



# The Ira and Diana Riklis Seminary

## MIDRESHET TORAT CHESSED

*IMPACT A CHILD'S LIFE,  
ENRICH YOUR OWN*



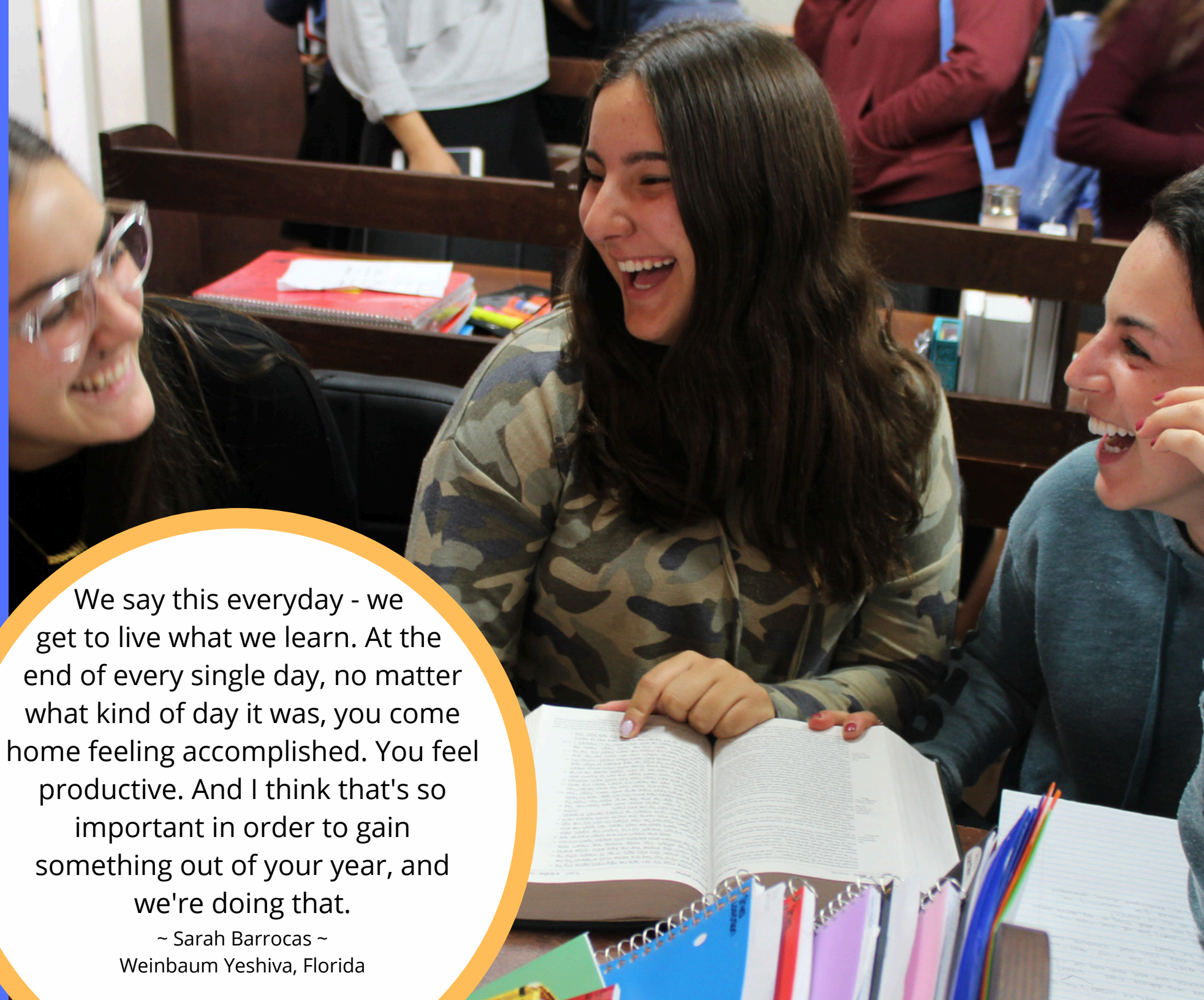




# Torat Yisrael. Am Yisrael. Eretz Yisrael.

Spend your year in the Holy Land learning Torah and making a difference in the life of a child.





