



# THE JEWISH EDUCATIONAL CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## **Vision**

*Outstanding educators will provide exceptional learning opportunities to each JEC student. Every student will be driven to achieve to the best of his abilities and will be encouraged to acquire the knowledge and develop the middos necessary to become lifelong learners and positive contributors to Klal Yisrael and the global community. The impact of all our work together will qualitatively enhance Jewish education, now and for the future.*

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## **THE J.E.C. MS MISSION STATEMENT**

Guided by the Torah, we passionately pursue excellence through engagement, reflection, and growth.

## **OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

When The Creator of the Universe presented the Torah to the Jewish people, He offered us both a spiritual and a practical gift. Its eternal truths, handed down from generation to generation since *Maamad Har Sinai*, provide an immutable blueprint for the construction of a meaningful, well-rounded and rewarding life.

Our goal at the JEC Middle School is to provide each student with the tools he will need to make his life an edifice worthy of the potential G-d has given him. Clearly, without *Limudei Kodesh* and the ability to learn Torah, we cannot acquire the knowledge and understanding to truly comprehend what HaShem wants of us and how we can best serve Him. *Limudei Chol*, whether as a means of preparing to earn a livelihood or of enhancing the world in which we live, serve as an important adjunct to the study of Torah. Our aim is to help our students acquire skills, knowledge and appreciation of the gifts HaShem has bestowed upon us.

## **ASPIRING TOWARDS...**

- We aspire for each student to realize that the spiritual rewards of continued learning far outweigh other more transient considerations, and for all students to continue their higher education in a Torah environment.

## **WE EMPHASIZE...**

- Character development and growth in *Middos Tovos*
- Emotional and psychological well-being
- Social and communal responsibility and commitment to עם ישראל, ארץ ישראל, ותורת ישראל.

## **THE JEC MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

### **The Administration and Staff**

A team of professional, caring educators - whose goal is to meet the needs of each student and to work together to realize the *yeshiva's* mission - administers the Middle School.

The administration welcomes parental contact and invites parents to call or email with any questions or concerns. You can expect a prompt return call at the earliest possible opportunity or a prompt email response.

**Rosh HaYeshiva & Dean: Rabbi Elazar Mayer Teitz**

**Principal: Rabbi Ami Neuman - [aneuman@thejec.org](mailto:aneuman@thejec.org) 908-355-4850 ext. 6254**

**Assistant Principal: Rabbi Ben Pomper- [bpomper@thejec.org](mailto:bpomper@thejec.org) 908-355-4850 ext. 6232**

**Director of Student Affairs: Mrs. Malkie Singfer- [msingfer@thejec.org](mailto:msingfer@thejec.org) 908-355-4850 ext. 6236**

**Director of Guidance: Rabbi Yoni Korbman - [ykorbman@thejec.org](mailto:ykorbman@thejec.org) 908-355-4850 ext. 6257**

**Guidance Advisor: Mr. Yoni Leykin- [yleykin@thejec.org](mailto:yleykin@thejec.org) 908-355-4850**

**The MS/HS Office: Mrs. Amy Leykin - [aleykin@thejec.org](mailto:aleykin@thejec.org) 908-355-4850 ext. 6255**

Parents wishing to speak with a *rebbe* or teacher should email him/her directly asking that they be contacted. If requesting a return phone call, please leave a daytime number where you can be reached. *As with all other professionals, teachers should not be called at home unless prior arrangements to do so have been made. Similarly, a teacher or administrator should be texted on his/her personal cell phone number.*

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND STANDARDS**

### **Class Placement**

In order to effectively address academic strengths as well as challenges, students are homogeneously grouped whenever possible. Students may be placed in either a Grade Level, Honors, or Support class in many subjects. **Regardless of placement, we expect each student to maintain a level of academic performance commensurate with his abilities.** Class placements are determined by those who know the students best - their *rebbeim* and teachers, in concert with the administration. Consideration is given to past performance and achievement tests, as well.

It is important that students view their placement positively! They may also need some time to adjust. Review of progress is on-going during the year, and changes are made by the administration when warranted. If you have any questions about your child's placement, please reach out to Mrs. Singfer.

