

Keeping an Eye on PTI



VISITING PRINCIPAL PROGRAM



The iconic picture titled “The Loneliest Job” captured John F. Kennedy from behind, standing alone at his desk in front of the Oval Office windows, with the world’s weight on his shoulders. Often, a leader, surrounded by so many people vying for his or her attention, truly has no one to speak to, to learn from, or to turn to for a fresh perspective.

School principals engage day-to-day with one school in one community, and the opportunity to step out of this bubble is not readily available. The principal’s ability to learn can be hampered by natural limits on his or her exposure to ideas beyond the four walls of one school. The principal’s problem-solving capacity may be restricted to tired solutions that are not up to the challenge of the moment.

To address this, the Consortium of Jewish Day Schools has developed a new Principal Visitation program, where principals spend a day or two in another school, observing, sharing, and learning together.

The visiting principal can be a veteran visiting a school with a principal earlier in their career. In other cases, new principals have the opportunity to visit and spend a day with a veteran principal at his home school. Visiting principals see the host school in action, observe classes, meet with teachers and school leaders, and engage with the broader school community, including board members and other lay leaders.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Principal Visitation program gives the Consortium a window into the challenges and needs of the host schools and their principals while helping the host schools and visiting principals, allowing fresh ideas to germinate and solutions to be shared.

Recently, **Rabbi Avi Pekier** of Torah Day School of Dallas visited **Rabbi Yerachmiel Garfield** in Yeshiva Torat Emet (Houston). Reflecting on the visit, Rabbi Garfield said that principals can “get used to their own reality, so having another set of eyes come, walk around the classes, see the interactions and the people in the school helps us identify areas of strength and possible areas of improvement.” In addition to these observations, Rabbi Pekier had the chance to deliver a message to the *talmidim* and address the *rebbeim* during his visit.

Rabbi Yosef Bondi from Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu (Los Angeles) traveled to San Diego to spend a day with **Rabbi Benjamin Geiger** at San Diego Hebrew Day School. Rabbi Bondi appreciated how the visit afforded him the opportunity “to gain fresh perspectives on effective educational practices, particularly in the areas of curriculum, classroom management, student engagement, and the overall happiness of the *talmidim* and talmidos.” Rabbi Geiger also found the visit to be helpful, expressing that “hosting Rabbi Bondi offered a unique opportunity for self-reflection and growth. His fresh perspective allowed us to see our curriculum, personnel, and school culture through a new lens, highlighting both strengths and areas for improvement. The conversations provided valuable insights that reinforced our successes and

sparked ideas for further development, enhancing our approach to delivering quality education and fostering a positive school environment.”

Rabbi Shlomo Newman from Yeshiva Bais Yehudah (Detroit) is scheduled to spend a day at Cincinnati Hebrew Day School with **Rabbi Yitzchok Goldstein**. Rabbi Newman values the Consortium’s facilitation of visits because “it connects us with fellow *menahalim* in a structured fashion with the clear goal of collaborating to better both schools with a continued partnership system.”

Rabbi Isaac Entin hosted five principals for a day at Caskey Hebrew Academy (Philadelphia): **Rabbi Aaron Kutnowski** from Torah Day School of Ottawa, **Rabbi Aryeh Kravetz** from Toras Chaim (Norfolk), **Rabbi Aryeh Birnhack** from Hasten Hebrew Academy (Indianapolis), **Rabbi Binyamin Levin** from Torah Academy of Jacksonville, and **Rabbi Geiger** from Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School. (Pictured on the first page, Rabbi Entin and the visiting *menahalim* are meeting with Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky.)

Principals engaging in cross-school visits is a valuable practice that fosters professional growth and collaboration in the Jewish day school community. Rabbi Bondi highlighted the fact that a “visit can foster a sense of community and collaboration between *yeshivos*, creating opportunities for joint initiatives and sharing resources that benefit both.” The Principal Visitation initiative seeks to foster this growth and collaboration as we continue to support Jewish day schools across the country and the world.



RABBI AVI PEKIER
Torah Day School of Dallas



RABBI ISAAC ENTIN
Caskey Hebrew Academy (Philadelphia)



RABBI YOSEF BONDI
Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu (Los Angeles)



RABBI AARON KUTNOWSKI
Torah Day School of Ottawa



RABBI BENJAMIN GEIGER
San Diego Hebrew Day School



RABBI ARYEH KRAVETZ
Toras Chaim (Norfolk)



RABBI SHLOMO NEWMAN
Yeshiva Bais Yehudah (Detroit)



RABBI ARYEH BIRNHACK
Hasten Hebrew Academy (Indianapolis)



RABBI YITZCHOK GOLDSTEIN
Cincinnati Hebrew Day School



RABBI BINYAMIN LEVIN
Torah Academy of Jacksonville

TALKING CHINUCH: SUPPORTING JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

HADRACHA. CHIZUK. CHAVERSCHAFT.

