



## Mission Statement

### Our Mission:

The *Chinuch* vision of Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka of Ramat Beit Shemesh is that Torah *chinuch* is holistic in nature, addressing and facilitating every aspect of the education, growth and development of each child into an *eved Hashem*. BYBM is committed to maintaining the highest standards in all areas of *chinuch*. BYBM was established primarily to help ease the transition of olim families to Eretz Yisrael. The entire staff understands and appreciates the unique culture and needs of this particular Kehilla.

This begins, first and foremost, with direct and continuous guidance in *hashkafic* matters from Harav Noach Orlowek, *shlita*, in *halachic* matters, from Harav Elimelech Kornfeld, *shlita*, and educational guidance from Dr. Devorah Rosenwasser, and Michlalah Yerushalayim L'banot. The guidance we receive can include *limudei kodesh* curriculum development, school policies, hiring staff, student admissions and, most importantly, *daas Torah* on the proper way to pass on the *mesorah* to the next generation.

### Our Values:

In partnership with our dedicated parent body, BYBM hopes to inspire within our girls a love for *Torah* and *tefillah*, *hakpadah* in *halachah*, *ahavas* and *yiras shomayim*, *tznius* both inside and out, desire to do *chessed*, and an emphasis on *middos* and *derech erez*, in a safe environment dedicated to their emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual growth.

Under the motto, "*derech erez kadma laTorah*," BYBM will emphasize exemplary *middos tovos* and *kavod habriyos* both through specially developed social skills and *ahavas yisrael* programs and by seeking to ensure that the entire staff serves as proper role models in this area. The behavior and speech of the *hanhalah* and *mechanchos* will reflect proper *kavod* for all Torah observant communities, and convey the utmost *kavod haTorah* for all *Gedolei Yisrael*.

### Professional Affiliation:

Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka, is affiliated with a *charedi* branch of the Israeli Education Ministry called *Maayan Chinuch Hatorani, Bnei Yosef*. The staff and students of BYBM will benefit from access to all of Bnei Yosef's professional curriculums and resources, including mandatory ongoing teacher training, mentoring, and facilities.

Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka is affiliated with Michlalah Teacher's College, in Jerusalem. Michlalah provides teacher training at the highest professional level utilizing cutting edge developments in the field of education and state-of-the-art resources. Graduates of Michlalah receive the Israeli equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree in Education upon completion of their training. The staff and students of BYBM will benefit from access to all of Michlalah's professional resources and facilities, including library and laboratory facilities.

### Educational Approach:

BYBM takes an integrative and child- centered approach to education. This means that lessons are designed to maximally engage the child. Skills are built in a developmentally appropriate fashion. Teachers work together to integrate both skills and content throughout the curriculum, both *Limudei Kodesh* and *Chol*. In each subsequent grade there is a progression and follow through of each student's skills, growth, and development. In BYBM there is a focus on the development of the whole child—cognitively, socially, and emotionally.

As an expert in the field of education with a specialty in Integrative Education, Geveret Dr. Devorah Rosenwasser, Dean of Michlalah, will personally assist the BYBM staff in the professional development and implementation of our Integrative Curriculum.

## **Educational Goals:**

### ***Limudei Kodesh:***

Over the course of eight years at Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka, your daughters will acquire comprehensive knowledge in limudei kodesh: Chumash and Navi, Tefillah and bei'urei tefillah; Tana"ch with a solid basis in Rashi and other mefarshim; the Jewish calendar and chagim; yahadus and Jewish history; Halachos and minhagim relevant to a bas yisrael; halachos bein adam lachaveiro and hashkafas haTorah. BYBM teachers will employ dynamic teaching methods to impart both textual and analytical skills, coupling a solid acquisition of the material with the ability to apply appropriate thinking skills. A goal of BYBM is to cultivate a life- long love of Torah learning, and shmiras hamitzvos

### ***General Studies:***

BYBM will maintain a high academic standard that will meet and surpass, the requirements of Misrad Hachinuch. Our teachers are professionally trained, experienced and knowledgeable in their respective fields, and will teach in a professional and creative manner with a focus on building knowledge and skills across the curriculum and year by year. We are committed to developing oral and written Ivrit skills. Ivrit is the spoken language in the classroom. English reading, writing and language arts studies will begin in the first grade.

Upon graduation from BYBM, your daughter will be prepared to attend any of the local Bais Yaakov high schools, as well as other mosdos outside of RBS that maintain a similar Torah environment.