### **Homework/Assessments**

Homework is designed to reinforce what has been taught, to provide practice in skills learned, and/or as preparation for upcoming classes. All homework will be posted on Google Classroom; assessments will be posted on Google Classroom and follow the test calendar.

We expect students to have completed all assignments on the day they are due. In the event that an assignment cannot be completed on time, an email (preferably from the student) must be sent to the teacher the night before. The teacher can then have the option to excuse the student from the assignment. Even then, a missed assignment must be made up and handed in the next school day.

If a student is absent, it is his responsibility to get the homework assignments from Google Classroom or from a classmate.

### **Failing Grades**

If a student fails a subject in the first or second trimester, he may, at the discretion of the teacher, be given the opportunity to complete additional work to prepare for retesting and/or re-evaluation. The teacher, along with the administration, will meet with any student who has more than one failing grade to determine how best to improve his performance.

### **Midterm and Final Exams**

Midterms and Finals are designed to be a learning experience to review big picture topics covered throughout the year. Recognizing the development of our middle school students, the number of midterms and expectations of the students gradually increases as students progress through Middle School.

6th Grade- one midterm and two finals.

7th Grade- two midterms and three finals.

8th Grade- three midterms and four finals.

### **Report Cards**

Report card grades, issued each trimester, reflect class participation, classroom work, homework, quizzes and tests, and mid-year and final examinations.

Academic grades are reported in numerical form. Conduct is reported in comment form, either as Excellent, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, or Unsatisfactory.

If you have any questions regarding your son's report card grades or comments, please first be in contact with the teacher. If necessary, after speaking with the teacher, please contact an administrator.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

For most students, extra-curricular activities and trips enrich the school experience. The Middle School provides a full complement of intellectual and physical activities and programs for students to enjoy.

### **Criteria for Team Participation:**

The following criteria for participation have been established:

1. Parental consent.
2. A student in good academic and behavioral standing may participate in school athletic and/or academic teams.
3. Team members are, at all times, a reflection of this school, and must represent high standards of behavior and citizenship. It is, therefore, understood that if a student acts in any way that is contrary to our standards, he jeopardizes his place on the school team.
4. If on the morning of a competition or the day after, a sports or academic team member is not present for school minyan or is absent for any part of the school day without a doctor's note, he jeopardizes his place on the school team.
5. Students will be required to sign a school contract in order to be on a team.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance is essential for effective education. Absences should occur infrequently, and only due to illness or extenuating circumstances. Please be mindful when scheduling appointments.

Students who are absent (or late to school) must have a parent notify Rabbi Pomper in advance.

### **Minyan**

*Minyan* is an integral part of the *yeshiva*'s educational program and attendance at our school *minyan* is a requirement for all students unless specific permission has been granted by Rabbi Pomper to attend an alternate *minyan*. **A student should only leave *minyan* on rare occasions. All personal needs should be attended to before or after *minyan*.**

### **Meals**

The school provides breakfast cereals after minyan in the cafeteria. Students may not eat breakfast or lunch anywhere other than the cafeteria.

### **Leaving School Early**

School begins at 8:00 AM each day and ends 4:30 PM Monday- Thursday and 1:20 PM on Friday. (Optional Night Seder on Tuesday and Mishmar on Thursday end at 5:30 PM.) A student may only leave school early with clearance from the administration.

**\*\*For security purposes, parents coming to pick up a student during the school day must sign him out in person.** A phone call or email is not sufficient.

**Any Absences/Lateness/Early pickup should be arranged with the MS/HS Office; ext. 6255**

### **Late to School, Late to Class, Leaving Class**

School begins at 8:05 AM with Davening with optional Mishnayos starting at 8:00 AM. Students must be in the Beis Medrash for Davening on time; simply being in the building is not sufficient. If a student is found cutting minyan, it will be treated the same as cutting a class and will lose a point from his first period class.

Bells ring to signal the start of each period, and students are expected to be in class on time **with all necessary materials**. For the first 3 times that a student arrives late **OR unprepared** for class, an email will be sent to his parents serving as warning. Every late or unprepared **after that** will result in losing one point on his average for that class.

Students who are out of class for more than 5 minutes without specific authorization or 10 minutes even with teacher or administrative authorization will be considered to have cut that class.

