



# LOWER SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2025-2026  
5785-5786



Dear Parents:

Shalom! We hope you are enjoying a restful summer vacation.

As we gear up for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, we are pleased to present you with this back-to-school handbook with important information.

We value our partnership with you. If you would like to discuss anything pertaining to the handbook, please do not hesitate to reach out. Open communication between parents and school is key to your child's success at Yeshivah of Flatbush.

We look forward to an exciting and productive year!

**Rabbi Yahel Tsaidi**

Head of School

**Mrs. Chani Gratzman**

Associate Principal, Judaic Studies, Lower School

**Rabbi Dr. David Saltzman**

Associate Principal, General Studies, Lower School,  
Director of Teaching and Learning

**Mrs. Marie Angel**

Associate Principal, General Studies and Head of Student Services,  
Lower School

**Mrs. Chani Laufer**

Judaic Studies Coordinator

**Mrs. Shayna Statman**

General Studies Coordinator

# MIDDOT

The Yeshivah of Flatbush seeks to ensure a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for every member of its community. Our children are best served when the school and community work together to promote our Flatbush Five foundations of character development: **Respect, Honesty, Kindness, Responsibility, and Humility.**



We believe these middot are the foundations of character development in elementary school children. Research shows that students who exhibit these traits achieve higher grades, enjoy greater success in life, and have enhanced self-esteem. Adhering to the policies and procedures below will improve school safety and help our children know what to expect so that they can focus on academic and social-emotional growth.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

### I. School Opening Procedures and Class Cards

Class cards will be emailed the first week of September.

Proper class placement is essential to a child's academic and social development. The Administration works closely with the Student Services department to determine class placement after a thorough study of each individual student's academic achievements and abilities, as well as social adjustment, parent and teacher recommendations, and individual student needs. Please be aware that any requests for changes to class placement will not be considered until October 27, 2025. Therefore, any approved changes will be implemented on or after November 3, 2025.

### II. Arrivals - First Day

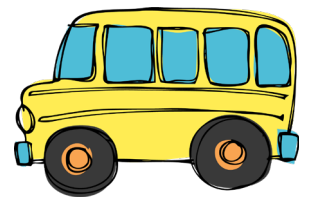
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 will be a regular, full-day schedule.

All 1st grade students will be greeted by a member of our staff at the door and escorted to the auditorium where their teacher will meet them. To ensure a smooth transition, parents may not accompany their child inside the building.

Students in grades 2-5 will follow the regular arrival routine as outlined below.

### III. Arrival - Every Day

Please make sure that your child arrives on time for school daily. Students should not arrive before 7:40 AM for safety reasons. The school does not provide supervision.



Students who arrive between 7:40 AM and 7:55 AM should report to the following places:

- 1st grade Young Israel classes - Young Israel Gym (lower level)
- 1st grade main building classes - MPR 2
- 2nd grade - small gym (lower level)
- 3rd - 5th grades - lunch room or art room (Quiet Room)

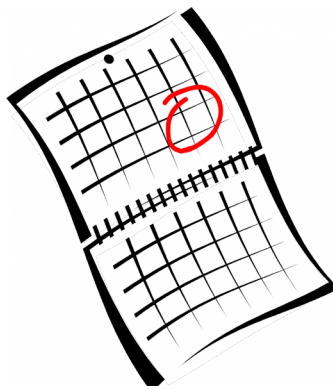
Please discuss with your child the importance of going directly to his/her designated location.

Grades 1 - 5

Students who arrive between 7:55 AM and 8:00 AM will report directly to the classroom.

# IMPORTANT DATES

## The Calendar



The full school calendar for 5785-5786 (2025-2026) will be sent separately. Please take a moment to review the calendar carefully, noting when there is school, vacation, early dismissal, other days when the Yeshivah is closed, and days when regular transportation is not available. There may be slight differences for Early Childhood, Lower School, Middle School, and High School. We expect every student to be in attendance every day of school, except in the case of illness. Please adhere to vacation schedules and do not take your child out before vacation begins. Teachers are not expected to prepare work or alter test schedules for students who take extended vacations. Please see the homework policy for more details.

## Back to School Night

Back to School Night serves as an important opportunity to meet your child's teachers, hear their expectations, and ask questions. Please make every effort to attend. If you have any individual questions, please reach out to your child's teacher and set a time to discuss.

Back to School Night Dates:

- Grades 1, 2 and 3 - Monday, September 8, 2025
- Grades 4 and 5 - Wednesday, September 17, 2025

# POLICIES

## Food

Detailed information regarding the lunch program will be sent at a later date. Students who bring their own lunch to school may only bring dairy or parve. Please follow the school lunch schedule to find out the meat days. On meat days, students must bring a parve lunch. Meat cannot be brought from home any day of the week. Hot water will not be provided to students. Please do not send any type of food that requires hot water.

