



MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE  
– ישיבה ומתיבתא ד'מיזורי –

# PARENT & TALMID HANDBOOK 2024-2025

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## **MTI MISSION STATEMENT**

### **VISION**

All talmidim experience spiritual, academic, and emotional growth as per their individual capacity and carry in their hearts a passion for life and learning.

### **MISSION**

MTI's mission is to provide both a superb Judaic and Secular educational program in a serious and challenging yet warm environment. We will impart a genuine love of Hashem, love of His Torah, a love for others, and love of ourselves. We will respect and admire each talmid's innate capabilities and will empower each talmid to know and celebrate his unique strengths and weaknesses, whereby each talmid will strive for and reach his maximum potential, academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

### **VALUES STATEMENTS**

- We believe our talmidim can reach high levels of academic learning and character refinement.
- We believe that the highest levels of learning and growth occur when a talmid embraces his whole self in the learning process.
- We believe our talmidim must be challenged to reach their utmost academically, socially, and spiritually.
- We believe each talmid must recognize and appreciate his unique personality to develop himself fully.
- We believe our school must offer instruction that maximizes each individual's academic level.
- We believe our school can set high standards of character development.
- We believe our school will impart to its talmidim the centrality and beauty of Hashem, His Torah, and His People.

## OUR APPROACH

Missouri Torah Institute is a yeshiva where talmidim work with rebbeim and teachers to experience academic, emotional, and spiritual growth appropriate for their individual capacity, developing a love for Hashem, themselves, and learning. MTI is a rigorous Torah and general studies education that engages the whole talmid; it engenders steady, growing maturity through learning and Jewish discovery; it encourages a sophisticated understanding of each Jew's relationship with Hashem, enhanced by an understanding of self and substantial scholarship. This holistic - mind, heart, and soul - approach to chinuch guides everything at MTI.

Missouri Torah Institute is staffed by rebbeim and teachers who are committed to creating a structured environment that supports developmentally appropriate growth. Rebbeim and teachers at MTI work to understand how individual talmidim learn and what helps them grow. They remain closely engaged with the talmidim's daily life, yet maintain a healthy distance, allowing talmidim to make the decisions that will help them to achieve steady growth in their high school years. MTI staff are aware of how the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of the talmidim's daily life are integral to academic success. The mutual respect, trust, and shared goals MTI teachers and rebbeim have with their talmidim allows them to enjoy a positive, productive relationship and achieve amazing success together.

Missouri Torah Institute talmidim are self-respecting young men who seek to learn, come closer to Hashem, and enjoy the company of friends. Their genuine desire to be a member of the MTI school community helps them maintain the clearly communicated and mutually agreed-upon expectations that ensure a productive and safe school environment. MTI talmidim know that accountability for what they do and the choices they make is theirs alone, allowing them to celebrate the sweet taste of their successes and learn from their missteps. MTI talmidim know that they can be successful in the school environment when they consider their hearts and souls as well as their minds. They know that finding the keys to success in school will help them unlock the doors to fulfillment in their avodas Hashem, family, and career.

Missouri Torah Institute parents love and respect their sons and send them to yeshiva to give them the invaluable opportunity to learn, mature, and achieve success in their teenage years. MTI parents have the patient understanding that meaningful, lasting growth takes time and that with abundant love, engagement, and support they can help their sons become truly great men. With regular communication and involvement, MTI parents share insight and understanding of their sons that only parents can have, and work with the yeshiva to give their sons an outstanding yeshiva high school experience.

## APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO MTI

Talmidim applying to our yeshiva may visit our website, [missouritorah.org/admissions](http://missouritorah.org/admissions), and fill out a high school admissions application. A principal's report and report cards from the previous two years must be submitted. The application process will include a visit to the yeshiva for a personal interview, a Gemara bechina, an exam on math and English, and the completion of an essay. A talmid will be admitted to the yeshiva if he can perform satisfactorily and is committed to the goals and ideals of our yeshiva.

