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CENTRAL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Message from Our Principal

Dear Students and Parents,

I am pleased and privileged to welcome you to the 2026-27/5787 school year at Yeshiva University High School for Girls. Whether you are just beginning your journey at Central or returning for another year, I hope this year is filled with deep learning, meaningful growth, and a strong sense of connection. Throughout the year, I encourage you to take full advantage of the people around you. These relationships are the foundation of what makes Central so special.

Every strong community is built on shared values and clear expectations to foster an environment that is respectful, kind, and grounded in Torah values. This handbook is here to help you understand the norms and az that will help you maximize your Central experience. It exists not simply to set rules, but to guide you to make the right choices so that you can thrive during your time in Central and give you the tools to continue to thrive. When each member of our school community does their part, we reach our greatest potential as a strong, successful school community.

We look forward to a year filled with meaningful experiences and achievements!

With excitement,
Mrs. Aliza Gewirtz, Principal



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Mission Statement

Our Mission

The mission of Yeshiva University High School for Girls is to educate generations of committed Orthodox Jewish women who are deeply invested in their עבודת ה' devotion to ארץ ישראל. We seek to create a community of learners who pursue excellence in both תורה general and specialized studies, fostering a lifestyle that thoughtfully integrates both realms. Our graduates emerge as contributors in their communities, equipped with the wisdom, strength, and values to make a meaningful impact in the world.

Our Commitment

Central is committed to the success and growth of our students through the following:

- Partnering with families to create a unified support system between home and school
- Providing a team of passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated educators to serve as guides and role models
- Offering a rigorous and relevant dual curriculum in Judaic and general studies
- Providing extensive curricular and co-curricular offerings to meet the needs and interests of our students in a variety of experiential educational settings
- Nurturing each student's strengths and creating the space to address challenges and triumphs with care and positivity
- Promoting the development of good character and positive self-image in a supportive, growth-oriented environment
- Providing rich, meaningful opportunities and guidance focused on nurturing spiritual growth
- Instilling a strong connection to the Jewish community in Israel and beyond by providing teachable moments of inspiration and commitment



Faculty Directory

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English

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School Contact Information

Address	86-86 Palo Alto Street Hollis, NY 11423
Phone	(718) 479-8550
Fax	(718) 479-8686
Email	info@yuhsg.org
Website	www.yuhsg.org
School Hours	Monday-Thursday 8:20 AM-4:30 PM Friday 8:20 AM-12:40 PM

Daily Bell Schedule

8:20 am - 8:40 am	Full School Davening
8:45 am - 9:05 am	Rambam Bekiyut/Break
9:08 am - 9:48 am	Period 1
9:51 am - 10:31 am	Period 2
10:34 am - 11:14 am	Period 3
11:17 am - 11:57 am	Period 4
12:00 pm - 12:40 pm	Period 5/Lunch
12:43 pm - 1:23 pm	Period 6/Lunch
1:26 pm - 2:06 pm	Period 7
2:09 pm - 2:49 pm	Period 8
2:54 pm - 3:04 pm	Full School Mincha
3:07 pm - 3:47 pm	Period 9
3:50 pm - 4:30 pm	Period 10

Friday Bell Schedule

8:20 am - 8:40 am	Full School Davening
8:45 am - 9:05 am	Friday Announcements
9:08 am - 9:46 am	Period 1
9:49 am - 10:28 am	Period 2
10:31 am - 11:09 am	Period 3
11:12 am - 11:50 am	Period 4
11:50 am - 12:00 pm	Lunch
12:02 pm - 12:40 pm	Period 5

Communication and Parent Partnership

Effective communication and mutually respectful partnership are essential between the school, students, and parents. Students and parents are encouraged to seek counsel and advocate for their needs respectfully and mindfully. Our door is always open to listen, to brainstorm, to partner together, and to support you!

Faculty Communication

In the event of an emergency, please call the school office at 718-479-8550. For all other inquiries and questions, please email the faculty member at their school email address.