Since joining the Consortium staff, Rabbi Dovid Engel has undertaken to guide schools and *menahalim* in a variety of hands-on ways. In just a short time, his projects on behalf of *chinuch* institutions and their leaders have made an outsized impact.

Coming up this December will be the second annual *Menahalim Talking Chinuch* conference, where over 75 *menahalim* are expected to gather for *Shabbos* to connect and learn from each other, bringing *chizuk* and fresh ideas back to their schools. These conventions are the outgrowth of the twice-monthly *Menahalim Talking Chinuch Zoom* meetings, when *menahalim* discuss topics related to *chinuch* following an agenda sent to them a few days in advance.

Rabbi Engel's Daily Memo email goes out Sunday through Friday to over 100 *menahalim* and includes tips, advice, stories, and invaluable guidance, setting the tone for quality, professional, and *Torahdik* school leadership. For example, a Daily Memo sent two weeks prior to *Rosh Hashana* advised *menahalim* to remind their *rebbeim* about preparing packets about the upcoming *Yamim Tovim* – and guided them to ask their *rebbeim* to share it with the *menahel* before sending it home. The memo also provided recommendations about holding a *kapparos* event in school and a *simchas bais hashoeva* on *Chol Hamoed Sukkos*, when appropriate.

In addition, Rabbi Engel spends time on the road, visiting schools to meet with principals, observe *rebbeim*,

and share ideas. Rabbi Engel recently presented at the schoolwide professional development day in Torah Prep School of St. Louis. Mrs. Racheli Staum, the school's *menahel*, said, "My teachers gained so much from Rabbi Engel's visit. He presented many practical ideas in an engaging and clear way and the teachers walked away with many tools that they can implement right away." Rabbi Yossi Golombeck, *menahel*, reflected, "Rabbi Engel's down-to-earth style made him very enjoyable to listen to and his presentation offered many practical ideas and strategies for the staff to utilize in their classrooms."

Schools can partner with the Consortium to have an ongoing relationship with Rabbi Engel, including regular visits, formal assessments, and the development of improvement plans. Part of Rabbi Engel's effort includes mentoring new principals and mentoring *rebbeim* who are looking to move into leadership positions. Besides supporting *menahalim*, Rabbi Engel runs the *Rebbeim Talking Chinuch* program, leading question-and-answer sessions on *Motzaei Shabbos* throughout the year.

Whether he is at an in-person school visit or on a video conference, working with a *menahel* or a *rebbei*, doing strategic planning or crisis management, the mission of the Consortium of Jewish Day Schools – empowerment, development, and improvement of Jewish day schools across North America, promoting best practices and using traditional *Torah* values – is supported by Rabbi Engel's work.



Rabbi Dovid Engel, *Menahel* of MTC and RTC, was a *rebbe* and a *menahel* for many years, most recently the *menahel* of The Toronto Cheder.

SENIOR PRINCIPAL CONSULTING



Back home after several days on the road visiting a school, **Mrs. Miriam Gettinger** described with excitement her role as a senior principal consultant for the Consortium of Jewish Day Schools.

“Our goal is to bring schools beyond crisis management to a stance of strategic planning and organizational improvement.”

Mrs. Gettinger retired last summer after four decades as a Jewish day school principal in South Bend and Indianapolis. Over the last 25 years, she has visited schools across the United States and Canada as a consultant, covering the diverse spectrum of Jewish education, from community schools where many of the students are not *Shomer Shabbos* to schools in the *Bais Yaakov* tradition, including boys’ schools, girls’ schools, and co-ed schools, ranging from early childhood to high school.

A visiting senior principal can get a 360-degree view of the school, not only from the perspective of the principal or the teacher, but also from the vantage point of lay leadership and parents, and most importantly, from the perspective of the student. On one recent school visit, Mrs. Gettinger observed a wonderful culture of *simchas hachaim* and effective use of technology in instruction, and she spent time seeing what it’s like to be a middle school boy in the Jewish day school nowadays, especially as it relates to the disparity of experience between the *limudei kodesh* and the general studies. “My visit underscored the need for engagement with parents, who set the tone for their children, to understand a general studies curriculum that has value beyond the academic content. What parent doesn’t want their son to learn to be a mensch and develop communication and problem-solving skills?”

