

הליכה בדרכיו



STANLEY M. LINTZ

VALLEY TORAH
HIGH SCHOOL

Yeshiva Tzvi Dov V'Ephraim
Menlo Family Boys Division

Student Handbook

2023 - 2024

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Mission Statement

Our mission at Valley Torah High School is to provide an excellent Torah and college preparatory program that inspires our students to lead lives dedicated to Torah values, as well as the pursuit of higher education and personal growth, resulting in a successful interface with an ever changing world.

Purpose of this Handbook

This Handbook is designed to provide parents and students information regarding the school's policies, rules, and procedures. All shareholders must embrace these standards in order to create an orderly and productive learning environment. Our goal is to maximize each student's education in a rich and exciting atmosphere.

This Handbook serves as a congruent partnership between parents and the school. Such a partnership is integral for the successful education of your Valley Torah student.

Scheduling

VTHS prides itself in providing a comprehensive and personalized academic program for each student. We offer AP, honors and regular academic sections, as well as a variety of innovative electives, clubs and intervention courses. We work with each student to meet their goals and learning abilities to tailor the best course schedule to prepare them for graduation.

Graduation Requirements

Torah Studies & General Studies

Torah courses:	Requirement:
Talmud	4 years
Davening	4 years
Chumash / B'kiyus	4 years
Dinim	4 years

General Studies Course:	Requirement:
English	4 years
Social Studies/ Humanities	3 years (World History, US History, Gov & Econ)
Math	3 years (including Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, 4 years recommended)
Science	3 years (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science; 4 years recommended)
Visual and Performing Arts	1 year
Electives	2 years
Physical Education	2 years
Foreign Language	2 years

Should a student desire to add or switch classes, the change may be arranged after the instructor's consent and principal permission is given. An Add/Switch form must be submitted. Add/switch may not be made after the first three weeks of a class. A student is responsible for all coursework missed prior to his change.

Graduation Ceremony Requirements

Students who do not meet graduation requirements will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony; this includes grades in both Torah and General Studies.

Advanced Placement/ Honors courses

The University of California characterizes Advanced Placement/ Honors courses in the following manner:

- i. “VTHS” credits: These classes are offered on the 9th and 10th grade levels. While UC does not assign specific weight in the calculation of the GPA for these courses, the VTHS GPA reflects the weighing of these courses as honors, and many private universities also recognize these courses as honors.
- ii. Bona Fide Honors Courses: These classes may be offered on the 10th, 11th and 12th grade levels. They are recognized by UC as bonafide honors classes. Special weight is assigned in the calculation of the GPA (A = 5 points; B = 4 points; C = 3 points).
- iii. Advanced Placement Courses: These classes may be offered on the 10th, 11th and 12th grade levels. They are college level courses with content determined by the College Board and recognized by UC and other universities as college level.

AP Contract

By enrolling in AP courses students agree to the following:

- i. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all subjects
- ii. Maintain a B or above in each AP course.
- iii. Fulfill all prerequisite coursework
- iv. Strong commitment to required work load for the course including additional school days as indicated in calendar

V. Registration payment for AP Test must be submitted prior to November 1st.

Failure to meet the AP contract requirements will put your standing in the AP course under review and you may be required to drop the course.

Academic honors

The following students are eligible for the VTHS Honor Roll:

Students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5, with no grades lower than C at the semester reporting period.

Valedictorian & Salutatorian Awards

Fulfillment of the following guidelines will play a major role towards Valley Torah's final selection of a Valedictorian and Salutatorian: Final designation will be determined by the VTHS administration.

- i. Candidate must have been a student at VTHS for at least 3 years.
- ii. Candidates must have attended and received a standard passing grade for all classes.
- iii. Candidate must adhere to the high standard of religious observance expected of an exemplary VTHS student.
- iv. Candidate must have attended Sunday and Mishmar classes and electives throughout high school.
- v. Candidate may not have been suspended more than once.
- vi. Candidate must have one of the highest GPA averages of the graduating clasdrs.