Missouri Torah Institute admits all talmidim of the Jewish faith regardless of race, color, and national or ethnic origin. All scholarships and programs will be administered in a non-discriminatory fashion as to race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

### TADS

Missouri Torah Institute uses TADS for application, enrollment, payment of tuition and fees, and submission of required documents and permissions. <https://secure.TADS.com/Accounts/Login.aspx>

## BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

### IMMUNIZATIONS AND HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

All talmidim must have current immunization and physical examination records on file in our office by the first day of school. These records can be uploaded to TADS.

### BOOKS/SEFORIM & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The yeshiva will distribute all seforim necessary for Limudei Kodesh and textbooks for the general studies program. All seforim and textbooks are included in the book fee.

- Seforim are distributed at the beginning of the school year for talmidim to use throughout their time in the yeshiva and beyond. Seforim left at the end of the school year will become the property of the yeshiva.
- General studies textbooks are distributed, and talmidim should maintain them in good condition and return them before final exams at the end of the school year. Talmidim are responsible for replacing any lost or damaged textbooks and will not be allowed to take final exams until all textbooks have been returned or paid for.

Talmidim should purchase and come prepared with school supplies adequate for nine daily classes, including:

- Notebooks or lined paper for taking notes
- Binders with dividers or folders for handouts
- Ample supply of pens and pencils.
- **TI-84 calculator** for math classes

## PACKING LIST

Below is a list of items that a dormitory talmid may need throughout the year.

**Please note that talmidim bring bedding from home, including pillows, sheets, and blankets.**

**Please label all items clearly with the talmid's name.**

- Tefillin, tzitzis, yarmulkes
- Shabbos clothing – suit, white shirts, tie, and hat
- For weekday davening – A suit-type jacket and hat
- Shirts, pants, belts (school attire – see “Dress Code”)
- Underwear, socks, shoes
- Pajamas, bathrobe, slippers
- Sneakers, gym shorts, gym shirts, swim trunks
- Weather gear - coats, sweaters, gloves, scarf, boots, raincoat, umbrella, etc.
- Towels - bath and hand
- Bedding - Pillow, pillowcases, sheets, and blankets
- Laundry bag
- Detergent
- Quarters for laundry machines
- Personal items (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shaver, comb, needle and thread, etc.)
- Alarm clock
- Extra pair of glasses or contact lenses, if necessary
- School supplies (see previous page)



## POLICIES

### AT HOME - INTERNET AND DEVICES

Recognizing the dangers inherent in unrestricted internet use by our talmidim and with guidance from gedolim, Missouri Torah Institute recommends:

- 1) Computers and other devices in the home should be placed in a public area of the house, not in a child's room where they may be hidden from view.
- 2) Be aware of the capabilities of smartphones, smartwatches, gaming systems, tablets, and other personal electronics. Most have wireless internet and video capability. These items pose a spiritual danger to our youth.
- 3) Although not foolproof, use safeguards such as passwords, filters, disabling features, and monitoring services that can provide a level of protection from uncontrolled Internet use. Consulting with TAG (<https://tag.org>) or other knowledgeable organizations can help give you technical awareness of options to control the situation in your home.
- 4) MTI strongly recommends that yeshiva talmidim do not have smartphones, even while they are not in yeshiva. **Any talmid with a device must have a yeshiva-approved filter installed (smartphone, tablet, laptop, etc.)**

### COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Computers, tablets, smartwatches, video players, and any electronic devices that are video or internet-capable are not allowed in the yeshiva or dormitory. Any item which is not allowed will be confiscated and may not be returned. **Talmidim found in possession of such a device are subject to suspension.**

The yeshiva provides a safe for the safekeeping of electronic items brought to the yeshiva. The items will be returned to talmidim before they return home. Although items in the safe should be secure, the yeshiva assumes no responsibility for theft or damage to these items once they have been brought to the yeshiva.

The yeshiva does allow gaming devices that are not internet capable, using games that are consistent with the spirit and values of the yeshiva. All gaming devices and games must be submitted to the dormitory supervisor for approval before being brought into the dormitory.