We say this everyday - we get to live what we learn. At the end of every single day, no matter what kind of day it was, you come home feeling accomplished. You feel productive. And I think that's so important in order to gain something out of your year, and we're doing that.

~ Sarah Barrocas ~  
Weinbaum Yeshiva, Florida



# DAILY SCHEDULE

# TORAH

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:40am		Morning Inspiration	Morning Inspiration	Morning Inspiration	Morning Inspiration
9:00 - 9:55am	<b>Hilchot Shabbat</b> Rav Ross	<b>Jewish Life Cycles</b> Alexis	<b>Hilchot Shabbat</b> Rav Ross	<b>Olam HaTefilah</b> Rav Yehoshua	<b>Jewish Life Cycles</b> Alexis
	<b>Hilchot Kashrut</b> Rav Sunshine	<b>Mishlei</b> Rav Sunshine	<b>Hilchot Kashrut</b> Rav Sunshine	<b>Ripped from the Headlines</b> Rav Effie	<b>Mishlei</b> Rav Sunshine
	<b>Hilchot Brachot</b> Rav Block	<b>Meaning in Mitzvot</b> Rav Tuvia	<b>Hilchot Brachot</b> Rav Block	<b>In His Image</b> Rav Sunshine	<b>Meaning in Mitzvot</b> Rav Tuvia
10:00 - 10:55am	<b>Philosophy &amp; Ethics of the Rav</b> Rav Block	<b>Woman to Woman: Creating a New You</b> Lani	<b>Philosophy &amp; Ethics of the Rav</b> Rav Block	<b>Derech Hashem</b> Rav Yehoshua	<b>Woman to Woman: Creating a New You</b> Lani
	<b>13 Principles of Faith</b> Alexis	<b>Roots of Identity</b> Rav Yonaton	<b>13 Principles of Faith</b> Alexis	<b>Holocaust to Redemption</b> Rav Effie	<b>Roots of Identity</b> Rav Yonaton
	<b>Jewish Beginnings</b> Rav Ross	<b>Megilot</b> Rav Tuvia	<b>Jewish Beginnings</b> Rav Ross	<b>Tefillah - Communicating with the Creator I</b> Esther	<b>Megilot</b> Rav Tuvia
11:00 - 11:55am	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Rav Sunshine	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Madrichot	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Rav Sunshine	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Lauren	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Madrichot
	<b>Mesilat Yesharim</b> Shira	<b>The Power of Tehilim</b> Rav Tuvia	<b>Mesilat Yesharim</b> Shira	<b>Modern Jewfluencers</b> Rav Effie	<b>The Power of Tehilim</b> Rav Tuvia
	<b>Rebbe Nachman's Life Advice</b> Rav Yonaton	<b>Living Emumah</b> Lani	<b>Rebbe Nachman's Life Advice</b> Rav Yonaton	<b>Thirteen Petalled Rose: Rav Steinsaltz on Spirituality</b> Rav Yehoshua	<b>Living Emumah</b> Lani
12:00 - 12:55pm	<b>The Reasons Why</b> Estee	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Lauren	<b>The Reasons Why</b> Estee	<b>Ulpán</b> Sara	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Lauren
	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Rav Ross	<b>Netiv HaTzniut</b> - Maharal Rav Yonaton	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Rav Ross	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Esther	<b>Parsha Chabura</b> Rav Sunshine, Rav Tuvia, Shira, Alexis, Lauren
	<b>Raza d'Shabbos - The Secret of Shabbat</b> Rav Sunshine	<b>Between the Lines: Midrashic Journeys</b> Rav Tuvia	<b>Raza d'Shabbos - The Secret of Shabbat</b> Rav Sunshine	<b>The World of Chassidic Thought</b> Esther	
	<b>Women in Tanach</b> Estee	<b>Nach B'Kiyut</b> Alexis	<b>Women in Tanach</b> Estee	<b>Be Halachic</b> Shira	
	<b>Mastering our World of Thought</b> Rav Ross	<b>Getting to Know your Soul</b> - Bilvavi Lauren	<b>Mastering our World of Thought</b> Rav Ross	<b>Bringing the Torah to Life</b> Lauren	
	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Nati	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Rav Sunshine	<b>Bet Midrash</b> - Sophie	<b>Tomer Devorah: 13 Attributes of G-d</b> Rav Sunshine	<b>Parsha Shiur</b> Rav Yonaton




