

YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL OF CLEVELAND

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-24



YHSC Contact Information	
YHSC Office Phone	216-342-4088 *Please leave a voice message
YHSC General Email	info@yeshivahigh.org
Head of School Rabbi Yeshai Kutoff	Rabbi Kutoff office: 216-342-4088 Rabbi Kutoff email: kutoff@yeshivahigh.org
Principal Grant Matla	Mr. Matla office phone: 216-342-4088 Mr. Matla Email: matla@yeshivahigh.org
Website	www.yeshivahigh.org

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Admissions Procedures

The governing board of The Yeshiva High School of Cleveland has adopted the following Admissions Procedures:

A hand-written or [online application](#) must be submitted for each child who seeks admission to the Yeshiva High School of Cleveland (YHSC). After a written application has been received, an interview for the child and his/her parent/guardian(s) will be scheduled with the school administration. During the interview, parents are taken on a tour of the school and provided with details about the academic and Judaic studies programs. Applications are then acted upon by an Admission Committee. The Yeshiva reserves the right to determine if a child would benefit from its educational program. In accepting a student for admission to YHSC, the admission committee will consider and evaluate to the best of their ability such details as family support and dedication to educational pedagogy and Judaic studies, student cooperation, student academic performance, and the student's motivation for attending. As the Yeshiva is an Orthodox Jewish school, all students must have at minimum an Orthodox Jewish mother. The Rabbinic Authority of the Yeshiva shall have the final determination as to anyone's Orthodox status if there is an issue. Each family will be notified by letter and email (if requested) of the Admission Committee's decision.

Non-Discriminatory Policy

"The Yeshiva High School of Cleveland recruits and admits students of any race, color or ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs. In addition, The Yeshiva High School of Cleveland is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated, desegregation. The Yeshiva High School of Cleveland will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel."

Vision and Philosophy

Yeshiva High School of Cleveland (Yeshiva) is committed to the success of our students in all aspects of life. This includes the development of strong academic and social skills, the ability to be self-sufficient, and the motivation to succeed in any endeavor our students choose. The Yeshiva has two fundamental aims: To provide a foundation for our students, who will then move on to institutions of higher learning and the wider professional world. Of equal importance, is to instill within our students a system of self-awareness that leads to character refinement, good ethics, and a strong value system.

The following commitments exemplify the Yeshiva's philosophy, otherwise known as the "Whole Child Approach" and the Yeshiva's commitment to its students and educational environment.

To ensure every student is healthy and safe. Our school facility and environment will support and reinforce the health and well-being of each student and staff member.

The physical school plant is attractive; is structurally sound; has good internal and external flow and is free of defects. The building is owned by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

The building will be inspected by the local fire department each year before the commencement of the school year.

To ensure every student is engaged and supported, Our school employs a blended-learning curriculum that utilizes cooperative and project-based learning strategies.

Teachers will build relationships with each student to support and encourage academic and personal growth.

To ensure every student is challenged. Our curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices will demonstrate high academic expectations for each student.¹

¹ ASCD.org recommendations for following “The whole child approach”

ACADEMIC PROGRAM of STUDY

The educational program at the Yeshiva is based on a dual curriculum of Judaic studies and *General Studies*. The Yeshiva’s *General Studies* curriculum and its implementation meet or exceed all Ohio Department of Education regulatory and graduation standards. Our Judaic studies curriculum follows the same guidelines, using the standards set in the leading rabbinical colleges and high school programs across the country. Our high school educational program is developed and implemented in accordance with the Ohio state-wide content & curriculum standards.

YHSC provides Ohio Department of Education approved, blended-learning, college-preparatory curriculum. This model provides both direct instruction with a teacher during every class period in addition to innovative, student-centered online activities and assessments.

