



Middle School Handbook 2022-2023

*Ruth E. Cohan Early Childhood Center
Lubavitch Hebrew Academy Elementary School
Hersch ben Yehuda Middle School*

Rabbi Yossie Denburg
Dean

Rabbi Yaakov Sheinberger, MS Ed
Dean, Judaic Studies

Mrs. Rivka Denburg, MS Ed
Head of School

Rabbi Shneur Wilhelm
Principal, Judaic Studies

Mrs. Goldie Rodman
Director Early Childhood

Mrs. Chaya Minsky
Principal, Judaic Studies

Dr. Josh Wise, EdD
Principal, General Studies

1500 North State Road 7 Margate, FL 33063
info@hebrewacademy.org

P: 954- 978-6341
www.hebrewacademy.org

Table of Contents (by page number)

MISSION STATEMENT	3
VISION STATEMENT	3
SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY	4
WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL	5
ARRIVAL	5
ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES	5
BOOKS / VALUABLES	5
CAMPING/OVERNIGHT/ALL-DAY TRIPS	6
CHESED – COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS	6
CHUMASH	6
CLEANLINESS	6
CODE OF BEHAVIOR	7
DRESS CODE - SCHOOL ATTIRE	8
EXAMS - MIDTERMS & FINALS	9
HALLWAYS	9
INTERNET SAFETY RULES	9
LATENESS	10
LOCKERS	10
LUNCH	10
CHESED FORM	11
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING	12

Table of Contents (with hyperlinks)

[MISSION STATEMENT](#)

[VISION STATEMENT](#)

[SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY](#)

[WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL](#)

[ARRIVAL](#)

[ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES](#)

[BOOKS / VALUABLES](#)

[CAMPING/OVERNIGHT/ALL-DAY TRIPS](#)

[CHESED – COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS](#)

[CHUMASH](#)

[CLEANLINESS](#)

[CODE OF BEHAVIOR](#)

[DRESS CODE - SCHOOL ATTIRE](#)

[EXAMS - MIDTERMS & FINALS](#)

[HALLWAYS](#)

[INTERNET SAFETY RULES](#)

[LATENESS](#)

[LOCKERS](#)

[LUNCH](#)

[CHESED FORM](#)

[STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING](#)



MISSION STATEMENT

By providing a nurturing, and motivating environment
based on the values of Torah and Chassidus
we will develop in our students:
a lifelong commitment to Torah and Mitzvos;
an awareness of Hashem's loving and detailed involvement in our lives;
the ability to be independent and life-long learners;
the refined character and personal life skills needed to live with integrity, joy and confidence
and a commitment to serve in their community.

VISION STATEMENT

"If we wish to have a future generation of identifiable, Torah observant Jews, we must involve ourselves in the guidance of children from the youngest age in the proper Torah path."

(Hashlichus Hachinuchis B'igros Ha'Rebbe)

The LHA, founded at the behest of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, believes that every Jewish child has a "birthright" to an authentic Torah education of the highest academic standards, along with an excellent general education to enable him/her to grow into a productive, successful, and committed member of the larger Jewish and world community. As emissaries of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, the world view of Chabad philosophy guides our vision and propels us forward.

Our vision is a school where any Jewish child, regardless of affiliation, can receive instruction at his/her level with the view to advancement in all areas. Different backgrounds and levels of knowledge and observance should enrich the school population and nurture our empathy and acceptance of all Jews as expected of us in the verse, "ואהבת לרעך כמוך".

Until recently a Jew could be isolated from or assimilated into the world. Our vision is not a compromise between these two. It is a bold new course charted by the Rebbe's view of a Jew's place in the world. Our goal is to educate children to be more than personally observant, rather that they will see themselves as G-d's personal ambassador to perceive the good in the world, and to bring their own corner of the world closer to the purpose for which it was created.

WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School is a time of personal change and social growth. There are more classes and teachers, challenges and responsibilities. Most importantly, the Middle School students are the role models serving as examples of what LHA students should aspire to be.

A strong framework for growth is a clear set of expectations that define, regulate and encourage appropriate and responsible behavior. We feel that clear & consistent guidelines will give you the structure and security of knowing what to do and what to expect in school.

ARRIVAL

Middle School students begin davening at 8:10 AM. You should be in your davening rooms with your siddurim. You should not arrive at school before 7:55 AM and may never enter a classroom alone unless directed to do so by a teacher or Principal.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

It is of utmost importance to maintain regular attendance in school in order to achieve success. Unless you are ill, any absence is unexcused and interferes with your learning. When you are absent, you are fully responsible for the learning and assignments of that day. Make sure to be in touch with a classmate to review material missed.

If you need further assistance, speak to your teacher or leave a note in the office for the appropriate teacher and s/he will schedule a meeting with you. The LHA recognizes the nature of trips required to attend weddings and other special life cycle events. The school and your teachers need to be told one week before you are absent.

