

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

THE MARSHA STERN TALMUDICAL ACADEMY

2540 AMSTERDAM AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY • 10033
PHONE: 212-960-5337 • FAX: 212-960-0027

Cell Phone Policy 2019 - 2020

Cell phones in general and smartphones in particular have become increasingly popular among adolescents. These devices provide opportunities, such as access to more learning and greater communication, recreational outlets, and innovative technology. At the same time, cell phones also create challenges in regards to distractibility, cyber bullying, mindfulness, and relationship development. Numerous studies have shown the negative impact cell phones have on academic scores.

As a yeshiva community, we attempt to provide our talmidim with the advantages and opportunities cell phones provide, recognizing the role they play in the life of an adolescent. At the same time, we believe it is integral that the necessary structure is provided through the form of policies to prevent the challenges from adversely impacting our yeshiva community and the experience of each talmid. As a result, we are providing these guidelines.

- Cell phones may be used during free time only. When a talmid is in Shiur, class, davening, a program, or other similar situations, his phone is expected to be put away. **Any phone found out may be confiscated and given to an administrator.** Please note that the policy does not distinguish between different types or reasons for use. Anytime the phone is out during davening, Shiur, class, a program, or other such situations, it may be confiscated. This includes situations in which a talmid was checking the time on his phone, using his phone for davening, expecting a phone call from his parent, or left class and was using the phone in the hallway.
- In order to provide our talmidim with the ability to focus on their learning and davening, at the beginning of davening, Shiur, or class, talmidim will place their phone in a designated area at the front of the room.
 - If a teacher would like talmidim to use a cell phone for a specific learning purpose, the teacher may give the talmid(im) permission to use his phone for that purpose.
- If a phone is confiscated, the rebbe or teacher will bring the phone to an administrator. The first time this happens, the phone will be returned at the end of the day and the parents will be notified. On the second instance, the phone will be kept overnight and returned at the end of the next day, with parent notification. On the third instance, the phone will be kept until a meeting can be set up with the talmid and his parents. If this behavior continues, the talmid will be required to turn his phone in for a month of yeshiva

when he arrives in yeshiva and will retrieve his phone at the end of the day. The system restarts at the beginning of each semester.

- As a yeshiva community, we have a responsibility and opportunity to treat everyone kindly. Technology provides an opportunity to connect with peers in a variety of ways. However, respectful behavior, language, and etiquette is equally important on each of these platforms. A talmid who posts content which is inconsistent with the values of our yeshiva, whether it is inappropriate language or the manner in which he addresses someone else, will be subject to disciplinary action.

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Please sign and return this sheet of paper to the office by the end of the first week of yeshiva. Any talmid who does not sign will not be allowed to have a cell phone in yeshiva after the first week until it is signed. Your signature on this page represents your consent to the policies and procedures of YUHSB as outlined above.

Thank you, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Talmid Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Talmid Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____