



YESHIVA ATERES EITZ CHAIM
GUIDE TO SUCCESS
2026 – 2027/5786 - 5787

RABBI GEDALIAH OPPEN
ROSH YESHIVA



RABBI BORUCH OPPEN
PRINCIPAL

Elul 5786/August 2026

Dear Parents and Talmidim:

Welcome to Yeshiva Ateres Eitz Chaim! We are very excited and looking forward to personally greeting each of you, b'ezer Hashem, as we embark on a productive and wonderful school year.

During the summer, we had the privilege and honor to work very closely to mechanchim in planning a program of outstanding hasmada and academics in Limudei Kodesh, internship programs, Life Skills Courses, and General Studies which we trust will be motivating and challenging.

When designing shiurim, classes, curriculum, and structure we have given priority to the social and emotional wellbeing of our beloved talmidim, as well as inspiring and stimulating their minds and enhancing their knowledge so they can be prepared for a life as a Ben Torah in any vocation. We strongly encourage every talmid to take full advantage of the exceptional shiurim, classes, and extracurricular activities which, b'ezer Hashem, the Yeshiva will be offering, thus ensuring that each talmid will soar to the highest levels of Yiddishkeit and reach his potential scholastically, as well as maximize his intellectual, social, emotional potential.

Attached, you will find Yeshiva Ateres Eitz Chaim's Guide for Success which delineates Yeshiva policies and expectations for parents and talmidim. This handbook will assist you in making the excellent choices ensuring your success as a talmid of the Yeshiva. These policies are designed to enhance students' security, participation in davening and class, appearance, conduct as B'nei Torah, and the avoidance of risk-taking behavior.

Once again, we look forward to welcoming each of you and extend our warmest wishes to everyone for a successful year and much hatzlacha, b'ezer Hashem.

Rabbi Gedaliah Oppen, Rosh Yeshiva

Rabbi Boruch Oppen, Principal

GUIDE OVERVIEW

This guide is designed to help you understand how a *talmid* of Yeshiva Ateres Eitz Chaim is expected to conduct himself. It outlines school policies, behavioral expectations, and the consequences for not following these guidelines.

- **Mindset:** As a successful *talmid*, you recognize that you are a *Ben Torah*. Because of this, your conduct both in and out of the Yeshiva must always reflect high standards.
- **Engagement:** A successful *talmid* participates promptly and enthusiastically in all parts of the day, including *davening*, *Limudei Kodesh*, internships, *Limudei Chol*, Life Skills Courses, trips, and special events.
- **Respect:** A successful *talmid* respects himself, his *Rabbeim*, teachers, peers, and all staff members, as well as anyone he interacts with inside or outside of Yeshiva. He also shows respect for all personal, peer, and Yeshiva property.
- **Communication:** A major part of your success includes taking advantage of the guidance and experience offered by the Rosh Yeshiva, Principal, *Rabbeim*, and faculty. You are strongly encouraged to speak up if you face any issues that interfere with your success. We are here to work with you to address and solve any problems.

Gemara: This year we will be learning **Meseches Megillah**. Please make sure to purchase a *Gemara* and bring it with you every day.

Derech Eretz Kadma L'Torah: Code of Conduct & Expectations

Character and Conduct

Academic and personal success requires all *talmidim* to maintain exemplary *middos* and show *derech eretz* at all times. The Yeshiva is dedicated to building a respectful and focused learning environment where our *Rabbeim* and faculty are fully supported as they teach and guide our students.

Academic Integrity & Classroom Behavior

To keep our learning environment productive, any behavior that interrupts a *Rebbe* or teacher, or prevents other students from learning, is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in an immediate referral to the Rosh Yeshiva or Principal for disciplinary review.

Dining Hall Etiquette

Talmidim are expected to keep the dining area clean and maintain good manners during meals. Students may not leave the dining hall until their table and surrounding area are completely clean and all trash is thrown away in the proper bins.

DAVENING

Arriving late to *davening* sends the message that personal convenience has been placed above spiritual growth. Punctuality is also a matter of showing respect for your peers, *Rabbeim*, and community members who join us for prayers. Being on time shows that we value other people's time and effort.

- *Talmidim* are required to daven *Shachris*, *Mincha*, and *Maariv* (depending on the *zman*) with the Yeshiva.