DRESS CODE

Each student should arrive at school appropriately dressed. This includes tzitzits and no baseball caps or hoodies. Clothing should not have loud or large decals or pictures. Students will wear button down shirts and slacks; no blue jeans, joggers, or sweatpants are to be worn. Appropriate footwear is required—no slippers, sandals, etc. Every boy should have a jacket for davening. The student should maintain excellent personal hygiene.

¹ ASCD.org recommendations for following “The whole child approach”

ATTENDANCE POLICY

With our actions, we communicate very powerful messages to our children. One of the key ideas that we would like our students to internalize is that every moment of learning is precious. In addition, there is nothing that can replace the experience of learning the material in the classroom.

ABSENCES OR TARDINESS

Please call Rabbi Kutoff or email Mr. Matla before 8:30 a.m. if your student will be late or absent. If the phone is not answered, please leave a message.

Doctor's appointments and other medically necessary appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours. When a scheduling conflict is unavoidable, please contact the school at least 24 hours in advance. The student will need a doctor's note, including the date and the time of the appointment, for the absence to be excused. If picking up a student after 8:45 am, parents/guardians MUST email Mr. Matla or Rabbi Kutoff in advance of pickup. No student will be allowed to leave without proper authorization.

An absence for any reason other than those listed above shall be classified as unexcused. A student shall have the opportunity to make up school work missed due to an excused absence; however, it shall be the responsibility of the student to initiate a make-up procedure and schedule with his teacher(s). All make-up work shall be completed within a reasonable time following the excused absence. A student shall receive full credit for school work made up pursuant to an excused absence. The principal or his or her designee may request written verification of a student's illness from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state in the event of frequent or extended absences attributed to personal illness.

School response to Absenteeism aka "The Fortnight Policy"

The Yeshiva expects excellence in attendance from all students, so the school maintains the following response/consequences for chronic absenteeism (below 70% attendance). Arrangements to return home must be made immediately upon notification of suspension or expulsion; students are not welcome back to on school grounds (or local student residence/housing for non-Ohio residents) until the duration of the suspension has occurred. All costs associated with returning home are the obligation of the family of the student. To be credited with attendance, students must be present and participating in class.

Absent	Consequence
Below 70% after a consecutive fortnight	Documented Warning
Below 70% for any subsequent fortnight	Suspended for 1 week

Graduation Requirements

Students must reach the minimum credit hours mandated by the [Ohio Department of Education for Graduation](#) with a High School Diploma. Additionally, students must complete the required courses offered in the daytime Religious Studies program. Failure of either aspect will disqualify students from graduation. Students must take the SAT test at YHSC during either grade 11 or 12 in order to be eligible for graduation with a high school diploma.

Ohio requires students to take and complete a minimum of 20 required credits.	State Minimum
English language arts	4 units
Health	½ unit
Mathematics	4 units ¹
Physical education	½ unit ²
Science	3 units ³
Social studies	3 units ⁴
Electives	5 units ⁵
Religious Studies – Morning Program	4 Units
Additional credits, if any, in district requirements	
Other Requirements	
Economics and financial literacy ⁶	
Fine arts ⁶	
Judaic Studies Courses as scheduled - Gemara, Halacha, Mussar, and Shachris	

Grading Scale & Policy

Grades are evaluative and descriptive tools that help communicate what students have learned. Grades provide feedback to students on their individual understanding of and progression through a subject. Grades are seen and interpreted by families, teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders. When awarded in a consistent, equitable, and transparent fashion, grades serve the following purposes:

- Demonstrate students' level of understanding and skills in a subject
- Reveal areas of improvement and subjects still in need of support
- Inform teachers' curricular, instructional, and organizational decisions
- Identify which students need more assistance or differentiated learning
- Indicate whether a student passed or failed a course or subject at the end of a term
- Contribute to decisions about programming choices and post-secondary options
- Influence promotion decisions

Parents/Guardians will receive regular academic/conduct/attendance updates from the Principal. Additionally, official Grade Reports containing final semester grades are distributed to parent/guardians twice during the school-year: after the first semester (February 2024) and after the second semester (July 2024).