Parent Communication

Central will communicate with parents via email at the address provided to us. Therefore, parents should provide the school with an email address that they regularly monitor. Some communications are through Constant Contact and ParentLocker, so parents should remain subscribed to those emails.

Learning Management and Communication Systems

Google Classroom is our online Learning Management System (LMS) and offers an important opportunity for transparency and communication among teachers, students, and parents. The faculty will regularly post assignments, grades, and comments on student progress. Please regularly track all activity on Google Classroom to optimize your learning experience. Parents can log in using their daughter's school Gmail account.

ParentLocker will be used daily to record attendance, send notifications, schedule conferences, and more. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with ParentLocker, as it is our main tool of communication. Teachers will post all grades in ParentLocker for transparency. For questions, please contact our Educational Administrator, Ms. Lisa Goldman.



Snow, Inclement Weather, and School Closures

In the event of inclement weather, school closures or delays will be communicated via email. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date to receive timely notifications.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We value regular and meaningful communication between parents and teachers. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice a year and provide an opportunity to reflect on student progress, celebrate strengths, and discuss areas for growth. Parents will be notified in advance and will be able to schedule appointments through ParentLocker. We encourage all parents to take part in these conversations, as they are a vital component of the home-school partnership.

Parent Council

We are proud to partner with parents through our Parent Council. Parent Council representatives are intended to represent our parent body and serve as liaisons to the administration, as well as support school programs and strategize opportunities for engagement with parents to strengthen our community. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to our Parent Council Presidents.



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Homework will not be assigned over Yom Tov or major breaks. During Chanukah and Chol Hamoed, light assignments or optional enrichment may be given at the teacher's discretion. Please note: Due to the nature of a college course workload, AP classes are exempt from standard academic policies. To avoid scheduling conflicts and academic overload, a centralized Test Calendar is maintained by the administration. The calendar is available at the start of the semester.

Make-Up Exams

If a student is absent on a day of an exam, a parent must email attendance@yuhsg.org before 8:00 am, and she will take the exam the next day, during lunch. If a student misses an exam on a Thursday, she will make up her exam on Monday. If a student fails to take the exam for two consecutive days, she will not be able to take her make-up exam. For all make-up exam questions, please contact the Make-Up Exam Coordinator, Mr. Erez Bar-Levy.

Students may not request that a scheduled examination be moved to a designated make-up examination date, nor may they request that a scheduled make-up examination be postponed to a subsequent make-up date, solely because they participated in an athletic contest, practice, tournament, club activity, competition, performance, trip, or other extracurricular event on the day preceding the examination. Participation in interscholastic athletics, clubs, and other extracurricular activities is voluntary. Students who choose to participate in these activities are expected to fulfill both their extracurricular commitments and their academic responsibilities. As such, voluntary participation in an athletic or extracurricular event does not constitute an excused reason to reschedule a scheduled examination or make-up examination. Students are expected to plan accordingly during examination periods by balancing their extracurricular involvement with the preparation necessary to successfully complete their examinations on the assigned date. Make-up examination opportunities are reserved for students with approved, excused absences or other circumstances deemed appropriate by the school administration.

Failures and Incompletes

Any student who receives a failing grade or an incomplete must meet with their Grade Dean to determine next steps. In some cases, credit recovery or completion of missing assignments may be required. Incomplete work must be resolved within two weeks of report card issuance unless otherwise approved by the administration.

Credit Recovery Policy for Course Failure

A student who fails a course, either one semester or two semesters, will be required to enroll in an online course designated by Central, at her/her family's expense. The transcript earned from the online provider must be shared with Central as proof of successful completion. The recovered course will be designated as credit recovery on the transcript. This applies to both General Studies courses and Judaic Studies courses. The grade for the course will be converted to PASS/FAIL on the student's transcript.

Textbooks

Central provides specified textbooks to students each year. Students are expected to return the textbooks in the same condition that they received them. To receive year-end grades, diplomas, and/or transcripts, student accounts must be clear and all textbooks must be returned.