TRANSPORTATION AND STUDENT VEHICLES

Parental Liability and Responsibility:

Parents or guardians assume full legal and financial responsibility for any student who drives a vehicle to and from the Yeshiva. This responsibility extends to any student driving throughout the school day, including driving to and from off-campus internships, Life Skills courses, and school-sanctioned trips or events.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Regular attendance is key to a talmid's success at Yeshiva. To get the most out of our program, students must attend all scheduled classes consistently.

- **Grading Factors:** Grades are based on more than just test scores. Daily attendance, taking notes, paying attention, good behavior, and active class participation all factor into student progress. *Rabbeim* and teachers have the authority to factor these areas into final grades.
- **Notifying the Office:** The Yeshiva administration must be notified in advance if a *talmid* will be absent or late. Unexcused absences or tardiness will result in disciplinary action determined by the Rosh Yeshiva or Principal.
- **Student Responsibility:** It is the personal responsibility of the *talmid* to follow up and ensure his absence or lateness has been officially excused.

Gradelink:

Gradelink is a cloud-based Student Information System (SIS) designed to streamline school administration, enhance teaching, and foster parent engagement. It provides a centralized platform for managing grades, attendance, communication, and other school-related information.

Parents will receive an email with the login information and should sign in to Gradelink to stay updated. Parents/students will receive their login information once the admissions department confirms the student's enrollment.

Daily Attendance and Absence Policy:

Attendance is recorded on a daily basis. The Yeshiva administration **must** be notified in advance if a *talmid* will be absent or late. Any unexcused absence or tardiness will result in a disciplinary

penalty, determined at the discretion of the Rosh Yeshiva or Principal. Ultimately, it is the personal responsibility of the *talmid* to follow up and ensure that his absence or lateness has been officially excused.

Leaving School Grounds and Appointments:

- Students may not leave school grounds during the school day without explicit permission from the Rosh Yeshiva or Principal.
- Medical and personal appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible.
- If a *talmid* must leave during the day, parents must contact the Rabbi Oppen ahead of time with explicit permission, including the departure time and return plan.
- **Warning:** Leaving school grounds without permission may result in suspension.

Life Skills Courses:

B”H, the Yeshiva is privileged to provide our talmidim with unique opportunities to engage with and learn from professionals across a variety of industries. Participation in our Life Skills Courses is an essential component of a well-rounded education, offering invaluable insights that extend far beyond the classroom. Even when a specific topic may not align with a student’s primary interests, attendance remains mandatory as a matter of personal growth and as a fundamental expression of kavod for the guest speakers who graciously share their time and expertise with our institution.

INTERNSHIPS

Our internship program provides 11th and 12th-grade *talmidim* with practical, real-world experience to explore career paths and build essential professional skills like communication and teamwork.

- **Schedule Requirement:** If a *talmid* opts out of an internship or cannot attend on a given day, he must remain on the Yeshiva campus for that entire time period.
- **Prior Employment:** Any student (9th–12th grade) who held a job prior to the school year may continue that employment.
- **Independent Internships:** Students who find their own internships or jobs may participate if they have explicit parental approval.
- **No Remote Work:** To ensure real professional growth, remote positions are **not** permitted. All internships must take place in person at a traditional office or workplace.
- **Finances:** The Yeshiva does not set up paid internships, nor do we request pay for interns. Any payment arrangements are strictly between the student and the employer.

(Please speak directly with Rabbi Boruch Oppen to discuss internship details.)

GENERAL STUDIES

Significant effort and research have been dedicated to developing a curriculum that aligns with the unique needs of our talmidim and the specific schedule of our Yeshiva. To maintain the integrity of our educational standards, all students must be enrolled in a General Studies program that has received formal approval from the administration. For further information regarding General Studies requirements or to discuss specific program options, please contact Rabbi Boruch Oppen.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Monday – Thursday:

8:30 Learning Club:	8:30 – 8:45
Shachris:	8:45 – 9:45
Breakfast:	9:45 – 10:15
1 st Seder:	10:15 – 11:00
2 nd Seder:	11:05 – 12:00
Lunch:	12:00 – 12:45
1 st Chabura:	12:45 – 1:15
Mincha:	1:15 – 1:30
2 nd Chabura:	1:30 – 2:30
Internships:	1:30 – 4:00
General Studies 1:	2:30 – 3:30
General Studies 2:	4:00 – 5:00
Elective/Life Skills:	3:30 – 5:00
Dismissal:	5:00

Friday:

8:30 Learning Club:	8:30 – 8:45
Shachris:	8:45 – 9:45
Breakfast:	9:45 – 10:15
1 st Seder:	10:15 – 10:55
2 nd Seder:	11:00 – 11:30
Oneg:	11:30 – 12:00
Dismissal:	12:00

YESHIVA CALENDAR

The Yeshiva calendar will be sent out in a separate file.

