



2015-2016

K through Grade 8

Parent Handbook

Denver Academy of Torah

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Denver Academy of Torah is an Orthodox Jewish day school that is open to all families who seek the highest standards in modern religious and general studies education. The purpose of our educational environment is to provide an atmosphere and experience that facilitates and stimulates our children's natural enthusiasm to learn.

Our responsibility is to enable each student to feel deeply rooted in and committed to the Jewish people and their homeland, to feel a love for G-d and appreciation of His *Torah*, and to have respect and compassion for all of mankind. Age-appropriate activities, provided by positive role models who facilitate success in a warm Torah atmosphere, will help each child develop positive spiritual attitudes.

The school bolsters a vibrant and loving community committed to a firm adherence to *Halachah*, in which each child is valued and viewed as a whole being capable of positive growth and contributions.

EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES

INTEGRATION OF RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL STUDIES

The American Jewish child ought to be well educated in, and firmly committed to, the two civilizations of which he or she participates in. On the one hand, Judaism as a religion and culture, the Jewish people, and *Medinat Yisrael*, the State of Israel. On the other, the disciplines and values of western civilization and the American democratic heritage. We are committed to an integrated approach to learning which recognizes that all subject areas, both religious and general, are naturally interrelated, complement, and enrich one another.

LIMUDEI KODESH (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

The Torah is called "*the inheritance of Jacob*" and every Jew is entitled to acquire his or her own unique inheritance of *Torah*. This is the goal of the total *Limudei Kodesh* program, which includes *Chumash*, *Navi*, *Tefillah*, *Dinim* and *Chagim*, *Mishnah*, *Talmud*, Jewish philosophy, history, and culture, including modern developments.

As Hebrew is the living language of our homeland and our people, Hebrew language skills, both spoken and written, are essential components of Jewish education, cultural literacy. Both are invaluable tools for the successful study of *Tanach* and other important texts.

A strong emphasis is placed on the observance of *Mitzvot* and the love of *Torah* study.

ISRAEL

A firm commitment to and an abiding love for *Medinat Yisrael*, the State of Israel, is central to the Jewish people. We seek to cultivate identification with Israel's religious, cultural, and political life.

MIDOT (RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE)

Ahavat Yisrael, love and concern for the Jewish people and *Medinat Yisrael*, as well as ethical conduct, good manners, compassion, and respect for all mankind, are focal points of our educational process.

CO-EDUCATION

As a coeducational institution, DAT provides the same excellent educational opportunities for girls and boys. Boys and girls must have the best religious and general education and be prepared to undertake their roles and responsibilities as men and women within society. Acknowledging our *halachic* underpinnings and our desire to create the best educational environment, *limudei kodesh* (Torah studies) and physical education may be separated by gender in the Middle School.

PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL

Parents are partners with the school in the education of their children. Parents retain primary responsibility for educating their children and for discharging the *mitzvah of Talmud Torah*. It is in our children's best interest that decision-making be achieved through democratic processes in harmony with halachic authority.

I. PARENT-HOME – SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

A student’s perception of school, and the seriousness with which he approaches his studies, is influenced by the attitudes that adults, and particularly parents, exhibit toward school. A child’s positive attitude toward learning can be stimulated and enhanced by interested parents who express a positive opinion about school, staff, and studies, especially in front of their child. Our day school believes in a close, harmonious, and interactive relationship between home and school. Such cooperation will help each child derive the utmost from his/her day school experience.

The school hosts Open School Nights that are designed to acquaint parents with staff, educational objectives and classroom routines.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held during the first term. The date for parent-teacher conferences can be found on the school calendar. Parents are encouraged to contact school personnel directly to discuss any aspect of their child's education and growth. **Do not wait for the formal parent-teacher conference.** As the need arises, please feel free to call the office to make arrangements for a conference with teachers or the principal. In most instances, the first school contact for parents should be the classroom teacher. Most concerns can be resolved between the teacher and parent. If this does not occur, then the principal should be contacted. Please remember not to bypass these avenues of communication with the teacher or principal who are intrinsic members of our school community and are directly charged with your child’s education. Teachers, however, cannot receive phone calls or meet with parents during class time or during non-scheduled visits. Please be considerate and do not call teachers at home. For concerns regarding broader educational issues, please call the principal directly. In all cases, parental concerns are respected and will be kept completely confidential.

