

September 27, 2019

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 updated the cellphone/technology policy the Yeshiva sent out last year as follows:

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”. This family phone may only be a “kosher phone” as detailed below. If a “family phone” 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. As explained in our summer camp letter:  
*“Any Kosher phone purchased in EZ Cell in New Square has been approved by the Hanhala for camp. It will also be compatible with the Mesivta Phone Policy for this coming year. Please request one of the phones approved by the Hanhala (they have a list on file).”*  
**From this point on, these are the only phones a *talmid* of the Yeshiva may own, with the exception of those listed in paragraph 2, which require special permission.** Those of you who bought the phones for the summer are already in compliance. Those of you who did not, should please arrange to be in compliance before the end of the *Succos* break.
2. Once a *talmid* has a driver’s license, if the parents feel that they would like them to have a phone with Waze, a phone can be procured through the Yeshiva that is issued by Safe Telecom. Permission must be obtained from the Menahel prior to the Yeshiva issuing the phone. **No other phone will be acceptable.** Those who already have “Safe Telecom” phones will be able to hook them to the Yeshiva program. Please speak to Rabbi Medetsky or Rabbi Vilinsky about how to do this. Even if a *talmid* has a phone that has been filtered and checked by other companies, he will not be in compliance with the Yeshiva policy.

Many parents have come to Yeshiva or called the Hanhala to discuss their frustration about dealing with these issues with their children. Although 100% agreement will never be attained, it is important that we all work together for the greater benefit of our children, even if we may have preferred a slightly different way of doing things. Many parents expressed a desire to not allow their son to have a smartphone but felt compelled to give in because they were told “everyone else has one”. Others expressed that they felt a need for their son to have a phone on campus, so that he can contact his parents when the need arises. Please be advised that the safety of our children is paramount, and there is always a phone available for a *talmid* to use. Also note that arrangements can be made to have a phone if it will be needed when your son leaves Yeshiva (see the attached memo, “Cell phone rules”). This policy will only succeed if we all work together to implement this.

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. After Yom Tov the Menahel will be meeting with every parent to make certain that are all working together to ensure the successful growth of all our Talmidim. The Menahel is looking forward to your input and support. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Medetsky with any questions or concerns you may have.

Please read, review with your son, sign and return the attached memo.

Wishing you a כתיבה וחתימה טובה,

HaRav Bezalel Rudinsky, Rosh HaYeshiva