**DURING SCHOOL HOURS:** Approved gaming devices, music players, headphones/earbuds, and any other electronic devices are not allowed in the educational wing during school hours as these devices severely compromise the learning atmosphere. Non-compliance with this policy will result in the same consequences as violation of the cell phone policy.

## HALACHA

The yeshiva maintains a meticulous standard of halacha observance, based on the guidance of our rabbonim and poskim. Talmidim in the yeshiva agree to maintain this standard of halacha observance during their time in the yeshiva.

## MEDIA

The yeshiva strongly discourages TV or movie viewing while a talmid is home. Additionally, we strongly discourage our talmidim's exposure to popular secular music, and it should be avoided even outside of school.

## MUSIC & DEVICES FOR PLAYING MUSIC

The commitment of our talmidim to the ideals of the yeshiva extends to their forms of relaxation. The yeshiva only allows Jewish and classical music to be played on music-playing devices. **Any device playing non-Jewish music will be confiscated and may not be returned.**

Music-playing devices in the yeshiva or dormitory **may not have video-playing capabilities**. Questions about music devices can be addressed to the dormitory supervisor. Consulting with TAG (<https://tag.org>) may be helpful.

## SOCIALIZING

Any form of meeting or communicating with girls, including texting or on social media, is a serious offense and may be grounds for loss of privileges, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the circumstances.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Talmidim are not permitted to have or use any social media accounts, whether active or inactive, both during yeshiva sessions and during breaks.

## SUBSTANCE USE

Missouri Torah Institute has a zero-tolerance policy regarding substance abuse including the usage of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and e-cigarettes. Any talmid involved with the usage of these substances will be suspended and subject to expulsion.

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES

It is important for talmidim to have structure over the summer. Our yeshiva can truly be successful in helping to build bnei Torah when the talmidim's summer activities are compatible with the goals of the yeshiva. MTI talmidim may not participate in co-educational camps. Our Rebbeim and administration will try to assist any talmid in making appropriate summer arrangements. Please speak with a rebbi well in advance to seek guidance if you have any questions about summer plans.



## CELL PHONES

During yeshiva, talmidim may only use a cell phone assigned to them by MTI, as part of the yeshiva plan. These phones have only talk and text with no internet access or picture mail. The yeshiva administration will have access to call and text logs. No other cell phone or cell phone plan will be allowed for dormitory talmidim in the yeshiva. This plan is available for local talmidim, as well. It is understood that the privilege of each talmid to keep their phones is dependent upon the proper, intended use of these devices.

**Cell phones may not be used or on a talmid's person during class time.** If a talmid does not maintain this policy the phone will be confiscated for the rest of the day, and a warning will be issued and documented in Jupiter. If this becomes a recurring problem, the phone may be confiscated for an extended period.

Talmidim can be reached during regular office hours through the school office at (636) 778-1896.

## SMARTPHONES

**Smartphones are never allowed in the yeshiva** and will be confiscated the first time a talmid does not follow this policy. Local talmidim with smartphones who commute to yeshiva in the morning must check in their phones immediately upon arrival. Dormitory talmidim returning from bein hazmanim with smartphones must check them in immediately upon arrival for the zman. **Talmidim found in possession of a smartphone are subject to suspension.**

**MTI strongly recommends that yeshiva talmidim do not have smartphones, even while they are not in yeshiva. Any talmid who has a smartphone must have a yeshiva-approved filter installed on the device.**

## PREScription MEDICATION POLICY

Prescription medication may not be stored in the dorm or elsewhere in school (except for emergency medicine such as an EpiPen or asthma inhaler.) Prescription medication will be stored securely and discreetly in the school office. The school office will maintain a list of talmidim taking medications, including dosage and frequency.

Daily morning medications will be available during breakfast and other medications during the day as needed. It is the talmid's responsibility to retrieve their medication from designated staff members during the time they are supposed to take it. Medication may not be readily available at other times.

