

Ultimate Parsha continued...

I remember being told this, on a smaller level, by a childhood friend of mine in Charleston, South Carolina. Because she was the daughter of the Rabbi of our shul, she had to be sure she didn't even enter a non-kosher restaurant to order a water or a Coke, because people might see her and infer that she was condoning the eating of non-kosher food. Certainly when I wore a kippah for the first time as a teacher at a non-sectarian school, I was keenly aware that my behavior would be observed and commented upon as "the way Jews (or observant Jews) behaved," for better and for worse.

As teachers and students at a Jewish day school, all of us at RMBA are eligible for this kind of examination by those outside of the confines of the school. While inside the school we share the same mission of learning and are engaged in important, holy study, people outside of the school will see us and observe "ah, that is how someone from RMBA behaves." This is both an opportunity to make a kiddush Hashem, and also an extra challenge to make sure that people do not observe us outside of school behaving in a way that can even be interpreted negatively.

Shabbat Shalom,

Paul S. Oberman

