

# **How to Win At School**

*Everything You Need to Know to  
Have the Best Year Possible*

Monsey Bais Chaya Mushka 5781



Dear Student, תתי

Welcome to another year at Monsey Bais Chaya Mushka. Each of you is an integral part of our school community, and we are so glad you are joining us for another year.

When joining any community, it is important to know what is expected of you. Rules govern our social structures and ensure order. As frum Yidden and Chassidim, we abide by both the dicatets of halacha and by appropriate chassidische hanhaga. Our school rules are made to ensure your most successful school career - academically, spiritually and logistically - and we are confident that carefully adhering to them will maximize your experience here.

Our promise: a solid foundation of *Yiddishkeit*, *chassidishkeit* and *yiras shamayim*, as best as we only can. Your part: participate in becoming a *keli* for that.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Chaim Dovid Kagan, *Dean*  
[RabbiKagan@monseybcm.com](mailto:RabbiKagan@monseybcm.com)

Mrs. Mushka Gopin, *Limudei Kodesh Principal*  
[MrsGopin@monseybcm.com](mailto:MrsGopin@monseybcm.com)

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Elul 5781

**School Information**

Monsey Beis Chaya Mushka  
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# Success at School

## **The Golden Rule: Ahavas Yisroel**

Our school community is founded upon respect. Teasing, bullying, exclusion and ignoring have no place within our school community. Don't be a silent bystander, and don't allow yourself to be treated with anything less than total respect. Reach out to a teacher or principal if you or someone you know needs help.

## **School Dress Code**

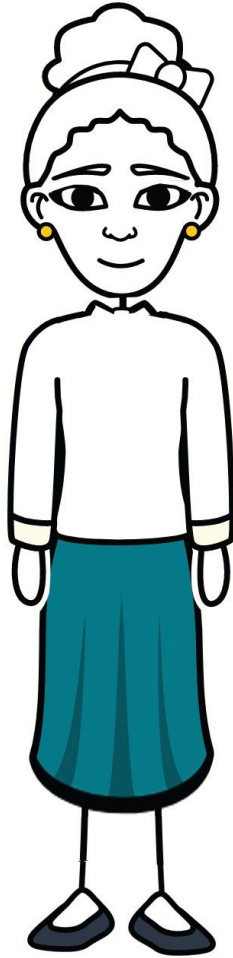
*To be part of our school community, dress like you belong.*

A student who is not dressed to code will be sent to the office, and it will be recorded.

How to look 100 from head-to-toe:

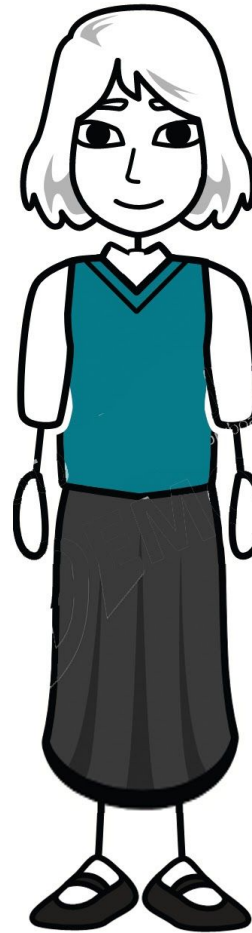
- Face:** The one place you can dare to go bare! No makeup.
- Jewelry:** Earrings small and refined; one piercing per ear; no cluster earrings.
- Hair:** Shoulder length and pulled back. No streaks or coloring.
- Nails:** No nail polish.
- Neckline:** Collarbone covered. Collared shirt under a sweater.
- Shirt:** Long-sleeved, light blue or white Oxford button down shirt with tznius button and school logo. Tznius button closed at all times. Beneath the blouse, a solid white, gray, black or navy t-shirt *that is not seen* may be worn.
- Sweater:** To be worn ON TOP of a uniform blouse. Options: Navy blue, zip up, velour hooded sweater with MBCM embroidery, or Land's End navy blue hoodie, v-neck vest or zip up sweatshirt with MBCM logo.
- Skirt:** LONG navy blue, stitch down pleated skirt. Length: 4 inches below the knee.
- Legwear:** Black, white, gray, brown or navy SOLID TIGHTS. NO leggings with socks.
- Shoes:** Refined styles of shoes, sneakers or Uggs that are solid black, blue, brown, gray or burgundy.