**All parents must fill out the Prescription Medication Form in TADS during enrollment,** whether their son takes prescription medication or not. If medications or dosages change after this form was submitted, parents must inform the school office ([hs@missouritorah.org](mailto:hs@missouritorah.org)) of the latest information.

Prescriptions should be sent to The Medicine Shoppe, 106 Four Seasons Shopping Center B, Chesterfield, MO 63017, (314) 469-7171. The pharmacy can take insurance and payment over the phone. The Medicine Shoppe will also deliver the prescription to the yeshiva.



## DRESS CODE

The yeshiva's dress code promotes kavod hatorah and fosters a purposeful learning environment. Talmidim should conform to the letter and true spirit of our dress code and will be admitted to classes and tefillos only when they are dressed properly.

Talmidim should always maintain proper grooming. Shirts should be kept tucked in. Talmidim are to be clean-shaven (except during the sefiras haomer period, or if given a special exemption.) Haircuts that reflect the yeshiva's standards must be taken regularly. Talmidim with haircuts that are not consistent with these standards will not be allowed to attend shiurim or classes until the haircut is fixed.

### ***For Shiurim, Davening, and all Classes:***

Pants - Black, blue, or charcoal gray dress pants; no pants with sewn-on pockets, front-facing pockets, drawstring waist, or elastic bottoms are allowed.

Shirts - Full button-down, conservative dress shirt with traditional collar. Shirts with double pockets are not allowed.

Shoes - Dress shoes with dark, conservative solid-colored upper. Soles may be leather or rubber. Shoes with thick white soles around the entire shoe, slippers, clogs, or canvas-like shoes are not allowed.

While dress shoes are preferred, low-top black sneakers may be worn for comfort. These sneakers must be 100% black, including the sole and the logo. Dark gray shoes or other shades of black are not allowed.

Undershirts - White

Socks - must cover the top of the ankle

Yarmulke – all black without designs or names

Sweatshirts – **Solid colored, without words or large logos**

Accessories - Medical alert tags may be worn around the wrist or neck and non-smartwatches may be worn on the wrist. No other necklace, bracelet, or wristband is allowed.

Hats and Jackets – A hat and suit jacket or conservative sport jacket is required for all tefillos.

### ***Shabbos and Yom Tov***

On Shabbos and Yom Tov, clothes that show proper respect for the day are to be worn, including when leaving campus. A hat, suit, tie, white shirt, and Shabbos shoes are to be worn for all tefillos on Shabbos and Yom Tov. Shabbos shoes are formal all-black or dark brown leather dress shoes with a heel or a loafer-type shoe. Shirts must be tucked in for all tefillos.

### ***Other Times***

For athletic activities, gym shoes, shorts, and t-shirts (with sleeves) may be worn. Yarmulkes are required at all times.

Athletic wear and lounge wear may be worn in the dormitory, gym, and other recreational areas, and may not be worn in the other areas of the building.

Jeans are not allowed at any time.

Please consult with Rabbi Wachsmann for any questions regarding the dress code.

## ATTENDANCE POLICIES

### SCHOOL DAY TIMES

The school day starts with Shacharis at 7:55 a.m., Sunday through Friday. Dismissal is at 6:45 p.m. and 8:45 pm on evenings with night seder. (See also Night Seder.) School is dismissed on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. (after Mincha), and on Fridays dismissal is at 12:30 p.m.

Parents of local talmidim are responsible for transporting their children to and from yeshiva.

### SHACHARIS

Davening Shacharis with the yeshiva is an integral part of the daily schedule, Sunday through Friday. Shacharis begins with berachos at 7:55 a.m. followed by pesukei d'zimra at 8:00 a.m. Talmidim will receive a grade for Shacharis based on attendance, timeliness, and appropriate attire. Although a "vecking" (wake-up) service is provided in the dormitory, the ultimate responsibility of coming to minyan on time rests upon the talmid himself, and talmidim should use alarm clocks or other means to ensure they wake up on time.

