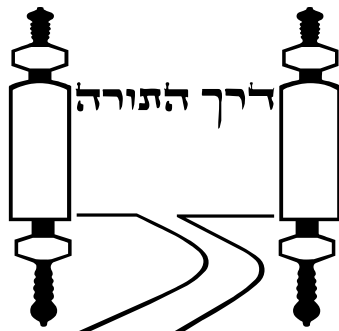


GUIDE FOR
STUDENTS
and
PARENTS



Derech HaTorah of Rochester

2009-2010

DHR STUDENT & PARENT GUIDE

2009-2010

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I. *About Our School*

Derech HaTorah of Rochester (DHR) is committed to providing a Torah education for all Jewish children. A seamless fusion of curricula has been developed to educate the whole child. DHR teaches a superior, scholastic curriculum that meets and exceeds New York State Education Department standards. The intellectual and moral development of every student is maximized in a warm, nurturing learning environment. Each student is viewed as an individual, having multiple capacities, interests and intelligences. Thus, our educational philosophy reflects the wisdom of Proverbs: "*Chanoch L'naar Al Pi Darko*" (educate each child according to his nature).

II. *Goals & Objectives*

- Unequivocal commitment to excellence
- Congruent academic program
- Develop intellectually curious, critical thinkers
- Focus on *Derech Eretz*, including character development, integrity and respect for others
- Assessment of learning through multiple measures of academic achievement
- Foster a learning environment that supports ethical and moral conduct
- Encourage creativity
- Motivate students to develop a positive self-image
- Enrich our educational product through a variety of creative and innovative programs and partnerships

III. *Admissions Policy*

Derech HaTorah of Rochester admits Jewish students whose parents desire a superior, balanced Judaic and general studies education for their children. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of our educational policies, admission policies, scholarships or other school-sponsored programs.

IV. *Student Conduct*

Prominently exhibited in our school's goals and objectives, Derech HaTorah's primary focus is on *Derech Eretz*, including character development, integrity and respect for others. We emphasize the importance and necessity of showing respect to everyone. Kindness, thoughtfulness and courtesy are basic, fundamental expectations which all students, teachers and administrators will be expected to practice and display at all times.

V. *Location of School & Classrooms*

Derech HaTorah is located in the south wing of the 42-acre Bishop Kearney campus at 125 Kings Highway South, Rochester, NY 14617. We have our own private entrance designated by a Derech HaTorah sign. The facility is handicap-accessible and has provisions for students with physical disabilities. All Derech HaTorah classrooms are located on the second floor immediately upon entering the south wing.

VI. *Uniforms*

Derech HaTorah of Rochester requires all students to wear school uniforms. The uniform **MUST** be worn on all school days. Students should come to school in their uniforms, dressed neatly and appropriately. Please pay careful attention to the following details and help us avoid having to send a child home or call a parent to bring the proper clothing to school.

BOYS

- Navy Blue Uniform Pants
- French Blue Long/Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt [Faded Glory (Wal-Mart) brand only]
- Light Blue Long/Short Sleeve, 3 Button Polo Shirt (Gr K-4 only) [Faded Glory brand only]
- Navy Blue Long/Short Sleeve, 3 Button Polo Shirt (Gr K-4 only)
- White Long/Short Sleeve Oxford (French Toast, Faded Glory or Lands End only)
- Light Blue Long/Short Sleeve Oxford (French Toast, Faded Glory or Lands End only)
- Plain Navy Blue Sweatshirt [any brand (regular, hooded or zippered), no decals, logos or insignias]
- Navy Blue Pullover Sweatshirt with/without Hood w/DHR logo (available in office)

Only the top button of shirts may be left opened (even with a shirt underneath). Additionally, all male students are required to wear a *kippah* and *tzitzis*.

French Toast uniforms may be purchased locally at Sears, Burlington Coat Factory and Target **or** online at www.frenchtoast.com **or** call 1-800-373-6248. [After considerable research, we recommend the French Toast pants. They seem to be well made, affordable and have reinforced knees. Most, if not all, of these stores carry regular, slim and husky in a variety of sizes.]

Students may not wear flip-flops, slippers or backless shoes to school and they must wear sneakers on days that they have physical education classes.

GIRLS

- Light Blue/Dark Blue Cuffs and Collar Shirt (*Peretz)
- Light Blue Oxford Shirt (Peretz, French Toast or Lands End)
- French Blue Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt [Faded Glory (Wal-Mart) brand only]
- White Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt (French Toast or Lands End only)
- Light Blue with Dark Blue Cuffs & Collar Knit Polo Long Sleeve Shirt (size 6-12 only) (*Fraylich's)
- Navy Blue Elastic Waist Pleated Skirt (*Peretz)
- Navy Blue Jumper (*Peretz)
- Navy Blue Pleated Skirt (*Peretz)
- Plain Navy Blue Sweatshirt [any brand (regular, hooded or zippered), no decals, logos or insignias]
- Navy Blue Pullover Sweatshirt with or without Hood w/DHR logo (available in office)

Only the top button of shirts may be left opened (even with a shirt underneath). Skirts must be at least 4 inches below the knee. All girls (K-8) must wear knee socks.







