



לְהַגְדִּיל תּוֹרָה וּלְהַאֲדִירָה





# Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah

## MISSION STATEMENT

Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah was established to provide motivated bochurim the environment and tools to flourish as B'nei Torah. From the moment the talmidim arrive on campus, they are infused with an abiding yiras shamayim and ahavas hatorah. Our faculty is dedicated to the growth, well-being and safety of the bochurim, 24 hours a day. Our goal is to produce genuine B'nei Torah—articulate and self-confident bochurim whose conduct and behavior will raise kavod shamayim.

Experienced, vibrant rebbeim mold our talmidim. The Mesivta recognizes that the rebbi-talmid relationship is critical to the proper development of talmidim. Consequently, our rebbeim shower the bochurim with warmth, encouragement and hadracha. The close connections they develop with the talmidim are relationships that last a lifetime. A primary focus of the shiurim is to train our talmidim in classical lomdus, equipping them with a derech halimud. Shiurim in chumash, halacha, mussar and bekius are part of our well rounded limudei kodesh program.

Our outstanding general studies program prepares our bochurim for success in whatever path they choose to pursue, after their yeshiva years. Our dedicated teachers are experts in their respective fields. Through a serious and meaningful curriculum, the students acquire a range of knowledge and skills that are vital for their future lives.

Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah is a yeshiva for the motivated bochur who aspires to reach great heights through learning and growing as a Ben Torah.





*A Message from*



## HARAV DONIEL LANDER shlita

### Rosh Hayeshiva

Baruch Hashem, we have been zoche to establish a successful Makom Torah in Connecticut that, in a brief period of time, has already raised the horizons of our talmidim. The B'nei Mesivta have demonstrated the conduct and commitment of genuine B'nei Torah, aspiring for ever-continuous growth in their avodas Hashem and ameilus b'Torah. I am personally gratified by the steady stream of compliments that I receive from all those who meet our talmidim.

A large share of the credit, of course, belongs to the menahel, Rav Aryeh Reiss, shlita, whose blend of personal warmth, vibrance and deep-seated yiras shamayim has inspired our bochurim to devote themselves to their own personal shteiging.

Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah is underpinned by our belief that bochurim respond to challenge. Our rebbeim are amongst the finest talmidei chachamim of the olam hatorah who imbue in our talmidim the analytical skills appropriate for budding lamdonim. Indeed, our entire curriculum is geared toward the pursuit of excellence.

Our dream of building a mesivta that is animated by the ruach hatorah surrounded by kollel yungeleit and Torahdik mishpachos has become a reality. We invite you to join our dream and to participate in its growth.

## HARAV ARYEH REISS shlita

### Menahel & 9th Grade Rebbi

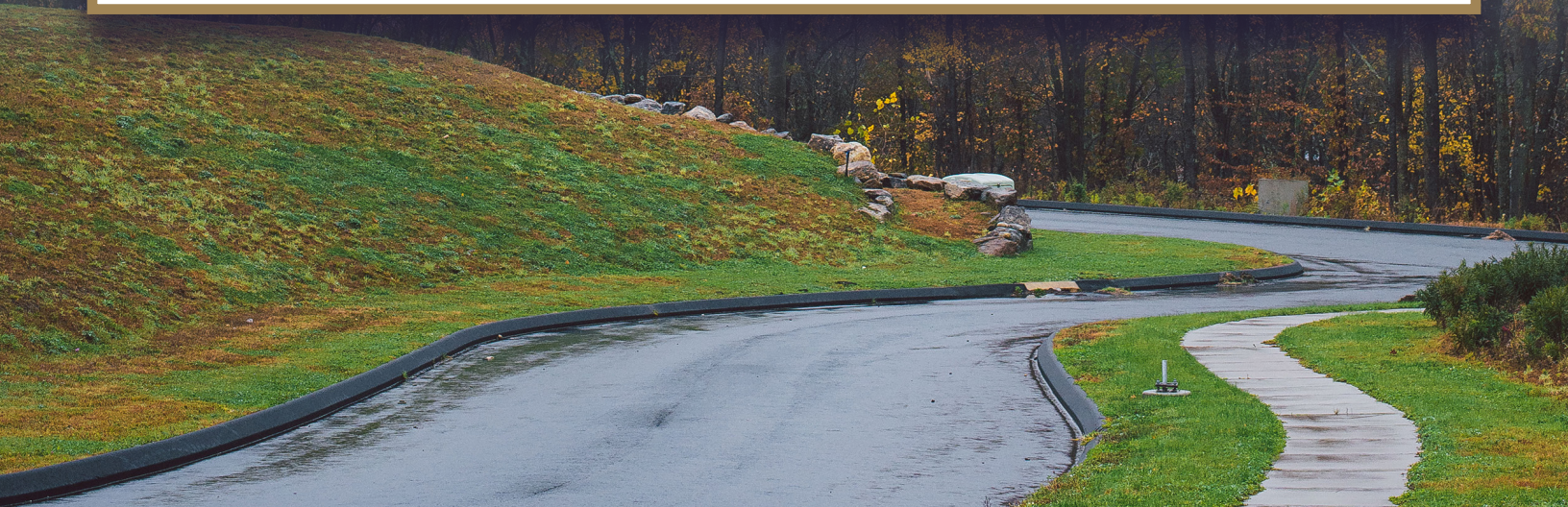
Rabbi Aryeh Reiss, a native of Los Angeles, California, is a talmid of the Telshe Yeshiva in Chicago, where he studied for 8 years and developed a lasting and close bond with the Rosh Yeshiva, Hagaon Harav Avrohom Chaim Levin, זצ"ל. Following his years at Telshe, he continued his studies at the famed Yeshivas Brisk in Eretz Yisroel and Bais Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, New Jersey. Rabbi Reiss spent his four kollel years in Eretz Yisroel, learning at Kollel Tiferes Tzvi (Brisker Kollel), and served as night seder Sho'el Umeishiv for bochurim in Bais Medrash L'Torah.