### CALENDAR & TRAVEL

Please consult the yeshiva calendar when planning vacations or making travel plans. All talmidim, including dorm talmidim, should arrange to attend school through the last scheduled day before vacations and to return promptly when school is scheduled to resume. All travel must be done on the "**travel days**" during the time of day that is indicated on the school calendar, and all talmidim must return by 9 pm. Please note that some "travel days" may begin after shiur in the afternoon.

Extended absences, late arrivals, and early departures compromise the learning and success of our talmidim and are therefore strongly discouraged. Any request for such an absence must be made well in advance to Rabbi Wachsmann to receive permission. Please do not make assumptions based on past decisions. We will do our utmost to treat each case individually and appropriately while respecting the input of our talmidim and their parents.

**Travel to and from the airport/bus station/etc. is the responsibility of the talmid or his parents.**

**All "checkout" policies are in effect from the time a talmid arrives in St. Louis until the time he leaves.**

## MISSING YESHIVA

If a talmid would like to be excused from class, a parent or the talmid must contact Rabbi Wachsmann before the start of class by email ([rabbiwachsmann@missouritorah.org](mailto:rabbiwachsmann@missouritorah.org)), text, or phone (718-930-7594 - voicemail is fine) detailing the reason for the absence. If Rabbi Wachsmann is not informed the absences may remain unexcused and compromise the talmid's grade. Particular care must be taken not to miss scheduled tests.

Office staff and teachers are unable to grant permission to miss class.

## DRIVING POLICY

Local talmidim may seek permission from Rabbi Wachsmann to drive their cars to and from yeshiva. Parents of talmid drivers must sign the permission form in TADS. Any talmid wishing to carpool to and/or from yeshiva with another talmid must have consent from his parents recorded in TADS.

**Cars brought to yeshiva are strictly off-limits during school hours.** Talmidim must hand in their keys when they arrive, and keys will be returned when they are leaving for home.

### **Dormitory talmidim may not drive.**

Parents may opt to allow their sons to ride along in the car of local talmidim or bais medrash talmidim by completing the consent forms in TADS. Checkout permission to drive with talmid drivers will be granted based on the permissions allowed in TADS. Please note that permission will be granted during non-school hours only.

## CLOSED CAMPUS POLICY

In the interest of talmid safety, we have a "closed campus" policy. This means that all talmidim must stay on our campus for the entire school day. This includes anything from a trip to the store to a walk with his friends. Permission to go off campus during school hours will be decided on a case-by-case basis and may be granted by Rabbi Wachsmann or Rabbi Gewirtz only.

Any talmid who violates this policy for any reason will be fined \$25.00 and will risk the loss of checkout privileges.

## SNOW DAYS

On snowy mornings, local talmidim should please be in touch with Rabbi Wachsmann (718-930-7594) between 6:45-7:00 a.m. to discuss whether they will be expected to make it to school on time, late, or not at all. A decision regarding afternoon classes will be made by lunchtime.

## NIGHT SEDER

Night seder will take place on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 7:45 to 8:45. Local talmidim attend on Tuesday, and Thursday nights and are strongly encouraged to join the other nights as well. Regular yeshiva attire is required and all "during school" standards apply.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

### GRADING POLICIES

<b>A+:</b>	(98-100%)	4.0 grade points
<b>A:</b>	(93-97%)	4.0 grade points
<b>A-:</b>	(90-92%)	3.7 grade points
<b>B+:</b>	(87-89%)	3.3 grade points
<b>B:</b>	(83%-86%)	3.0 grade points
<b>B-:</b>	(80-82%)	2.7 grade points
<b>C+:</b>	(77-79%)	2.3 grade points
<b>C:</b>	(73-76%)	2.0 grade points
<b>C-:</b>	(70-72%)	1.7 grade points
<b>D:</b>	(65-69%)	1.0 grade points
<b>F:</b>	(under 65%)	0.0 grade points