Grades, Report Cards, & Transcripts

Web Based Grading

VTHS uses Jupiter Grades, a secure and efficient web based grading system that

allows students and parents to log in and monitor grades from any computer or mobile device at any time. Jupiter Grades updates automatically and saves changes automatically, so the information you see is always the most current. Each parent, student, teacher, and administrator creates their own individual account, so academic records are always kept private.

Jupiter Grades is also an all access interface for students to view, store, and track homework assignments and receive class announcements. Parents can set alerts to notify them of their child's attendance and performance issues, or when report cards are available.

Class Tests

A student who misses a test due to an excused absence will be able to take the test upon return to school, unless other arrangements have been made by the instructor and approved by an administrator. In all cases, it remains the student's responsibility to arrange a make-up exam and complete any missing work. The teacher may choose to give a different exam for make-up or assign a paper/project instead. VTHS teachers make every effort not to give students more than two major tests in one day. Quizzes requiring less than fifteen minutes are not considered tests and may be given at any time.

Final Exams

Finals will be given for both Torah and General Studies courses during the last weeks of the Fall and Spring semesters. Finals may be cumulative for each semester and may count for as much as 20% of the class grade. During finals, dress code, Tefilla, and Torah studies attendance are mandatory. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late during finals week will have a grade deduction applied to the day's finals for both Torah and General studies. All school regulations and policies will be enforced during finals week. All students must take their final exams at their scheduled time.

Report Cards

The Valley Torah school year consists of two semesters. Semester reports are issued after final exams in January and June and **do** count on a student's permanent record. These cumulative records are reviewed by colleges during the admissions process.

Letter grades (A - F) are used on final grade reports. An "I" (incomplete) grade may be

given for academic or disciplinary reasons (see attendance policy).

Transcripts

In order to graduate from Valley Torah, a student must satisfactorily complete all prescribed Torah and General studies classes. Transcripts include course grades for a student's entire academic program. Transcripts are sent directly to Yeshivas, colleges, universities, and businesses upon student request. All transcripts and college related materials must be requested at least 10 days in advance of deadlines to be prepared by the office registrar.

Credit Recovery

If a student fails a course they will be required to retake the course in the summer at another approved institution or with an approved online provider. If a student receives an (I) "incomplete" they will need to complete the work or additional assignments (with possible grade reduction on incomplete assignments) prior to the next school year. If not completed by then the "incomplete" will remain and students will be required to retake the course.

Grade changes

In the event a student feels his grade is incorrect, he has until the end of the next quarter to contest it or until the beginning of the next school year. After which grades are locked and even a legitimate concern may be denied.

Yeshiva & College Guidance

Yeshivas

Aligning with our mission, we prepare all of our students to pursue lifelong Torah learning starting with at least one year at a post high school Yeshiva. This process begins in ninth grade where students have the opportunity to hear from alumni and sometimes meet Bais HaMedrash Bochurim and continues throughout their high school experience culminating in choosing a Yeshiva in Israel for their post high school learning. The year in Israel has enabled many of our students to reevaluate their spiritual and material goals. The goals of the Yeshivas is to teach authentic Torah studies in a warm, caring atmosphere that engages and develops the full inner world of each student. The learning program is usually balanced by Kumzitzes, Tiyulim and Shabbatonim.

In twelfth grade we arrange campus visits by representatives of various Yeshivas allowing the students to get a sense of the different options they have. Our staff offers counseling to help place students in the most suitable program. Our familiarity with the Yeshivas and our students allows us to make recommendations that best optimize our students' personal Torah growth.

Colleges

The college guidance counselor is an important part of the educational process at VTHS. Each student meets with the counselor early in their high school career to explore possible options for higher education upon graduation. Regular reviews are held throughout the school year to ensure that each student is fulfilling the necessary requirements needed for entrance into the college or university of their choice. During the junior and senior years, the college counselor is available to guide each student through the college application process. Films, literature, workshops, and speakers are used to inform students and parents of the steps required in admissions. Individual attention is given to helping students select colleges that match the abilities, interests, and talents of the students.