# DAILY SCHEDULE

## CHESSSED

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
12:55pm	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements
1:00	Lunch & Break	Lunch & Break	Lunch & Break	Lunch & Break	Lunch & Break
1:15	Lunch Class	Lunch Class	Lunch Class	Lunch Class	Lunch Class
3:40	Mincha/Cessed Announcements Torah To Take with Rav Ross	Free Afternoon & Evening	Mincha/Cessed Announcements Torah To Take with Rav Ross	Mincha/Cessed Announcements Ulpan with Madrichot	Mincha/Cessed Announcements Ulpan with Madrichot
4:00-7:00pm	Cessed with BE Children		Cessed with BE Children	Cessed with BE Children	Cessed with BE Children
7:00-8:00pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
8:00-9:30pm	Night Seder Rav Sunshine & Rav Aronson	8:00-9:00pm Optional Learning & Pizza with Nati	Night Seder Rav Felberg & Guest Speaker	Growth Through Kindness Shira & Sara	Bayit Cham/ Mishmar/ Off
12:00am	Curfew	Curfew (1:00am)	Curfew	Curfew	Curfew





I feel blessed to be able to have such meaningful and spiritual learning every morning! The teachers here inspire me each and every day to be the best version of myself. In the afternoon I have the opportunity to do chess with 10 beautiful girls. I'm so grateful to be a part of their lives and have them as a part of mine.

~ Melanie Mashmoor ~  
Fuchs Mizrachi, OH



# The Power of Learning. The Power of Giving.

Learn to recognize your own talents and strengths,  
and learn the power of your ability to give.

I came to MTC to give to these kids but I've realised that the truth is they give so much to us without even realising it. Whenever I'm having a hard day, spending time with the kids always manages to uplift me and turn my mood around. What's really inspiring is that we all have so much and they physically have so little, but they don't let that get to them. That they're so full of love and life in spite of the difficult backgrounds that they come from is a lesson to me every day in not only appreciating how lucky I've been, but in how it's not where we've come from that should define us, but where we choose to go.

~ Gabriella Glausiusz ~  
Hasmonean Girls School, UK

Having a complete balance of Torah and Chessed in our day is such a beautiful concept that you cannot find anywhere else. Not only have I learned so much here and done so much chessed, I have made such genuinely amazing friends. I am forever grateful for the wonderful experiences that this year has brought me, and for the everlasting memories made here at MTC.

- Emma Schneider -  
The Seven Hills School, OH

## Become an Integral Part of a Child's Life

Be there for the children of Bet Elazraki, and discover what it means to live what you learn.



# STAFF



## **SHIRA MELAMED - DIRECTOR**

After making aliyah at a young age, Shira went to complete her National Service and then continued on to Bar Ilan University where she received her degree in Social Work. Shira's background in mental health has proven essential to our students' personal development throughout their year at MTC. Her focus on individual growth allows for an environment of warmth and acceptance in which our students are able to thrive. Her passion for chessed and learning is contagious both in and outside the classroom.



