



MTI TALMIDIM THRILLED TO RETURN TO THEIR BELOVED YESHIVA



High school students don't usually rejoice when school resumes after summer vacation. But this is no ordinary school, and no ordinary Elul.

When MTI talmidim, rebbeim, and staff reunited in yeshiva after nearly 6 months away, the pervasive feeling was one of celebration. "The boys craved the connections and relationships with friends and rebbeim that they missed when they were away. When they returned, they realized that they were where they needed to be for their growth and learning," says menahel Rabbi Menachem Wachsman. The hanhala schepped nachas at the talmidim's palpable excitement. Says Rabbi Shraga Zachai, guidance and activities director, "I got so much chizuk from seeing how much the talmidim wanted to be back in yeshiva."

"We're very proud of how they did during the months we had to be on Zoom, but it's obviously not the same as being in



yeshiva in person," says Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, rosh yeshiva. During their time at home, the talmidim kept up an almost full yeshiva schedule,

including extracurricular activities and an optional summer learning program [see page 2].

As eager as everyone was to resume in-person learning, Rabbi Shmuel Wasser, rosh yeshiva, explains, "MTI takes the safety and health of its talmidim and staff very seriously, and the administration conferred with rabbinic advisors, medical experts, and colleagues about setting up best practices for the return of talmidim. The yeshiva has created guidelines that minimize contact between the dormitory students and those not living on campus."

Modifications for COVID-19 precautions were made to the building, including retrofitting large open spaces for use as classrooms, expanding existing classrooms, and opening up an isolation wing to be used if necessary. We extend a big thank you to our campus administrator, Mr. Dovid Love, and his staff for their

hard work in preparing the building to accommodate the talmidim's safe return. The talmidim were excited about the more than 40 upgrades and improvements to the campus made while they were away.

Baruch Hashem, the year is off to a great start. MTI welcomed 19 new ninth graders and nearly 100 students in total, hailing from 40 cities. Talmidim are enjoying a full schedule of classes along with a choice of weekly woodworking, Runnergize [see page 6], or guitar electives that provide kosher outlets and enable them to pursue



hobbies in their free time.

The bais medrash program doubled in size this year, and the bochurim have been learning with great hasmada and a tremendous amount of iyun. "The chevra were so excited to be back in yeshiva after being home for all this time, and there was a tremendous new energy they brought to the yeshiva. I don't remember a better Elul zman," says Rabbi Avroham Goldman, rosh yeshiva and maggid shiur in the bais medrash.

During their time at home, the boys continued learning with dedication and persistence, waiting for the day they could return to their beloved MTI. Now that they are back where they belong, fortified with a renewed appreciation for being in yeshiva, rebbeim and talmidim alike are looking forward to another incredible year!

96 TALMIDIM. 40 CITIES.

One Incredible Yeshiva.

- Atlanta, GA
- Baltimore, MD
- Beachwood, OH
- Beitar Illit, Israel
- Boca Raton, FL
- Brooklyn, NY
- Buffalo Grove, IL
- Chesterfield, MO
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland Heights, OH
- Clifton, NJ
- Columbus, OH
- Denver, CO
- Far Rockaway, NY
- Flushing, NY
- Henderson, NV
- Houston, TX
- Jacksonville, FL
- Kew Gardens, NY
- Lakewood, NJ
- Los Angeles, CA
- Miami, FL
- Minneapolis, MN
- Nashville, TN
- Norfolk, VA
- North Miami Beach, FL
- Northbrook, IL
- Oak Park, MI
- Palo Alto, CA
- Passaic, NJ
- Rochester, NY
- San Diego, CA
- Savannah, GA
- Scottsdale, AZ
- Seattle, WA
- Skokie, IL
- University City, MO
- Waterbury, CT
- Winnipeg, Canada