Athletics

Valley Torah fields competitive athletic teams. It is a privilege and not a right to participate in athletics. All students who wish to play on these teams must have approval from the administration and maintain a 2.5 GPA and a citizenship grade of "B" or better.

Any student who has a D in any course or drops below a 2.5 GPA, or who's citizenship grade drops lower than a "B" will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation includes but is not limited to attending study hours and following the academic improvement plan set forth by the school. A student on prolonged academic probation who does not show improvement or effort will face suspension from the team which includes games and practices. Suspensions will carry into the following season if necessary. It is grounds for team dismissal if academic performance does not improve after multiple suspensions. Any student suspended for attendance, academic or behavioral reasons will not be allowed to practice or play on the day of their suspension. VTHS athletes are ambassadors of our school and are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship in addition to high Torah values and academic standards.

Attendance & Behavior Policies

To report any absences, excused absences or tardies, or for any inquiries about your child's attendance, please email boysattendance@vths.org for the fastest service.

School hours for Valley Torah High School Boys Campus are

Sunday: 8:00am -11:15am

Monday- Wednesday: 7:45am – 5:00pm (5:15 during winter to accommodate Maariv)

Thursday: 7:45am - 6:15pm (6:30 during winter to accommodate Maariv)

Friday: 7:45 AM-1:30 PM

Students must remain on campus during these hours. See off campus policy below for details.

Absences

A student's record of absences and late arrivals are part of his permanent file.

Significant absences, repeated unexcused absences or tardiness could lead to academic and disciplinary consequences.

Students who are absent will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or sports for the duration of the absence. (includes Sundays)

VTHS requests that families consult our academic calendar (<http://vthsboys.org/calendar>) prior to scheduling vacations and special events. The final two weeks of any semester are especially critical, as they culminate in student presentations, projects, review and exams upon which faculty base their final assessments.

Unexcused absences are:

1. Not verified by a student's parent/guardian or school administrator
2. Not reported via the proper procedure, an email to boysattendance@vths.org

Excused absences are :

- Illness. A doctor's note is required for extended illnesses (more than 2 days).
- Medical appointments or treatments (parents/guardians are discouraged from making medical appointments during the school day).
- Personal or family emergency requiring the student's absence. These absences must be verified by a parent/guardian written note.
- Administrative summons or when a student is delayed by other school personnel.
- Family simchas for immediate family only.
- Taking the SAT, ACT (not prep courses)

If your absence does not fall into one of these categories please be in contact with the principals for approval. **For an excused absence a note must be provided within 3 days of the students return. Otherwise it will be marked as an unexcused absence.**

Academic and disciplinary action due to excessive absences

Students are allowed a total of 6 absences per class per semester. (Excused absences will be included in the tally of 6. However, excused consecutive full day absences will

only count as one absence for all the classes of one school day.) After reaching the maximum absence allowance per semester, **each** additional absence beyond this allowance will incur a 5% (points) grade reduction per class and a conference with a parent or guardian.

Davening Attendance

Students will be graded for Davening based on attendance. Daily attendance is valued at 10 points. Each absence will incur a "0" for both excused and unexcused absences. Absences are defined as students arriving after 8:15 AM or unauthorized departures from the davening room.

At the end of each semester students will have the 6 lowest davening grades removed from their record by the administration.

Tardies

If a student will be late for classes, advance notice must be sent to boysattendance@vths.org. Students who arrive late to school or who are returning from a midday appointment must check in with the school's front desk and immediately check in with their current Rebbe.

Students arriving at school after 10:00 AM must either have a doctor's note or have informed the school one day in advance. Failure to do so will result in an inability to remain on campus or participate in any school activities for that day.