- All Judaic and general studies courses that receive a grade will be included in the GPA and on official transcripts.
- Report cards are issued quarterly. The second and fourth-quarter report cards will contain both quarter and semester grades.
- A talmid who earns a GPA above 3.7 in a semester and maintains on-time attendance at tefillos and classes will make the MTI Honor Roll.
- Attendance in class is of the utmost importance. The following policies relate to attendance and excessive absence or tardiness. 1) **Attendance Grade:** Points will be subtracted from students' grades each time they miss class. 2) **Excessive Absence:** Any talmid with five unexcused absences or excessive tardiness in a class in one quarter may not qualify for semester credit for that class.
- There are times when a grade of INCOMPLETE must be used to allow a talmid time to submit missing assignments and/or make up missed exams. In all cases, incomplete is a temporary grade, and the talmid will be given a reasonable period of time in which to complete the outstanding work. If the work is not submitted on time, the grade of incomplete will be changed on the permanent record to an F.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A talmid will graduate from Missouri Torah Institute when he completes four years of high school and meets all MTI and Missouri graduation requirements. All courses and credits required by the state of Missouri as well as by MTI must be completed with a passing grade. **Talmidim cannot graduate without completing successfully all their Judaic and general studies courses.** Credit recovery may involve taking a correspondence course with a fee that is the responsibility of the talmid and his family. A poor attendance record, including excessive tardiness, may affect a talmid's eligibility for graduation. In addition, all financial responsibilities must be in order.

## ONLINE GRADE BOOK – JUPITER

Missouri Torah Institute uses Jupiter, an online school management platform, as our grade book and talmid information system. Jupiter is an excellent way for talmidim and parents to track their grades, assignments, and attendance. Parents can enroll to receive alerts for grades, attendance, and conduct, and can also use this platform for communicating with teachers and rebbeim.

Parents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to stay informed and engaged in their son's growth. Access Jupiter at [login.jupitered.com/login/?52469](http://login.jupitered.com/login/?52469).

## AP CLASSES

AP (Advanced Placement) classes may be offered. For talmidim to be eligible for AP classes, they must be in 11th or 12th grade and have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above to date in high school.

## PERMANENT RECORDS & TRANSCRIPTS

Permanent records will be maintained by MTI and used to generate transcripts. MTI transcripts will include both Judaic studies and general studies classes.

Transcript requests are made by completing the online form at [missouritorah.org/transcript](http://missouritorah.org/transcript). Transcripts will be sent out only when all financial obligations are met. Private schools enforce this uniform policy collaboratively.



## DORMITORY POLICIES

### CHECKOUT

Our responsibility for the safety and well-being of our talmidim demands that we always be aware of their whereabouts. We ask each talmid to understand the tremendous responsibility the yeshiva has for their well-being and the corresponding importance of proper compliance with checkout rules.

**Any talmid wishing to leave the campus or dormitory for absolutely any reason at any time (including Friday, Shabbos, and Sunday) must check out.**

Checking out involves giving a detailed itinerary, with each destination made clear, and the expected time of return. This may be done either by phone or in person, as circumstances warrant. This policy includes but is not limited to leaving the dorm to spend time at the home of one of our local talmidim or families.

**Any talmid who violates this policy for any reason will be fined \$25.00 and will risk the loss of checkout privileges.** In certain instances, other consequences may be deemed necessary.

Reflectors must be worn at all times when walking or biking off campus after dark.

### CLEANLINESS

Our dormitory is the shared living space of our talmidim and is therefore to be respected. Routine daily tidiness and orderliness (making beds, putting away clothing and laundry, etc.) is the responsibility of each talmid. All items should be stored in closets or drawers, not left on beds, floors, etc. **Items left out of their proper places will be removed by the cleaning staff.** Talmidim who leave a mess may be asked to clean it, even if it means missing classes or activities.

### READING MATERIAL

In addition to the recreational programming and resources provided by the yeshiva, reading can be a terrific way for talmidim to spend their free time. All reading material, including books, comic books, and magazines, must be approved before being brought into the dormitory.