Final Exams

Final exams take place in January and June. A schedule will be shared several weeks in advance. Students are not permitted to take exams early. Late arrivals on exam days without proper documentation may result in a 5-point deduction on the exam.



Academic Accommodations

Students who receive accommodations through a formal plan (IEP, 504, or private evaluation) will have access to appropriate academic support through the Learning Center. For questions regarding academic support, mandated or otherwise, please contact the Director of Student Support.

Arista Honor Society

The Arista Honor Society recognizes Junior and Senior students who demonstrate academic excellence, integrity, and strong citizenship. Membership is an honor that reflects both achievement and character.

Eligibility for Juniors:

- Students must have completed four semesters of high school.
- Students must have taken at least three honors-level courses each semester and earned an average of 90 or above each academic year, OR taken fewer than three honors courses and earned an average of 93 or above each academic year.
- No individual course grade may be below 80 in any semester.
- Students must maintain a Citizenship grade of 90 or above each semester.

Eligibility for Seniors:

- Students must have completed six semesters of high school.
- Students must have taken at least three honors-level courses each semester and earned an average of 90 or above for five semesters, OR taken fewer than three honors courses and earned an average of 93 or above for five semesters.
- No individual course grade may be below 80 in at least five of the six semesters.
- Students must maintain a Citizenship grade of 90 or above in five out of six semesters.

Graduation Awards

In Central, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian selections are made by the Administration and Faculty by evaluating candidates according to many criteria, such as alignment with our mission, academic performance, Middot, school involvement, and citizenship. The Keter Shem Tov Award is voted on by the Senior class, as well as the faculty, and is an award based on middot and character. A student must uphold our school code of conduct and be in good standing to be considered for these awards, regardless of their academic performance.



Special Academic Programs

Science Institute

An advanced STEM track for motivated students, offering research opportunities, enrichment seminars, and mentorship. Students may complete a capstone project and participate in science competitions. Admission is by application.

Humanities Institute

An interdisciplinary program focused on literature, history, and the arts. Students engage in advanced reading, writing, and cultural experiences. Admission is selective and based on academic performance and interest.

Rambam B'Kiyut

A school-wide initiative promoting consistent halachic learning through daily study of the Mishneh Torah. Includes assessments, incentives, and optional competition participation.

Student Life and Guidance

At Central, student life is a vital part of the high school experience. Our wide range of extracurricular programs offers students the opportunity to explore interests, develop leadership skills, and build lasting relationships beyond the classroom. All students are encouraged to get involved and find their place in our vibrant school community.

Throughout the year, Central offers experiential learning through trips, chesed programs, guest speakers, grade bonding events, and holiday celebrations. These programs help bring classroom values to life and foster a strong sense of belonging and purpose. Our strong Programming and Student Activities team is constantly planning exciting, innovative programs and moments for engagement and growth.

Lunch

Lunch vendors are available daily and rotate throughout the week. Students may bring lunch from home or order from approved kosher vendors. As detailed below, all deliveries must be made to the school office, and all outside food is subject to the school's kashrut and allergy guidelines.

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker at the start of the year. Students must keep their lockers clean, organized, and free of decorations on the outside. Valuables should not be stored in lockers. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.



Athletic and Competitive Clubs/Teams (Including Eligibility)

Students must maintain minimum academic standards to participate in any of Central's organized competitive teams, including but not limited to varsity and junior varsity sports, Torah Bowl, College Bowl, Model UN, Model Congress, Mock Trial, and STEM competitions. Students must maintain a minimum overall average of 80. Central students may join both competitive athletic and academic teams. Sportsmanship, teamwork, and personal discipline are emphasized in all settings.

Leadership Opportunities

Central students have a variety of opportunities to develop their leadership skills throughout their high school experience. Student leaders must maintain strong academic and citizenship records and serve as role models to their peers.

Student Government (G.O.)

Elected representatives from each grade collaborate with faculty advisors to plan school-wide events, lead programming, and promote school spirit. Positions include Co-Presidents, Co-Vice Presidents, and Sophomore Senators.