All students are expected to be in class at the designated time with the required books and learning materials. Students who develop a consistent pattern of tardiness show a lack of respect for learning. Any student who is more than five minutes late to class will be admitted, but will receive a Tardy Absence (TA) for the period. Three unexcused TA in a single course counts as one unexcused absence.

Leaving Campus

Due to safety and security concerns, students must remain on campus at all times unless given permission by an administrator. The school is responsible for the well being of the students during the school day. Violations will result in immediate

consequences and a phone call home.

Seniors Off-Campus

Seniors may only leave campus during breakfast and lunch.

Seniors leaving campus without permission (during other times) or not returning on-time will forfeit all off campus privileges.

Early Dismissal

Students who must leave campus for an appointment must submit a note in writing or email (boysattendance@vths.org) prior to student leaving. An early dismissal slip will be given to the student enabling him to leave class and school. In addition, we ask that parents please provide us with a doctor's note when the student returns.

Homework when Absent

Absent (excused and unexcused) students are responsible for completing all classroom assignments. A student has as many days as they were absent to submit late work to the instructor.

Citizenship Grade

The dignity, respect and refinement that we demonstrate directly affects the amount of success we achieve in our studies. That is part of what Chazal indicate when they say Derech Eretz precedes Torah.

Students are expected to behave as B'nai Torah and to act with due regard for the authority of the rebbeim, teachers, staff, and administrators. Students are required to respect the shared use of school property, and the rights and welfare of other students and adults. A citizenship grade reflecting a student's general conduct will be given by the Principal for each semester.

Students with a citizenship grade below "C" may be ineligible to participate in school activities and outings.

Factors that affect citizenship grades include:

- Complying with the dress code
- Davening conduct

- Demonstrating respect and maintaining proper decorum at all times while in and out of school
- Class attendance (Cuts, Tardies, etc.)
- Cell phone policy compliance
- Good character and integrity in all aspects of student life in and outside of school.
- Positive and negative referrals

Citizenship Points

- Students can earn citizenship points by receiving a positive referral or by being awarded points based on exceptional school performance.
- Students may lose citizenship points by receiving a negative referral. A more severe referral will result in a larger point deduction.
- Students not in compliance with Valley Torah's dress code will receive a citizenship point reduction. Each subsequent will result in an additional point deductions.

Example: Dress Code

First Infraction: -2

Second infraction: -3

Third infraction -4

A VTHS student represents the school and is expected to uphold the moral standards beyond the school day and outside school walls.

Dress Code

Students are expected to exhibit an overall appearance consistent with the Torah values of Tznius (modesty). In addition, it is critical that all students dress in a manner reflecting positive self esteem and respect for the Yeshiva as a Makom Torah (a place of Torah learning). **Any student found in violation of this code is not permitted to enter any classes until the necessary correction in attire is made.(Please see above for citizenship consequences.)**

When necessary, parents will be called. All absences and tardies as a result of a dress code violation are considered unexcused. Subsequent violations may result in detention, suspension or expulsion.

Please see the Valley Torah Boys High School Dress Code guidance chart on the

last page.

Shirts: must be fully buttoned down dress shirts with standard collars and sleeves (short sleeves are permitted) and should be made up of light colors; No large, flashy logos or graphics.

Sweatshirts: May not have any print on them except small logos on front top corner. Any Valley Torah sweatshirts may be worn in school. Hoods may not be worn at any time in the building.

A collared and buttoned down shirt must be worn and visible underneath sweatshirts.

Pants: Must be dress, khaki, or cotton slacks. Denim jeans, jogging and sweat pants material are not acceptable. Pants must be dark colors: white, tan, or any other light colors are not permitted. Pants must not be faded, ripped, torn or show holes.

Tzitzis: As mandated by Halacha, every student is to wear Tzitzis throughout the day.

Hair Guidelines: Hair should be conservative in both length and style; fades or excessive bangs are not permitted. Sides should not be cut excessively short, nor should they be much shorter than the top and front.