*Please also note the policies listed earlier regarding music, electronic devices, and cell phones.*

### CURFEW

Curfew procedures have been established to ensure that talmidim get the rest they need to maintain success in their learning. Curfew extensions will only be granted in extenuating



circumstances. Proper consideration of the needs and feelings of others in the dormitory is necessary under all circumstances.

## GUESTS

Only current MTI talmidim can stay in the dormitory. Arrangements for any guest, whether for an overnight stay or a Shabbos (in or out), must be made with Rabbi Wachsman in advance. Without advance permission, no guest is allowed to stay in the dormitory under any circumstances.

## MONEY AND VALUABLES

We urge all talmidim to never leave money or valuables in their dormitory rooms. Giving spending money at frequent intervals or opening a checking/debit account for your son will avoid the need to carry around large sums of money. Personal safes are not allowed in the dorm. Money or valuables can be handed in to the dormitory supervisor to be kept in the yeshiva's safe and withdrawn as needed. Missouri Torah Institute bears no responsibility for any theft or loss of property.



## SAFETY AND DAMAGES

Many areas throughout the building are available for studying and recreational use while other areas of the building are off-limits. Fines will be assessed for entry into certain off-limits areas where entry may cause considerable damage or loss to the yeshiva. Signs are posted in these areas.

- The safety of our talmidim is of the utmost importance. Fires are not allowed for any reason. Lighting and/or playing with fire is a cause of danger for the talmid and his surroundings. **Lighting a fire will incur a \$150 fine.**
- Under no circumstances may the smoke detectors (including infrared beam sensors) be tampered with or disabled. Besides being inherently dangerous, tripping a fire alarm causes an automatic fire department response and the yeshiva incurs a fee. **Any talmid who causes a false alarm will be subject to a \$100 fine.**
- Fireworks are not allowed on school property.
- Weapons of any kind (BB guns, knives, etc.) are not allowed on school property.
- Dangerous and reckless behavior (i.e., climbing on or jumping from the building structure) is a serious safety concern. To protect the safety of our talmidim, such behavior is grounds for suspension.
- Talmidim are not allowed in the kitchen at any time without explicit permission.
- Any talmidim biking or walking after dark must wear a reflective belt.
- Helmets must always be worn while biking, skate/longboarding, rollerblading, riding a scooter, etc.
- No ball playing, rollerblading, or any other outdoor activity is allowed in the building under any circumstances.
- Bikes must be kept in the designated area. Bikes found elsewhere may be subject to confiscation.
- Hoverboards may not be used or stored inside or outside the yeshiva.
- Pictures or signs may not be hung in the dormitory.
- Talmidim may not keep or allow any animals or pets in yeshiva.

**Any damage to the building or property will be the financial responsibility of the person liable for the damage.** Given the expense and difficulty of repairing damaged items, the school has the right to replace the damaged items or to charge for the damage rather than repair them. The yeshiva reserves the right to determine which talmid was responsible for the damage based on circumstantial evidence.

If your son is responsible for property damage, you will receive an email from the campus administrator at the time of the incident and a follow-up email from TADS once the cost has been determined and added to your TADS account. Funds will be deducted 10 to 15 days after the charge is incurred. **The yeshiva will not ask a talmid or hold him responsible for the payment of these fees.**

Repairs, alterations, or installations (i.e., nails in walls, stick-on hooks, additional shelves, etc.) may be made only by the school staff. Furniture must never be dismantled or moved, even if it appears to be unneeded or unused.

## STUDENT LIFE

### FOOD

Breakfast and lunch are offered for all talmidim. Supper is available for dormitory talmidim and for local talmidim who will be staying for the night seder or mishmar program.

No food may be taken out of the kitchen without permission from the kitchen staff. Additionally, entering the kitchen is not allowed without prior permission.

Talmidim are allowed to eat and drink in the dining room and student pantry areas only. This ensures the school building will remain clean and allows talmidim to remain focused on schoolwork.