From there, Rabbi Reiss joined the staff of Yeshivas Ohr Hachaim as a Bais Medrash Sho'el Umeishiv, as well as rebbi in Mesivta Yesodei Yeshurun. His signature warmth and enthusiasm, along with his superior teaching abilities, made him a very successful and beloved rebbi.

Rabbi Reiss is our Menahel and 9th grade Rebbi. "My goal for each and every talmid is to give him the skills necessary to have fluency and confidence when approaching Gemara, Rashi, Tosfos, and Meforshim so that the pshat in the gemara is crystal clear." "Moreover," he adds, "I see it as my obligation to inspire in the bochurim an appreciation and a geshmak in their avodas Hashem, a love for learning, and an understanding of how fortunate they are to be B'nei Torah."

He always makes himself available for the bochurim, and the bochurim seek his guidance and counsel in all areas of life. Many of his former talmidim keep in close contact with Rabbi Reiss even after leaving his shiur.

A talmid of Rabbi Reiss has a rebbi for life.





## Rabbi Zvi Dana • 10th Grade Rebbi

Rabbi Zvi Dana began his bais medrash years in Yeshivas Ohr Hachaim and proceeded to learn in Eretz Yisroel for several years under Rav Tzvi Kaplan. He then learned in BMG in Lakewood and spent his Kollel years in Eretz Yisroel. Rabbi Dana was then encouraged by Harav Lander to return to Ohr Hachaim/Yesodei Yeshurun where he gave a shiur to first year bais medrash bochurim while also serving as a Sho’el Umeishiv for bais medrash bochrim, and Bekius Rebbi for the 9th grade hasmadah program.

Rabbi Dana is committed to nurturing his talmidim to grow in their learning while also providing them the tools and foundation to develop into refined B’nai Torah in every aspect. He forms warm and lasting relationships with his talmidim to help them with their development as they progress beyond the Yeshiva.



## Rabbi Yosef Goldfinger • 11th Grade Rebbi

Rabbi Goldfinger has created a name for himself as a mechanech who is able to connect with bochurim and inspire them to achievements in learning and avodas Hashem. He is renowned for his incisive lomdus and clarity of presentation. Rabbi Goldfinger began his bais medrash years in Yeshivas Ohr Hachaim and proceeded to learn in Eretz Yisroel for several years under Rav Asher Arieli and Rav Tzvi Kaplan. His early kollel years were spent in Eretz Yisrael in the Brisker Kollel. Upon his return to America, Rabbi Goldfinger joined Kollel Knesses Yisrael of Eltingville, Staten Island.

From Staten Island, Rabbi Goldfinger worked as a Night Seder Rebbi with bochurim for six years in Yeshiva Zichron Leyma, under the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Gershon Newman. He also served for over three years as a beloved Sho'el Umeishiv in Yeshiva Toras Chessed of Lakewood, under Rav Nossan Stein. Rabbi Goldfinger feels that when a rebbi does all he can to help a bochur grow in his learning, enabling the talmid to taste the sweetness of shteiging, the bochur can then truly achieve his potential.