### **Staff:**

In keeping with our mission, BYBM maintains the highest professional standards of training, qualifications, and professionalism for our educational staff. Our teachers possess extensive knowledge and teaching experience in their respective fields and have received the most up-to-date training in dynamic teaching methods aimed at reaching all students. In addition, our staff will receive ongoing professional training to keep up with advances in teaching methods and child development for the benefit of our students. Ongoing training will cover topics such as subject matter, teaching methodology, child development, and differentiated learning, as well as specialized guidance aimed at creating a warm and supportive learning environment most conducive to the students' healthy social, emotional and academic growth. Our teachers will focus on intrinsic

motivational methods; extrinsic motivators such as contests, competitions, charts and rewards will be minimized.

In addition to a mechanechet (homeroom teacher), many classes will have either an active Assistant Teacher, or another grouping, allowing for more individualized attention for each student and greater teacher awareness of the extent of each student's skill level and grasp of the material. We also have a "shiluv program"- a remediation program that support students with learning mild learning challenges.

### **Unique Programs:**

We at BYBM believe that proper Torah chinuch is meant to address the development of the whole child. We place great emphasis on accentuating the positive qualities of each of our students, encouraging and providing varied opportunities for individual expression and achievement outside of traditional academics.

Toward these goals, BYBM incorporates the following programs into our curriculum:

- Social Skills Program- *Kishurei chaim*
- *Yom Limudim Aroch* Program
- Art and Gym as an integral part of the curriculum
- Different chessed programs.
- Privately run after- school extra-curricular program

At BYBM, it is important that each student feel a sense of ownership and belonging to the school. Our extra-curricular programs are child-centered and student initiated. As our school grows, the entire BYBM staff will focus on developing an atmosphere of being one cohesive whole throughout the school, across all grades. Our plans include school-wide projects that all grades will work on together, a school newspaper with contributions from all grades, a big sister/little sister program, a tutoring program, and many more.

### **Recess:**

At BYBM, we are committed to constant proper supervision. Additionally, recess is an important part of your daughter's day and is viewed at BYBM as an educational opportunity. Teachers will be encouraged to take advantage of this informal time to impart lessons about teamwork, encourage appropriate social and communication skills, and develop problem-solving skills. With teacher involvement, recess will also become an ideal opportunity to strengthen developing Hebrew language skills in a natural social setting.

### **Parent Body:**

In recognition that the most basic tenet in chinuch is consistency. BYBM is open to all families who are seeking a Bais Yaakov education for their daughters and will comply with the guidelines set out in the BYBM takanon regarding adherence to halacha in all matters bein adam laMakom and bein adam lachaveiro.

BYBM families have a solid foundation in Torah, middos, and tznius and are constantly seeking to grow in their avodas Hashem, creating a consistent environment that is conducive to raising exemplary bnos Torah.

BYBM parents view the modern media as a detrimental influence in their daughter's upbringing. It is vital that all parents feel confident sending their children to their classmates' homes, (see the school policies for details).

Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka encourages and will provide ample opportunity for parental involvement through various enrichment projects and initiatives, such as building a library, PTA, mother-daughter activities, etc. By investing time and effort into your children's school, you demonstrate the value of and your esteem and respect for, your children's education.

BYBM strongly believes that parents and teachers must be mutually supportive partners in children's education. There will always be an open communication line between BYBM and our parent body.

We at Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka look forward to partnering with you in the education of our precious children.

## School Policies

### Media, Literature, and Music Policy:

We at Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka view the modern media and technology, some secular literature, and all secular music, as a detrimental influence on our daughters' upbringing. Accordingly, we have developed a media/ technology, literature and music policy that acknowledges a current reality while at the same time protects the purity of our children and the integrity of their chinuch environment.

Should your family choose to have internet access in your home after careful consideration as to whether the long-term benefits outweigh the potential long-term risks:

- a. **BYBM families commit that all internet access, all devices, must be filtered through a reliable filtering program, approved by the Rabbonim, such as Rimon- which must be on "high" filter setting when in use around children**
- b. **Your computer must be located in a high-traffic, public area and not in a private room**
- c. **Children may never have unsupervised internet access and must always have a parent or another adult, in their immediate vicinity**
- d. **Children should not be allowed to view or engage in internet entertainment.**
- e. **BYBM students may not have their own e mail accounts**
- f. **BYBM students may not participate in any form of social media such as google chat, facebook, whats app, snap chat, tik tok etc. etc. etc.**

While the dangers of the internet are well known, the use of computers as entertainment centers has likewise been found in clinical studies, and through experience, to have a measurably harmful effect on children's ability to learn and focus, in addition to introducing them to ideas and behavior foreign to the life of a bas Torah. Non-Jewish movies or programs with few exceptions will almost always violate Torah principles, as will most computer games, and social media, and are not appropriate for our students. Accordingly, BYBM families understand that it is critical for the spiritual and intellectual growth of their children that computers not be misused for recreational purposes.