A refrigerator and freezer will be provided for student use. These will be cleaned periodically. Items not claimed after cleaning will become the property of the yeshiva. No personal refrigerators are allowed, in the dormitory or elsewhere.

Food preparation is restricted to the designated area using only the following approved appliances. Unapproved appliances will be discarded.

- Crockpots
- Sandwich, waffle, or panini makers
- George Foreman grills
- Rice cookers
- Coffee makers
- Microwaves
- Betty Crockers

**Toaster ovens and deep fryers are not permitted on the yeshiva premises.**

Appliances must be kept in the talmid pantry, clearly labeled with the talmid's name, and marked as dairy, meat, or pareve. There are designated areas for milk and meat appliances and food prep and appliances in the wrong designated area may be relocated or confiscated by the building staff. All appliances must be cleaned regularly.

Unapproved appliances, appliances not clearly labeled or regularly cleaned, or any appliances found outside the talmid pantry, will be discarded.

**No fires are allowed for any reason.** Smoke detectors must not be tampered with or disabled.

## LAUNDRY & DRY-CLEANING

The dormitory laundry facility has coin-operated washing machines and dryers, owned and managed by a private company. A dry-cleaning service picks up and drops off clothing at the yeshiva twice each week.

## LOCKERS

Lockers will be available for each talmid. Classrooms are cleaned daily; therefore, **books and personal items should be stored in lockers only.**

## MAIL AND PACKAGES

Mail and packages will be delivered to the office and will be placed in the coat room daily for retrieval at a specific time. Packages are subject to inspection for safety reasons.

## LOST AND FOUND

The yeshiva has a lost and found area where students can claim their lost items. Unclaimed items will be disposed of. The cleaning staff will regularly clean the entire building, including classrooms, dormitory, and other areas, and any items not in their proper place will be removed.

## ILLNESS

Local talmidim who become ill at school should come to the office. We will contact parents at that time.

We make every effort to ensure that our dormitory talmidim receive proper medical care when they are sick. Although managing medical issues from a distance is one of the great challenges of sending your son away from home, we view your involvement as critical. More details about this partnership can be found in the **Procedures for Medical Issues** document in the enrollment section of TADS.

Parents are responsible for payments necessary for doctor's visits and pharmacy services. The yeshiva cannot cover these expenses. Please arrange in advance for your son to have access to funds to cover emergency expenses such as these. If the yeshiva must pay for services, we will immediately bill the parent through TADS.

Please keep in mind that out-of-state Medicaid insurance may have limited coverage (such as hospital-only) in Missouri.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

Most regular dormitory activities are covered by the trip fee. Missouri Torah Institute will also conduct special events, trips, and Shabbatons. Parents may be asked to defray the costs of some of these events. Parents will be notified in advance and funds will be deducted from their TADS account. Please contact the business office if other payment methods are preferred. Parental permission will be solicited when appropriate.

## STUDENT ID CARDS

MTI talmidim will be issued a student ID card. This card will also serve as an access control card (electronic key,) giving talmidim access to our secure school building. There is no charge for the talmid ID card, which will be distributed at the start of school. Lost cards should be reported to the campus administrator for deactivation and will be replaced for \$10.

## OUT SHABBOS

The out Shabbos is designed for the talmidim to have a break from the yeshiva schedule and provide an opportunity to rejuvenate. The dormitory will remain open and supervised for the boys who wish to remain. Talmidim may leave the yeshiva for Shabbos if the guidelines set up by the yeshiva are met. Parents are welcome to arrange to bring their son home for an Out Shabbos.

**The out Shabbos begins on Thursday at 1:00 pm and ends Sunday evening at 9:00.** If you have any questions about out Shabbos scheduling, please contact Rabbi Wachsman

**Please be aware that no talmid will be allowed to spend time in the home of a family where there are high school-aged girls.**

There are five times during the year that the dormitory is closed: Succos break, Shabbos Chanukah, winter break, Purim, and Pesach break. **All talmidim must go home during these times.**

*Please note: The contents of this handbook may be revised as deemed necessary.*