SUMMER HASMADAH

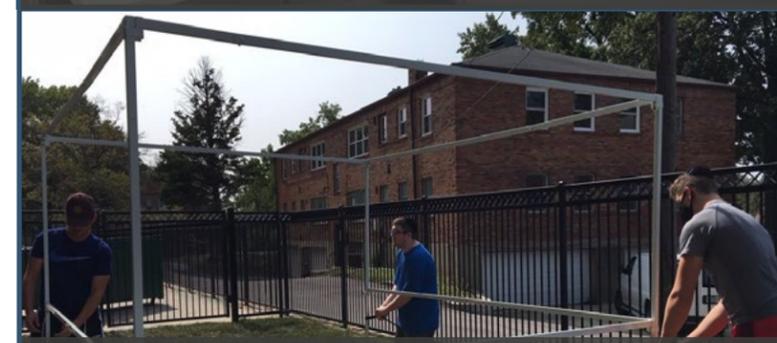
Since many talmidim could not attend camp this year, the yeshiva offered an optional four-week summer learning program, run by Rabbi Gershon Rockove, rebbe in the mesivta. Participants joined via Zoom and learned fascinating sugyas throughout each week, such as lifnei iver and geneivas daas. In the evenings, the boys enjoyed a halacha shiur from Rabbi



Fromowitz or Rabbi Wasser. "It was remarkable to see the boys' engagement and commitment to this voluntary learning," says Rabbi Rockove. "One bochur who got a job this summer while at home arranged with his boss to be able to call in from work, and another called in from the backseat on a family trip." These boys were exceptions, however; the yeshiva instituted the program primarily for boys who were left with no plans. "It gave my day structure," reflects one grateful student. Yossi Zifkin, another talmid, shared that the voluntary nature of the program actually increased his motivation. "With optional learning, it's you who's driving yourself, so you work harder and end up getting more out of it." While we hope not to have to resort to Zoom learning during the school year, it definitely has opened up new avenues that few had thought of before. We hope to resume Summer Hasmada via Zoom for the summer of 2021!



Students engaged in learning on their first day back



Bochurim assisting community members with Sukkah setup



Talmidim participate in the newly launched chazara program



Rabbi Wasser records for his short "Points on Tefillah" WhatsApp group

COMMUNITY LEARNING WOMEN'S SIYUM



Rabbi Moshe Winter, rav of TICK, addresses a distanced crowd as women of the community celebrate a siyum hosted by Mrs. Susie Rosenblum upon their completion of the study of Mesilas Yesharim with Mrs. Toby Goldman.

JOIN IN THE NEXT SEFER IN OUR WOMEN'S MUSSAR SERIES (ORCHOS TZADDIKIM) SUN OR TUES EVENING VIA ZOOM. CONTACT COMMUNITYLEARNING@MISSOURITORAH.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Welcome NEW TEACHERS



MR. ROMAN KOZELOV
Math & Science



MR. JASON SOROSKI
English & History



Talmidim participating in one of their first classes of the year during Elul



Mr. Dovid Love getting the campus ready for the return of the talmidim to yeshiva



Yomim Noraim setup for what was a truly inspiring davener

Meet this year's NINTH GRADE



a. *Sion Bitton*

Lakewood, NJ

Why I Chose MTI:

The rebbeim, teachers and kids seemed very nice and relaxed when I attended the shabbaton.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun

My Spare Time at MTI: Chat with friends

Interesting Fact: I enjoy coding.

b. *Dovid Boord*

Brooklyn, NY

Why I Chose MTI:

I saw the PR video and was impressed. I also was excited about the extra curricular activities.

What I Like to Learn: English

My Spare Time at MTI: Play in the gym

Interesting Fact:

I'm good with sound effects.

h. *Tzvi Kark*

Chicago, IL

Why I Chose MTI:

I heard about the warm environment.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun

My Spare Time at MTI:

Playing basketball and working out

Interesting Fact:

My parents are South African.

n. *Yaacov Shuman*

Nashville, TN

Why I Chose MTI:

It seemed like a great place to learn and grow.