Within any semester three unexcused absences may result in the reduction of an earned grade by one half (i.e. C to C-, C- to D). Six unexcused absences may result in the reduction of an earned grade by a complete letter grade (i.e. C to D, A to B). FINAL decisions as to excused or unexcused absences are made by the Principal.

BOOKS / VALUABLES

All books should be treated with care and respect. Every student will have a book number for the majority of his/her books. Books not needed for homework/studying should be put away in your locker by the end of each day.

YOU are responsible for the condition of the books. Loss or excessive damage will result in replacement or repair charges. Books found on our school campus or outside lockers will be confiscated by a Principal who may levy a fine for their return.

Other valuable items such as Tefillin and tallesim should not be left in school. The LHA does not take responsibility for these items left here overnight.

CHESED – COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Each student in Middle School is required to perform Chessed hours of volunteer service to the community during the school year.

- 6th graders – 25 hours

- 7th & 8th graders – 30 hours

Students may volunteer at schools, synagogues, hospitals, community events, charities, nursing homes, shelters, etc. or by providing *unpaid* help to individuals. **Helping out at home or in businesses or professional offices does not constitute Chessed hours.** Your progress in incurring Chessed hours will be shown on your report card. 1/3 of your required Chessed hours must be completed before the end of each marking period.

Make sure to submit your properly filled out ***Chessed Hours Community Service Log*** form, found at the end of this Handbook, to the office one week before the end of each marking period.

Students who have not completed this requirement are ineligible for inclusion in the Honor Roll, participation in trips, camping or Student Council.

The year-end deadline for submitting Chessed Hours is the week before finals. Credit for Chessed Hours will not appear on your report cards if you do not submit them on time.

CLEANLINESS

Learning is most successfully achieved in a pleasant environment. It is the responsibility of each group of students to leave their classroom in a clean, uncluttered condition. This includes picking up any garbage from the floor, leaving desks and chairs in order and making sure that any personal items (such as Tefillin) and siddurim are neatly placed in an appropriate spot. There are garbage receptacles in the hallways and playground. Please use them.

CODE OF BEHAVIOR

All Middle School Students:

- Will show “Derech Eretz” - respect to all staff, faculty, and employees at all times.
- Will show consideration for other students and treat others with the accepted standards of consideration, as they themselves would like to be treated.
- Will use appropriate language at all times. Use of profanity, substitute for profanity, profane gestures or substitute gestures, racial or homophobic slurs and any other demeaning statements will be grounds for immediate suspension without additional warning.
- Will never strike, hit or harm another person with words or physical action. Doing so is cause for immediate suspension and you may be asked to leave the school.
- Will behave according to class/school rules and routine.
- Will respect school property. It is unacceptable to deface walls, desks, furniture, sidewalks, textbooks, clothing etc. You will be charged full replacement/repair cost if involved in damaging school property and may be suspended or asked to leave the school.
- Will not damage another student’s property. You will be charged full replacement/repair cost if involved in this type damage and may be suspended or asked to leave the school.
- Will behave appropriately on school trips and outings.

- **Cell phones must be checked in at the front office upon arrival. Cell phones will be confiscated if retained by the student.** It is to be picked up daily only after your name has been called for dismissal.
- Not cut class, hide or depart campus without permission, even as part of a prank.
- Pranks of any kind (i.e. Purim) are not permitted.
- Understand that as part of our curriculum students may have access to the Internet and will be taught to use this learning tool in an Orthodox-appropriate manner in accordance with our school philosophy. Students will be responsible for using this media in an appropriate manner. Students will NOT use school computers unless a faculty member is physically present in the room. Students will adhere to the Chromebook Protocols Agreement.
- Will not bring any electronic devices to school.
- Will respect the LHA as a Chabad Orthodox Jewish institution. Students will bring only appropriate reading and listening material. Inappropriate materials and/or items considered dangerous or disruptive to learning will be confiscated; and disciplinary action forthcoming.

By following this Code of Conduct, students contribute to the safe and mutually respectful learning environment that is paramount to the LHA community.

Should a student fail to conduct him/herself according to these expectations, consequences may include:

1. Loss of privileges
2. Working lunch, extra assignment or community service at school.
3. In-school suspension
4. At-home suspension
5. Expulsion

DRESS CODE - SCHOOL ATTIRE

Students are expected to be **clean** and well-groomed at all times. Hair length, style and color will be conservative and conventional and will be in accordance with Halacha. Haircuts that shave the side of the head where the Peyos grow are forbidden. Hair may not fall across the face. No caps, bandanas or kerchiefs will be allowed. Tattoos (permanent or temporary) are strictly prohibited. Sweaters and sweatshirts will be solid (with no words or logos) and denim jackets, skirts and pants are not permitted. The school administration is the final judge as to the acceptability of any student's grooming and appearance. These rules will be followed whenever students are participating in a school activity, i.e. Rosh Chodesh, trips, etc.