## **ALEXIS LEVY - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Alexis is originally from Manchester, England. She studied for her first degree in Michlala Jerusalem where she received a B. Ed. with excellence in Tanach and Toshba and the education department's prize of distinction. Alexis also has a Masters in Jewish Philosophy from Herzog College, where she received the department's scholarship for academic excellence. She has many years of experience in both formal and informal education in a number of seminaries in Israel. Students gravitate towards her warmth and unconditional love.



## **NATANELLA (NATI) LOPUKHIN - EIM BAYIT**

Nati grew up in Staten Island, New York. During her gap year at MTC, she discovered her passion for Israel, which deepened her connection to her Judaism. Returning to MTC as a Chessed Coordinator, she also pursued her degree in Business & Marketing. She then spent a fulfilling year as a madricha for Aish in Jerusalem. Now, Nati is thrilled to return back together with her husband Ben to MTC, a place she considers home.



## **RABBI MICHAEL SUNSHINE - ROSH BEIT MIDRASH**

Rav Sunshine grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. After graduating University of Pennsylvania, he studied at Yeshiva University and at Yeshivat Hamivtar. Rav Sunshine and his wife Ariella made Aliyah with their children from Colorado where he was the Director of Jewish Student Connection. Previously, Rav Sunshine taught in the Torah Learning Center Kollel and worked as the Assistant Rabbi of Congregation in Texas. He is dedicated to helping all of his students deepen their connection with Am Yisrael.



## **SARA DINERSHTAIN - CHESSED COORDINATOR**

Sara was born and raised in Israel. For the past 12 years, she and her husband Yossi have dedicated their lives to working in Beit Elazraki children's home, nurturing and supporting the children. Now, as our Chessed Coordinator, Sara brings that same warmth and dedication to MTC. She lives in Netanya with her husband and their two adorable children. Sara's commitment to kindness and community shines through in everything she does.




## **SOPHIE FELBERG - OFFICE MANAGER**

Sophie grew up in Hendon, London. After completing further studies in Art and Design she came to Israel and spent time at a number of Jerusalem's leading seminaries. Sophie and her husband made aliyah in 2016 and she found her new home as Office Manager of MTC. Sophie regularly hosts girls for shabbat in her home in Harish, where is the Rabbanit of Kehillat Derech Eretz. She is also a certified kallah teacher and a mother to her three gorgeous children.

Rav Tuvia Aronson - Ellie Ausubel - Rav Dr. Avi Block - Rav Boruch Boudilovsky - Esther Farkovits -  
Rav Yehoshua Felberg - Lauren Friedman - Rav Effie Kleinberg - Estee Lightstone - Lani Margolias -  
Ariel Pulvar - Rav Aharon Ross - Raiya Rubin



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a black headband with silver cat ears and a black long-sleeved shirt, is smiling and hugging a young boy from behind. The boy is also smiling and wearing a black shirt. They are both looking at the camera. The background is a simple indoor setting with a tiled floor and a white wall. A yellow circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text. Another yellow circular graphic is overlaid on the bottom left corner, containing more text.

People often call this year  
a 'selfish' year. Only at MTC  
have I learned that being  
selfish and selfless is not  
an oxymoron, but a  
fulfilling way of life – with  
the combination of Torah  
and Chessed

- Rivki Portnoy -  
Yavneh Girls, UK

MTC is the perfect balance.  
Interesting and inspiring  
classes in the morning and the meaningful  
chedded in the afternoon leaves me with the  
most incredible feeling. Giving back to the  
children in the children's home feels like I'm  
giving back to myself too and every single day  
feels like a reward.

~ Daniella Chernow ~  
SAR, NY

# FAQS

## Where is the Midrasha located? Where do the students live?

MTC is located on the Bet Elazraki campus in the beautiful city of Netanya. Our Bet Midrash and classrooms provide the perfect setting for our students to spend their mornings and evenings immersed in their Torah learning. The learning and environment of the Midrasha has a profound impact on the Home.