Written comments in the homework organizer, notes sent home with children, and frequent telephone calls and emails are other methods used by DAT staff to communicate with parents. Parents and teachers are advised to avoid the informal ‘on-the-run’ conference that may take place outside of school (i.e. arrival or dismissal). The seriousness and professionalism with which both parents and staff address a child’s needs can be best attained through a face-to-face scheduled meeting or a formal telephone call.

Our academic year will be divided into two reporting periods at which time report cards are prepared for all students.

II. CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS

We encourage parent participation in our learning activities and invite active involvement and support. We request that parents who visit a class dress modestly. Classroom visits by parents are welcome when prior arrangements are made with the principal. **For safety and security**

reasons under no circumstance should parents proceed directly to any classroom. All visitors must stop in the front office before proceeding to other parts of the building.

III. SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The DATLINE newsletter will be distributed regularly via email to parents, and occasionally in hard copy to students as well. This newsletter in conjunction with school-wide emails and our website (www.datcampus.org) are the primary means used to keep parents informed of the school's activities. In the DATLINE, school events of the past week are featured and upcoming events are announced. Please check your email for the DATLINE so that you can be aware of and involved in all of our programs.

If you would like to request items for inclusion in the DATLINE, they should be submitted to the office for approval by **noon on Tuesday.**

In addition, a detailed calendar of programs, events, and important dates will be distributed. Further information or clarification concerning any program may be obtained by calling the appropriate member of the administrative staff.

Timely Responses

Often, notices are sent home which request a parent's response 'on or before' a specific date. In order to avoid delay and inconvenience and to allow for the best possible program and participation, a serious effort should always be made to respond within the allotted time. When forms are returned late, orders and arrangements may have already been made and avoidable disappointment may ensue.

The school telephone is reserved for official business. Children should not be expected to use it. Telephone messages cannot be conveyed to students except in emergencies. Please avoid calling the office to convey personal messages. If an emergency arises during the day and you must inform your child of a change in plans, please call the office before 2:00 p.m. The school's voice mail will take messages after hours or when our lines are busy. **Parents should make all necessary dismissal arrangements directly with their children before sending them to school.**

IV. SCHOOL HOURS

	<i>Student Arrival</i>	<i>Classes Begin</i>	<i>Classes End</i>
<i>6th – 8th Grade</i>	7:15 am	7:30 am	3:45 pm
<i>Kindergarten – 5th Grade</i>	8:15 am	8:30 am	3:45 pm

NOTE: Friday dismissal for all grades throughout the year will be at 2:30 p.m.

V. ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Driving

Please attempt to enter school property from Westbound Alameda and try to avoid making a left hand turn onto school property from Alameda Avenue.

Please be aware that crossing Alameda or Monaco is very dangerous for children to do on their own. For safety reasons, parents are reminded:

- To have students wear seat belts at all times
- To remember the school parking lot is “one way” (counterclockwise)
- To obey posted speed limits

Double Parking - A Safety Concern

The Board of Directors, in identifying double-parking at arrival and dismissal as a serious safety concern, asks for the cooperation of all parents. Parents are asked not to double park at any time or for any reason. If you prefer not to wait in the line of cars dropping off children, we encourage you to park in the parking lot and accompany your child(ren) to the front door.

At no point should you leave your vehicle unattended in the dropoff/pickup/fire lane.

Arrival & Dismissal

Sixth through eighth grade students may arrive at school beginning at 7:15 AM and Kindergarten – 5th Grade at 8:15 AM, as there will be supervision available at that time. Parents are asked to pick up their children promptly at dismissal or at the conclusion of after-school activities. Students not picked up within 15 minutes of dismissal will be assigned to after-school study hall and their parents will be charged accordingly. DAT can only take responsibility for the safety of children who are properly supervised in the study hall program.