What I Like to Learn: English Language Arts

My Spare Time at MTI:

Check the mail room for mail

Interesting Fact:

When I was 3, I had curly white hair.

c. *Shua Bugay*

Northbrook, IL

Why I Chose MTI:

When I came to the shabbaton, everyone was so welcoming and I knew it was the right place for me.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun & English

My Spare Time at MTI:

Hanging out with my friends

Interesting Fact: I enjoy biking.

i. *Mendel Landsman*

Chicago, IL

Why I Chose MTI:

The amazing rebbeim, teachers and campus

What I Like to Learn: Gemara & Math

My Spare Time at MTI:

Hang out with friends

Interesting Fact: I'm a second generation student of my biology teacher, Mr. Dugge.

o. *Naftali Staum*

Chesterfield, MO

Why I Chose MTI: My brothers and friends

attended MTI and I liked what I saw.

What I Like to Learn: Math

My Spare Time at MTI:

Work out or just chill with my friends

Interesting Fact:

I'm the oldest in the class.

d. *Zecharia Dimbert*

Chicago, IL

Why I Chose MTI: The Judaic and General Studies curriculum is balanced and the electives looked interesting.

What I Like to Learn:

Math, Physics & other sciences

My Spare Time at MTI: Reading

Interesting Fact:

I carry a physics textbook around.

j. *Shmueli Lieb*

Chesterfield, MO

Why I Chose MTI:

I heard it was a very nice school with a nice dorm and good classes.

What I Like to Learn: Chumash & Math

My Spare Time at MTI:

Workout room & basketball

Interesting Fact: I'm a Mets fan.

p. *Chaim Steinberg*

Cincinnati, OH

Why I Chose MTI: MTI has a great Hebrew and English curriculum.

What I Like to Learn: Math & Statistics

My Spare Time at MTI: Solving Rubik's Cubes

Interesting Fact: I know way too much about roller coasters.

e. *Yisrael Fromowitz*

Chesterfield, MO

Why I Chose MTI: I know someone :)

What I Like to Learn: Iyun

My Spare Time at MTI:

Basketball, ping-pong, & snacking

Interesting Fact: I like cliff jumping.

k. *Aron Mazer*

University City, MO

Why I Chose MTI:

I like that I can be very close to the rebbeim and teachers.

What I Like to Learn: Math

My Spare Time at MTI: TypingClub.com

Interesting Fact: I like reading books.

q. *Dovid Winter*

Chesterfield, MO

Why I Chose MTI: I grew up observing the school and rebbeim who seem nice and caring and it seemed like a good place.

What I Like to Learn: English

My Spare Time at MTI:

Basketball & football

Interesting Fact: My birthday is 06/06/06.

f. *Dovid Goldman*

Henderson, NV

Why I Chose MTI: I heard that it had really warm, caring rebbeim, quality talmidim and a state-of-the-art campus.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun & Mishnayos

My Spare Time at MTI: Prepare the leining of the parsha, ping-pong, and basketball

Interesting Fact: I have been leining almost every shabbos since my bar mitzvah.

l. *Ahron Orlansky*

Waterbury, CT

Why I Chose MTI:

I liked the feel of the warm environment and unity.

What I Like to Learn: American Government

My Spare Time at MTI:

Computer lab and chill with friends

Interesting Fact: I am double-jointed so I can bend my fingers all different ways.

r. *Binyamin Wittlin*

Denver, CO

Why I Chose MTI:

I liked the atmosphere and the care that the rebbeim show to the bochurim.

What I Like to Learn: Math & Iyun

My Spare Time at MTI: Reading

Interesting Fact: I play guitar.

g. *Ephraim Holman*

Chicago, IL

Why I Chose MTI:

I really enjoyed the experience on the 8th grade shabbaton.

What I Like to Learn: Algebra I

My Spare Time at MTI: Play violin

Interesting Fact: I enjoy coin collecting.

m. *Yaakov Yitzchak Shapiro*

Waterbury, CT

Why I Chose MTI:

The rebbeim are nice and caring.

What I Like to Learn: Math & Mussar

My Spare Time at MTI:

I enjoy going to stores.

Interesting Fact:

I like philosophy & I like debating.

s. *Shai Zucker*

Scottsdale, AZ

Why I Chose MTI:

I really liked the experience I had at the 8th grade shabbaton last year.