Grades are also available in real time via Gradelink. Please contact Mr. Matla for login information.

Official Transcripts may be requested at the following email address: Transcripts@yeshivahigh.org

All courses are based on a balance of formative and summative assessments – including midterm and final exams. Student coursework will be measured using the following 4.0 grading scale:

Percentage Grade	
97-100%	A+
94-96%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
Below 60%	F

MAKE-UP WORK

In general, all work missed due to absence must be made up within three days after the student's return to school. In the case of a missed test, it is the student's responsibility to approach the teacher to arrange a makeup test. All work must be completed before the final day of each semester (1/29/2024 or 6/20/24) to earn credit for a course.

ACADEMIC HONORS

YHSC provides students with the opportunity to meet the Ohio Department of Education Academic Honors Diploma. High school students who exceed graduation requirements in Ohio are eligible to receive an Honors Diploma. There are three types of Honors Diplomas: (1) The Academic Honors Diploma requires a student to earn higher level credits or more credits in mathematics, science and social studies. Additionally, the student must earn world language credits and have a 3.5 GPA as well as either an ACT score of 27 or a SAT score of 1210.

YHSC Academic Honor Roll: To achieve the honor roll, students must earn at least a 3.0 gpa while maintain at least 2 units of course-work in a given semester.

YHSC Academic Honor with Distinction: To achieve the honor roll *with distinction*, students must maintain at least a 3.5 gpa while enrolled in at least 2 units of course-work in a given semester.

PARENT COMMUNICATION/RESOURCES

The staff will be in continuous contact with parents. Formal parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled individually as needed throughout the year.

Parents have access to the academic calendar and other online school updates on Gradelink's Announcement page.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Students are not permitted to leave school grounds during the school-day; students are not permitted to leave for lunch or during breaks.

EMERGENCIES

Parents must provide the school with emergency contact information. In case of emergency, it is our procedure to call 911 first, and then parent/guardian. Regarding weather emergencies, the Yeshiva will hold morning Judaic classes regardless of weather. Mr. Matla will assess weather conditions and staff availability to determine if General Studies classes will proceed. The community will be notified of the decision by 11am via email.

TECHNOLOGY-ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The school environment should be free of distractions for students to fully engage in their learning. Students may not bring any electronic devices, except cell phones or iPods, to school. Students will be issued laptop computers on which to work, but these are only made available to students during general studies hours. Students must leave their cell phones and iPods in the office at the beginning of the school day, and they can pick them up on their way out at the end of the day. Any time-sensitive phone calls can be made from the office during a break or as needed in the event of emergency.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

Students will be provided with computers to be used in class and study halls for school purposes only. Direct supervision is required. The students are responsible for the care of their own devices. Parents are responsible for any damage caused by their student to the school computers; students who access inappropriate material online will be prohibited from in-school use. Please refer to the technology contract for more information.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following items may not be brought to school: vaporizers or smoking devices of any type, *matches, cigarette lighters, knives or other dangerous items*. Bicycles, skateboards, roller blades and other sports equipment may not be used inside the building or on the premises during school hours. These will be confiscated, and may be subject to additional discipline.

MEDICATIONS

All medications will be administered by the school administration. If a medication was prescribed by a doctor a doctor's note must accompany prescribed medication as to the dosage and time to be given. Parents will need to sign a medical release form to administer medicines such as over the counter drugs in school.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIOR

The purpose of a school is to offer a positive learning environment conducive to rigorous academic study; the YHSC community is committed to maintaining and supporting a classroom atmosphere that gives every student the opportunity and right to learn. Students should arrive to classes prepared to learn and avoid all forms of disruptive and distracting behavior.