**Chaya is an MBCM model.  
Be like Chaya.**



- ✓ Hair pulled back
- ✓ Face bare and beautiful
- ✓ No nail polish
- ✓ Earrings small and dainty
- ✓ Tznius button closed
- ✓ Elbows covered
- ✓ Skirt covers knees at all times
- ✓ Hosiery dark
- ✓ Shoes dark and refined

**Mushka is an MBCM model.  
Be like Mushka.**



- ✓ Hair short and tidy
- ✓ Face bare and beautiful
- ✓ No nail polish
- ✓ Collar worn under sweater
- ✓ Uniform sweater
- ✓ Tznius button closed
- ✓ Elbows covered
- ✓ Skirt covers knees at all times
- ✓ Hosiery dark
- ✓ Shoes dark and refined



# The School Day's Procedures

## Davening Procedures

*Start your day off on the right note.*

- Davening takes place in the multi purpose room.
- Davening begins at **9:20**. Seats are assigned, and attendance is taken.
- If you come late, join us quietly at the back of the room. (You may use a late coupon - see below.) Once those are used up, it is recorded as a lateness. Note that two latenesses are equivalent to one unexcused absence.

**NEW** this year: you will receive a ration of coupons per semester that allows you to come up to 5 or 10 minutes late, without penalty. Turn in extra coupons at the end of the semester for a bonus pass.

**NEW** this year: attend davening, on time, for a certain ratio each month and earn into a Rosh Chodesh breakfast.

Procedure:

- Begin with פרק מ"א
- Quiet davening
- Rebbe's Kapitel and Kapitel Chof, read aloud together
- Announcements
- Dismissal

**Mincha** is davened in each classroom at 3:15 with the teacher of that period. Students are dismissed from Mincha when the bell rings.

## School Policies

### Attendance

*Half of success is simply showing up.*

Regular and punctual attendance is expected and demanded.

School hours:            Monday-Thursday: 9:15-5pm            Friday: 9:15-12pm

- To ensure student safety and student academic achievement (and in accordance with state regulations), your attendance is recorded at every period. Because passing a course requires you to actually sit through it, absences impact your grades.
- Any course (whether Kodesh or Chol) may have only **two** unexcused absences (or **four** cuts) before grades are affected.

According to NY State guidelines, students must attend 80% of each course in order to pass. A student who is absent more than 20% of the course automatically fails the semester and will have to complete supplemental work to fulfill the requirements.

### **Latenesses**

- If you are late for any reason, you must first visit the office for a late note. The lateness is recorded by both the school office and the teacher.
- Arriving more than 5 minutes after the teacher does is considered a **cut**. You may still remain in the class, but your presence is recorded as a cut. You will have to make up the missing time during lunch with the relevant principal, where you will make up work in the subject missed. (Not showing up at all is an absence, while two cuts = one absence.)

### **Getting Lost in the Hallways**

Being out of the room for *whatever the teacher deems an excessive amount of time* will result in a cut. The amount of time that you have missed in class will result in a detention with the relevant principal during lunchtime to make up work missed.

### **Absences**

- Every student is permitted 6 sick or personal days per semester. Once 5 days have been reached, both student and parent will be notified.
- A student who has missed more than 6 days will have grades lowered on that semester's report cards.
- Leaving before vacation starts will result in 5 points deducted from each subject missed.

### **Making Up Tests**

A student who is absent on the day a test is administered may take the test within *one week* before the test expires and is graded with zero. A make-up test is taken in the principal's office and the time is scheduled with a principal.

### **Cell Phones**

MBCM does not encourage the students to own cell phones. Using them on school grounds without prior permission from the relevant principal is not allowed.

If you do have a cell phone:

- Smart phones must have installed an approved filter (as per instructions that parents received).

- Cell phones must be turned in to the office each morning, into the student's personalized phone pocket. (An ID card will substitute if a student does not have a cell phone.) A missing phone = an absence.
- A phone found in school will be confiscated until a meeting with the school and parents takes place. The student will go home (sans phone) until said meeting is held.