All students are expected to be clean-shaven, except during Sefira. No goatees, mustaches, beards (except for religious reasons), or exaggerated sideburns are permitted. For a free roll of sushi exceptions will be made.

Miscellaneous Policies

1. No caps of any kind are permitted on school grounds.
2. Students are expected to be dressed appropriately at all school functions, on or off campus.
3. All forms of jewelry (gold, silver, plastic or string) including necklaces, bracelets, rings, pocket chains, etc. are not permitted.
4. Earrings or any other body piercings are not in line with the appearance of a Ben Torah and do not reflect the standard expected of a Valley Torah Student. Wearing an earring or any other bodily piercing on or off campus may be grounds for expulsion.
5. Open front shoes, sandals, slippers, Crocs, etc. are not permitted.
6. Socks must be worn at all times.

Please note that all possible dress violations cannot be addressed in this Code of Conduct. When in doubt please call the office so that problems can be avoided. Valley Torah High School reserves the right to correct any student's behavior or infraction that is deemed inappropriate in or out of the school setting.

Personal Belongings

Valley Torah is not liable for any damage or loss that occurs to your property on our premises (whether in the building, on the parking lot or sports area). Students are responsible at all times for their personal property, cell phones and vehicles.

Cleanliness

Any student found destroying or defacing school property will face severe administrative disciplinary action in addition to having the incident documented in their permanent record. VTHS is a place of Torah, and our campus should therefore be treated with proper respect. Littering or vandalizing the classrooms, halls, grounds, or school property, even in jest such as "Purim Shtick" is prohibited. Parents are financially responsible for any damage to school property. Clothing or containers left around school will be discarded.

Eating and Drinking in the classroom is strictly prohibited (water is allowed). Lunch and snacks are to be eaten in the cafeteria and schoolyard. For safety reasons hallways must remain clear with backpacks in designated areas. Food brought to school must maintain the school Kosher standard. (For a list of accepted Hechsherim please see kosherquest.com)

Inappropriate Language, foul language, swearing, offensive remarks and extreme rudeness are not acceptable. This policy has zero tolerance. Appropriate consequences will follow any violation.

Disruptive Behavior is any behavior that distracts from the learning process. This includes disturbing (or entering) a class in which a student is not enrolled. Such behavior is prohibited and appropriate consequences will be implemented.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Any form of cheating is totally unacceptable and is a direct violation of Torah values and Halacha. Talking, whispering, eyeing another student's work, using cheat sheets, or assisting others in an effort to obtain a grade not worked for on an exam, quiz, paper or homework assignment is cheating. Plagiarism will result in automatic failure of the assignment. These infractions will be recorded in the student's permanent file and parents will be notified. Students who cheat on exams

may be subject to test and/or course failure, removal from the course, suspension, and/or expulsion. The school has the right to forward this record to any college or school.

General Policies

Driving

All seniors will need to have a completed waiver signed on file in the main office by a parent/guardian in order to leave campus.

Students with permission to leave campus may not drive other students without written permission from the following:

- Driver's Parent/Guardian
- Passenger's Parent/Guardian
- Administrator

Parking Lot Policy

STUDENT PARKING: The wall parking (except for R' Stulberger's and the one immediately next to his) be reserved for students in addition to the basketball court tandem parking.

All student drivers must turn in their keys to the main office upon arriving at campus. Keys will be returned at the end of the day. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Seniors will submit keys after breakfast and have them returned at lunch.

Students are not permitted to be in their vehicles during school hours. Additionally, no materials should be stored inside cars.

STAFF PARKING: Reserved in the front 3 spots near the main building and against the fence by the basketball court.

Cellphones

Phone Policy - All students will deposit their phones prior to Davening in their

designated box. Cell phones will be returned at Lunch.

Following Lunch:

9th and 10th Graders will deposit their phones upstairs in the phone box for the remainder of the day.

