p>Yaakov Jaffe Dean of Judaic Studies, Maimonides School</p>	 <p>Eli Ciner Principal, Yeshivat Frisch</p>
 <p>Benjy Owen Head of School, Margolin Hebrew Academy – Feinstone Yeshiva of the South</p>	 <p>Uri Grosberg Principal, Yeshivat Mekor Chaim</p>
 <p>Deena Kobre Head of School, Naaleh High School for Girls</p>	 <p>Arye Sufrin Head of School, YULA High School</p>