DAT staff will assume that students will return home by the usual route and routine as indicated on the “Pick Up List”, unless the parent provides the office with a request for any changes”. Children are not permitted to leave school with anyone not listed on the “Pickup List unless prior arrangements have been made with the office. **Students should not call home to make ‘on-the-spot’ after school arrangements.**

When children arrive late or leave school early, a parent or an authorized representative must first sign them in/out in the office. At that time, the child will be called to the office. Students are not permitted to wait in the office or in the front lobby to be picked up.

Please do not use Drop-Off and Pick-Up time to engage in conversation with teachers or other parents. All of the teachers are on duty and have the responsibility of devoting their attention and energy toward ensuring a safe and efficient dismissal.

Once you have picked up your children, please keep them with you. At that time, the school no longer has responsibility of your children and they need to be supervised by you. Under no circumstances should they be wandering around the building or on DAT's grounds. Playground use and sports playing is not allowed during dismissal.

Please do NOT leave your vehicle unattended in the fire lane. It creates a very hazardous situation and inhibits the efficiency of dismissal.

Pick Up Procedure

K-5: When dismissed from class, students will wait in the main hallway of the building under teacher supervision and will be dismissed through the South doors. Parents should pull their vehicles up along the fire lane and move with traffic as it circles through. Staff members will watch for vehicles, and call out students as their parents arrive. Please follow any traffic-control directions given by DAT staff.

6-8: When dismissed from class, students will wait outside the North/main entrance (or in the entryway) while being supervised by staff. Parents should pull their vehicles up along the fire lane and wait by the main entrance for their children. Please follow any traffic-control directions given by DAT staff.

Under no circumstance should your vehicle be unattended in the fire lane as it creates an unsafe and hazardous situation for our students and parents.

VI. BEFORE/AFTER CARE and ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

After Care: Our After Care and Enrichment programs, managed by Hot Shot Sports, are available for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. After care begins at 4:00PM and is for children who are not participating in a specific enrichment class. Students will be provided assistance with homework and additional fun activities during this extended care program which ends at 5:30PM. All students participating in after care must be registered and have a credit card on file with Hot Shot Sports. Our After Care program is available Monday-Thursday (on days school is in session for the full day) from 4:00- 5:30PM. For more information please visit <http://denver.hotshots4kids.com/>.

Enrichment Program: Our after school enrichment program provides students with a variety of great classes such as karate and art. All classes take place at DAT and begin at 4:00PM and run until 4:55PM Monday- Thursday. Students who attend an enrichment class may attend aftercare following his/her class for no additional fee. Enrichment classes do not take place on days that school is not in session and on half days. Please note that if there is enough interest, a Friday afternoon enrichment will be offered which will run from 2:45- 3:45PM.

Registration for both After Care and Enrichment classes will be available directly through Hot Shot Sports website. Registration information will be provided in August 2015.

Early Care: Early Care is available to all students beginning at 7:15AM at an additional charge. Students are supervised during early care, but there is not a formal program component. Most student complete homework, color quietly, etc.

VII. ATTENDANCE & LATENESS

An understood prerequisite for academic achievement is that students attend school on a daily basis and in a timely manner. In regard to school attendance the maxim ‘better never late’ is more important than ‘better late than never.’ Exceptions include personal illness, illness or death in the family, or an emergency.

Lateness

It is the parents’ responsibility to ensure that their child(ren) attend(s) school on a regular and punctual basis. A student will be marked late when s/he arrives to class any time after 8:30.

Absence

Parents are asked to notify the school no later than 9:00 AM if their child will be absent. If a child is absent and the office has not been notified, the school will make every effort to call parents at home or at work. Planned medical or dental appointments should be made for non-school hours. The early Friday dismissal and late start professional development days are opportunities for parents to schedule appointments during non-school hours. In the event of a student’s necessary absence from school for reasons other than illness, prior arrangements should be made with the principal. Parents are advised to schedule trips and vacations when school is not in session.