What I Like to Learn: Math

My Spare Time at MTI: Exercise in the gym

Interesting Fact: I was once stuck on a zipline in Zurich for three hours.

Mazel Tov!

~ALUMNI MARRIAGES~

Yitzy Bergida on his marriage to Ms. Ita Sharfman of North Miami Beach, FL
 Menashe Brown on his marriage to Ms. Liba Yelizarov of Oak Park, MI
 Meir Freud on his marriage to Ms. Tova Sharabi of Valley Village, CA
 Yisroel Friedman on his marriage to Ms. Michal Abramchik of Henderson, NV
 Simcha Greenfield on his marriage to Ms. Bayla Simes of Queens, NY
 Mordechai Goldgrab on his marriage to Ms. Meira Leibovic of Monsey, NY
 Yisrael Kramsky on his marriage to Ms. Chevi Milworm of Brooklyn, NY
 Avromi Lieberman on his marriage to Ms. Adina Love of Richmond Hill, NY
 Yosef Shlomo Morris on his marriage to Ms. Leah Shapiro of Queens, NY
 Jonathan Rosenblum on his marriage to Ms. Racheli Barer of Baltimore, MD
 Tzvika Sharf on his marriage to Ms. Esther Obodyanik of Chicago, IL
 Josh Small on his marriage to Ms. Emily Wiener of Yorba Linda, CA
 Izzy Stein on his marriage to Ms. Chaya Kops of Queens, NY

~ALUMNI ENGAGEMENTS~

Betzalel Rosenzweig to Ms. Mindy Moskovitz of Cleveland, OH
 Jonathan Yasinev to Ms. Devorah Green of Toronto, ON

~ALUMNI BIRTHS~

Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Yitzchak Eisenberg on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Meir Freud on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Sedy Freud on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Menachem Guttman on the birth of a boy
 Mr. & Mrs. Yosef Kaufman on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Mordechai Levy on the birth of a boy
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex Lyss on the birth of a boy
 Mr. & Mrs. Eytan Mankowitz on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Manne on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Noble on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Reiss on the birth of a boy
 Mr. & Mrs. Yaakov Rubin on the birth of a boy
 Mr. & Mrs. Yosaif Slotkin on the birth of a boy
 Mr. & Mrs. Josh Treisman on the birth of a boy
 Mr. & Mrs. Yossi Turk on the birth of a girl

~STAFF SIMCHAS~

Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel and Chanie Wasser on the marriage of their daughter Leah to Yaakov Striks of Valley Village, CA

Rabbi & Mrs. David and Eeta Bermanski on the birth of their daughter Sarah
 Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid and Chayka Fromowitz on the birth of their daughter Racheli
 Rabbi & Mrs. Shimshon and Miriam Gewirtz on the birth of their son Avraham
 Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem and Aviva Wachsman on the birth of their daughter Shira
 Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel and Chanie Wasser on the birth of their son Yitzy

Rabbi & Mrs. Josh and Chana Bregman on the birth of a boy
 Rabbi & Mrs. Pesach and Nechama Eskenazi on the birth of a girl
 Rabbi & Mrs. Efraim and Shulamis Fromowitz on the birth of a girl
 Mr. & Mrs. Menachem and Debbie Graff on the birth of a grandson
 Rabbi & Mrs. Mendy and Daniella Rosner on the birth of a girl
 Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem and Aviva Wachsman on the birth of a girl
 Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel and Chanie Wasser on the birth of a boy



ANNUAL DINNER 2020 VIRTUALLY AMAZING

It was Missouri Torah Institute's 13th annual dinner, but, as Aaron Lefton, MC, quipped in his opening line, it was virtually their first. For the St. Louis yeshiva with talmidim from all around the globe, the June 7 virtual event allowed out-of-town supporters, alumni, parents, and grandparents to participate for the first time—and the turnout surpassed expectations.

Like most dinners, the event had honorees, a journal, and speeches—and it even served food. Staff coordinated with caterers outside St. Louis to deliver platters of sushi or meat, sometimes with orders of wine, directly to sponsors' and donors' homes to enjoy while participating in the program. "We thought this would be a unique way of engaging the audience on a national level and enabling them to participate in the yeshiva's success," says Rabbi Josh Bregman, Director of Development.

