



Tampa Torah Academy Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026





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NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Tampa Torah Academy, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Tampa Torah Academy's Mission

Tampa Torah Academy is a student-centered school dedicated to providing an outstanding Judaic and General studies education with a strong emphasis on character development, empowering our students to become active and impactful members of their communities.

Vision

Tampa Torah Academy strives to develop thinking, motivated, and refined students. Our students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to achieve success in their future studies, relationships, and careers. We strive to instill our students with a life-long commitment of growing in Torah & Mitzvos, Israel, and the greater Jewish community.

Core Values

Educational Excellence

Private religious schools have a demonstrated record for the highest levels of student achievement. TTA implements challenging and well-rounded age-appropriate curricula based on current best practices. Children develop proficiency in content and basic





skills with an emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving, and independent research in diverse bodies of Judaic and General studies. TTA curricula is aligned with and exceeds the State of Florida standards.

Torah & Mitzvos

The Torah is the most powerful and transformative guidebook in history, forming the core for Jewish identity and survival. The Mitzvos breathe meaning and a sense of fulfillment into Jewish life. TTA students are empowered to learn and utilize the Torah and its Mitzvos as a guide for their life's mission.

Middos Tovos (Character Development):

Character development is an integral part of Jewish education. At TTA we set our students on a lifelong process of belief in one's self, caring, kindness, and sensitivity. Chessed (kindness), Emes (truth), and Ahavas Yisroel (love of every Jew) are a few of the middos (character traits) that are woven into our daily routines and classes.

Self-Development

We focus on the whole child, including self-mastery and emotional wellbeing. We believe in inspiring children's innate quest for knowledge, growth, and self-fulfillment. Fertile minds allow children to develop and grow. We plant the seeds, building a foundation for them to fulfill their potential.

Love of Israel

A strong commitment to Israel translates into identification with the global Jewish community. Students will learn the ancient and modern history of Israel and form a loving bond with the land and its people. Knowledge of the land, government, and international law will keep students informed so they can clearly defend Israel in a world that is increasingly hostile and Anti-Semitic.





A Safe Classroom Environment:

A warm, friendly, and safe classroom and school community is our first priority enabling children to thrive intellectually and socially/emotionally. TTA has assumed a zero-tolerance stance against all forms of bullying, including, but not limited to: verbal, physical, and emotional abuse.

Sense of Community

We develop a strong sense of community by building close partnerships among students and parents in pursuit of children's physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual well-being. TTA engages students in building connections with community religious and social organizations.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Regular attendance in school is a prerequisite for scholastic achievement-especially in the dual-curriculum program offered at TTA. Please remember that punctuality is important. We are building the foundation of your child's future and need you to partner with us to be successful.

Regular attendance is essential for success in school. Students are required to be in school and on time to begin instruction.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We believe that as parents, you are the primary educators of your children. It is the function of school to support and facilitate the development and education of your child. Because you are the expert when it comes to knowing your child, we value, encourage and expect your input and observations.



Communication

Open communication between the teachers, directors, and parents is an essential component of ensuring the success of your child's school experience. Please share pertinent information such as your child's likes, dislikes, comfort mechanisms, and relevant health information with us. During the year, please communicate to the teacher any questions or concerns you may have about your child's well-being and happiness. Our teachers are eager to share information about your child's day in school with you. In all classes, regular newsletters/updates will be sent home detailing activities and themes that are current in the classroom.

As our teachers are on the front lines of supporting your children, we ask that you initially address them with any concerns that pertain to their classroom or social dynamics.

Contacting Teachers

Communication between parents and teachers is crucial to a successful year. However, we want to respect the privacy of our teachers (especially after all the time, effort, love, and care they put in each one of our students). **Therefore, we ask that parents do not call teachers after school unless it is pre-arranged.** Phone meetings can be arranged via email or office message. Parents can always call the office and leave a message for a teacher. Additionally, teachers can be reached via email (through ParentLocker). You can expect a response within 24 hours, unless it is Friday, Saturday or Sunday which will be answered on Monday. For any matter that cannot wait, please contact Rabbi Levin. If you can't reach him, please feel free to contact Rabbi Wohlfarth.