Lateness and excessive and/or inappropriate absences influence the tone of learning within our program and impact upon classroom instruction for all students.

VIII. SCHOOL CANCELLATION

In general, DAT follows the decision of the Denver Public Schools for weather-related school cancellation or closing (but not late-starts). If DPS has a weather-related cancellation, DAT will be closed as well. Notification may be heard on major radio and television stations and DPS’s website (www.dpsk12.org). When DPS does not have classes, but DAT does and there is inclement weather, if we decide to close DAT, please look for “Denver Academy of Torah” on major radio (KOA) and television stations (9NEWS, NEWS2, 7NEWS) and at www.thedenverchannel.com.

We do NOT generally have weather determined late starts. In cases of inclement weather, parents should bring students to school at a safe time and in a secure manner.

IX. HEALTH PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

A child who is in good health, physically, socially, and emotionally, has a distinct advantage educationally. A healthy student will be able to learn easier, adjust readily to classroom activities, and get along well with others.

Health Examination and Immunization

Colorado law requires that all children enrolling in Colorado schools supply a properly completed Certificate of Immunization or Exemption showing the dates of the required immunizations or signatures of the appropriate persons for exemptions from immunization. This applies to current students as well as entering students.

Emergency Information

Each family must complete an *Emergency Information Form* prior to the start of school. Parents are requested to keep this information current and notify the office of any changes.

Illness

The school office must be notified immediately if your child contracts a contagious disease (e.g., chicken pox, measles, mumps, flu, strep, head lice, etc.). In turn, the office will notify the families of all children who are known to have been exposed to a contagious disease at school. A child may return to school only after he/she has been free of fever, symptom-free, and/or under proper medication for twenty-four hours. DAT reserves the right to refuse admittance to students whom we believe to pose a health risk to students or staff.

Preventive Medicine

We suggest that all students have a complete check-up before the start of school. Parents are asked to share any health conditions that will affect a child's learning with the classroom teacher. We strongly recommend that each child receive sufficient sleep each night (4-6 year olds: 10.75-12 hours; 7-12 year olds: 10-11 hours) (*webmd.com*) and a nourishing breakfast daily.

Parents are encouraged to share with their child's teacher signs of fatigue or trends of behavior, which may cause one to suspect the beginning of physical illness. If a child shows symptoms of illness prior to leaving for school, we advise keeping him/her home, rather than having others exposed. When in doubt about your child's health, the precaution of keeping your child at home should be taken, rather than have the child sent home ill from school.

When called to pick up a child who is ill, please do so as soon as possible. Children who do not feel well cannot learn in class, may infect other students, can be extremely uncomfortable, and anxiously await parental arrival. Students with a fever or who are vomiting will be sent home.

Medication

Should your child need to take medication during the day we ask that you adhere to the following procedure:

- All medications, prescription and non-prescription, are to be sent to school in their **original container with the child's name clearly printed**. These will be kept in the infirmary.
- The written medical authorization is to be completed and signed.
- Acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and Benadryl may be administered, at the school's discretion, only to students who have prior written permission. Parents will be contacted prior to administration regardless of prior written permission.

X. CO-CURRICULAR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Physical education, art, technology, and music are scheduled on a regular basis. Students participate in cultural experiences, field trips, and on-site programs. Students will have supervised access to the Internet for research and guided exploration.

XI. PHYSICAL EDUCATION/RECESS PARTICIPATION

All children are to take part in physical education and outdoor recess activities. Students will only be excused from such physical activity if a satisfactory medical reason is clearly stated in a written note and provided to the office.

Recess

Students participate in outdoor recess except on rainy days or days that are extremely cold. Proper clothing for outdoor activities will protect your child's health. In the morning, parents should be sure that their child is dressed appropriately for activities throughout the day. It is expected that students follow the requests of all supervising staff.