The program featured interactive components, including a choir, a siyum, and a live MTI trivia game. A bochur served as game host, while several alumni appeared as contestants. Audience members submitted their answers, with percentages of votes calculated in real time.

The evening paid tribute to Michael and Carol Staenberg, pillars of generosity in the St. Louis community and beyond. Staunch supporters of Jewish education, they were involved with the yeshiva's move to its new campus in 2015, and recently dedicated the Staenberg Family Gym. The honorees were happily

surprised when, in addition to an inspiring audio-visual presentation honoring them, old friends of theirs called in from around the country to offer their congratulations and good wishes.

Since the yeshiva's dinner is the basis for the support that keeps it running year-round, it was important that the event be a success, despite its nontraditional format. The honorees gave warm feedback: "MTI's virtual dinner exceeded our expectations. What a great way to raise funds. We were excited about the outcome." Attendees enjoyed the dinner as well. "The virtual dinner brought us nachas for the love the hanhala has for their talmidim," said MTI parents Alan and Rami Rosenzweig. Another parent, Mrs. Jennifer Lehrfield, commented, "The program was seamless, and it showcased the yeshiva and highlighted the boys so nicely. Even if things go back to 'normal' there is a place for this type of event in our lives!"

"We are so appreciative of all our supporters that generously gave even during these incredibly hard times," says Dr. Craig Reiss, chairman of the MTI board. "The donors, par-

continued on back



MTI TALMIDIM MAKE A RUN FOR IT

Staying active can be tough for busy, shteiging bochorim. That's why MTI is once again offering Runnergize, an 8-week running elective in which boys gradually increase endurance. The program is run by Mr. Meir Kaniel, a running trainer and enthusiast, along with Coach Owen Anderson, founder of Lansing Sports Management and successful running coach. "Runnergize was created to provide a healthy outlet for students



of all athletic levels, while also teaching them the basics of training and safe running," says Mr. Kaniel. "In the process, they learn how to challenge their physical limits."

MTI debuted the popular program last spring, when yeshiva went virtual, to help the boys get out of the house and exercise during their non-learning hours. "When I started the program, I couldn't even run a mile," says Gavin Kornblum, 11th grader. Most of the participants were in a similar position. And yet, from that starting point, the participants increased their distance by .25 miles on each twice-weekly run. The camaraderie and support of their friends, along with the warm encouragement of Coach

Kaniel over Zoom, kept the boys going—until they surprised themselves by reaching the 10k goal.

This fall, in addition to a new group of participants eager to experience what Runnergize has to offer, many of the program's "graduates" are considering participating again and raising their target mileage. "It felt good to be able to run and not get out of breath super quickly," says Shiya Kass, 12th grader. But physical stamina wasn't the only thing the boys gained from the program. Says Yosef Kamin, a first-year bais medrash bochur proudly, "I really challenged myself. I learned that I can do more than I ever thought I could."



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1809 Clarkson Road
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MEET OUR NINTH GRADE (PAGES 4-5)



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ticularly those in St. Louis from all segments of the community, recognize the importance of having the yeshiva in our city. We are particularly appreciative of the Staenbergs for all they do for the St. Louis Jewish community and throughout the world.”

Rabbi Fromowitz, rosh yeshiva, adds, “We are thankful for our almost 300 monthly donors who have continued to support the yeshiva even through these difficult times, and have renewed or even increased their commit-

ments. It is this monthly giving and the annual gifts that the dinner brings that help the yeshiva meet its budget.”

In a video called “Zooming Through MTI,” dinner participants followed an MTI talmid from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. through a day of distance learning, as well as an extracurricular program called “Runnergize,” in which boys keep active by training for a mini-marathon.

The live-streamed event, as well as the dinner videos, are available at www.missouritorah.org.

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 “POINTS ON TEFILLAH”
 WITH RABBI SHMUEL WASSER**

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\$5,000
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