Student Expectations:

- 1) Arrive on time to class
- 2) Have all necessary supplies and materials
- 3) Work on appropriate class material during assigned class-time
- 4) Respond promptly and courteously to inquiries from faculty
- 5) No food or drinks (except bottle of water with a lid/cap) in classrooms
- 6) Do not bring valuable personal items or cash to school; YHSC is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property.
- 7) Adhere to dress code (see pg. 4)

GUIDELINES FOR DORMING STUDENTS

- 1) Keep rooms and common area clean and orderly
- 2) All open food items should be stored in sealed containers
- 3) After 10:00pm, any music played must be with earphones
- 4) Non-dorming students may not visit the dorm area without being granted permission from staff for each particular visit.
- 5) 10:30pm curfew. Students are not to be out of Yeshiva after 10:30pm.

Potential Consequences - based on severity, may begin at any level based on severity of infraction:

- 1) Official Warning – documented in file; no detention or parent communication necessary
- 2) In-School Detention or loss of participation in privileges such as athletics or class— Documented and parent communication
- 3) Sent home for day
- 4) Suspension for up to ten days (based on severity)
- 5) Permanent Expulsion

DISMISSAL POLICY

There are several categories of poor behavior which can result in the immediate and permanent dismissal of a student from YHSC. Incidences of these behaviors will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, but permanent dismissal from the Yeshiva should be considered the likely outcome for:

1. Multiple occurrences of disrespectful behavior toward members of the faculty.
2. Stealing/theft
3. Inappropriate language
4. Damaging or defacing the property of others and/or school property
5. Harassing, intimidating, or physically or mentally harming others – including online/social media from on or off campus
6. Any illegal behavior
7. Entry into unauthorized areas without permission
8. Any form of Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, etc.
9. Any behavior that may cause a Chillul Hashem, or that may bring discredit to the school and the Torah values it represents

YHSC Administration reserves the right to alter or modify policies in this handbook to best suit the needs of the school. Any changes will be posted immediately in the Gradelink Announcements section.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Families wishing to withdraw from the Yeshiva must inform Rabbi Kutoff in writing via email. All tuition obligations must be current for the withdrawal to be approved. Transcript and records requests will only be honored once the tuition agreements are satisfied and all school issued devices and materials are returned in satisfactory condition.

YHSC | 2023-2024 CALENDAR



21-22—Teacher Workdays

22—Orientation 8pm

23—First day of classes

27—Kayaking

AUGUST '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

4—Students must return by 9pm

21-22—Ski Trip

4—Labor Day

15—Rosh Hashanah

18—Fast Day, No GS

25—Yom Kippur

26—Sukkos vacation

SEPTEMBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

7—Off Shabbos. Students must stay until after shiur.

10—Students must return by 9pm

17—Trip

21—Tanis Esther

25—Purim

15—Students must return by 9pm

22—Fishing

OCTOBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

12—Pesach Break. Students must stay until after shiur.

2—Off Shabbos. Students must stay until after shiur.

5—Students must return by 9pm

19—Paintball

23—Thanksgiving Day

NOVEMBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

5—Students must return by 9pm.

26—Lag B'Omer

27—Memorial Day

30—Off Shabbos. Students must stay until after shiur.

7—Off Shabbos. Students must stay until after shiur.

11—Students must return by 9pm

13—Chanukah Party

25—No GS

29-30—Retreat Shabbos

DECEMBER '23

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

2—Students must return by 9pm

9—Lag B'Omer incentive

11-13—Shavuos

17-18—End of year trip

19—Graduation

20—Students travel home

1—No GS

4—Off Shabbos. Students must stay until after shiur.

