



Getting DHR Ready!

We hope that you are having a wonderful, fun-filled summer! We are looking forward to a fabulous new school year – and we want to share some exciting news about what you can expect at DHR in 2018-2019!

First, as a result of a generous grant from Joey and Suri Aron in memory of Joey's grandmother, artist Joann Oransky (Yehudis Bas Yaakov Yosef) ה"ו, DHR will be dedicating a brand new Art Room! This classroom will be set up to facilitate a new, creative, spacious learning environment for art class, and it will house all of our art supplies in an organized and accessible fashion. All of our art classes during the upcoming school year and beyond will take place in this new Joann Oransky Art Room. Thank you very much to the Aron family!



We are thrilled to announce that we have hired Rabbi Dov Chastain to serve as our assistant principal next year, joining Mrs. Lea Goldstein (Principal), Mrs. Bracha London (Administrator), and Ms. Kat (Secretary) on our administrative team. In his first year, Rabbi Chastain added vibrancy and energy to the school through new programs and ideas that he presented and implemented. We are confident that he will utilize his Master's degree in Education, Administration and Supervision, and previous administrative experience to make DHR even better! He will also continue teaching 2nd grade, and will remain actively involved with the middle school boys.

We are also very pleased to announce the hiring of Rabbi Yitzzy Shulman, formerly Ohr Torah's Program Coordinator. Rabbi Shulman will be teaching 8th grade boys limudei kodesh as well as serving as our new middle school math teacher! From observing Rabbi Shulman's model lessons and his ideas that he has already shared with us about next year's classes, we are very excited about his energy, enthusiasm and high standards that he will be bringing to our school!

As many of you know, we were also searching for a new Kindergarten Judaic studies teacher for this coming year, and yet again, Hashem directed us to an amazing candidate in town – and one already part of the DHR team! We are so pleased that Mrs. Devorah Shulman has signed on to teach our kindergarten limudei kodesh classes next year. Mrs. Shulman will continue to teach some DHR middle school girls' classes next year as well.

A very important goal at DHR is to create an environment in which everyone who enters our building feels safe and protected. The safety and security of our students, faculty, and staff is a very high priority for us. It was with that in mind that we applied for the New York State 2017-18 Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes Grant. We are grateful that the state approved our grant proposal in full (DHR is one of only 30 organizations statewide that was approved for this grant). We will use the funds to build a perimeter fence, upgrade our existing surveillance and security system, and install shatter-proof windows on our ground floor.



At DHR, we do our utmost to stay at the cutting edge of what are considered best practices in educational methodology and technology. We are excited to announce that we have already received one of what will hopefully be three new interactive Smartboards this year through the NYS Smart Schools Bond Act. We are hoping to install these Smartboards in different classrooms throughout the school as the funding is approved, providing a tremendous learning resource for more of our students. This week, our Building Manager, Rabbi Ross Kosow, installed the first SmartBoard Interactive Flat Panel in the first grade classroom!

At DHR, we pride ourselves on our ability to offer additional support services through the local school districts and through Title I; however, these support general studies only. One of the admirable qualities of the Jewish community throughout the ages has been our dedication to endow our children with knowledge of our Holy Torah, our traditions, and our language. Some students struggle in these subjects as well, and we know it is worthwhile and essential to invest our resources in supporting students in limudei kodesh subjects, thereby strengthening their chances of becoming well-educated Torah observant Jews. This past year, on a very limited basis, we were able to facilitate additional kriyah support through Mrs. Devorah Shulman. Mrs. Michal Davidowitz donated her time to work with many students on dikduk and kriyah as well, and both did a tremendous service for our students. This coming school year, we will be taking the next step in providing extra support for children struggling in Judaic studies by creating JLab- the Jewish Learning and Skill Building Center. This will be an official half-time Judaic Title I-like support service which will be headed by the one and only Rabbi Adam Aranov, who will be joining our staff to lead this department. Welcome, Rabbi Aranov!

At the end of the school year, two of our dedicated, veteran educators, Mr. Hank Elich and Dr. Linda Podewils, retired from DHR. We appreciate their years of service and wish them only happiness and success. We hope they come back to visit us!

Summer vacation is the time for students to relax, have fun, recharge their batteries and gear up for another year of important, exciting and meaningful learning. However, as we've all noticed, students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Educational experts have estimated that up to 80% of what children are taught in school can be lost over the summer if it is not reinforced. Since DHR always endeavors to be on the cutting edge of educational progress, we have continued what we started last summer: DHR's recommended school-wide summer learning program. The purpose of the summer packets is NOT to teach new skills, but to help students review what they've learned over the school year. If your child has misplaced his/her summer packets, they are conveniently posted on our website under the "Downloads" tab. As an incentive, all students who complete their summer packets will be awarded Derech HaTorah Dollars that they can use at the DHR Student Store for Great Stuff during the first week of school in September. There will be all sorts of fun and amazing items for children of all ages to purchase with their DHR \$\$.

So, please partner with us in assuring that all of our students retain their hard-earned skills and are ready to start new material in September without needing a great deal of review and re-teaching.

Back to School Reminders

Please take a moment to review these important DHR reminders to ensure a successful start to the new school year:

Student Fees - Attached you will find a mandatory student fees form. Please send the completed form, along with payment, to the DHR office by August 15th. Thank you.

Supply List - School supply lists are available on our website (www.derechhatorah.org/downloads).

Summer Homework - Recommended summer homework is also available on our website (www.derechhatorah.org/downloads). Students can earn DHR dollars to spend at our back-to-school summer store!

Immunizations/Physical Exams - NYSED requires an annual physical exam for all new entrants and students entering K, 1, 3, 5 and 7 grades. Please have your doctor fax over the completed forms ASAP to (585)486-1089.

New Families: Please make sure that your children are fully registered in their home school district and that you have submitted all required transportation/busing documentation.

Uniforms - Please review DHR uniform guidelines - available at www.derechhatorah.org/downloads.

Mazel Tov to...

...Shmuel & Miriam Noble upon the birth of a baby girl, Elianna Sima!
...Pinchas & Orah Fried upon the birth of a baby boy, Tzvi Moshe and upon Gav's Upsherin!
...Shmuel & Molly Zargary upon the birth of a baby girl, Batsheva Leah!

Thank You to...

... the London family for their \$365 donation.
...Sara Leah London for her donation of \$232.
...Nitzevet Goldstein for her donation of \$72.
...Mr. & Mrs. Tzvi Shulman for their donation of \$50.
...Nancy Klein for her donation of \$100.
...Shirley Renner Roat for her donation in memory of Dr. Sandee Eiduson.

Calendar

Thursday & Friday, August 30 & 31 - Teacher Work Day
Friday, August 31 - Kindergarten Ice Cream Social, 12:00 - 12:30 pm
Monday, September 3 - Labor Day, **No School**
Tuesday, September 4 - First Day of School
Monday & Tuesday, September 10 & 11 - Rosh Hashana - **No School**
Wednesday, September 12 - Tzom Gedalia - **1:00 pm Dismissal**