For safety reasons, students are not allowed to bring hard balls to school. Making and/or throwing snowballs is not permitted at any time.

XII. FOOD

Our school maintains fixed standards of observance in regards to Kashrut, recognizing that our day school, as most others, has a student body whose families do not all follow identical standards of religious practice. **This applies to all homes, without differentiation**. Food brought to school for a Siyum or other class event must be in its original unopened container with an acceptable Kosher symbol on the label; homemade items are not allowed. There are no exceptions to this rule. The following local and national supervisions are acceptable: Vaad

HaKashrus of Denver, OU, Chof K, OK, cRc, and Star K. This also applies to food/drink items brought into the building for use in programs outside school hours.

Other than personal lunches and snacks, all food/drink items brought to school must be taken to the office to be checked in and approved.

Lunch

Parents must provide lunches that are in keeping with Jewish dietary laws. Children's lunches should be made of food products that are certified kosher. This applies to all edible items: bread, contents of sandwiches, cakes, cookies, candies, drinks, and snacks. Due to varying kashrut standards and allergy issues, ***children are not to share their lunches or snacks at any time.*** This year, students may bring meat or dairy lunches on every school day with the exception of pizza lunch days (Thursdays) where all students, even those who do not order pizza, will be asked to bring only dairy lunches.

The school does not provide cups, plates, or utensils. Students are expected to bring these items from home. The school does not maintain cooking or heating facilities for student use.

In honor of *Rosh Chodesh*, the *Shoshana Feldman z"l Rosh Hodesh Hot Lunch Program* serves subsidized hot lunches for a yearly fee of \$30.00. Watch the monthly calendar and DATLINE for the exact dates.

Forgotten Lunches

Parents are encouraged to check that their child takes his/her lunch bag daily. If you become aware that your child has forgotten his/her lunch, please bring it to the office as the emergency lunch/snack the school provides may not meet your child's expectations or needs. There will be a \$3.00 charge for lunch provided by DAT.

If your child forgets his/her lunch, please do not bring it directly to the lunchroom or classroom. Rather, bring it to the office and we will have it delivered to your child.

Lunchtime Rules

We strive to make each child's lunchtime a comfortable, relaxing time. Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and reciting *birkat hamazon*.

It is expected that all children will wash their hands ritually prior to eating bread. This is a Halachic requirement and parents should encourage their children to do it properly even at home before meals.

Students will be expected to:

- use appropriate table manners and polite behavior.
- remain seated except when throwing out rubbish.
- keep their own area clean.
- show respect for, get along with and demonstrate a cooperative attitude toward peers.
- avoid unhealthy practices such as drinking from the same container as another student or sharing utensils with other students.

Lunch Recess

Students have a recess break in conjunction with their lunchtime.

Parties At Home Or School

In planning parties at home for our students, it is expected that parents conform to school *kashrut* standards. Not only will this assure that everybody will be comfortable, but in the long run, an important service will be done for one's own child. Homemade cooked or baked goods are not permitted to be distributed in school. When inviting other children to birthday parties, we ask parents to be mindful of the inclusive nature of our school community, and not send out invitations in a way that a small minority of children will feel left out.

Birthday Parties At School

Birthday parties at school are conducted in Kindergarten and First grade only with prior teacher approval. With prior approval, birthday treats may be shared in all grades at lunch or recess. Items for any class party must also meet *Kashrut* requirements and allergy restrictions, and must be checked in and approved by the office.

Birthday Celebrations

It is suggested that parents celebrate their child's birthday with a donation of a library book or a gift to the class. The classroom teacher can provide information as to the class's needs.

XIII. HOMEWORK

Independent work done at home can be valuable as review and reinforcement of studies as well as encourage reflection and creativity. Not only are academic skills honed, but personal growth in the areas of self-discipline, time management, prioritizing, and responsibility are also developed through the medium of assigned work from school. The amount of homework that is deemed appropriate varies according to the grade of the student, his/her ability and the specific subject matter. Parents can best assist by establishing set routines for the completion of homework and providing a location and atmosphere conducive to study. In most cases, children should not need parental assistance in completing their homework. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to discuss any aspect of a homework assignment.