## Kosher Standard

We are committed to upholding the highest standards of kashrut. As such, all outside food that is brought in, whether for lunch/ snack or on special occasions must be made under the supervision of a kashrut authority on Yeshivah of Flatbush's approved list. The following kashrut authorities have been approved:

National Organizations: OU, Kaf-K, Star K, OK

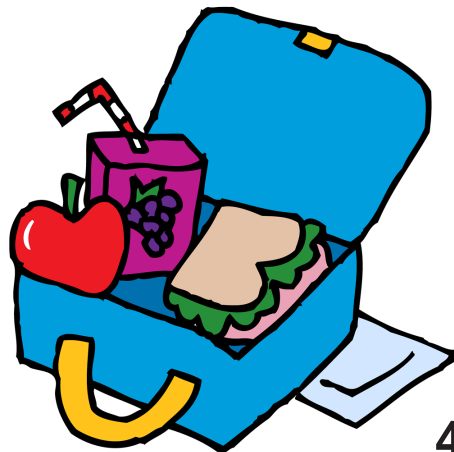
Local Organizations: Kehilla Kashrus, Vaad Harabanim, Kehall Chizuk Hadas - Rabbi Gornish, JSOR (Jersey Shore)

To view the CRC list of acceptable Hashgachot, visit [tinyurl.com/crcagencies](http://tinyurl.com/crcagencies).

Other rabbinic certifications or questions should be checked in advance with Rabbi Tsaidi [ytsaidi@flatbush.org](mailto:ytsaidi@flatbush.org) or Rabbi Tawil [itawil@flatbush.org](mailto:itawil@flatbush.org).

No home-baked goods are allowed to be brought to school to be shared with others.

Important: Due to kashrut reasons, food products from any Dunkin Donuts location may not be brought into school at **any** time.



We are a nut- and sesame-sensitive school. All students must refrain from bringing any nut or sesame products to school. This includes peanuts, peanut butter, all tree nuts and sesame. Tree nuts include almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, filberts, hazelnuts, hickory nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, macadamia nuts, and walnuts. Please check all food labels carefully. Please do not send in food manufactured in a factory or bakery or food that “may contain” traces of nuts and/or sesame. Any food that does not adhere to these guidelines will be disposed of. If your child has any other food allergies besides nuts and/or sesame, please make sure to let the nurse’s office and your child’s teachers know.

**\*\*\*Please note: Our Yeshivah has agreements with select, pre-approved caterers and bakeries who supply food processed in facilities that contain sesame and nuts. These vendors follow strict guidelines to ensure our safety standards to the best of their ability. Since mass-produced food items cannot be guaranteed to meet our policies, the Yeshivah will not provide, and parents are not allowed to send in, packaged foods or bakery items that are “made in a facility with” or “may contain” sesame, nuts, or other allergens.**

### Outside Deliveries

To ensure the safety, security, and smooth operation of the school day, **outside food deliveries** from services such as Uber Eats, DoorDash, or any restaurant or vendor **are strictly prohibited at all times**. These deliveries will not be accepted under any circumstances.

If a child forgets their lunch, the school will provide an appropriate lunch option.

If a parent, guardian, or family member needs to drop off a forgotten item (including lunch), it must be brought to the security desk **by 9:30 AM**. At that time, all dropped-off items will be delivered to the classrooms. After 9:30 AM, no additional drop-offs will be accepted or delivered to students.

### Health

The nurse maintains health records, communicates health concerns, formulates health policies, and is on hand to address issues as they arise. If a student experiences a minor illness or injury, he/she is sent to the nurse, who will appropriately evaluate the health complaint, perform a physical examination, and implement any necessary intervention. Parents will be notified of any significant findings, nursing actions, and recommendations for follow-up care.

Any significant illness or injury that occurs during school hours will be reported to the administration and the child’s parents. In the case of a significant injury, the witnessing faculty member and the school nurse on duty will fill out an accident report.

Students who are contagious or have fever may not attend school until 24 hours after being fever-free without medication. In the case of doubt or concern, your child will be sent home.

Medications: In accordance with state law, all medications — both prescription and over-the-counter — must be stored securely in the nurse’s office. Students are not allowed to self-dispense medication.



### Student Support

If you have questions about additional support services that are available to your child, please contact the following Lower School staff members:

Social/Emotional, Guidance or Behavior: Mrs. Robyn Luisi - [rluisi@flatbush.org](mailto:rluisi@flatbush.org)

Academic Support: Mrs. Tara Schneider - [tschneider@flatbush.org](mailto:tschneider@flatbush.org)

Related Services/Department of Ed - Mrs. Kim Cohen - [kcohen@flatbush.org](mailto:kcohen@flatbush.org)

SETSS Services - Mrs. Caryn Tawil - [ctawil\\_th@flatbush.org](mailto:ctawil_th@flatbush.org)

## Dress Code - The Flatbush Wardrobe

[Yeshivah of Flatbush Wardrobe Manual](#) or [tinyurl.com/yofwardrobemanual](http://tinyurl.com/yofwardrobemanual)

Students must dress in accordance with the Flatbush wardrobe policy. Please carefully review the guidelines outlined in the wardrobe manual to ensure that any school clothing you purchase adheres to them. Sweatshirts and hoodies worn over collared shirts must be solid colors referred to in the wardrobe manual (black, white, navy, gray, light blue, burgundy).