**Cutting a class** is a serious breach of conduct and will be treated accordingly: Each incident of cutting will result in a one point reduction from that trimester in that class. A second incident may result in an in-school suspension and the student may not be permitted to return to classes until a conference with his parents is held.

### **Vacations**

Regular attendance is important for academic success. It is often difficult for a student to make up for excessive missed class work. Therefore, all vacation plans should be made in concert with the school calendar.

## **JEC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Code of Conduct is a guideline for student behavior and disciplinary consequences. It reflects general educational philosophy as to what reasonable and fair expectations are for JEC Middle School boys.

The purpose of our Code of Conduct is to train our students to develop the self-control they will need throughout their lives.

Most importantly, students need to follow good common sense with regard to their behavior. Proper discipline implies living up to acceptable standards. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards. Students can also expect that the school administration and faculty will act in terms of this code.

Good behavior is always acknowledged and celebrated by the faculty and administration.

Needless to say, all disciplinary measures mentioned in this code will be subject to the discretion of the administration. If a specific situation arises that is not covered by this Code, it will be resolved by the administration.

### **General Discipline**

Individual incidents of misconduct may seem insignificant when taken by themselves, yet the proliferation of incidents leads to a deterioration of attitude and effort, and a lack of respect for the school environment. By training students to avoid even minor incidents of misconduct, we hope to preclude the possibility of more extreme misbehavior. Furthermore, it is essential that students understand that all actions have repercussions, both positive and negative: i.e., studying results in good grades; good citizenship earns recognition; misconduct has unpleasant consequences. **It is understood that any student who chooses to disregard school rules has also chosen to face the consequences of that choice.**

### **Disciplinary Removal from Class**

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately. Disruptive behavior is unfair to others. A student told to leave class for a brief “time out” (not more than 5 minutes) must remain standing outside his classroom until he is permitted to re-enter.

It should not be necessary for a teacher to send a student to the administration. However, if it does occur, the student will be directed to Rabbi Pomper’s office. He will receive ***a disciplinary warning***. He will be responsible to complete an assignment based on class missed while out of class, may be given additional homework, and parents will be notified. The **second offense** will result in **one lunch detention and the third time will need a parent meeting to address the matter in addition to two lunch detentions.**

### **Serious Breaches of Conduct**

Serious breaches of conduct will be met with serious consequences. Examples include, but are not limited to: acting disrespectfully to a faculty member, bullying, conduct which can be deemed dangerous, unauthorized leaving of school premises, unauthorized presence in areas that are out of bounds for students, physical altercations, frequent cutting class, or use of improper language. Consequences of such actions will be severe.

If a student's behavior results in the destruction of school property or of another student's property, he will be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of the property damaged. If the damage was willful, not accidental, the student will potentially also be subject to suspension.

### **Inappropriate Language**

Proper use of language reflects discipline and decorum, and some words are not acceptable for the school environment. A student who uses inappropriate language in or during class will serve an in-school suspension. Using such language in the hall or gym will result in a warning the first time, and an in-school suspension after that.

### **Bullying**

We believe that students have the right to a safe and healthy school environment complete with mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance. We will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety of any student. A student shall not intimidate, harass or bully another student through words or actions. Such behavior includes: direct physical contact, such as hitting or shoving, verbal assaults, such as teasing or name calling and social isolation or manipulation, whether in person, in writing, or through digital or social media. Any reports of such behavior will be investigated in a thorough and confidential manner. If the behavior continues after the student is spoken to, the administration will call the student's parents into the school for a meeting and reserves the right to require the student to receive outside counseling. If the behavior persists, the student may be suspended or expelled from school.

### **Leaving School Premises (8th Grade only)**

In general, once the school day has begun, students may not leave school without being picked up and signed out by a parent. However, starting after Winter Break, 8th Graders may leave school grounds to go to Elmora during lunch or lunch recess. **Students may not leave school grounds at any other time, even if they have a free period. Students may also not buy any food for non-8th Grade students.**

The purpose of this 8th Grade privilege is to foster their independence to have more food choices for



their lunch. To that end, we discourage the purchase of Slurpees by the students. Students will not be permitted to drink purchased Slurpees in the building.