During Jewish holidays, while reading may be assigned, no written assignments are given to be specifically completed during that time. Tests will not be assigned for the first day of school after any holidays.

Homework Organizer — Yoman

Students in primary and elementary grades will receive specific homework organizers. Middle School students are required to purchase their own based on their individual preferences and needs. By checking homework daily, parents can familiarize themselves with the nature and extent of all subjects and maintain on-going communication with the classroom teachers. On a regular basis, in primary and elementary grades, teachers will send home completed class work.

Homework Requests

Parents must call the school office by 9:00 AM to request homework for an absent child.

XIV. EMERGENCY DRILLS: FIRE, TORNADO, & LOCKDOWN

Staff and students practice emergency drills in order to become familiar with safety procedures. Instructions are posted giving explicit directions for such drills. Absolute silence is to be maintained during these drills.

XV. TESTING/ASSESSMENT

As one component of on-going evaluation of student progress, achievement tests are administered annually in select grades. This information is used to evaluate areas of school-wide growth and assist in determining curricular improvements. The results are shared and discussed with parents.

At times, additional evaluation can help determine strategies and techniques to maximize a child's learning. Parents may be asked to pursue, together with the school, a professional evaluation. To address a student's specific learning needs, DAT teachers and parents may avail themselves of the evaluation services of the Denver Public Schools provided by Child Find.

XVI. LOST AND FOUND

All clothing and personal belongings should be clearly labeled with a child's name. Apparel and belongings left in undesignated areas will be retained in the 'lost and found' for a limited time and then given to charity organizations.

XVII. *FIELD TRIPS*

Class field trips enhance understanding of academic subjects by promoting experiential learning. Parental notification is given prior to each trip to inform parents of the details of the trip and request parental chaperones and/or drivers. Parents must fill in a general permission slip at the beginning of the school year.

Parents driving on field trips will need to submit to the office proof of insurance and a copy of their driver's license.

XVIII. *ASSEMBLIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS*

School assemblies and special programs are scheduled throughout the year. Many of these programs are planned during hours when parents can attend. Notification of days and times for these presentations will appear in the DATLINE, by email, and/or monthly calendar.

Parents attending a presentation or participating in a special school program are asked, in advance, for their cooperation. Parents assisting in a school program are asked to direct themselves to the implementation and supervision of the program. Viewing of a presentation is not a time for socializing among other parents or with staff. Parental support in these areas models behavior for students and does much to insure the success of the school program.

XIX. *COMPUTER CENTER*

The school provides technology devices appropriate for each grade level. Students are expected to take proper care of all software and hardware. Parents will be charged for repair/replacement costs due to abuse by children.

XX. *SCHOOL LIBRARY*

Classrooms have individual libraries containing age-appropriate books. We encourage parents to visit the public library with their children.

XXI. *TZEDAKAH*

Tzedakah is collected daily. Students are encouraged to develop the habit of fulfilling this *mitzvah*. Educationally, it is the act of giving which is important, even if it is only a penny a day. There is a *tzedakah* box in every classroom and children should be encouraged to participate daily prior to prayers.

XXII. *MONEY*

Any monies that need to be turned in to the school for payments should be placed in an envelope and clearly marked with the student's name, amount, and the purpose. These should be given to the child's morning teacher unless the instructions read otherwise.

XXIII. RESPECT IN A CARING COMMUNITY

Students are expected to be respectful of themselves, peers, teachers, and the educational environment. Students are expected to refrain from inappropriate behaviors which include, but are not limited to: running, shouting, bullying, or using inappropriate language on school premises.