The administrators are responsible for the enforcement of the dress code policy at their discretion. If your child is not dressed according to the Flatbush wardrobe, you may be required to bring the appropriate clothing to school before your child is allowed into class.

Boys should come to school wearing a kippah and tzitzit daily. Kippot will not be distributed by the school.

Please note that vendor information can be found on the last page of the wardrobe manual. We ask that you help us maintain our commitment to Torah U'mitzvot and, in particular, kavod to the building—our Yeshivah and our makom Torah. Upon entering the school building, we ask that men wear kippot, and women wear tops with sleeves and knee-length skirts.

## Cell Phones and Smartwatches

Please carefully review the updated cell phone policy to ensure that you and your child are properly informed. The policy will be strictly enforced. View the policy at [tinyurl.com/yoflscellphone](http://tinyurl.com/yoflscellphone)

## Communication Between Parents and Students During School Hours

In the event that a student needs to call home during the day, permission must be obtained from a classroom teacher to use a supervised office phone. Parents who need to get their child a message during the school day may email [LSooffice@flatbush.org](mailto:LSooffice@flatbush.org).

## Homework

The Yeshivah of Flatbush Lower School homework guidelines reflect the belief that we seek to ensure academic success for all students. View the policy at [tinyurl.com/yoflshomework](http://tinyurl.com/yoflshomework)

## Bullying

Yeshivah of Flatbush celebrates unity and seeks to foster a safe, warm, and nurturing environment for its community members. Our bullying prevention policy aims to promote this environment. View the policy at [tinyurl.com/yofesbullying](http://tinyurl.com/yofesbullying)

## Parents In School

In order to maintain a focused and secure learning environment, parents may only come to school when they are invited for special events. In the case of such events, teachers or staff members will inform security to allow entry.

Students are not allowed to attend birthday parties or celebrations for siblings in other classes during the school day.

## Goods Sold in School

Students are not allowed to sell anything in school. Students may not bring sports, novelty, or playing cards to school.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Birthday Parties

Mazal Tov and Mabruk on your child's birthday. In order to be considerate of all children, please adhere to the following guidelines:

The Naomi Houllou A"H Ladies Auxiliary offers a variety of birthday packages if you wish for your child to have a birthday celebration in school. No outside food is allowed for birthday parties celebrated in school - you MUST order through the Ladies Auxiliary. To order a birthday party package from the Naomi Houllou A"H Ladies Auxiliary, please see details at [tinyurl.com/yofcelebrationpackages](http://tinyurl.com/yofcelebrationpackages)

Birthday parties will be celebrated with teachers and students only. Parents are not allowed to attend. Please coordinate with your child's teacher for dates and times of all in-school birthday parties.

If your child has a birthday party outside of school hours, there are three options:

- Invite the entire class
- Invite all the boys or all the girls in the class
- Invite no more than 2-3 friends.

Please remember the school's policy for plans and parties: If more than half of the children of the same gender (including your child) from the same class or grade are attending, all students of that gender in the class or grade must be invited.

Birthday invitations may not be distributed in school.



## Purim - Mishloach Manot

The mishloach manot policy is that students may exchange with either a maximum of TWO students within their class, or a boy/girl can bring for all boys/girls in their own class. To ensure inclusivity, the class liaison will arrange and inform parents of designated mishloach manot exchange times and locations for each class. All outside Purim swaps must be class-wide or follow our birthday party policy listed above.

# WHO'S WHO IN THE LOWER SCHOOL

If you have any questions or would like to reach anyone in the Lower School, please use the list below as a resource.

**Rabbi Yahel Tsaidi, Head of Elementary School - Ext. 143**

**Mrs. Leah Yaish, Executive Assistant to the Head of School - Ext. 143**

---

## JUDAIC STUDIES

**Mrs. Chani Gratzman, Associate Principal, Judaic Studies - Ext. 212**

**Mrs. Chani Laufer, Judaic Studies Coordinator - Ext. 238**

**Mrs. Henriette Yazdi, Judaic Studies Administrative Assistant - Ext. 120**

---

## GENERAL STUDIES

**Rabbi Dr. David Saltzman, Associate Principal, General Studies,  
Director of Teaching and Learning - Ext. 127**

**Mrs. Marie Angel, Associate Principal, General Studies, Head of Student Services - Ext. 156**

**Mrs. Shayna Statman, General Studies Coordinator - Ext. 183**

**Mazal Jaradeh, General Studies Executive Assistant - Ext. 132**

---

## ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

**Mrs. Jenny Kamagi - Ext. 189**

**Mrs. Tara Schneider, Director of Academic Support - Ext. 146**

**Mrs. Robyn Luisi, Director of Guidance/Student Life**

**Dr. Shlomo Stern, Associate Director of Guidance/Student Life**

**Mrs. Iris Bukobza, Family Services Representative - Ext. 169**

**Mrs. Evelyn Glaser, School Nurse - Ext. 148**

**Executive Office Front Desk - Ext. 295**