Please note: Dates and events on the Yeshiva calendar are subject to change. To view the Yeshiva's calendar online, please visit the Yeshiva website: Atereseitzchaim.org/schoolcalendar.

DRESS CODE

The Yeshiva's dress code represents our values as a Yeshiva. A talmid's appearance in the Yeshiva and in the workplace must reflect the concepts of a dignified Ben Torah.

- Dress like a mentch.
- Personal grooming and facial hair must be consistent with the Kavod of a Ben Torah.
- Yarmulkes must be appropriate size and in good taste.

CELL PHONE POLICY

The Yeshiva understands the need for cell phones to communicate with parents or employers, but devices must not become a distraction.

- **Phone Collection:** Upon entering the Yeshiva, each student must hand in his cell phone.
- **Refusal to Turn In:** If a student refuses to turn in his phone, he will face disciplinary action or suspension.
- **Prohibited Times:** Cell phones may **not** be used during *davening*, *shiur*, *seider*, regular classes, or inside the *Beis Midrash*.
- **Cyberbullying & Privacy:** Using phones or electronic devices for cyberbullying, taking or sharing photos/videos of others without permission, sending harmful messages, or online harassment is strictly prohibited.
- **Violations:** Any violation of these instructions will lead to disciplinary action, which may include phone confiscation or suspension.
- **Filters:** The Yeshiva strongly encourages parents to ensure all student devices have appropriate web filters installed.

SUBSTANCE USE POLICY

The Yeshiva actively educates students on the dangers of drugs, alcohol, smoking, and vaping to help them make safe, healthy choices.

- **Zero Tolerance:** The Yeshiva maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy for the possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances, alcohol, nicotine, or tobacco products on school property or at any school event.
- **Consequences:** Violations will result in immediate disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion, and notification of law enforcement.
- **Screening & Searches:** The Yeshiva reserves the right to use screening methods (including interviews, cheek swabs, urine tests, or hair samples) and to search a student's person or belongings if necessary.
- **Support:** We are committed to helping students who struggle with substance abuse and encourage anyone in need of help to reach out to trusted staff or community resources.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Yeshiva Email:** AECrabbioffen@gmail.com
- **Admissions Department:** admissions@atereseitzchaim.org
- **Rabbi Gedaliah Oppen (Rosh Yeshiva):** 516-668-4413
- **Rabbi Boruch Oppen (Principal):** 516-341-9695

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Yeshiva strives to foster an environment of commitment to Torah, its values, and Yiddishkeit. We remind you that your conduct on and off school grounds, reflects upon you as a Ben Torah and a Yeshiva student 24/7. We are confident you will make good choices that will make us proud and enhance the Ateres Eitz Chaim family.

We extend our very best wishes to every talmid for a happy, successful, and productive school year!

Much Bracha V'Hatzlacha!!!



STUDENT COMMITMENT & RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

Student Information

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Student Acknowledgment & Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. **Review of Guidelines:** I have read, understood, and reviewed the Yeshiva Student Handbook and Guidelines for the upcoming academic year.
2. **Commitment to Standards:** I pledge to uphold the values, expectations, and policies of the Yeshiva, including standards regarding attendance, conduct, academic engagement, and derech eretz both on and off campus.
3. **Understanding of Consequences:** I fully understand that adherence to Yeshiva rules is a prerequisite for maintaining good standing and participating in full Yeshiva life.

Notice Regarding Privilege Status:

Participation in special Yeshiva offerings—including **Life Skills Courses, internships, reward trips, off-campus excursions, and other Yeshiva programs**—is a privilege, not a right.

Failure to comply with Yeshiva policies, behavioral expectations, or attendance requirements may result in disciplinary action, up to and including the **immediate suspension or loss of these privileges**.

Signatures

I have read this contract, understand its terms, and agree to abide by all Yeshiva policies.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Administrator Signature: _____ Date: _____