



TRY – Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim



December 31, 2020

Tevet 16, 5781

IMPORTANT - Please make sure you read the reminders at the end of this email.

And make sure to note: In a [previous email](#), we outlined the requirement of all students to receive a flu vaccine prior to TRY. We also informed families of our COVID-19 testing requirement prior to boarding your flights. In order to more efficiently confirm this information with families, we've created these links to a [flu vaccine confirmation form](#) and [COVID-19 tests confirmation form](#). In these forms you should be notifying us that students received their flu shots, and what the results are from each of the COVID-19 tests they must take in the week before their flights (1 week prior and 72-48 hours prior).



Happy New Year TRY Students and Families!

I'm excited for the opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Hillary Menkowitz, and I am the Student Life Coordinator for TRY. Though I am the newest addition to the TRY team, as a lifelong Ramahnik I am no stranger to Ramah, nor to Israel. I made aliyah twelve years ago from Philadelphia where I grew up attending Ramah Poconos. In my professional life, I have worked with Ramah Israel for a decade as an Educator & Tour Guide and even spent a summer as a *Yoetzet* (parent liaison) at Ramah Darom in Georgia. Suffice it to say, my love and respect for the Ramah organization run long and deep.

In my role as Student Life Coordinator here on TRY, I have the honor of overseeing the emotional and social well-being of our students, as well as managing and training our *madrichim* (counselors) in their role of supporting your children throughout the semester. At TRY we believe that the key to success lies in a strong foundation of emotional support and social bonds; it is my duty to make this a reality and to ensure that each student is set up for success. I will oversee the day-to-day functioning of TRY, including the health and welfare of our students, in addition to much of the non-academic programming. In close collaboration with our TRY Director, Jonathan Madoff, I aim to help each student thrive and grow over the course of our time together.

Throughout the semester, our staff maintains open and warm channels of communication with students, while encouraging student self-advocacy. I will facilitate training sessions and activities which will enable the students to check in with themselves, debrief experiences, discuss their thoughts and opinions with their peers, and process all they are doing and learning with both myself and the other staff. Indeed, one of my favorite parts of this work is getting to support students while they encounter new ideas, grapple with big questions, and ultimately grow into critical thinkers and confident young adults.

I am so excited to welcome TRY 2021 to Israel. This coming semester is an opportunity for life-changing and transformative experiences for each one of you. Though we all continue to deal with the difficult reality of life in this very unusual time, I applaud you in your decision to embrace this opportunity in order to create something special and positive out of what has otherwise been a challenging year. I

have no doubt that the experiences you will have this coming semester will continue to inform your lives for many years to come.

Should any questions or concerns arise, I hope you won't hesitate to [reach out to me](#).

Counting the days until our journey begins!

Hillary Menkowitz
Student Life Coordinator

Important Reminders:

SAVE THE DATE for the [TRY Webinar](#)

Get updated info, Q&A with the staff, and more!
Sunday, January 10th at 2:30pm EST

Get your TRY merch here!

Check out our [online store](#) for all your needs on TRY - clothing and apparel with the TRY logo, bedding, toiletries, and more. Order now and have some of it shipped directly to Israel!

Did you arrange phone service in Israel?

If not, go check out the packages [Talk'nSave](#) is offering.



Complete your registration!

Please make sure all your registration forms are completed and you've submitted all the necessary documents and/or files (passport, medical form, etc.) For questions please contact [Elinor](#).

Have you gotten a flu shot yet?

If so, please fill out the [flu vaccination confirmation form](#) to let us know when. If not, go get vaccinated!

Don't forget to schedule your two COVID-19 tests for the week before TRY!

The first test should be one week prior to departure, and the second test 72-48 hours before the flight. After receiving each test please fill out the [COVID-19 tests confirmation form](#) to let us know the results.

www.try.ramah.org.il

Useful links



Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim is a program of [Ramah Israel](#), a division of the [National Ramah Commission](#), which operates under the educational and religious supervision of [The Jewish Theological Seminary](#). Since 1962, Ramah Israel has provided substantive experiential education and meaningful Conservative Jewish living for North Americans in Israel in the spirit of the Ramah Camping Movement.

Think Israel. Think Ramah.

STAY CONNECTED