Parent Orientation Night/Back to School Night (September 3, 2024)

This evening affords the parent an opportunity to hear and see an overview of what their children will be learning this year and what they will be responsible for. It's an opportunity to see your child's learning environment. There will be a time for questions as well. An appointment can be scheduled for any specific questions regarding your child. A schedule will be distributed before the event.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held November 4th and February 10th. These conferences allow parents the opportunity to communicate with the teacher in-person about their child's progress in the classroom.

Open Door Policy

Parents are always welcome to visit our school. We do ask that visitation not take place during the first month of school to allow for all adjustments. Parents are required to make an appointment with Rabbi Levin to visit their child's classroom.

Volunteerism

Parents are invited to come to school to read a book, supervise an art project, share a special skill, or make a demonstration. In addition, parents can be helpful in gathering materials for projects and classrooms, chaperoning trips, and other opportunities. Please contact your child's teacher to schedule these volunteering activities.

Parent Association (PTA)

Our school stands to gain enormously from having a committed PTA. We are seeking parents to become active in the PTA. Arranging book fairs, extra-curricular activities, community events, and fundraisers are all ways that the PTA enhances our children's educational experience. Additionally, events that create awareness of our school in the greater community help ensure the viability and continued success of our school. Please keep an eye out and respond to the PTA survey.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

We understand that there may be circumstances in which a parent may request that TTA provide an adjustment or accommodation for a student's medical needs or physical, mental, or learning disability. It is our school's policy to provide accommodations or adjustments for a student's minor needs in circumstances in which the administration determines, in its sole discretion, that doing so is within the reasonable ability of TTA and/or its staff and will not result in a significant disruption to the teacher's ability to instruct other students, to classroom or school order and discipline, will not require a threat of harm to the safety of other students or employees,





will not require a fundamental change to our educational environment or mission, and will not impose responsibilities on school employees for which they are not trained. We also ask parents to realize that, given the size of our school and our available resources, we may not be able to provide all requested accommodations. To the extent we agree to provide accommodations, we may require a sharing of responsibility for the accommodation.

DROPOFF/PICKUP/CARPOOL

EC1, EC2, and EC3

Drop off – 8:20-8:30 am. Parents should park in the parking lot and bring their child into the classroom.

Pick up – 4:00 pm. (Friday 2:00 pm) Parents should park in the parking lot and pick up their child from the child's classroom.

Pre-K

Drop Off – 8:20-8:30 am. Parents can either drop off their child on the carpool line (carpool line will be clearly marked) and a staff member will be available from 8:20 – 8:30 am to escort your child safely to their classroom, or parents may park and bring their child into their classroom. For any child brought to school after 8:30, it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure their child is safely with the teacher, administrator, or front secretary.

Pick Up – 4:00 pm. (Fridays 2:00 pm) All pick-ups will be done on the carpool line. Please be sure to follow all instructions from the TTA staff as they ensure the safety of our children. All students should be picked up by 4:15.





Grades Kindergarten - 8

Drop Off – 8:20-8:30 am. Drop off is done in the carpool line (carpool line will be clearly marked). **Classes begin at 8:30 am.** For any child brought to school after 8:40, a parent will be required to check in with the front desk before they can go to class.

Pick Up – 4:00 pm. (Fridays 2:00 pm) All pick-ups will be done on the carpool line. Please be sure to follow all instructions from the TTA staff as they ensure the safety of our children. All K-8 students should be picked up by 4:15.

Please do not enter the carpool lane and park your car in the carpool lane.

Please call the school office and/or an administrator with any carpool changes.

If a parent picks up their child after 4:15 pm, the school has a right to charge \$12 to the CC on file per day. This policy will be instituted after 3 times a parent picks up their child after 4:15 pm.

LATE DROP OFF/EARLY PICK UP

For any student who needs to leave school early, a parent must send an email to our school's office (with the teacher cc'ed in advance.) Any student leaving early or coming late must be checked in or out with the secretary or an administrator to ensure the safety of our students. Please do not disturb your child's classroom by going to get your child when you come. The front secretary will help your child come to the front lobby.





Please try to schedule appointments outside of school time to minimize disruptions and material missed.