It is vital that all parents feel confident and comfortable in sending their children to their classmates' homes. Therefore:

- g. Computers or internet should never be used for any recreational purpose when friends are visiting.
- h. Students may not participate or belong to any social media groups.( see above)
- i. Any secular books used in school for book reports must be on the approved list from Torah Umesorah.
- j. We all are aware of the tremendous affect music has on the neshoma. Therefore, only music that is sung by a person who is shomer torah umitzvos can be enjoyed both in and out of school.

#### **Cell phone, Camera, Audio and Watch policy:**

Students in BYBM may not bring a cell phone to school, unless the parent gets specific permission for their child. If permission is granted, the child must leave the phone in the office when she comes to school, and she may pick it up when she goes home. Any cell phones found on school grounds without permission will be confiscated. Any cell phone use during school hours, and without specific permission is not allowed.

Any cell phone used outside of school by students must be one with a kosher number, preferably with a hechsher stamped on it, with no texting capabilities.

Much research has been done regarding the communication difficulties found in people today, who instead of using speech as the preferred mode of communication, chose to text. We in BYBM support the development of good communication skills, and therefore no kosher phones with texting or what's app texting capabilities are permitted for student use. Audio whats app is permitted, with a kosher phone with a kosher number, only.

#### **Camera and Audio policy**

Students may not bring any cameras or any audio equipment ( MP3, ipods etc..) to school . Class/ school programs or trips- cameras only- without internet access. No audio equipment of any kind. **trips- only cameras without internet..**

**Watch policy**

Electronic watches, GPS watches, fitness watches must get approval from the Hanahala.

**Mode of Dress:**

Tznius is a mitzvah that applies to all Jews, but it is the special privilege of women to embody the essence of tznius and to convey both the halachos and spirit of tznius to their daughters. Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka families uphold Bais Yaakov standards of tznius within and without, in dress and behavior. Please understand that the tzniyus approach of BYBM applies to both mothers and daughters. Thus, whatever standards apply to the students apply to their parents, as well. **The standards apply to the school year and during all vacations.**

This includes, but is by no means limited to:

- Sleeves that cover the elbows in all positions
- Necklines that cover the collarbone and the area where the neck meets the shoulder
- Skirts that cover the knees in all positions
- No slits
- Long socks till the knee or tights( no leggings, or long skirts, with short socks)
- Modest shoes
- Clothing that is not tight-fitting.

**Bais Yaakov (in Israel) Sensitivities:**

It is likewise in keeping with the spirit of the mitzvah of tznius to cultivate sensitivity toward styles of dress and hairstyles that present a more refined appearance. (For the girls of BYBM)- Thus no cosmetics of any kind, nail polish, flashy jewelry, and long dangling earrings are allowed in school. We are fortunate to live in Eretz Yisrael where there are large numbers of Torah observant Jews that uphold a clear and classic standard of Tzniyus. (For the families of BYBM)- Styles that represent secular culture, like large logos or denim are inappropriate for a Bais Yaakov. As with all chinuch-related matters, consistency in tznius is of utmost importance. This means that the tzniyus sensitivities indicated for the families, promoted in BYBM, are upheld by the families of BYBM.

**School uniforms:**

- The girls are required to wear their school uniforms every day, including Friday. They must wear their uniform shirts buttoned, or with a snap sewn in between the first and second buttons. Their school skirts must be simple navy blue, uniform skirts. They can be pleated, tiered, or A-line. There are loose fitting pleated lycra skirts that are permitted. Skirts must be long enough so that their knees do not show when they sit down.
- No pencil skirts or straight skirts (even for a birthday). They must be long enough so that their knees do not show when they sit down.
- On Rosh Chodesh the girls should wear their school skirts with a button down white shirt. No lycra shirts, or shells.

