



OHR REUVEN אור ראובן

December 2, 2018

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MENAHEL, MESIVTARabbi Yosef B. Rawicki
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Dear YOR Mesivta Parents,

When you enroll your child in Yeshivas Ohr Reuven, you establish a sacred partnership with us to educate your children. We know that this extends far beyond the academic component of their education. We partner to ensure that our children develop to be successful *bonei Torah*, *ba'alai middos*, and functional members of society.

More than at any other time in the history of the world, this generation is challenged and distracted by the technology around us. The Gedolei Torah have spoken strongly in this regard, and current research in the secular world is in agreement, that technology is having a negative impact on spiritual, academic, and social growth among teenagers. We live in a world where we feel it important to always be “connected”, but in truth, we sometimes become disconnected from what is really important.

To advance the mindfulness of our *talmidim* towards our ultimate goals for them, we have developed, and are implementing, the following policy related to cell phones and technology:

1. We encourage parents who feel that their son must have use of a phone to allow their son access to a “family cell phone”. If that is not feasible, Yeshiva policy is that students may only own a “kosher phone” that does not have the ability to access the internet or download video.

It is prohibited for any Ohr Reuven *talmid* to own an unfiltered smartphone (the browser and all social media {see 4} must be completely removed; it must not be able to access the internet). Additionally, parents who want to use this option must discuss it with the Menahel in advance.

a. A *talmid* that comes to Yeshiva to play ball on Motzai Shabbos or during vacation time may bring a kosher phone to Yeshiva.

Any non-kosher phone brought onto the Yeshiva campus, even during off hours or vacation time, will be confiscated and the student that brought it in will be suspended until further notice. The phone will not be returned to the *talmid* until he leaves the Yeshiva, as will be the case with anything else confiscated from a *bochur* that is deemed dangerous to the growth of a *ben Torah* and *yarei shamayim*.

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2. *Talmidim* may bring a device to Yeshiva that plays music that does not have the ability to access the internet or play/download video.

a. Non-Jewish or other forms of non-acceptable music are prohibited.

b. Any object (mp3, gaming device, computer, etc.) with internet access, video capability, or inappropriate content will be subject to the same rules outlined above for non-Kosher cell phones.

3. *Talmidim* may not have any type of cell phone on the Yeshiva Campus during Yeshiva hours.

a. If a *talmid* is found with a cell phone on the Yeshiva Campus during Yeshiva hours, the phone will be confiscated, and the *talmid* will be sent home until further notice.

i. The Hanhala will determine the length of the suspension based on all pertinent factors involved.

ii. *Talmidim* may not bring a phone to Yeshiva during Yeshiva time in order to have it after class time, without making prior arrangements with the Menahel.

4. *Talmidim* of the Yeshiva may not have an account on any social media platform, nor should they be a part of any group chats. Any *talmid* found to be on a chat, or to have a social media account will be suspended until further notice.

5. The Yeshiva strongly advises parents to have their sons' cell phones charge overnight in the parents' room. Unfortunately, we find many *talmidim* come in very tired in the morning because they were texting late, or were awakened at night by a text or call sent by a friend, which led to a longer interaction. Even if you trust your son to go to sleep right away, you have no control over someone else contacting him. There is no need for him to sleep with a phone next to his bed.

We all want our children to be physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally healthy and successful *b'nei Torah*. These expectations about cell phones and technology, communicate to our children the strength of our commitment to, and partnership in, achieving this goal.

We appreciate and cherish this partnership and know that you are committed to working together to support the growth of our children.

Sincerely,

HaRav Bezalel Rudinsky, Rosh HaYeshiva

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