LUNCH POLICY/SNACKS

Please provide your child with a nutritious, kosher lunch and snack. Lunches and snacks can be either meat or dairy, but do not include both in the same lunch/snack. Kosher products bear symbols such as an OU, OK, STAR-K, KOF-K, and ORB. In the picture below is a list of other approved symbols. We'll be glad to assist you with any further Kashrus questions.

We strive to ensure that our children eat wholesome foods. Although sugary snacks and desserts are conveniently packaged for school lunches and snacks, spending time finding nutritious alternatives is well worth the extra effort.

Students are not permitted to bring candy to school unless it is approved for a special activity by their teacher.

Students should not bring any toys or personal items from home that they would be upset if the toys or personal items get lost. TTA does not take any responsibility if toys or personal items from home get lost in school.

Due to the different health and kosher diets of our students, there is a "No Sharing" food policy amongst the children. For special occasions, a closed package of food with a proper kosher symbol can be brought in to share with classmates it must have prior approval from their Judaics studies teacher. Please be sensitive to the various diets and allergies that classmates have. Please reach out to the Judaics teacher to find out specifics.

Nut-Sensitive Policy

There are students in TTA with life-threatening allergies to peanuts/tree nuts and nut products. Foods that may contain traces of nuts are not permissible at this time. We are committed to ensuring each student's health and safety in our program and have





created our nut-sensitive policy with this goal in mind.

We ask that you only bring to school foods that are free of peanuts and tree nuts. Please do not bring: peanuts, peanut butter, nutella, almonds, pistachios, cashews, peanut oils, certain granola bars, etc. We ask you to read food labels, checking for peanut/nut ingredients before bringing food to school.

The school cannot guarantee that a student will never experience a peanut/tree nut situation while at school and requires that the family of the allergic child work in conjunction with the school and their physician to establish protocols for the child that the school must have in writing. Together with the parents and physician, the school will create an action plan that we will implement to the best of our ability.

We recognize that implementing this policy may require added effort and planning on your part, and we thank you for your support and cooperation for the benefit of all our students.

School Hot Lunch Program

We will be offering school hot lunch this year. The hot lunch will be made fresh in the school kitchen area. The monthly menu will go out a week before the start of a new month as well as a sign up sheet for that month. **The charge will be \$7.00 per child per day.** There will not be hot lunch on Fridays.

All hot lunch preparations are supervised by Rabbi Wohlfarth.



Print your own kashrus card!

Cut out along the dotted line and fold in the middle





BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Children love to celebrate their birthdays at school and TTA wants to help celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom with his/her friends and teacher. In an effort to ensure that all children have wonderful birthday experiences in school, please adhere to the following policies.

- Parents must coordinate with the teacher before the big day. Please be sure to find out from the teacher if there are any dietary restrictions in the class so no child will feel left out of the festivities.

Preschool

- For the Preschool classes, parents can bring in a cake or cupcakes (store bought with a kosher symbol, or baked in school under supervision of Mrs. Clyde) and a snack for the class.
- **No goody bags of any kind may be given out.** However, a Birthday Book for the class library may be purchased and then picked and presented to the class by the birthday child. More information will be sent out in the month prior to your child's birthday.
- Parents and grandparents may attend the party.
- Siblings in other classes may attend at the parent's discretion, understanding the loss of their academic time. The students are expected to make up what they miss. Please communicate with the sibling's teachers as well.

1-8

- In the Elementary grades, parents may bring in a treat for the class either a cake, cupcakes, or chips etc. (store bought with a kosher symbol.) The teacher will allot time for the birthday child to share their special treat with the class. A birthday book for the school library may also be purchased and then picked and presented to the class by the birthday child. More information will be sent out in the month prior to your child's birthday. Siblings in other classes may attend at the parent's discretion, understanding the loss of their academic time. The students are expected to make up what they miss. Please communicate with the



sibling's teachers as well. This is a time for your child to celebrate with his/her class community.

Any birthday party invitations (even outside of school) must be given to the whole class.
For 5th grade and above, this refers to their morning classes.