Rabbi Heshy Glass, chairman of the Consortium, envisions Mrs. Gettinger’s efforts to complement what Rabbi Dovid Engel has been building with his *menahalim* programming and support, with outreach to *menahalos* and girls’ schools. The senior principal consultant helps a school leader center those important but not urgent priorities, such as school culture, curriculum and professional development, and student-centeredness, helping to empower, develop, and improve Jewish day schools across North America.

MENAHALOS TALKING CHINUCH

SUPPORTING FEMALE EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

Building on the success of the *Menahalim Talking Chinuch* program, the Consortium has embarked upon a “sister program” for women in leadership positions in Jewish education. *Menahalos Talking Chinuch* was launched this fall, under the leadership of Dr. Ahuvah Heyman, school director of Bnos Yisroel in Baltimore.

The group of *menahalos* includes principals, assistant principals, heads of school, leaders of girls’ schools as well as boys’ schools, and runs the gamut from pre-school through high school. As the Consortium looks to support female school leadership, MTC provides a place to connect and have candid conversations, sharing learning and ideas. Mrs. Heyman explained that “leadership is sometimes lonely, particularly in very big or very small schools,” so providing this kind of forum can give school leaders the clarity and

strength they need to provide high-level *chinuch* in their schools and communities.

The first monthly virtual meeting was held after *Sukkos*. In advance of the meeting, Mrs. Heyman focused the conversation by asking everyone to consider their response to a question she shared. Mrs. Heyman explained that questions women have are different than the ones that their male peers ask. Participants found the tone of the meeting to be safe, meaningful, and personal.

In addition to the monthly meetings, there are plans for an MTC WhatsApp group and a *Shabbaton* as well. Mrs. Heyman stresses that “everyone is welcome” in the group and is excited about how this initiative stands to help further develop female educational leaders.



MENAHALOS TALKING CHINUCH

EVENING ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



with **Dr. Ahuvah Heyman**



- Explore topics relating to your professional practice
- Join roundtable discussions and gain new perspectives
- Connect with colleagues and expand your network
- Share your expertise and identify new resources

Dr. Ahuvah Heyman has spent the last 25 years helping to grow Bnos Yisroel of Baltimore from 90 preschool students to 540 students in Preschool, Elementary, Middle School and High School divisions as “one school” in one building. With a doctorate in Educational Leadership and a passion for maximizing the potential of each staff member, Dr. Heyman sees challenges as opportunities and empowers her staff to consistently do things better. As the mother of five girls and five boys, she has so far only convinced two of her daughters to become teachers!



אמון 21 ישיבות יומיות
CONSORTIUM OF
JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

**לעבוד
בכל לבבכם**

**DAVENING
WITH DEPTH**

קריאת שמע וברכותיה

STUDENT WORKBOOK קריאת שמע \$17.00
TEACHER EDITION קריאת שמע \$20.00

Here we praise 'n not just for creating light and darkness but for His creations.

משפד 'ה כלם בחמה עשית מלאה הארץ קנה

What two words are used to describe 'n's creations?

1) _____ 2) _____

Looking at the רוב – the vast magnitude of 'n's creation (plants, people) and then looking at how each was created, complexity can only leave one amazed at 'n's ability.

Let's practice.

List examples of 'n's vast creations and then write one wisdom with which they were created next to each.

קלם בחמה עשית

The human eye

Eye consist

Which details of 'n's creation does it describe? Write in their corresponding pictures.

- מנצחם שלמה
- קלמבורים תנית
- הבורך שלמה
- ובסיחם נשנית
- ודדים נשנית
- ודדים הנכרת
- תקנו ירדיום נשנית
- שירית והשנית

Look at the three opinions below:



רש"י דברים וד'
(1) 'ה אלקינו ה' אחד: ה' שהוא אלקינו עתה, ולא אלקי האמות, הוא עתיד להיות ה' אחד. שנאמר "כי אז אהפך אל עמים שפה ברורה לקרוא כלם בשם ה'", (ואמר "ביום ההוא יקרא ה' אחד ושמו אחד".)
It is our G-d; 'n is One: 'n, who is now our G-d and not the G-d of the other nations, He is destined in the future to be "the One G-d," as it is said: "For then I will turn to the peoples a pure language for all of them call in the name of 'n." And it says: "On that day 'n will be one and His name will be one."
According to 'n what does it mean that 'n is 'n?