They may visit the following establishments only:, *Dunkin' Donuts, Jerusalem Pizza, Avenue Grill, New Kosher Special Chinese and 7-11*. It is always a student's responsibility to be back in school before the start of classes. In addition to facing consequences for lateness, returning late from lunch may result in having this privilege revoked.

### **Academic Integrity During Exams**

Because of the *halachic* injunctions and moral implications involved, we do not anticipate having to deal with the issue of cheating at JEC. Nevertheless, should it be necessary, cheating will be dealt with severely.

**Inappropriate behavior** during an exam will result in a zero on that quiz or exam. This includes communicating with another student for any reason, looking at another student's desktop for any reason, or failing to follow any instruction of the proctor.

The determination as to what is considered inappropriate behavior and what is cheating is solely the province of Rabbi Pomper in consultation with the test proctor.

### **DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE CODE**

In this spirit and in accordance with the dictates of Halacha, we have set a simple yet appropriate dress code, which is intended to foster self-respect and pride in one's appearance in our *talmidim*.

- Shirts can be solid or striped and must have a collar (no writing, large logos or neon colors)
- Pants must be either black, blue, khaki or gray. No jeans, sweats, or track pants. Pants should reflect the atmosphere of a yeshiva environment that we are fostering for our Middle School boys.
- Shoes and sneakers must have a closed back. No slides, crocs or slippers. Socks must be worn at all times.
- Sweaters and sweatshirts may be worn (inappropriate branding or slogans are not allowed) over a collared shirt. **Only solid color sweatshirts, JEC apparel or bar mitzvah logo sweatshirts are allowed.**
- Hats/hoods may not be worn.

Please note that the dress code applies to our students during all school activities, whether on-site or on outings, whether during normal school hours or during extra-curricular activities, unless otherwise stated.

All dress code discretions are ultimately the decision of Rabbi Pomper.

A student who comes to school out of dress code will not be allowed into class until a parent drops off the appropriate article of clothing for him to wear. A second offense will result in an in-school suspension. A third offense will require a parent meeting before the student is allowed back into class.

### **Haircuts and Payos**

The style of a haircut can be a halachic issue, specifically regarding payos. Additionally, haircuts should reflect the atmosphere of a yeshiva environment that we are fostering for our Middle School boys.

### **Yarmulkes and Tzitzis**

A student is expected to wear his yarmulke and tzitzis at all times. **Yarmulkes must remain on even while playing sports.** This includes all sports teams who are representing our school in and out of the JEC building.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Cell Phones**

Learning to balance the use of technology in our lives is important. Technology can provide an opportunity to collaborate, communicate, and innovate. At the same time, cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, personal laptops, and other technology can become significant distractions and can prevent us from cultivating a positive school community. In order to promote social interactions and a positive school environment, students will not be allowed to have cell phones during school hours.

Students may not use cell phones, smartwatches or any other similar devices during school hours (This includes Night Seder and Mishmar if a student chooses to stay and Sunday morning learning). Middle School students are expected to leave their phones in the phone holder in Rabbi Pomper's office throughout the day. If any student has a phone or similar device during the school day, it will be confiscated and given to Rabbi Pomper, to be retrieved at the end of the day. If there is a second violation, it will be returned only to a parent. Alternatively, parents may choose to have the student pick up the phone or device at the end of the following school day. If there is a third violation, the device is kept in school overnight and not returned until after a parent meeting addressing the pattern of behavior.

**Further, in our efforts to maximize our students' 6th grade experience, and to fully foster their growth and development as bnei Torah and successful students, smartphones, smartwatches or any device with internet or video capabilities will not be allowed in school this year for 6th grade students. If a student chooses to bring a "dumb" phone or "kosher" phone to school, it will be left in the phone holder with all the other student phones.**

### **Classrooms**

No student may be in a classroom without a teacher in the room. Similarly, students are not permitted to touch or use the teacher's computer or the Newline board in the room.

**Emergency School Closing**

In the event of inclement weather, school closing announcements will be made on the JEC web site ([www.thejec.org](http://www.thejec.org)).

**Fire and Safety/Security Drills**

Fire and Safety Drills will be conducted periodically throughout the school year. Procedures and emergency routes are posted in every room in the building, and students should be familiar with the routines to follow in the event of an emergency. Because of the serious nature of such drills, any levity or failure to follow the directions of the persons in charge will be dealt with appropriately.