HEALTH & SAFETY

1. **All new students** need to submit three forms to the office (these forms are required by the state and need to be dated no more than 12 months prior to entry in TTA):

- a copy of their birth certificate.
- A physical exam form (DH-3040)
- Vaccination form (DH-680)

2. **All current students entering Kindergarten and 7th grade** need to submit two updated health forms (these forms are required by the state and need to be dated no more than 12 months prior to the beginning of the school year)

- A physical exam form (DH-3040)
- Vaccination form (DH-680)

Please send all health forms and copies of birth certificates to office@tampatorahacademy.org. All students whose health forms have not been sent are subject to be sent home from school until the office receives the proper health forms.



Child Abuse Reporting

School teachers and other personnel are mandatory reporters under the Florida child abuse reporting laws. Please understand that we must take our obligations seriously and if we assess that a situation requires it, we will make a report to child abuse authorities of situations that we reasonably suspect constitute abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Depending on the circumstances, we may not be able to communicate with parents about the report until authorized by child abuse authorities to do so. We ask for your understanding as we do our best to protect the children under our care.

Illness Policy

1. If your child is not feeling 100%, **רפואה שלימה** he/she should feel better soon!

2. A child who has a fever of 100.4 may not come to school.

3. A child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

4. If your child wakes up in the morning not being themselves, (i.e. extremely kvetchy, refusing to eat, throwing up, upset stomach) or has a low grade fever (meaning they feel warmer than usual), please wait two hours before bringing them, and then retake their temperature. Fever is at the lowest point early in the morning, and will likely rise if the child is coming down with a virus.



5. A child *MAY NOT be given Motrin or Tylenol in the morning or within 8 hours of coming to school. (Motrin and Tylenol may mask symptoms of illness)

* if your child is already on antibiotics for an ear infection, and they need Motrin to ease their pain, it can only be given after their temperature was taken and they are fever free. In such an event, please contact the school office in advance to confirm.

6. Viruses such as coxsackie (hand, foot and mouth disease,) Conjunctivitis (pink eye), RSV, and Impetigo, and step-throat are extremely contagious. Please notify the office for any of these illnesses so we can take extra precautions. Children with highly contagious conditions can only be brought back to school after being cleared by a pediatrician (with a written note) and after consulting with the school office. A notification will be sent out to other parents in the school, informing them of the illness their child may have been exposed to. If antibiotics are prescribed for infectious illness, the child should be brought to school only after being on medication for 24 hours.

7. If a child has a severe cold or cough with nasal discharge, the child may not attend school. Mild symptoms such as colds, coughs, and runny noses are very common, especially during the winter season. Although you may send your child during these times, please look out for any additional symptoms that may indicate a sign of an early ear infection. Please protect your family and your child's classmates by being proactive and monitoring carefully.

8. If your child has pinworm, please note it is extremely contagious and we require you to let the school know. Please wait 24 hours from when your child takes medicine before sending your child back to school.





9. At TTA we do routine lice checks. If you do find lice at home, please let us know ASAP, so we can take proper precautions at school. We do require professional cleaning with a note before we can allow your child back in school.

10. If we notice any sign of illness or if your child vomits, or has diarrhea more than one time, your child will be removed from the classroom until an authorized family member or friend can take them home, and you should consult with your family's pediatrician. Your child will not be allowed to return to school without a doctor's note, and fever-free for 24 hours.

Lice Check

There will be a lice check on August 20th from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the school. All parents will be required to bring their children to school at that time for a lice check. If a parent is unable to attend, the parent needs to bring in a card from a professional lice company stating that their child is free from lice.

Every month we will have a lice check. We have placed them on the calendar, so parents know when they are happening. **If a child is found to have lice, the child will be sent home right away with a lice guide and is required to be cleaned by a professional lice company.** Before they return to school, they must follow the rules given to them for cleanup of the house as well as a card from a professional lice company that the child is free from lice. **There will be no exceptions.**



Medication

1. If a student is required to take over the counter or prescription medication during the school day, please follow this procedure:
 - o Bring the medication to an administrator or the secretary in the original pharmacy package with the student's name and directions clearly indicated on the pharmacy label.
 - o **Forms for authorizing and requesting the office to administer the medication are available and must be signed.**
 - o Without a form, the parent or guardian MUST administer medication. Do not send medication to school with your child.
2. The school cannot assume any responsibility for medication or its administration.
3. Tylenol/Advil (or their equivalent) will be administered only if permission is on file or after a telephone call is placed to the parent for approval.
4. Students who require allergy medication, an epipen, or inhaler must have additional medication left in Rabbi Wohlfarth's office. This is available for a child that forgets his/her inhaler or in case of an emergency. The administration will not administer this medication without first confirming with parent approval, unless in an emergency.