Leadership Track

Students interested in cultivating leadership skills can apply to be part of a structured leadership development program run through Yeshiva University's Sacks Herenstein Center for Values and Leadership. This only-at-Central program includes mentorship, workshops, and active roles in school life.

F.I.R.E. - Friends Inspire Religious Experience - Fellows

An exclusive leadership and service fellowship for students who want to engage in community building, Jewish learning, and impactful projects in our internal school community.

Big Sister Program

Seniors are paired with incoming freshmen to serve as mentors and role models. Big Sisters help new students transition into Central life through ongoing support and fun programming.

Club Heads

Students can apply to serve as Club Heads for existing clubs or propose new initiatives. Club Heads are responsible for organizing meetings, recruiting members, and working with faculty advisors.

Guidance and Student Support

The Guidance Department is a safe, confidential space where students can turn for support, problem-solving, and personal growth. From academic stress and social challenges to time management and emotional wellness, students are encouraged to reach out for help when needed. Our Guidance Team is available for one-on-one meetings, check-ins, and ongoing support.

Learning Lab (Academic Support)

Students meet with skilled learning specialists who tailor strategies to help them excel in coursework, build effective study habits, and master organizational and test-taking skills. With a warm, inclusive atmosphere and open-door faculty, our program empowers girls to gain confidence, overcome challenges, and thrive alongside their classmates, preparing them for success in high school and beyond.

College Guidance

Our College Guidance Office partners with students and families throughout the high school journey to help each student identify and achieve their post-secondary goals. Beginning in 9th grade with early exposure to college planning, the process becomes more personalized in 11th and 12th grades with individual meetings, college nights, and support through applications and scholarships. The office helps students find the college that best matches their academic, personal, and religious aspirations.

Israel Guidance

The Israel Guidance department helps students and families explore and navigate the post-high school year in Israel. Students are introduced to various program options and supported through the application, interview, and decision-making processes. Israel Night, learning opportunities, alumnae panels, and individual meetings to help each student find the right fit for the next stage of their journey.

Grade Deans

Each grade has a dedicated Grade Dean who serves as the primary point of contact for academic, social, and disciplinary matters. Grade Deans work closely with the guidance team and administration to support students' success and well-being throughout the school year. Students and parents are encouraged to reach out to their Grade Dean with any questions or concerns.



Student Conduct and Expectations

Derech Eretz and Respectful Community

לדרכה לטורה - At Central, respectful behavior is the foundation of a Torah and positive school environment. Students are expected to speak and act with kindness, dignity, and responsibility at all times. This includes following school rules, listening respectfully to faculty and peers, and conducting oneself with integrity in and out of the classroom. The values of kavod, chesed, and areivut guide our interactions and help create a positive school culture and thriving community. Students who fail to comply with these standards of behavior will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the protocols set by school administration and a deduction from the Citizenship grade.

Discipline

Our administration has developed disciplinary measures and protocols that are guided by our core values and are intended to promote growth, accountability, and community standards. Consequences for repeated or serious infractions may include citizenship grade deductions, detention, suspension, or expulsion. As always, communication is key, and parents will be notified of any major disciplinary action. All students are expected to maintain these values of respectful conduct outside of school as well.

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial for academic success. Students must arrive on time for all classes and school events. Absences must be reported by a parent or guardian by emailing attendance@yuhsg.org, and missed work should be completed promptly.

Residency Requirement

Each course has a residency requirement of 90% to be able to earn credit for the course. Should a student miss more than 10% of class meeting times per year, she jeopardizes her ability to receive credit for the course, as per New York State guidelines concerning residency.

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Absences and Latenesses

Daily attendance is taken in davening and each class. Upon entry to morning davening, students will scan their ID cards at one of the dedicated iPad stands. Barring illness or special circumstances, students are expected to be in school, and families are encouraged to limit unnecessary absences and latenesses.

Arriving Late

If a student arrives late to school, she should sign in using her school ID card immediately upon arrival. Participation in any after-school activity (sports game, academic competition, etc.) requires that the student be present for the entirety of the school day. Students who arrive at school for Period 6 or later will be noted as ½ day absence.