- The girls may wear solid navy, solid light blue, solid royal blue, solid white (on Rosh Chodesh), button down cardigans, pullover or hoodies. There should be no apparent large writing on the front or back.
- Footwear: The girls may wear modest sneakers, shoes or sandals.
- Any color socks or tights are permitted until 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Socks must be long enough so that their knees do not show when they sit down. **Socks must reach the knee or cover the knee.** No nylons (even for a birthday).
- Gym class: the girls must bring leggings to wear underneath their skirts
- From sixth grade and up: girls must wear a navy blue drop- waist pleated skirt, or full pleated skirt, and black, grey or navy blue socks, or tights.

### **ונשמרתם מאד לנפשותיכם:**

Part of our role as parents and mechanchim is to teach our children both in theory and practice about the importance of **ונשמרתם מאד לנפשותיכם**. Please join us in creating a healthy atmosphere in Bais Yaakov Bnos Malka by sending your children to school with a healthy, appropriate diet, thus providing them b'ezras HaShem with the opportunity to optimize their learning.

Students are encouraged to bring sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and water. Healthy snacks may include pretzels, crackers, granola bars, popcorn, dried fruit, canned fruit, rice cakes or yogurt. We encourage whole grain foods whenever possible. Please refrain from sending any candies or sugary snacks, chocolate, chocolate spread or soda. Please do not send snacks laden with MSG such as Bissli. Salty snacks such as potato chips and Doritos are not allowed.

We are a peanut free school due to allergies. This is a situation of pikuach nefesh. Do not send any peanut butter, peanut butter products, or bamba.

### **Birthday Parties:**

Each Mechanechet will decide the policy for their class, and every girl's birthday will be recognized in some way in school. We are always grateful to HKBH, when we can celebrate another birthday of one of our precious children! We discourage birthday parties outside of school for the girls in the class. Now that each class is extremely large this can cause undo financial pressure on families. An unhealthy sense of pressure and competition can develop around birthday parties which is unpleasant for the child and the parents. Additionally, it is difficult, (unless you are one of the mechanchot in BYBM :)) to supervise properly a group a girls this size and insure the chinuch standards expected of girls in BYBM. An alternative way of marking this special day is a Shabbos family birthday party where each family member gives their acknowledgement and brachos.

Bas Mitzvos-we have a separate policy regarding bas mitzvah celebrations, distributed at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Chugim and other leisure time activities:**

Families in BYBM send their daughter to activities outside of school that are in line with the spirit of a Bais Yaakov. Obviously, any class or chug that does not comply with *Halacha*, (as determined by the poskim of the school) is forbidden for any BYBM student. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to communicate openly with the Hanhala. We strongly encourage you to find alternatives for your daughters where the teachers are models that you would wish your daughters to emulate, and that the exposure is to only Jewish music and media. Please do not underestimate the influence negative role models, music, and secular media, can have on our impressionable daughters, and the social pressure they may feel to participate in activities that you would not want them to participate in. Additionally, even if one's own personal standards allow for a slightly more open exposure, the vast majority of the families in BYBM would not wish for your daughter to share her exposure- weather it be music, media, or literature, with their more protected daughters. So, please be sensitive to your daughter's classmates

**Reading material-** please refer to the latest secular kosher book list from Chinuch.org- if you do not have it, please ask the secretary to send it to you.

**We are Partners in Your Child's Education:**

**BOTH PARENTS NEED TO INITIAL THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS. Additionally, both parents and students should sign below.**

\_\_\_\_\_ In order to best serve your daughter and have her achieve her maximum potential, it is essential that there is full cooperation on the part of the parents in terms of recommendations made by the school regarding tutoring or professional evaluations, whether for academic or behavioral issues. These expenditures will be funded by the parents. This also refers to full compliance with all school rules and policies. Any and all absences, lateness, or early dismissal, must be excused with a note by the parents or doctor. Any vacations or planned absences must be cleared with the administration. Parents are encouraged and invited to communicate with teachers and Hanhala in order to discuss any and all issues.

\_\_\_\_\_ **We (parents and daughter(s)) have read and reviewed both the Mission Statement and School policies and understand and comply with everything stated therein. We understand that only full compliance with the policies of BYBM ensures being part of the BYBM family.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Declaration of Internet Filter policy: every device in our possession and in our home is protected by a recognized filter approved by our Rabbonim, such as "Rimon." It is kept on a high setting when our children are in the vicinity, so that they cannot access sites such as youtube, etc.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Our daughter(s) use only "zoom only" devices for classroom use.**

**Our family's filter is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daughter(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_