## Rabbi Aharon Lander • 12th Grade Rebbi

Rabbi Lander joined our Mesivta after six years at the Brisker Kollel in Yerushalayim. During that time, he also served as the dedicated Rosh Kollel of Kollel Zichron Chaim Sender Zev, a night kollel in Ramat Eshkol.

Rabbi Lander spent his formative learning years at Mesivta Yesodei Yeshurun and Yeshivas Ohr Hachaim. He continued his limud haTorah at Yeshivas Ner Moshe (Rav Shalom Shechter) where he developed a close relationship with the renowned Rav Yaakov Lieberman. Rabbi Lander’s enthusiasm for learning and personal warmth is felt by all who know him.



## Rabbi Tzvi Thaler • 9th Grade Bekius Rebbi

Rabbi Thaler has been a popular rebbi for the last 20 years in Yeshiva Ateres Shmuel of Waterbury’s Bais Medrash. He is known for his tremendous clarity in giving over a sugya and for the keshet he develops with each talmid. Rabbi Thaler is also the maggid shiur in Waterbury for Dirshu’s Daf Yomi B’Halacha.

As a bochur, Rabbi Thaler learned in Yeshivas Ohr Hachaim in Queens followed by Ner Yisroel in Baltimore and the Mir Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel. He then spent time in Kollel in Eretz Yisroel learning under Rav Tzvi Kushelevsky in Yeshivas Heichal HaTorah and then joined the Yeshiva in Waterbury at its inception in the year 2000.



## Rabbi Moshe Halperin • Second Seder Sho'el Umeishiv

Rabbi Halperin learned in Yeshiva Gedola of Passaic for his bais medrash years, after which he learned in Eretz Yisroel in the Brisk Yeshiva of HaRav Avraham Yehoshua Soloveitchik.

He then learned in Bais Medrash Gavoha of Lakewood before returning to Eretz Yisroel for seven years of learning in HaRav Prager’s kollel in Yerushalayim. A talmud chacham with tremendous insight, outstanding clarity, and personal warmth, Rabbi Halperin is the ideal person to be our Sho'el Umeishiv.



## Rabbi Yehuda Joselit • Night Seder Sho'el Umeishiv

Rabbi Joselit spent his bais medrash years in Yeshivas Mir Yerushalayim and Yeshivas Rabeinu Chaim Berlin. He is known for the personalized attention he gives to every talmid and the energy towards Yiddishkeit that he imbues in them.

The energy and excitement that he brings to the bais medrash and the feeling that every minute of learning is priceless is felt by all. Rabbi Joselit believes that with this simchas hatorah, anyone can overcome obstacles and truly grow to great heights.





# FACULTY

## Dr. Jeffrey Levinson • General Studies Principal

Dr. Levinson, a New Haven native, earned a bachelor’s degree in English and master’s degrees in English, Education, Classroom Teacher Specialist, and Educational Leadership from Southern CT State University. Mr. Levinson holds Connecticut state certifications in English, Occupational Subjects in a Comprehensive High School, and School Administration. He recently completed his doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Levinson has over two decades’ experience in high school instruction, and administration in both secular and religious programs. He has spent his career building ethical education programs using innovative, integrated, hands-on learning approaches that prepare students to for life.



## Rabbi Yaakov Diskind • Assistant Administrator

As a founding member of the Naugatuck Kollel, Kollel Sifsei Dov, Rabbi Diskind is personally in tune with the workings of our campus, and is an exceptionally efficient and dedicated Assistant Administrator. Rabbi Diskind learned for many years at Ner Yisroel and at Ner Moshe, and served as devoted gabbai of Ner Yisroel. Rabbi Diskind brings his enthusiasm for the mission of chinuch, along with his outstanding organizational skills and attention to detail, to this important role.



## Rabbi Elimelech Gordon • Domitory Coordinator

After learning in Ner Yisroel in Baltimore and under Rav Tzvi Kaplan in Eretz Yisrael, Rabbi Gordon is now learning full-time in the Naugatuck Kollel, Kollel Sifsei Dov. He and his family live on campus, which allows him to be available for anything the bochurim may need. Whether a bachur is not feeling well or needs a listening ear, Rabbi Gordon is their address.