### **iPods or Other Devices**

iPods or other electronic devices are not allowed in school. If seen, it will be confiscated for a month.

### **If This, Then This...**

*You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequence of your choice.*

- Non-uniform items will be confiscated and held for a month. (So, please don't bring it in.)
- 2 davening latenesses (remember, you have coupons!) = 1 day's unexcused absence
- 2 cuts in the same class = 1 unexcused absence in that course
- Unexcused absences affect the final grade

Table 1. *A graph for the visual learners:*

<b>Doing this...</b>	<b>Will result in this...</b>
2 cuts in a class (a cut is coming late to the class or disappearing in the middle of it)	1 unexcused absence in that class
2 davening latenesses	1 day's unexcused absence
Phone is found in school and not in the phone pocket.	Phone confiscated. Student leaves school (phone stays in school until parent meeting)
iPod or other unapproved electronic device is found in school	Confiscated and held until the end of the month.

### **Medical**

In case of a medical emergency, MBCM will contact Hatzalah and the emergency contact listed in the student's file.

## **Academics**

*You're here, so make it count. Show up and do the work.*

Your teachers spend hours preparing important and engaging lessons. We expect you to reciprocate by taking their efforts seriously and by respecting your own time. Having trouble keeping up? Your success is our priority. Your teachers will work with you - as long as you put in the initial effort by reaching out. If you feel like you're drowning, hold out a hand.

## Supplies List

Please see attached list. Be aware that individual teachers may also have specific requirements.

## How Grades Work

Report cards are distributed twice a year. There are Parent Teacher Conferences and a Progress Report once a year.

Diplomas are granted upon the fulfillment of ALL requirements of both Limudei Kodesh and Limudei Chol departments.

## Limudei Kodesh

Each of the below subjects is a 4 year course, and one fail is allowed.

Chumash	3.5 credits
Na"Ch	1.5 credits
Tanya	2.625 credits
Likutei Sichos	2.625 credits
Halacha	1.5 credits
Toldos Am Yisroel	1.5 credits
Chassidus	1 credit
Shaas Mechaneches	1 credit
Other	1.5 credits

## Limudei Chol

To receive a New York State High School Diploma a student must receive a Regents Diploma or a Local High School Diploma.

Since the requirements are constantly changing, the school will counsel students. The details below are current at the time of writing this handbook.

All students in New York State must earn 44 SCHOOL credits and pass five Regents exams with a score of at least 65 to graduate. Each semester-long course is worth one credit. Some specialized and alternative schools have additional requirements, as does the Advanced Regents diploma.

### Regents diploma

8 English (R)  
8 Social Studies (2R)\*  
6 Science (R)\*

### Advanced Regents diploma

8 English (R)  
8 Social Studies (2R)\*  
6 Science (2R)\*



6 Math (R)\*  
2 Foreign Language  
1 Health Education  
4 Physical Education  
1 Art  
1 Music  
7 elective courses

6 Math (2R)\*  
6 Foreign Language \*\*  
1 Health Education  
4 Physical Education  
1 Art  
1 Music  
3 elective courses

(R) Regents exam required; (2R) two Regents exams required.

\* Students may substitute a senior level course in technology for a third year of science or math.

## **i** General Information

### **School Grounds:**

- To leave for any reason, a student must have principal permission and sign out. Leaving without permission will result in suspension. Your safety is our utmost concern, and we must know your whereabouts at all times.
- Remain in the high school areas.
- Elementary playground and equipment are off limits for high school students.

### **Kashrus**

- Any food brought into school must be cholov yisroel, pas yisroel, and/or bishul yisroel.
- The student lunchroom (which includes fridge, sink, microwave, and plates) will be cleaned via student rotation.
- Microwaves: both milchig. NO FOIL inside (it starts fires!) Clean up after yourself.
- NO appliances or food preparation allowed inside the classrooms.

### **Take Pride In Your Environment**

*Ask yourself: Would you do this at home? (Scribble on desks, leave garbage on the floor, put your feet up on chairs.) If you wouldn't, don't do it in the classroom, hallway, or bathroom.*

- Don't be a pest - no litter bugs! Throw out your own garbage.
- Keep things in your lockers. Anything left out at the end of the day will go straight into lost and found (where good things go to die... don't let this be the fate of your stuff).
- Walls: papers may only be hung up on bulletin boards, not on the walls. If you need space for anything, please ask a principal to see if it can be arranged.