Leaving Early

To authorize a student to leave early, a parent must fill out the Dismissal Change form on ParentLocker. If a student leaves before the start of Period 6, it is recorded as a ½ day absence. Once this authorization form is received, the student can collect her cell phone from the Main Office.

Seniors Leaving School

- *Leaving Early Due to Free Schedule:* As a senior privilege, if a senior has no additional class on that day, she may leave early. No parental form is needed. If a senior scans out for the day because she is free, without plans to return, she may drive herself home.
- *Leaving Campus Temporarily (Free/Lunch) and Returning to School:* Seniors may scan out for lunch and scan back in, taking care to be on time for class. ***SENIORS MAY NOT DRIVE THEMSELVES, BE DRIVEN BY A FELLOW STUDENT, NOR TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OR UBER/LYFT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.***

Unsanctioned Absence from Class (Cutting Class)

Every student is expected to attend all of their classes. If a student is present in school, but not present in a class, the absence will be considered a cut. Each cut will reduce a student's class citizenship grade by five points. If a student has a situation that might require missing a class, she must contact the teacher beforehand. If a student is not present for Mincha, it will result in a deduction from the Citizenship grade

Infraction Type	0-10 Incidents Per Semester	11+ Incidents Per Semester
Absences	No Penalty	5 pt. citizenship deduction per absence
Lateness	No Penalty	5 pt. citizenship deduction per lateness
Early Sign-Outs	No Penalty	5 pt. citizenship deduction per sign-out

Cell Phone & iPad Policy

Students will not have access to **cell phones, iPads, or any other personal device** inside the school building during the day. Upon arrival, each student will scan in and place her phone in an assigned slot within a secure phone locker located near the attendance iPads. Phones will remain in the Main Office until dismissal. Students who arrive late or leave early will check in or out through the Main Office and hand in/retrieve their phones at that time, pending proper parent communication. **iPads and personal laptop devices are not allowed in or out of the classroom.**

We are fully committed to making sure students and families can communicate when necessary. To that end, a student's phone will always be available in the Main Office. Parents can call the office to leave messages for their children. Students will continue to use school computers and tablets as directed by their teachers.

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in accordance with our dress code, which reflects the values of tzniut and communal norms. Clothing must be modest, appropriate for a school setting, and adhere to the following:

- Skirts must cover the knees at all times.
- Shirt necklines must cover the collarbone.
- Shirt sleeves must cover the elbow.
- All clothing must be modest, not form-fitting or of sheer material.
- Hennas, piercings other than ears, and unnatural hair colors are not permitted.
- Closed shoes must be worn for Lab and Physical Education classes, as per New York State requirements.
- No sweatpants are permitted underneath skirts.
- No hats are permitted in the school building without administrative approval.
- Blankets and hoods cannot be worn.

Students who are not compliant with the Dress Code will receive an email informing them of the infraction, resulting in a deduction from the Citizenship grade.

Davening

Davening is an important and required part of the Central school day. Students are expected to be at davening on time at 8:20 am and respectfully conduct themselves throughout. Attendance at davening is mandatory and will be taken daily. Please see the "Attendance" section for more information.

Driving Policy

Seniors with a valid license may drive to school only with parent and school permission. Student parking is not permitted in the school lot, and students must be respectful of our neighbors. Seniors may only drive themselves home after scanning out and may not transport other students during the school day. Under no circumstances may students use Uber, Lyft, or other ride-share services to leave campus during school hours. Students may not leave the school building during the day without proper authorization - see guidelines in "Attendance" section above. Seniors with a free period and permission may leave for lunch and must scan out and back in. All other students must remain on campus for the duration of the school day.