## Rabbi Yehuda Tzvi Selengut • Halacha & Jewish History

Rabbi Selengut is a highly sought after rebbi, community organizer, and mentor. He is an alumnus of Yeshivas Chaim Berlin, where he was a close talmid of the Rosh Yeshiva, and of Mir Yerushalayim, where he learned with HaRav Refoel Shmulevitz זצ"ל. Rabbi Selengut has a special interest and expertise in hilchos kashrus, and brings his excitement and passion to his classes and shiurim. Rabbi Selengut spent many years learning with mesivta bochurim in Chaim Berlin, and for the past eight years has been a beloved 6th grade rebbi in Yeshiva K’tana of Waterbury. Rabbi Selengut brings a palpable and infectious simcha to his chinuch, along with an engaging educational methodology. Known for his warmth and outgoing personality, Rabbi Selengut has spurred the Waterbury community to greater heights through his innovative learning programs.



## Mr. Nicholas Ancel • Computer Science & Business

Mr. Ancel holds a bachelor’s degree in Business and Marketing from ESSCA in France. He has over three decades of experience in the corporate world, has promoted hardware and software solutions in Europe and North America, and participated in the launch of three start-ups. In addition to teaching in Mesivta, Mr. Ancel co-manages a real estate services business and develops partnership programs for a software company. He is active in community development, serving on local boards and committees. He has previously taught ESL, and is currently enjoying bringing his skills and experience into the Computer Science and Business Math classrooms. He enjoys connecting to the students and building the essential skills and mindsets needed to prepare them for the business aspect of their lives.



## Dr. Joe Avitable • History

Dr. Avitable was born and raised in Connecticut. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Central Connecticut State University and a master’s degree in History and Economics from Trinity College in Hartford. In 2009, he completed a PhD in Economic History at the University of Rochester. Mr. Avitable has spent the last fifteen years researching the economic history of the Atlantic World from 1500 to 1850. Currently, he is publishing a book on Connecticut’s integration into the Atlantic Economy. He has taught at several colleges and universities, including Hobart and William Smith, Quinnipiac, Albertus Magnus, Middlesex Community College, and Northwestern Connecticut Community College. He resides in South Meriden, Connecticut.



## Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick • Language Arts

Mr. Fitzpatrick holds a bachelor’s degree with a concentration in English and a master’s degree in Education/Curriculum Development and Instruction from the University of Connecticut. He also earned a Connecticut state certification in Language Arts. Mr. Fitzpatrick has been teaching for over twelve years in both public and private education. In addition to his teaching experience, Mr. Fitzpatrick is an actor, performing in both theater and film productions. His training and stage experience have been key in engaging students with a deeper understanding and appreciation for literature and the arts.



## Rabbi Yechezkel Schuck • Algebra & Geometry

An alumnus of Yeshivas Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin, Rabbi Yechezkel Schuck moved to Waterbury as one of the founding kollel members of Yeshiva Ateres Shmuel of Waterbury. After Rabbi Schuck’s subsequent administrative positions, he transitioned to the field of school psychology. He holds a master’s in Education from Loyola University, Chicago and an M.S. in School Psychology from Touro College. In addition to teaching in Mesivta, Rabbi Schuck works for the Waterbury Public Schools.







# The Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah

## EXPERIENCE



SEDER HAYOM 5782	
LIMUDEI KODESH	
MONDAY – THURSDAY	
Shacharis	7:50
Breakfast	
Mussar	9:30/9:40 – 9:55/10:05
Shiur	9:55/10:05 – 12:40 (12th ends at 12:50)
A 25-minute break is given during the morning Shiur	
Lunch	12:40/12:50 – 1:30
Bekius/Chumash/Halacha (9th-11th)	1:30 – 2:50
Mincha	3:00
FRIDAY	
Dismissal	12:00
SUNDAY	
Mornings and Evenings follow the Monday-Thursday schedule.	
Mincha	3:00
Electives (9th-11th)	3:30-4:30
Second Seder (12th)	1:30-2:50, 3:15-4:30
Hasmadah Program	5:30-6:30
GENERAL STUDIES	
For 12th grade 1:40-2:55 followed by second seder at 3:35-6:15	
For 9th – 11th grades:	
Period 1	3:35-4:15
Period 2	4:20-5:00
Period 3	5:05-5:45
Period 4	5:50-6:30
NIGHT SEDER	
Night Seder	7:30-8:25
Maariv	8:30
Seder (optional for 9th–10th)	8:45-9:30



### Kollel Yungeleit Positively Impact Our Talmidim

We are privileged to share our campus with the Naugatuck Kollel, Kollel Sifsei Dov. The B'nei Torah and their families greatly enhance the Torahdik atmosphere in the Yeshiva, with their learning and kol Torah in the Beis Medrash all day and late into the night. The mesivta bochorim have benefited from their presence and enjoy nightly chavrusos with the kollel yungeleit.