XXIV. SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are to respect the property of the school, their peers property, places where they are taken on school field trips, and the property of members of the school community. They should treat all property and equipment in the school with care. This includes:

- Not eating or gum-chewing in class.
- Not writing on desks, lockers, bulletin boards, walls, or rest rooms.
- Not tossing garbage on the floor.
- Assisting in keeping public areas of the school such as hallways, lunchroom/multi-purpose room, playground and classrooms clean.

Textbooks

Students are responsible for covering their textbooks. Books must be returned in the same condition that they were received. Unless specifically instructed by teachers, students are not to write in their textbooks.

Note: Students losing or damaging any school property will be expected to pay for all costs.

Personal Possessions

Students are not to bring valuable or personal items from home which are not needed for classes such as toys, water guns, radios, cameras, iPods, or electronic games.

Sharp or dangerous objects are not allowed under any circumstances. Severe consequences will follow if a student brings these objects to school.

In some instances, staff members may confiscate students' personal property. In each case the staff member will inform the student of the appropriate procedures for reclaiming the confiscated article.

XXV. EATING/DRINKING

Students are not to eat during class. However, water bottles are permitted. **Gum chewing is not permitted at school during the day or during after-school activities.**

XXVI. COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION (CVA)

DAT views itself as an integral component of our community. To enrich our educational program by utilizing the people and resources of our community, DAT has formed an association of parents. The goal of this organization is to provide opportunities for members of our community to share in our educational process.

XXVII. DRESS CODE

Educators have found that children who are appropriately dressed and well groomed have a positive attitude towards school. As a result, children perform better academically as it aids in contributing to an academic learning environment. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children's attire conforms to the school dress code.

Our school has the responsibility of educating students who are actively involved in two cultures. As such, we understand that current fashion may at times conflict with the dress standards, *tzniut*, applicable in a *Torah* educational institution such as ours. *Tzniut* is more than a 'modest mode of dress;' it is a way of life, an attitude, and sensitivity. It influences and guides our relationship to G-d, peers, and should guide us to develop personal values and priorities. Our educational process fosters a life guided by this concept of *tzniut*. Students will be guided to strive for a self-image that reflects awareness of the responsibility of being a representative of a life of *Torah* and *mitzvot* even as they participate in the styles and culture of the general society.

Dress Code Policy for Daily Attire

Kindergarten

No uniforms required.

Pants for girls are permissible.

T-shirts are permissible, but shirts with a collar are preferable.

Kippah and Tzitzit (boys).

General Shirt Policy for all 1st – 5th grade students

Shirts must be "polo" style with 3 or 4 buttons and a collar.

Shirts may be long-sleeve or short-sleeve.

Shirts must be white, navy, gray, or light blue.

Shirts must not have emblems or logos, other than a DAT logo.

Shirts must have a collar.

General Shirt/Blouse Policy for all 6th through 8th grade students

As a special privilege, students have the individual choice regarding shirts/blouses providing they adhere to the following guidelines.

Shirts may be long-sleeve or short-sleeve.

Shirts may have patterns or stripes.

Shirts must not have emblems or logos, other than a DAT logo.

Shirts must have a collar.

Boys 1st - 8th Grade

Shirt (as described above)

Shirt must be tucked in, and a belt must be worn. (5th-8th)

Khaki/navy/black pants in cotton, cotton/poly or corduroy

Kippah and Tzitzit

Girls 1st - 8th Grade

Shirt/blouse (as described above)

Khaki, navy, or black pleated or straight skirt, below the knee when sitting down, with no slits above the knee

Skirt should fit in a manner that allows for the skirt to cover the knee, when running, sitting, walking, and even when wearing leggings or tights.

Khaki, navy, or black jumper, below the knee when sitting down, with no slits above the knee

While tights are appropriate, an acceptable alternative to tights is leggings that meet the socks. Only leggings that meet the socks are acceptable.

Although conservative solid-colored skirts are preferable, **girls in 6th – 8th grade** have no color or pattern restriction for skirts.

The school will enforce this policy. We hope that you, the parents, will join with the school to help make DAT an educational institution of which we can all be proud.

