

Welcome!

Welcome to Halacha class at Temima High School. 5771-5772 promises to be an exciting and productive year at Temima. The following information is designed to inform you about this course. Please keep this syllabus at the front of your notebook for future reference.

In a very special way, *Halacha* is unique. *Halacha* informs us about how we, as *Hashem's* children, are to act in order to make a ***Kiddush Hashem*** in all that we do. When our actions are guided by *Hashem's* wisdom, they create a *Kiddush Hashem* on an entirely new level. Each time we involve ourselves in learning *Halacha*, let us have in mind: "**I am here to find out how I can create a *Kiddush Hashem* in my daily life.**" I hope and pray that this attitude will pervade our discussions.

#### Contact Information

You are welcome to e-mail me at [mpollock@temima.org](mailto:mpollock@temima.org) or call me on my cell at 678.488.7790. Please feel free to contact me with questions or to schedule an appointment.

#### Course Goals and Description

The goals of this course in *Halacha* include:

- A clear knowledge of the *Halacha* in areas relevant to young women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- An accurate perspective on the history and development of *Halacha* as well as a perspective on how *Halacha* is integrated into the life of a *Bas Yisrael*.
- A working familiarity with *Halachic* terms enabling students to discuss *Halachic* issues and ask a *shayla* of rabbis and *poskim* when necessary.

We are blessed with a school that has young women from a variety of Jewish backgrounds. For example, we have students from *ashkanazi* backgrounds, *sefardi* backgrounds as well as *chassidic* backgrounds. This beautiful tapestry of *Halachic* approaches and *minhagim* will be addressed in class whenever possible. Also, at appropriate times, please share your family's *Halachic* approach with your peers; we all will gain from this sharing.

The course will include lecture material and class discussion structured around Note Outline Sheets. Homework will include application questions and review questions as well as a variety of writing assignments. Occasionally, students will work in *chavrusa* pairs to prepare or review material.

The Twelfth Grade will be covering the following material: Perspectives in *Halacha*, *Hilchos Shabbos* including *Melachos 32-39* (Order IV), as well as *Shabbos Tefillos* and *Zmanim*, *Hilchos Kashrus*, as well as a review of *Hilchos Yomim Tovim*.

A unique aspect of the curriculum includes a special focus on **HILCHOS SHABBOS**. Since *Hilchos Shabbos* is a major focus of the curriculum, each year students are expected to memorize the entire list of 39 *Avos Melachos*. **Additionally, students must be prepared for an exam on *Hilchos Shabbos* at the end of the senior year, which will cover *Hilchos Shabbos* material from ALL FOUR YEARS AT TEMIMA.**

At Temima, we view *Halacha* as one four year-long course. Please take note of the *Halacha* Curriculum chart at the end of this syllabus.

### Required Supplies

- Each student is required to maintain a loose-leaf binder, labeled "Halacha" for the materials you will collect over all four years of this Halacha course. **This binder will be available as a reference for your entire life.**
- You must have seven dividers for this binder; you will receive a Table of Contents to place at the beginning of the notebook. At the end of each semester, be prepared for a notebook check to insure all the required materials are in place. Students are required to keep this notebook in good condition. Reinforcements should be used when necessary to insure all pages are in place. You are expected to have a complete, well-maintained notebook at the end of your senior year.
- Taking full and clear notes in class is a crucial aspect of your notebook grade.

### Grading Policies

If a student is absent, it is her responsibility to speak with me and arrange to make-up any work missed. Students should borrow notes from someone who was in class to catch up on missed work.

Mini-quizzes will often be given at the start or at the end of the period. Students should expect a total of two final exams, one in January and the other in June. The final in June will be cumulative starting from the very first class in August.

The grade breakdown for each semester is as follows:

Homework	15%
Quizzes	30%
Semester Final Exam	35%
Notebook	20%

### Behavioral Expectations

*Derech erez kadma laTorah.*

I teach Torah when it is totally quiet.

#### Questions

- Addressing your questions is extremely important, especially in an applied course such as Halacha. As a general classroom procedure, I will typically lecture for 10-15 minutes and then stop to take questions. Please be patient and do not interrupt the flow of ideas so that entire concepts may be explained fully. If you are concerned you might forget your question, write it down; the back of the Note Outline Sheets are blank and may be used for this purpose. Remember, if you have a question, one of your peers might have the same question and will benefit from your raising it in class.
- In addition to asking questions in class, yellow "Ask the Rabbi" notes will be available for your use. You may ask questions related to class or general Torah questions that you are interested in finding out more about. You may give these to me or leave these for me in my box in the office anonymously, if you choose. I will be sure to answer your questions within the next few classes.

**Tardiness**

It is very important that you arrive on time to class. Coming late disrupts whatever is happening in class and detracts from your peers.

**Food**

As discussed in the Student Handbook, only water bottles are acceptable. Please do not bring other drinks or food into the room.

**Bathroom Breaks**

You are young adults and as such should monitor the time you take away from classroom discussion. As explained in the Student Handbook, students must limit their bathroom break to five minutes. Only one person is allowed to take a break at a time so be aware someone else may be waiting for you to return.

I am very excited to be teaching you Torah at this extremely important juncture in your lives. I am sincerely interested in seeing each and every *talmida* succeed. Your growth as a person, as a student, and especially as a G-d fearing Jew is my main concern in the classroom. Please make it a point to speak with me about successes as well as challenges. If you are frustrated for any reason, please bring this to my attention so that we can guarantee your success in the learning of *Halachal*