### **School-Owned Supplies**

Halachically, these are on loan to you, so damaged or lost items need to be replaced.

- Textbooks: To take your final exam or Regent, textbooks must first be returned or compensation paid for lost or damaged books.
- Calculators: You will be provided with a school calculator. This must be returned. If lost, replace it with an identical model.

## Transportation

Students who live within the 15 mile radius of the school may avail themselves of the bussing available through their school district.

### **Snow days**

In case of inclement weather, the school will follow the East Ramapo Central School District directives for closure or a delayed start. **Information is available after 6:15am by calling (845) 577-6565 or on the ERCSD website- [www.eram.k12.ny.us/](http://www.eram.k12.ny.us/)** Students traveling from other districts or privately should obtain the updated information from these sources.

### **Driving**

Any 12<sup>th</sup> grader driving to school must register their car with the office.

Students are **not** allowed to park in the school parking lot. They can legally use the side roads by following the instructions on the signs. Upon arrival in school, keys must be turned in with cell phones.

### **Carpool**

For everyone's safety (including little kids at Cheder!), please obey the signs regarding bus and car lanes, drop off and parking areas, and right and left turns.

## ↻ MBCM Student, In School & Out

### **Dressing the Part: Guidelines Outside of School**

Look good, and you will feel great. Our students are expected to dress respectably as befitting both a member of our school and a member of our community.

- **Skirts**
  - Must cover knees at all times, including when sitting
  - No slits at all
  - Keep it classy: No bodycon or tight-fitting styles
- **Tops**
  - No elbow peekaboo. Sleeves should cover elbows at all times.
  - Collar bone (front and back) has to be covered.
  - Close the gap between top and skirt... no bare midriffs
- **Hair**
  - Keep it neat and clean.
- **Legwear**
  - Legs must always be covered.
- **Makeup and nail polish**
  - Pretty and natural looks best. No heavy makeup or dark nails.

## **Garbage In, Garbage Out: Your Media Diet**

*Just like food or bad air quality, what you ingest via your eyes and ears will affect your insides and your spiritual health. We want you to be strong and healthy in every way.*

- Our students should not listen to non-Jewish music.
- Our students should not watch movies.
- At-home Internet success should be limited to public areas and used only with a filter.

## **School Life Outside of School: Extracurriculars**

*Perhaps the fondest memories you will have of high school are of everything that didn't take place within the classroom. It's worth it to show up!*

### **Bnos Chabad**

Our Bnos leaders work hard to create engaging and enriching activities. Some things you can look forward to: Achos Hatmimim, production, farbrengens, mitzvot, Shabbatons, guest speakers and more!

Proper MBCM uniform is mandatory at all events that take place on school days, even if after school hours.

### **Chessed**

All students are required to participate in the MBCM Leah Miriam Hayman Chessed Program for at least 12 logged hours per semester. A report card grade is given based on the number of hours recorded. The program is coordinated by Mrs. Tova Schild and allows you to give back to the community in a number of ways, including shlichus, Friendship Circle, helping families and tutoring.

### **Chidon & Winter Camp**

Senior privilege! Winter Camp is for 12th grade only. (Entire class must have a place to go.) Chidon for 11th grade is with individual permission.

**כתיבה וחתימה טובה לשנה טובה ומתוקה ולשנת הצלחה מופלגה**

# Covid Protocol

*Baruch Hashem, we are able to be together again in the school's physical location. However, due to regulations, some things will look different this year.*

## **Some things that are not in effect this year:**

- Student lunchroom with shared microwave and other utensils
- Bnos Chabad room is off-limits for student congregation
- Hallways and bathrooms are off-limits for student congregation
- School visitors

## **Some things that are on hold until further notice (so, no promises):**

- Production
- Shabbatons, as they usually look like

## **Mask protocol:**

In places during which social distancing is not possible, a mask must be worn at all times. This includes some classrooms. It also includes davening in the multi-purpose room and public areas like the bathroom, hallways and lab for lunch.