Students may not wear flip-flops, slippers or backless shoes to school and they must wear sneakers on days that they have physical education classes.

* If you prefer to buy these items directly, you may only purchase them from Peretz or Fraylich's childrens' clothing stores, located in Brooklyn, NY. Order forms for uniforms from Peretz are available in the school office. Please call Mrs. Malkie Noble at (585) 244-7269 with any uniform questions.

VII. Arrival, Attendance and Lateness

Punctuality and regular attendance are crucial for success. Please try to be on time and in the classroom when class starts. Upon arrival at school, all students should go directly to their first period classroom/Tefilla area. For safety reasons, if a student arrives late, a parent must accompany the student up to the office. If a student is absent, a note should be brought from home when the student returns to school explaining the absence. Attendance records, which are legal documents required by state law, will be kept by all first period teachers. If the absence is planned, please inform your teachers in advance to allow them sufficient time to prepare and send work to help the student keep up with class work and assignments.

VIII. Kashrus/Kosher Dietary Guidelines

All food served to students must be prepackaged and must have one of the following kosher certifications: , , , ,  or . School policy does not allow any home-baked foods, however, ready-made foods can occasionally be ordered through Chabad Lubavitch (271-0330) or through the Yeshiva (473-2810).

IX. Lunch & Snacks

Students should bring bagged, kosher lunches from home (with all necessary utensils). Drinks may be brought from home, or students can help themselves to fresh milk, which is served daily.

Lunchtime should be a pleasant and enjoyable break. Seats should not be reserved for other students. Proper, respectful behavior will be expected at all times and will also be enforced in the lunchroom. Students must clean up after themselves. The teacher(s) supervising lunch will clarify any other rules or expectations.

The DHR Senate operates two student microwaves (one dairy and one Cholov Yisroel dairy) on a rotating schedule. Microwave schedules are posted during the first week of school.

X. School Senate

The DHR Senate is staffed by the 8th Grade. Senators coordinate special student activities, operate the student microwaves, create the school yearbook and help plan and organize certain school functions. The DHR Senate represents the student body and usually meets on a bi-monthly basis.

XI. Computers & the Internet

In addition to the computers in our computer lab, most classrooms are equipped with two computers. The computers are on the school network but are not connected to the internet. Although we are wired for high speed T1 internet with a sophisticated firewall and blocker, we are nevertheless concerned about our ability to guarantee the purity and kedusha of our children and the sanctity of our school. A recent study (Wolak, Janis; University of New Hampshire, Jan. 2007) details the shocking and unacceptable levels of inappropriate exposure that even very young children routinely experience while using the internet. Therefore, as a result of extensive input and a directive from Agudath Yisrael prohibiting the use of the internet in schools, Derech HaTorah's students do not have access to the internet.

XII. *Report Cards & Parent Conferences*

Report cards will be issued twice during the school year (usually in January and June). Parents are encouraged to review them carefully and discuss the grades and comments with their child. Parents should not hesitate to contact the school or teachers if they have any questions or concerns about their child's progress.

Parent-Teacher Team Conferences will be scheduled twice during the school year (usually in November and March). Parents are strongly encouraged to attend all scheduled conferences. Additionally, our teachers are always ready and willing to address parents' questions and concerns whenever necessary. The educational process is a cooperative venture between home and school. The aim of Derech HaTorah's administration and faculty is to constantly strive to offer the best possible program and to meet the needs of each and every student.

XIII. *Homework & Study Skills*

Students in most classes will be assigned homework on a nightly basis. Teachers will share with students (and parents) their exact philosophies and expectations, yet the primary purpose of homework will be to review what the student learned that day/week.

We are committed to helping students develop study skills, time management techniques and responsibility for their academic progress. At the beginning of the school year, each student (in grades 3-8) will receive a personal *Yoman* (daily planner) and will be expected to record each assignment. The *Yoman* must travel to and from school with each student on a daily basis.

XIV. *Dismissal:*

Before leaving the classroom, make sure that all of your books and items are in your desk, cubby or locker (this will vary by grade and teacher). Your chair should be pushed in and your desk returned to its place. Teachers will dismiss students when their classrooms are neat and the buses/parents arrive. **Please** do your part to help us keep our school clean and neat.