All students will wear closed shoes and socks at all times. Socks must be visible, i.e. low cut socks are not permitted. Crocs and sneakers with wheels are a safety hazard and are absolutely prohibited. Uniforms are available through Clothes 'n Bows in North Miami Beach or by searching for our school name on the French Toast and Land's End online school uniform store at any time during the year. Uniforms purchased will bear the appropriate school monogram.

Parents will need to come to school with a change of clothes if you are not wearing the uniform.

Girls: Grades 6 – 8: Must wear **school skirts** that are below knee length. There are a few styles available from the uniform company. The narrow, ankle length skirts are not part of the uniform and are not acceptable. **Knee socks or stockings** must be worn at all times. If one chooses to wear leggings, you must wear socks that are long enough to amply go over the bottom of the leggings. Your legs must be covered at all times. **School shirts** must be the long sleeved polo shirts and have the school logo. The sleeves should be of proper length, ending at the wrist. Short-sleeved polos are not acceptable. Shirts must have the school monogram. T-shirts worn beneath the school shirt must be a solid, light color. Polo color options are pink, white, light blue, and navy blue. Make-up is not permitted at school. Only light pink and beige nail polish may be worn in school. Jewelry should not be ostentatious or noisy (such as multiple earrings, long dangling earrings, charm bracelets or bells.) The administration will determine the acceptability of adornments.

Boys: Grades 6 – 8: Must wear long, plain, navy blue **school pants**, and monogrammed polo **school shirts** (white, navy blue, or light blue). Shirts must be tucked in for all boys. Jeans, cargo pants, multi- or zipper-pocketed pants, shorts or torn pants are not acceptable. Socks are always required. Denim jeans and jackets are not acceptable. Baseball caps are not for class wear. Jewelry, including rubber wristbands and earrings are not acceptable.

Black hats & Jackets should be worn for Davening.

On (the first school day of) **Rosh Chodesh** students may dress up in Shabbos clothing that adheres to the guidelines of the dress code. Boys must wear collared shirts. T-shirts are not acceptable.

HALLWAYS

Middle School students change classrooms frequently. Changes take place while other classes are still in session. It is of utmost importance to walk through the hallways quietly and respectfully with consideration for others in school.

INTERNET SAFETY RULES

It is the policy of the LHA to (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub.L.No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254.

The U.S. Government requires LHA to have certain rules that govern our use of the Internet to protect the safety of our students.

Therefore:

- No student is ever permitted to be on a computer without a faculty member present and in a position to view the student’s screen.
- Students and parents recognize that participation in a social media network or chat rooms is unsafe and not in accordance with the values of the LHA.

- If authorized by a teacher, principal or adult advisor to use the internet, students will enter only those websites required for the project, will exhibit appropriate behavior while on-line and in websites and will remain within the authorized parameters.
- Bullying of any kind – including cyberbullying – whether during or after school hours, is expressly prohibited and will result in severe disciplinary action.
- Students may not discuss any online activity on social media Apps of any kind.

The School regards any behavior that is not in the best interest of the School & its expectation of its Torah values, at School or elsewhere*, as sufficient grounds for a disciplinary response.

All pupils will recognize that use of the Internet and electronic devices in any form, including research or social media, must be supervised by an adult, and will be used in an appropriate manner.

**elsewhere* includes our Jewish communities, the general public, and cyberspace.

LATENESS

If you are late, before 8:40 you must go directly to class. After 8:40 you must report to the school office **with a parent or driver** to obtain a late pass.

Changing classes should be done as quickly and smoothly as possible. However, if you do arrive late to class, do not disrupt the learning that is already in progress.

Excessive lateness may result in grade reduction and disciplinary action.

LOCKERS

Every student is assigned a locker in which to keep his/her belongings. Students should go to their lockers in the morning, at recess, at lunch and at the end of the day only. Students **may not go to their lockers between classes.**

Lockers should be kept clean, orderly and closed at all times. **Lockers must be cleaned out completely before every lengthy school holiday (i.e. Sukkot, Winter Break and Pesach) so that cleaning and pest control may take place.**

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I understand that the following is a summarization of the list of rules and code of conduct that will be in effect during the school year.

- As a Middle School student I have assumed more responsibility for myself and for my actions. I am aware that I am a role model for the younger students in the school.
- Class begins promptly. I understand my responsibilities concerning punctuality, having my books and materials ready and proper use of the lockers.
- Regular attendance is necessary for success. I am responsible for learning that takes place when I am absent.
- I will complete the number of community service Chessed hours required for my grade level.
- I understand and will abide by the rules and consequences of the code of conduct.
- I will follow the guidelines of the dress code throughout the entire year including special days.
- Respect for the building and its cleanliness and for those who are learning and working inside are of utmost importance and must be considered at all times, including during free time.
- I understand the lunch procedure and will follow its rules and the directions of the staff in charge.
- As part of our Computer Science curriculum I may be given access to the Internet. I understand that I will be responsible for using this media in an appropriate manner.

I HAVE READ THIS STUDENT HANDBOOK AND WILL HONOR ITS RULES.

Student Name (Please print clearly)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date