DRESS CODE

At TTA we strive to set a high standard for our students and having school uniforms with the logo embroidered is important for several reasons:

- Identity and Belonging: Embroidered logos help students feel a sense of belonging and pride in their school. It reinforces the school's identity and creates a sense of community among students.
- Professionalism and Uniformity: Embroidered logos contribute to a professional and uniform appearance. They ensure that all students wear identical attire, which helps in reducing distractions related to fashion and peer pressure. Additionally, the more professional appearance a student portrays will directly affect the student's own self image.
- Security and Accountability: Logos make it easier to identify students, which will enhance security on school grounds. It also helps staff identify students during off-campus events or trips.
- TTA Brand Promotion: The school logo on uniforms serves as a form of branding and promotion. It helps in creating a recognizable image of the school in the community and beyond.
- Reducing Disparities: Uniforms with embroidered logos help minimize visible economic differences among students, as everyone is required to wear the same attire regardless of their personal or financial background.



Students in Grades 1-8 are required to adhere to the school uniform and dress code which is as follows:

Boys:

Tops: Polo shirts in light blue, navy, or white with TTA's logo embroidered. Uniform shirts should be bought through [the TTA Uniform Store](#) through Mrs. Rubenstein. Her number is 561-245-1786.

Bottoms: Blue, black, or khaki pants. (1st – 4th grade will be allowed to wear shorts.) NO MESH OR JEAN OR CARGO.

Kippahs are required for boys in Grades Pre-K – 8th.

Girls:

Tops: Polo shirts in light blue, navy, or white with TTA's logo embroidered. (fourth grade and up – long or three-quarter length sleeve only) Uniform shirts should be bought through [the TTA Uniform Store](#) through Mrs. Rubenstein. Her number is 561-245-1786.

Bottoms: Solid navy pleated skirts that come past the knee even while sitting.

All Students:

- Shoes should be appropriate for play and school, such as sneakers and rubber soled shoes (no slippers, flip flops, or crocs).
- Socks should be worn at all times.
- Hats may only be worn during recess and outside time (not during class).
- If a student's hair length or style is inappropriate, parents will be contacted and the student will be given up to three school days to make the required changes.
- Uniform skirts should be bought through [the TTA Uniform Store](#).
- Students should only come to school with their natural hair color.



- The only permitted piercings on a TTA student in school are single earrings in each of a girl's ear.
- Students are not permitted to wear makeup.

All parents of students in 1st-8th grade are required to purchase from the school uniform shirts with TTA's logo embroidered on them for students to wear every day.

Nursery – Kindergarten

When choosing school clothes for your preschool child, please keep in mind that easy, comfortable, and washable clothing is best. Clothing should be practical and free of complicated fastenings in order to be easy to handle in the bathroom. **Students from EC3 and above are required to be toilet-trained before coming to TTA.** Please be aware that Tampa Torah Academy uses only washable paints, but that projects can be messy even for children who are wearing smocks.

DIGITAL POLICY

Technology is a very important tool and plays a crucial role in society if used appropriately. However, there are many dangers and risks to students' general mental health when technology is misused. In TTA, students will have access to technology on a limited basis through Google Chromebooks learning the basics of typing, research, and basic computer skills. Each teacher monitors the use of the digital devices and will bring them into the classroom as needed. Each student does not have their own device.

Students may not bring in any outside digital devices, including smart watches, watches with other apps, and MP3 players. If a student needs a phone for transportation or emergency purposes, they can arrange with the administration to check it in with the office each day.



As mentioned before, we would like to draw your attention to the risks and dangers of **unsupervised internet usage**. In an effort to protect students' safety and emotional health, TTA policy requires filters or parental blockers on any student's personal device. Please read below for more information and background on this policy.