ספר היצונו מצות תו'
(2) שנצטוו לאומין כי הוסיף יתברך הוא המגביל כל המציאות אדון הכל אחד בלי שום שיתוף שאומר שמע ישראל ה' אלקינו ה' אחד.
That we were commanded to believe that 'n, blessed is He, He is the driver of all existence, Master of All, everything is One, without any partner, as it says, "Listen Israel, 'n our G-d, 'n is One."
According to the ספר היצונו what does it mean that 'n is 'n?



רשב"ם דברים וד'
(3) 'ה, He alone is Our G-d...
How does 'n remind us of 'n and His תורה?
How does 'n remind us of 'n?



מנחת מנח
חזא היה ר' מאיר אומר מה נשתנה תבל ממי בוצעו ממנו שהתבל וחה לים וים וחה לרקיע ורקיע לכולם ובורך שאומר (שמות כד.) וחתת חלל בפשה לפני המטה...
It is taught in a Gemara: Rabbi Meir would say, "How is 'n different from all other types of colors? It is because 'n is similar to the sea, and the sea is similar to the sky, and the sky is similar to the Throne of Glory, as it is says 'and under His feet was like the shape of a sapphire stone..."
According to the Gemara the blue 'n reminds us of other blue items which eventually remind us of 'n:



The goal of a yeshiva day school education is to inspire our students to live a life connected to תורה, מצוות, and Hashem. A major component of that is to encourage students to daven in a meaningful way. If we want our students to love the opportunity that they have to speak to Hashem, we need to help them understand what they are doing.

The Davening with Depth series was developed with this goal in mind. This engaging and interactive curriculum of קריאת שמע וברכותיה is designed to personalize this daily תפילה, shifting students' recitation of תפילה from robotic to robust. This dynamic guide strives to deepen the students' understanding of content while increasing their engagement with the text through reflective practice, thought provoking questions, and inspiring stories. Geared to a diverse student population, this curriculum provides educators and students with a range of tools to make this מצוה meaningful and purposeful.

DAVENING WITH DEPTH

COJDS.ORG/ORDER



JOIN 20,000+ STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE JSAT EXAMS TO DATE

NOW AVAILABLE!

JSAT 5

JUDAIC STUDIES ACHIEVEMENT TEST

JSAT LEVEL 5 HEBREW LANGUAGE (שפה)

JSAT Level 5 Stand-alone Hebrew Exam Overview

- *Developed by:* Ms. Tammy Masar, North Shore Hebrew Academy, in collaboration with Middle School Hebrew Language Specialists
- *Exam Content:*
Listening Comprehension | Reading Comprehension | Hebrew Grammar
- *Format:* 40 multiple-choice questions featuring two levels of difficulty to accommodate both emerging and advanced learners
- *Purpose:* Distinguish student proficiency levels to support targeted learning paths

Elevate Hebrew Language Mastery with Precision and Insight!

MENAHALIM TALKING CHINUCH

SHABBOS



חינוך לדורות; CHINUCH INROADS THAT TRANSCEND GENERATIONS

AT



| 123 SCOTCH VALLEY RD | STAMFORD, NY

שבת פרשת ויצא

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

— EXCLUSIVELY FOR MENAHALIM —

SPEAKERS:

HaRav Chaim Mintz
HaRav Heshy Rubanowitz
Rabbi Heshy Glass
Rabbi Shimon Russell
Rabbi Dovid Engel

MTC

- Daily Memo from Rabbi Engel
- Bi-monthly MTC Zoom chinuch discussions
- Divrei Chizuk from Roshei Yeshiva and mechanchim
- In-person get togethers
- Hadracha in chinuch/school visits
- Personable environment
- Excellent chaverschaft

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST YEAR'S MTC SHABBOS

Keynote address by Mashgiach, HaRav Noach Orlowek | Chinuch Approach: Plan A vs. Plan B
Launch of Rabbeim Talking Chinuch | A Chizuk in the Chavershaft between Menahalim

“The concept of a Menahalim retreat gave a lot of needed chizuk for the “lonely” Menahel. The “farbrenging” with like-minded people was heartwarming and meaningful. Many practical ideas came up from the drashos and discussions. I returned to yeshiva invigorated with a sense of fulfillment!”

— Attendee of MTC Shabbos 5784

For more information, please email cengel@cojds.org

Thanks to a generous sponsor, this event is free of charge for principals and their spouses.



