



Dear Parents of YOSS,

We hope this letter finds you well and you are enjoying the summer months.

As we reflect on the beauty of Yeshiva of South Shore, its derech of chinuch and its talmidim, it is time to confront an issue that continues to plague society as a whole and particularly our youth.

We continue to be witness to an increased level of media exposure amongst our children. We find societal permissiveness and apathy to be rampant, leading to young children being exposed to information, images and videos that are not age-appropriate, and often not appropriate for any Jewish child (or adult).

Having phones in a school building creates endless temptation to use them to “just check something” or to share an image, video, etc.

As such, we have restructured our Technology Guidelines for this coming year and will not allow smartphones to be held by the talmidim at all, whether on the bus or in the yeshiva (even if it is turned off and placed in their backpack).

Non-adherence to this policy will result in parental meetings and may lead to suspension which will be recorded on the student’s permanent record. There will be no exceptions.

(Please note that this includes smart-watches, regardless of whether they are connected to a phone or not. Please read our complete Technology Guidelines attached to this email.)

We understand that some students bring phones because of safety concerns (for example, they walk or bike to yeshiva). In those cases, we will allow the student to bring in a kosher flip phone, and ask that you inform us in advance that he will be bringing it. (Obviously, it cannot be used once he arrives at YOSS.) For information about kosher flip phones, go to <https://www.smartconnectionsny.com>.

Please understand that our approach stems from a deep care and concern for the holy neshamos of our children.

With Torah greetings and with a tefillah for the hatzlacha of every single talmid,

Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky, Rosh Yeshiva
Rabbi Zev Davidowitz, Menahel HaMechina
Rabbi Avraham Robinson, Menahel, Elementary Division



YOSS Student Technology Standard

After much thought, deliberation and consultation, we would like to share our updated Technology Guidelines with you. We ask that you partner with us to maintain a technology standard that we can all be comfortable with.

- ❖ Education is essential. We will be implementing programs to educate our talmidim about safe technology use, as well as host parent education opportunities.
- ❖ We strongly discourage talmidim from having their own smartphone (or personal internet device).
- ❖ **Such devices are not allowed on the bus or in school premises at any time. Non-adherence to this policy will result in parental meetings and may lead to suspension which will be recorded on the student's permanent record. There will be no exceptions.**
- ❖ **Smart watches are not allowed to be worn/used/seen/etc, and are treated exactly the same as smartphones.** (This includes any watch which CAN connect to a phone or the internet through bluetooth, wifi or cellular data, regardless of whether the watch IS currently connected or not.)
- ❖ We understand that some students bring phones because of safety concerns (for example, they walk or bike to yeshiva). **In those cases, we will allow the student to bring in a kosher flip-phone, and ask that you inform us in advance that he will be bringing it.** (Obviously, it can not be used once he arrives at YOSS.) For information about kosher flip-phones, go to <https://www.smartconnectionsny.com>.
- ❖ If for whatever reason you decide that your son *should* have such a device at home, it should adhere to the following set of guidelines:
 - Device should be brought to [Smart Connections](#),* and restricted to the following minimum standard:
 - Restrict (or filter) browser
 - Restrict all social media, with the exception of direct messaging (texting or whats-app)
 - Restrict all apps rated 17+
 - [This is a minimum standard only](#). Smart Connections will work with you to customize a standard to your specifications.
- ❖ Given the abundance of, and easy access to, inappropriate content on the internet, we strongly suggest that all internet devices in your home that your son can access should also be restricted to the above standard.

* ([Smart Connections](#) is a free service for the community: [SmartConnectionsny.com](https://www.smartconnectionsny.com))

We understand that there are some parents who have the technical know-how to properly restrict their child's device on their own, and don't need Smart Connections to set the restrictions. Even so, we ask that you use Smart Connections in order to create a uniform standard for all students. [Please be sure to inform them that your son is a YOSS talmid as we will be in contact with them throughout the year.](#)