- 1) Social Media (Tik Tok, Snapchat, Instagram) and YouTube pose many dangers to adolescents. These apps condition children and adolescents to seek out serotonin/instant gratification from their devices rather than face strong or big feelings. This is addictive and the need for validation and social approval in this fake world of likes, competition, fake friends and consumerism is so damaging to childrens' psyche. Consequences include social isolation, cyberbullying, changes in brain chemistry, anxiety, the need to keep "checking," depression, body image issues, passive aggressive arguments, addiction, aggressive arguments, low self-esteem and more. The danger of socializing with strangers cannot be overstated. Games like Minecraft, Roblox and even "educational" games require close supervision. Additionally, you cannot control what pops up on your child's device on many platforms. Even in privacy settings, if a video is shared with one friend, that person can share the video with others who can continue to share it.

- 2) If you choose to give your child a phone, consider the following: Are you ready to talk about pornography, eating disorders, drugs, sexuality, consent, self-harm, excessive violence, social rejection, talking to strangers, sexual predators, catfishing...the list goes on and on. Exposure to these concepts before developmentally appropriate can cause real and lasting trauma. If you do give your child a phone, do you have a contract set in place? Off limit apps? Do you have time limits, boundaries of where they can be on it? Open doors, lights on? Does the device live in their room or somewhere else? Get an alarm clock so your child does not "need" it in their room. Remember, passwords are not secrets. Consider setting up unplugged time and time for tech. For screen time too, it may be easier to say yes for Fridays/Sundays and none the rest of the week. See what works. If there is a struggle, discuss it and set up logical consequences. Even if they are on a device for school, at home, children can ask when they can switch activities just as they would ask if they can go somewhere. I-Pads with WhatsApp and texting capabilities should still go through the parent phone. Google and YouTube if not monitored can lead to anywhere.





3) Some at home filters:

1. https://meetcircle.com/lp-2?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=SEM&utm_campaign=9615609565&utm_content=c-430849069413&utm_term=circle%20home%20plus-e&gclid=CjwKCAjw2dD7BRASEiwAWCtCb6eKIX_hB0FpyjXwQmL6fMy_JDRCOz5I5cicoTyPLmrldMDz-OUprxoC8y8QAvD_BwE
2. Bark- <https://www.bark.us/>
3. Netsanity
4. Gentech

4) There are other ways to connect socially - phone calls or Facetime in an open area. In person play dates are great too! Help your child come up with other activities- outdoor time, projects, etc.

This is not because we don't trust our children. We cannot trust apps and access, and are mindful of age, brain development and developmental stages.

SCHOOL RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

These are general school rules that have been determined by the administration. School rules are always in force in the school building and during special events and school trips.

School Wide Expectations/Values

Clear expectations help students acquire knowledge, develop better skills and achieve academically.

- Students must follow all directions from any school authority.
- Foul language is not accepted in TTA.
- Teasing or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.



- Students need to always be with their class unless given explicit permission from the teacher to be elsewhere.
- Students must walk quietly in the halls and must be careful not to disrupt classes that are in session with raised voices.
- The school has the right to review or monitor all activities, e-mail correspondence and material/projects created by students on school computers.
- Students may not plagiarize work from the internet, software packages, or network files. Plagiarism is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as "to pass off as one's own, the ideas or words of another."
- Students may not chew gum in school.
- Students are forbidden to jump over the white patio gates and the black gates around the pond.
- Good sportsmanship is always expected.
- Students should keep the area they use tidy.
- Students should be respectful at all times.
- All students are expected to "give it his/her all."
- Homework should be completed in a timely manner.
- Attendance is expected so students can reap the benefits of our incredible program!

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The goal of our behavior support program is to educate children in making healthy choices concerning their behavior. We will compliment students frequently when we observe positive behaviors. If the need arises, we will inform parents of their child's struggles in maintaining proper choices. We request parental support, through reinforcement and practice of proper conduct and offering ideas to help support their child. Repeated negative choices could require more time with a qualified professional at the parent's expense. The school has the right to request assessments, evaluations,



and/or regular therapeutic sessions with a qualified mental/behavioral health professional. A parent may be contacted to immediately pick up their child. It is extremely vital to the education of all children that parents partner with us in enforcing supportive measures and trust the school's process.