CoJDS is pleased to offer
monthly opportunities to connect with your peers 

MENAHALIM TALKING CHINUCH

Tuesday, November 19, 2024
2:30PM EST

REBBEIM TALKING CHINUCH

Motzei Shabbos, November 16, 2024
9:00PM EST



with **Rabbi Dovid Engel**

MENAHALOS TALKING CHINUCH

EVENING ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

with **Dr. Ahuvah Heyman**



Wednesday, November 20, 2024
8:00PM EST

The Support Suite:
School-Based Mental Health Professionals



with **Dr. Eli Shapiro**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024
3:00PM EST

Principal Podium:
General Studies



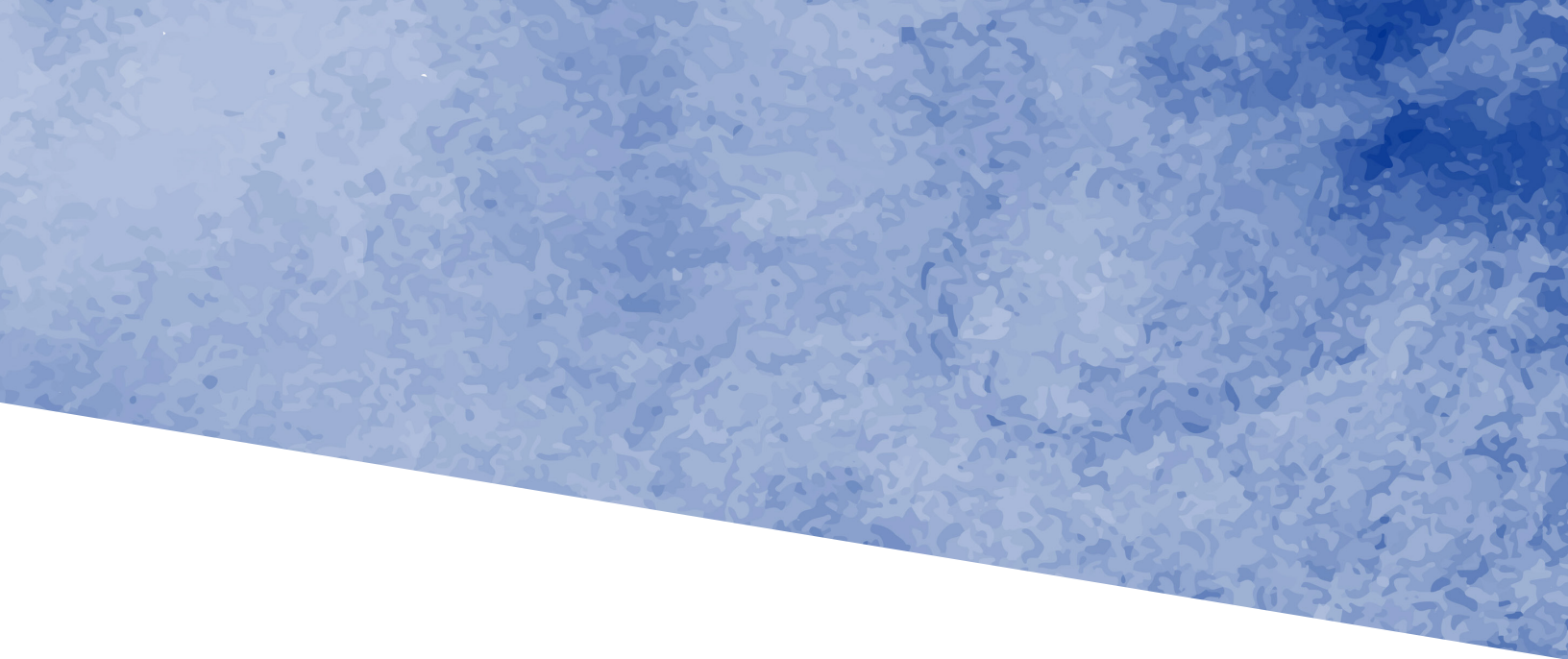
A COUNCIL FOR GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPALS



with **Brittney Friedman**

Thursday, November 14, 2024
7:00PM EST

- Explore topics relating to your professional practice
- Join roundtable discussions and gain new perspectives
- Connect with colleagues and expand your network
- Share your expertise and identify new resources



New York Office

810 Seventh Avenue, 28th floor
New York, NY 10019
www.cojds.org

Cedarhurst Office

395 Pearsall Avenue
Cedarhurst, NY 11516
516.368.3333