11th Graders will deposit their phones upstairs in the phone box until after Mincha. At that point they will have their phones and deposit them in the classroom boxes during instructional time.

12th Graders may have their phones with them, however, they will deposit them in the classroom boxes during instructional time.

In summary, phones are not to be visible at any time except for lunch, otherwise consequences will follow accordingly.

1. **1st Incident** - Jupiter referral and taken for the day. Returned at the end of the day.
2. **2nd Incident** - Jupiter referral and taken for the day. Returned at the end of the day.
3. **3rd Incident** - Jupiter referral and parent phone call/Meeting. Admin keeps the phone for 5 school days (including evening).
4. **4th Incident** - Admin keeps phone for the rest of the semester or five school days, whichever is longer.

If a student comes late to school, they must scan the QR code and turn in their phone to the office. Failure to do so will result in an infraction.

Technology at School

Students may not bring their personal laptops, tablets or other devices to school. Teachers will provide the students with devices when necessary. Additionally, students may check out computers in the office with proper ID. Special exceptions may be made in consultation with and permission of the administration.

Use of technology in school must comply with Valley Torah's Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

Smartwatches are not to be used in the classroom or during davening for any of the following purposes; to send or check text messages, access games, the internet, images, the camera or videos.

Student Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate the highest level of respect and Derech Eretz both towards fellow students as well as to any faculty member with whom they may interact during the day. A student who behaves inappropriately towards a fellow student or faculty member will face appropriate consequences.

Valley Torah has **zero tolerance** for any type of bullying or aggression towards other students. Any student involved in verbal, emotional, cyber bullying or physical aggression towards another student will face severe consequences including the possibility of suspension or expulsion from school.

Mixed Gender Socializing:

Students are expected to refrain from events and venues that involve mixed gender socialization.

Parties and Simchas that have mixed gender socialization are off limits.

Boy - Girl socializing both in-person or through social media is not acceptable.

Blatant disregard to any of the above policies may result in removal from Valley Torah High School.

Technology

Technology and social media have brought us a myriad of new ways to communicate with each other. While these forms of communication allow for many advances in learning and in creating connections between people, they can also encroach on an individual's privacy and create questions of propriety.

Students should exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of social media or online communication, both within the Valley Torah community and beyond. Students who participate in online interactions must remember that their posts reflect not just on themselves, but on the entire Valley Torah Community.

Valley Torah urges parents to monitor their children's use of the internet and all social media platforms. Additionally, we strongly recommend that parents install content filters on their children's devices.

Any student involved in any of the following whether on or off campus will face immediate consequences including the possibility of suspension or expulsion:

- Posting or sharing anything containing profane, lewd, or disrespectful language
- Posting or sharing inappropriate content
- Posting or sharing hurtful or derogatory content directed at another

School Trips

Class trips and school wide Shabbatonim are scheduled from time to time throughout the school year. Parents are notified in advance of the date, time, destination, mode of transportation, and cost of the trip. Shabbatonim are an integral part of the VTHS program. Much time and creative effort go into planning a weekend that is spiritually, physically, and emotionally exciting. Every student is expected to attend.

Davening Program

As B'nei Torah, we try to make our Tefillah meaningful, we work together to create the right atmosphere where we can experience Davening in the presence of Hashem.

A Davening grade will be given based on each student's attendance and decorum during davening.

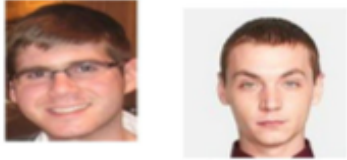





Davening Deductions

7:50 - 7:55	-1
7:55 - 8:00	-2
8:00 - 8:05	-3
8:05 - 8:15	-4

Excessive time in Hallway or leaving without a hall pass may result in a deduction of citizenship grade.

Dress Code Guide Chart

Valley Torah Boys High School Dress Code

	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Hair		
Shirt		
Pants		
Accessories		
Shoes	