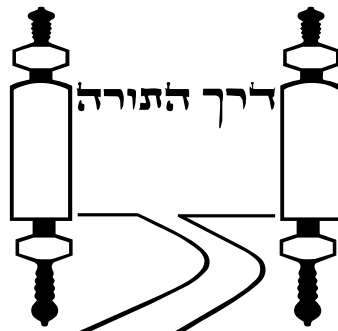


GUIDE FOR
STUDENTS
and
PARENTS



Derech HaTorah of Rochester

2020-2021

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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 at 71 Maiden Lane, Rochester, NY 14616. 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. The Derech HaTorah office is located on the second floor.

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 clean 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. Additionally, please be aware that all boys are required to wear their uniforms on Sunday during classes.

BOYS:

- Navy Blue Uniform Pants [regular, non-cargo]
- Light Blue, French Blue or White Long/Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt
- Light Blue or Navy Blue Long/Short Sleeve, 3 Button Polo Shirt
- Plain Navy Blue Sweatshirt [any brand - hooded or zippered - no decals, logos, or insignias]
- Navy Blue 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*.

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

GIRLS:

- Light Blue/Dark Blue Cuffs and Collar Shirt
- Light Blue, French Blue or White Oxford Shirt/Blouse
- Light Blue with Dark Blue Cuffs, & Collar Knit Polo Long Sleeve Shirt
- Light Blue or Navy Blue Long Sleeve, 3 Button Polo Shirt
- Navy Blue Pleated Skirt [Covering the knees or longer]
- Navy Blue Pleated Jumper [Covering the knees or longer]
- Plain Navy Blue Sweatshirt [any brand - regular, hooded or zippered - no decals, logos or insignias]
- Navy Blue 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).
All girls (K-8) must wear knee socks or tights.

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.

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:



School policy does not allow any home-baked foods, however, ready-made foods can occasionally be ordered through Sabra Grill (244-2211) which is under the BVK, Chabad Lubavitch (271-0330), BJ's Bakery (475-1180) which is under the kuf-K or through the Yeshiva (473-2810).

IX. Lunch & Snacks

Students should bring bagged, kosher dairy or Parve 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.

During the K – 3 and girls 4 - 8 lunchtime, the DHR Senate operates two student microwaves (one dairy and one Cholov Yisrael dairy) on a rotating schedule. Microwave schedules and rules are posted during the first week of school.

Students in grades 6 - 8 have access to the microwaves daily (One dairy and one Cholov Yisrael dairy).

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 teachers supervising lunch periods will clarify any other rules or expectations.

X. School Senate

The DHR Senate is staffed by the 8th Grade. Senators coordinate special student activities, operate the microwaves for the younger students, 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

Due to our concern about our ability to guarantee the purity and kedusha of our children and the sanctity of our school, we have very strict rules to protect our students. A recent study (Wolak, Janis; University of New Hampshire) details the shocking and unacceptable levels of inappropriate exposure that even very young children routinely experience while using the internet.

In light of this danger and concerns expressed by our parent body and Rabbaim, and as a result of extensive input and a directive from Agudath Yisrael, we have a very carefully maintained whitelist for certain DHR computers (STEM lab, laptop cart and Computer Tech. lab). Otherwise, students have absolutely no internet access and are forbidden to use any personal devices, INCLUDING SMARTPHONES, at school, or at TIUNY when middle school students are there for davening. We have informed students and parents numerous times that if a child has a smartphone or any other

device, it cannot be taken out during school time, or while in the DHR or TIUNY buildings. If it is taken out during any of those times, it will be confiscated until the end of the school year. Just to clarify, there are two important issues. First, students may not use any device during school hours and/or on DHR or TIUNY grounds, even if they do not have internet access. Second, students may use non-internet capable devices to play games or listen (with headphones) to music.

If your child needs to contact you, he/she may come to the school office and use our school phones to call you. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to call the school for clarification at 585-266-2920. May we all be zoche to see much nachas from our children, and be partners in the preservation of kedushas Yisrael.

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. Academic Honesty

Written by a DHR student: Cheating is wrong because you're taking someone else's work and using it as your own (in other words, you're being a fraud). There are many types of academic cheating such as:

- Sharing your completed work with another student (unless the teacher allows it)
- Copying and pasting online articles or copying from a book or publication
- Stealing or using answer sheets for tests.
- Paying or convincing another to do the work for you.

Now, if you think that cheating will let you feel good about your grade, or that cheating is the only way to be successful in school, you are wrong! Think again! By cheating, all you're going to do to yourself is make yourself feel worse – and teachers won't know what you need help with. Finally,

dishonesty is wrong – it's clear in the Torah!! There are much better ways to get a good grade than cheating, for example:

- Ask your teachers to explain the topic in more detail
- Ask your friends or parents for help
- Hire a tutor
- If, when you get home, you don't study but instead you play on a device, you should just chuck your device off a cliff.

XV. 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 put on your desk so the floor can be cleaned. 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.