Safe School and Substance Abuse

Central is committed to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment. The use or possession of illegal substances, alcohol, or vaping devices is strictly prohibited and will result in serious disciplinary consequences, including suspension or expulsion and a deduction from the Citizenship grade. Central participates in the National Yeshiva HS Substance Abuse Agreement and works in partnership with families to educate students on making safe and healthy choices. Vape detectors are installed in school bathrooms and common areas. Violations of school, local, or federal laws may be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Bullying

Central maintains a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and harassment of any kind, including digital bullying. Reports of bullying will be thoroughly investigated and addressed with appropriate disciplinary and restorative measures, and will result in a deduction from the Citizenship grade. Students are encouraged to report concerns promptly to a trusted adult or administrator.

School Nurse and Health Forms

Students who feel unwell during the day may visit the nurse's office. All health and emergency forms must be completed before the start of school. All medication must be registered with the nurse as well. Please note, faculty are not permitted to dispense medication to students.

Kashrus and Food Allergies

All packaged food brought into the school must display acceptable symbols of kosher certification, including but not limited to OU and CRC. **Starbucks products are not permitted.** Food deliveries must be made to the main office and will be checked before being distributed to students.



Social Media Safety and Digital Communications

Central is committed to embracing the positive social reinforcing media and digital communications have to offer, while imposing appropriate boundaries and limitations to protect our students. We appreciate consistent parent partnership in the proper utilization of these media.

School-Issued Devices

Each student will receive a school-issued device to use for the school year. Misuse of the device may result in its confiscation and further disciplinary action. Rest assured that Central has both filtering and monitoring software in place to help guard students against content that is malicious, inappropriate, or out of alignment with Central's Mission and Core Values. **Once again, school-issued devices are the only devices allowed to be used in the school building. No iPads or personal laptops are allowed.**

Email Etiquette

Each student at Central is assigned a Central email address at the beginning of her high school career. Students must check their yuhsg.org account daily, as that will be the primary means of receiving important information. All email communications between the Central administration, faculty, and students should be via yuhsg.org accounts only. Emails should generally not be sent before 7:00 AM or after 10:00 PM.

Password Management

Each student will have a personal password that must be kept private and secure. To maintain the safest environment possible, students should not share their passwords.

Social Media

Communications via the Internet must always reflect the same degree of dignity and concern for all members of our school community as is expected in face-to-face interactions. Please be aware that cyber-bullying, harassment, biased and discriminatory language, and/or insensitivity to any member of our school community will be regarded as a serious offense. Students should use appropriate “netiquette” and are strongly cautioned to be careful about what they include online.

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Remember to always use appropriate language, protect confidential and personal information, speak honestly and accurately for yourself, and of course, treat others respectfully online.

While social media platforms can be a valuable networking and communication tool, faculty and students are not permitted to communicate on personal social media sites, and should not “friend,” “follow,” “comment,” “like,” post personal messages, or otherwise connect on these forums, including WhatsApp. Prior approval of the administration is also required for the use of video conferencing and similar technology between a teacher and student. All school social media accounts are monitored and utilized only for professional and educational purposes.

WhatsApp groups and similar platforms associated with Central must adhere to the same guidelines requiring appropriate language and respectful and dignified treatment of the community.

Use of AirPods/Headphones During the School Day

Students are not permitted to wear or use AirPods/Headphones of any kind during class or exams unless specifically instructed by their teacher or because they are participating in an online course. Additionally, AirPods/Headphones may not be worn during Tefillah or school assemblies. Any student who uses AirPods/Headphones during any of the above-mentioned times will have their AirPods/Headphones confiscated.

Faculty-Student Communications

To establish good habits and healthy boundaries, when after-school communications between faculty and students are necessary, please email the faculty member. Faculty will monitor their emails and do their best to respond in a reasonable, timely fashion.

Texting (including WhatsApp) is not permitted between Central staff members and students unless expressly authorized by the administration (such as on a school trip) or in the case of an emergency. We are confident that with these limits, together we can promote healthy relationships, appropriate boundaries, and positive use of technology within our school. As mentioned above, students should not communicate or “friend” faculty on social media platforms as well.

Promotional Photos and Videos

Photos and videos taken during school events may be used for promotional or archival purposes by YUHSG. Students and families grant permission by signing the Handbook Adherence Form. If you do not wish for your child’s image to be used, please notify the main office in writing.