# CAMPUS





# EVENTS & TRIPS





# Out and About



## Our Bais Medrash

### Mid-Renovations

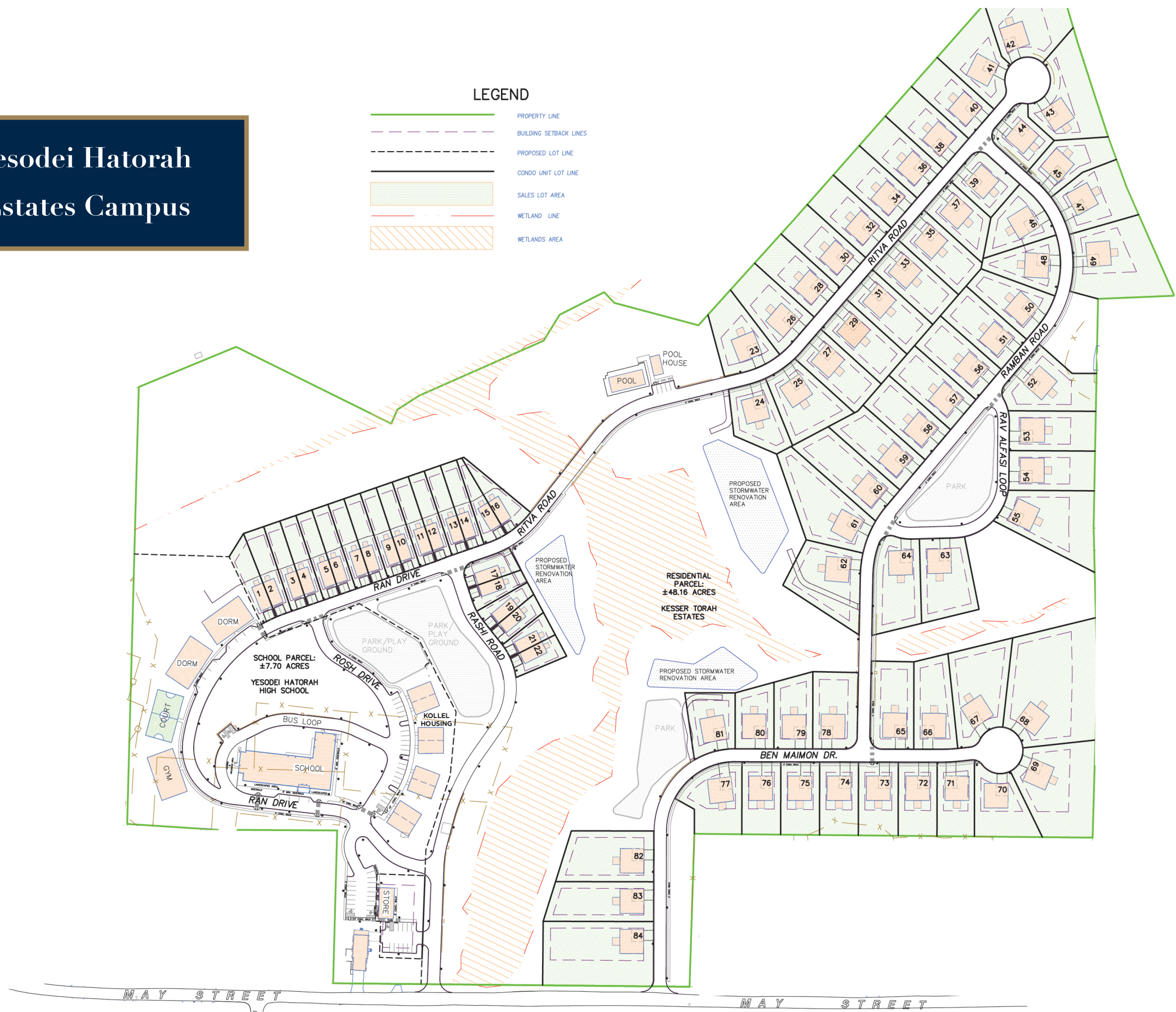


### Future Renderings





Map of Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah  
& Kesser Torah Estates Campus







# Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah

203-573-1801

[www.mesivtayerodeihatorah.org](http://www.mesivtayerodeihatorah.org)