7—Students must return by 9pm

21—Trip

29—Haggadah submissions

30—Mid-Winter Break

Students must stay until after shiur

JANUARY '24

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Color key = No Yeshiva No GS Event Staff Meeting

DAILY SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

<u>Monday-Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8:45-9:30am – <i>Shachris</i>	8:45-9:30am – <i>Shachris</i>
9:30-9:45am – Halacha	9:30-9:45am – Halacha
9:45-10:15am – Breakfast	9:45-10:15am – Breakfast
10:15-11:30am – Gemara	10:15-11:30am – <u>Gemara</u>
11:30-12:00pm – Morning Break	11:30-12pm – Break
12:00-12:40pm – <i>Chumash</i>	12pm-1pm – <u>General Studies</u>
12:45-1:15pm – <u>Mussar</u>	
1:15-1:45pm – Lunch	
1:45-2:25pm – <u>General Studies 1</u>	
2:25-2:45pm – <u><i>Mincha</i></u> /Break	
2:45-3:25pm – <u>General Studies 2</u>	
3:30-4:10pm – <u>General Studies 3</u>	
4:10-4:35pm – Study Hall/Break	
4:35-5:15pm – <u>General Studies 4</u>	
5:15pm – Dismissal	
	<u>Sunday</u>
	8:30-9:15am – Minyan
	9:15-9:30am – Halacha
	9:30-10:15am – Breakfast
	10:15am-12:00pm – <u>Gemara</u>
	12:00pm-1:00pm – Extracurricular

Night Seder—Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8:30pm-9:15pm

Maariv—9:15pm

**SIGNATURE PAGE & EMERGENCY CONTACT
INFORMATION TO BE RETURNED TO YHSC BEFORE
SCHOOL BEGINS ON TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2023**

I _____ (PARENT'S NAME), HAVE READ THE
YHSC HANDBOOK AND REVIEWED IT WITH MY SON,
_____ (NAME OF STUDENT).

I UNDERSTAND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SCHOOL.

I WILL TURN IN ANY FORMS DUE TO THE SCHOOL BEFORE THE
START OF SCHOOL.

_____ (← Parent Initial Here) I HAVE INCLUDED A SIGNED TUITION
CONTRACT WITH THIS HANDBOOK DISCLOSURE PAGE

Yeshiva High School of Cleveland

Technology contract 2023-2024



All students will be issued a school computer for academic purposes. NO personal devices (Laptops, phones, iPads, etc) may be used during class. The school computers will remain locked during the mornings and are only to be used as needed during the afternoon General Studies classes and study hall. All students will return their laptop and charge it in the locker provided at dismissal.

Failure to adhere to the guidelines of use set forth in this contract will result in disciplinary action.

1. Laptops are to be stored in the cabinet, on their charger, at the end of each day.
2. Use of laptops for non-academic purposes is prohibited.
3. Students may **not** take the laptops back to their dorm rooms or off property without permission from Mr. Matla.
4. Students may **not** download any files, music, games, VPNs, software, or programs onto the devices. Web based and browser versions of any of these are also prohibited.
5. Students may not alter any of the settings or users of the Chromebooks.
6. Use of any social media or messaging apps, software, or sites is prohibited.
7. If a student intentionally destroys or damages a device, they will face disciplinary actions as well as paying for the cost of a replacement device. (\$300)
8. Students are responsible for paying for a replacement if they lose their device.
9. Any member of the staff has the right to inspect any student's device at any time.
10. Each student will pay a deposit of \$100 to the Yeshiva for their device. The deposit shall be held for the duration of the student's enrollment at YHSC. If a device is damaged or needs repair in any capacity, the deposit will be used and a new deposit will be required before a new Chromebook is issued. Deposits will be returned in July following the last school year attended.

By signing below, you agree to adhere to the guidelines set forth in this document. No computer will be issued until this document is signed and returned to Mr. Matla in person or via email, and the deposit is received. Please return the completed form to Mr. Matla by Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

Parent signature

Date

Student printed name

Date

Student signature

Emergency Contact Information

Parent Name: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please mail this document along with your signed and completed tuition contract to the attention of Mr. Matla at the following address:

Yeshiva High School of Cleveland

25400 Fairmount Blvd.

Beachwood, OH 44122

Attn: Principal

*Signed Documents may also be scanned and emailed to matla@yeshivahigh.org