Physical Education Attire

On P.E. days, students should wear appropriate uniform clothing that allows for full movement during activities. Girls may wear shorts or leggings under their uniform skirts. Girls may not wear pants under their skirts. Gym shoes or sneakers are required for all activities.

Shoes

Students should wear comfortable shoes (closed-toed). For safety reasons, flip-flops, sandals, and croc-style shoes are not allowed. Students should keep their shoes on their feet at all times during school hours.

On days when students wear boots due to inclement weather, they should also bring appropriate indoor shoes to wear inside. Winter boots should not be worn during class.

Parental Modeling

Parents attending a school performance or visiting a class are asked to dress modestly, in the spirit of the school dress code style.

XXVIII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors, representing a cross-section of the Jewish community actively concerned with Jewish education in Denver, consists of individuals who commit their time and effort towards assuring a standard of excellence reflecting the school's educational and Torah philosophy. The Board sets the school's general policies and programs. The Board, specifically the Development Committee, is the school's principle source of fundraising.

The standing committees of the Board include the Executive Committee, Capital Campaign Committee, and Development Committee. Parents are urged to become active participants through involvement on committees and school projects.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS (as of August 2015)

Executive Board

PRESIDENT:	Hanah Polotsky
SECRETARY:	Sally Alpert
VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE:	Eric Shafran
VICE PRESIDENT DEVELOPMENT:	Dorit Fischer
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Daniel Mogyoros

Interim Head of School

Mrs. Naomi Lev

Board Members

Daniel Benel
Mark Brooks
Joshua Fine
Jonathan Fishman
Sarah Leah Golombek
Cindy Halpern
Cheryl Miller

XXIX. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Interim Head of School, Principal	Mrs. Naomi Lev
Chief Operating Officer	Rabbi Hyiam Reiffman
Academic Administrator	Mrs. Aspen Rendon
Office Manager	Mrs. Linda Hamo
Director of Admissions & Marketing	Mrs. Amy Berkowitz Caplan
Business Manager	Mrs. Missy Eliot
Business & Development Assistant	Mrs. Charlene Engleberg

XXX. FUNDRAISING

The Development Committee plans and implements strategies and programs to raise funds for DAT. The committee is responsible for organizing events intended to develop community support and further integrate DAT into the broader Denver Jewish community. The Development Committee seeks the involvement of the entire parent body to make these many activities happen.

XXXI. TRIBUTE CARDS

Tribute cards, congratulating the receiver on his/her *simcha* or noting a personal occasion, is a way of celebrating life's joyous moments through the act of giving. Donations are made through the office. Appropriate acknowledgments will be sent.

XXXII. DAT COMMUNITY PARENT OBLIGATIONS

Tuition

Tuition, as established annually by the Board of Directors, covers approximately two-thirds of the cost to educate a child at DAT. Payments may be made in a single payment or monthly. Please consult with the Business Manager regarding payment options available. **Parents are responsible for meeting all contracted tuition payments.**

An enrollment contract is required to be signed in order for your child to begin the school year.

Tuition Assistance

Requests for tuition assistance are processed upon timely completion of the tuition assistance application. Tuition assistance applications will be considered only if all past due obligations are current.

Tein Lanu Yad — School Support — Volunteering

The successful quality of DAT's educational program is directly dependent upon the involvement of the parent body. Involvement ranges from participation as workers and supporters of the many fund-raising projects to in-school volunteering in the educational program. Research confirms our belief that a child's success is enhanced and the educational experience enriched when parents are actively involved in the school. Reflecting this philosophy, **DAT requires per parent, a substantial and meaningful commitment of volunteer time.** Please contact the office for volunteering possibilities.

Donations/Tzedakah

It takes the generosity of our entire community to help ensure our school's financial future and provide exceptional opportunities for our students. Every DAT family is expected to contribute to our annual campaign. With your commitment, we hope that you will participate

to the very best of your means by making a meaningful gift to the school. For more information, contact the school office.

Notes