Our students live in three gorgeous villas within a few minutes walk of the main Bet Elazraki campus. The large villas allow our students to make themselves at home and enable them to form close bonds with each other. At MTC, we pride ourselves on our unique family atmosphere.

## What kind of city is Netanya? Is there anything interesting to do there?

Netanya is a vibrant and picturesque coastal city with all the amenities of a large city, but the peace and quiet of a suburb. MTC is located within a 10 minute walk of the beautiful boardwalk and separate beach. There are malls, restaurants, supermarkets, stores and pharmacies all within walking distance as well – not to mention the ‘kikar’ – the central Netanya square! There is a bus stop at the end of our street with municipal buses as well as buses to Jerusalem and other cities.

## How close is MTC to Jerusalem?

Netanya is around an hour and fifteen minutes by car from Jerusalem. The bus takes around an hour and a half to travel between the two cities. We provide transportation to Jerusalem for "out Shabbatot" as well as Monday evenings, so our students can easily see their friends and family.

## What is the food and laundry setup?

Three meals a day are provided for our students. In addition, the villas are equipped with basic kitchen appliances for the students who would prefer to make their own food.

There is a washer and dryer in each villa for the students to do laundry at their leisure.

## What is the schedule for Shabbatot?

One Shabbat a month, we will have an "in-Shabbat" together with the children of Bet Elazraki – a unique and powerful experience. An additional Shabbat each month is spent together as a midrasha – either on campus together or at various communities across the country. The other two Shabbatot a month are "out Shabbatot" when our students are able to visit family and friends. MTC is your home for the year and so our campus is always open for students who want to stay in the dorms on "out Shabbatot".





# FAQS

## What is a typical day like in MTC?

At MTC each day brings inspiring and stimulating classes alongside magical moments with the children of Bet Elazraki.

The mornings and evenings are spent learning from our talented teaching staff. From Jewish Philosophy to Halacha, and from Tanach to character development - our students build their schedules from a variety of topics and teaching styles.

The afternoons are dedicated to the children of Bet Elazraki where our students have the privilege of supporting and loving children who are not as fortunate as others. Our students have the opportunity to form deep relationships and impact them throughout the year. Get ready for your hearts to grow!

## Do I have to know Hebrew to come? How will I communicate with the children?

Knowledge of Hebrew is not required. Although most children in Bet Elazraki speak only Hebrew, we have found that there is a language that overcomes the spoken one – the 'language of love'. The children see how much the MTC students care for them and invest in their lives and this 'language of love' overcomes any formal language barrier. The combination of our formal ulpan classes and the informal daily interaction with the children means that our students' Hebrew skills improve over the year.

## Are there any tiyulim? Will we get to connect to Israel over the year?

We believe that an essential part of being in Israel for the year is to experience the land. We go on numerous day tiyulim as well as overnight tiyulim to make sure our students see the beauty of the land of Israel. Get ready for some fun!

In addition to seeing Israel, their days volunteering with Israeli children and working alongside Israeli girls their age spending their year in national service. These daily encounters will provide a unique insight into Israeli culture and society and allow for beautiful friendships.

## What is the typical "Midreshet Torat Chessed" student?

At MTC, we are looking for a student who appreciates both aspects of our program, and will take both parts seriously – a young woman who recognizes the importance of both learning Torah and performing acts of chessed, and the ability of each aspect to enhance the other. A student who devotes herself to our challenging, yet rewarding, program will thrive during her year.

Our goal is for each student to grow at her own pace in a most real and profound way. Over the course of the year, we hope to arm our students with a newfound appreciation and commitment to their Judaism, as well as a keen understanding of the power of giving, and the impact it can have on their own lives.





*For more information, please contact:*  
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Midreshet Torat Chessed

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[www.toratchessed.com](http://www.toratchessed.com)

To apply to MTC, please go to the Joint Seminary Online Application at [applytosem.org](http://applytosem.org)



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