Physical Aggression and Foul Language Policy

The personal and spiritual safety of our students is of paramount importance in our school. Physical aggression and foul language are not tolerated at TTA.

- Hitting, punching, pushing, kicking or any form of physically harming a fellow student is forbidden. Saying, writing or hinting at "curse" words is forbidden. These behavior rules are independent of and separate from those of bullying.**

At TTA we strive to create a warm and positive environment with role models in which students are empowered to do the right thing. However, there will be instances of behavioral challenges even in such a positive environment. At TTA we strive to understand each child and delve into their unique circumstances. Through understanding the unique circumstances of each child, we can formulate an appropriate behavioral plan. The behavioral plan can include:

- Warnings
- Temporary loss of privileges
- Special projects or assignments
- Parent meetings
- Behavioral contract
- Social worker involvement
- Suspension



BULLYING BEHAVIOR POLICY

Tampa Torah Academy's first and foremost obligation is to provide a safe environment for our students. Bullying is the antithesis of a safe environment and will absolutely not be tolerated at TTA.

TTA reserves the right to treat bullying reported outside of school supervision (including cyberbullying) with the same severity as bullying under school supervision out of a concern that the interactions outside of school can 'spill over' into the school day, adversely affecting the safety and well being of our students.

Definition of Bullying

BULLYING IS WHEN A PERSON (or group of persons) USES AN IMBALANCE OF POWER TO HIS OR HER ADVANTAGE TO PHYSICALLY OR SOCIALLY/EMOTIONALLY HURT ANOTHER PERSON (or group of persons) DELIBERATELY (ON PURPOSE) AND REPEATEDLY (AGAIN AND AGAIN).

A school bullying situation inevitably includes three types of students:

- Bully
- Victim
- Bystander

The goal of the policy is:

- 1) Ensure a safe school environment for all students
- 2) Protect the victim
- 3) Address the underlying needs of the bully to ensure cessation of such incidents
- 4) Empower the bystanders to report incidents of bullying

Consequences

When inappropriate social behaviors such as *teasing, excluding or light physicality (and certainly hitting or foul language)* occur repeatedly in relation to a particular student and occur in a targeted manner, the incident will be treated as bullying and will





be subject to the same rubric of consequences outlined in the Physical Aggression and Foul Language Policy. Severe hitting, threat of violence, or severe harassment will be dealt with more severely.

Definitions

Teasing – name-calling, insulting; any behavior that would hurt others' feelings or make them feel bad about themselves.

Exclusion – Starting or spreading rumors, telling others not to be friends with someone, any actions that could lead to someone to be without friends.

Light Physicality – poking, incessant tapping, disrespect for property

Severe hitting – punching, kicking and similar behavior that could injure others

Threat of violence

Harassment – socio-economic status, body-image, racial, ethnic, or gender-based name calling or other severe harassment

Bullying is a specific type of interpersonal behavior, not to be confused with peer-to-peer aggression. Acts of physical and verbal aggression may or may not be acts of bullying. In any event, they are unacceptable and will be addressed in the appropriate context (refer to the [Physical Aggression and Foul Language Policy](#)). Social challenges between students can be complex; experience, training, consultation, and context may be needed in order to properly define a social dynamic as bullying. No two situations are the same. In the event that a bullying dynamic is identified, the behavior rubric will be used as a foundation and guide to our response. Each bullying situation requires careful consideration as to how best to eliminate the behavior. This may involve outside counseling for the "bully" as well as the victim, and social skills development for the bystanders. All involved – teachers, administration, students and parents need to work together to control the situation, so it does not, Chas V'Sholom, lead to any long-lasting harm to any of the students.



EXPULSION POLICY

Dismissal from Tampa Torah Academy is the final step of the discipline program in use at the school. A student who is overly disruptive, who is a bad influence over the other students, or is a potential threat to the other students, may be expelled to protect the other students and to maintain Tampa Torah Academy as a safe and secure environment in which to study. Full due process rights for the student and parents are guaranteed including the right to an open hearing and the opportunity to present the student's position. Non-payment of tuition is also grounds for expulsion.

A student who fails to maintain minimal academic progress will be re-enrolled with the provision that he/she either be retained, put into a remediation program, be placed in a special education program or some other special arrangement, as determined by the Head of School.