



December 21, 2020

Tevet 6, 5781

Dear TRY Students and Families,

We hope that you're all doing well with your preparations for TRY 2021!

In honor of Hanukkah, which we celebrated last week, I want to share with you one of my favorite aspects of the festival of lights (aside from the *sufganiyot*). I have always loved that on Hanukkah we gradually increase the amount of light in our homes, one candle at a time, night after night. I see a similarity between this process and our current preparations for TRY 2021. With every interview, email, and zoom call, we are one step closer to the start of the program. We look forward to January 25th, when TRY 2021 will assemble for the first time in Jerusalem, each of us radiating our own unique background, personality, and talents. As we say the *she'hechianu* prayer on our first day of TRY, we will be marking the beginning of a remarkable journey of self-exploration, group bonding, and learning!

**Now let's talk "tachles" (loosely translated as details):**

- 1) You have been making great progress as a group when it comes to collecting your documentation for visas/entry permits to Israel (for all non-Israelis). We will be in touch with any family who has NOT yet sent us their documentation or updated us as to their status. **If you have yet to submit the documents or update us, please send an email to [info@ramah.co.il](mailto:info@ramah.co.il) to let us know where you stand.**
- 2) For those of you who have not yet completed your [TRY 2021 application](#), please do so as soon as possible.
- 3) If you haven't yet paid at least half the tuition fee (as per our payment schedule, this was due on December 7th), please make a payment online or be in touch with [Michael Vayda](#), the accountant at Ramah's NY office, to arrange payment and/or schedule a payment plan. The full tuition will be due on January 7th.

Below, please find some important information regarding this year's TRY program. This update includes information on **Health/Medication**, **important rules and policies on TRY**, **managing money**, **purchasing TRY merchandise and supplies online**, the **TRY student/family webinar**, **cell phone plans** and the **SAT's and an SAT course**. Of course, don't forget we have all this information and a lot more available in our [handbook](#).

**Health and Medication**

*A more detailed email regarding COVID is forthcoming.*

Your health and wellbeing is of the utmost importance to us. Routine childhood vaccinations are required for all participants in Ramah Israel programs, including the MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) vaccine. Routine childhood vaccination is the single best way to protect your child from contracting measles and other illnesses. We also require that TRY students receive routine influenza (flu) vaccine prior to arriving in Israel.

[A Reminder of TRY's Medication Policy](#)

Students should bring a full supply of prescription medication, as well as a description of medications and dosages, in case of loss. You may need to get permission from your insurer to fill several months of medication at one time; this is usually accomplished with a copy of your flight reservation and acceptance letter.

If you are bringing medication with you, [PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM](#) letting us know all DAILY MEDICATIONS and SEASONAL/OCCASIONAL MEDICATION you will be taking on TRY. It is very important that you fill out this form accurately, as it is a necessary component of your medical file.

#### How to pack medication

There are two options for how to pack prescription medication students bring with them from home:

1. Prior to the program, your pharmacy packages your child's prescription medications into daily blister packs, divided into morning, afternoon, and evening doses. You will send the entire four month supply with your child. This packaging procedure may be done through CVS or other local pharmacies.

If your child is taking only one medication and said medication is already pre-packaged in blister packs as noted above, the medication can be submitted in its original packaging.

Should your local pharmacy not offer this service, families can purchase blister packs on their own and package the medication carefully.

2. Families will send all of their child's medication (the entire four month supply) in its original packaging -not in a monthly blister pack. TRY will hire the services of a registered nurse in Israel who will pack the medication into monthly blister packs provided by TRY. This service will cost \$100.

Please note: The [TRY Director](#) must be notified of any changes in medication or dosage during the program. If TRY will need to repack your child's medication to accommodate these changes, it may incur an additional packaging fee.

#### Allergies and EpiPens

Any child with a severe allergy that can result in anaphylactic shock should email me immediately to confirm that we have this information in our records. We ask that you send **THREE** EpiPens to Israel with your child. One will be kept on the student at all times, one will travel with our counselors in case of emergency, and one will be stored in the TRY office. The two "spare" EpiPens should be handed directly to me (Jonathan) upon arrival. If you have any questions, please feel free to [contact me](#).

#### Rules and policies in the TRY *kehila* (community)

The TRY staff works diligently to build and maintain a supportive and safe *kehila* for each of its students and staff members. An important aspect of *kehila*-building is setting and implementing a clear and defined set of rules that guide our community and keep us safe.

In this context, I'd like to emphasize the importance of cleanliness and personal hygiene, this year more so than ever, as we are making every effort to limit the group's exposure to COVID-19. I would also like to restate our zero tolerance policy on drugs and alcohol. Students should not come to TRY with the expectation that they may be able to push the envelope regarding these rules. I strongly urge parents to review all of the rules and regulations in the [handbook](#) with their child, prior to the beginning of the program. I remind you that participation on TRY requires you to review and sign the parent/student agreement prior to a student's arrival in Israel. Your cooperation and support are vital and greatly appreciated for a successful semester. Please download a copy of the [TRY Handbook](#) and review it.

#### Managing money while on TRY

We recommend that you send with your child a debit card or credit card. The best way for our students to get shekels is to take out cash from an ATM (there is one at the shopping center adjacent to our campus). There are companies that offer prepaid debit cards whereby you can control and load amounts as you wish (Visa Buxx Card, Paypal, etc.). You can find more information in our handbook regarding suggested amount of spending money to send.

#### TRY Merchandise

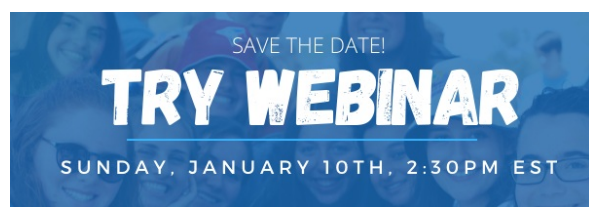
You can't be completely ready for the upcoming semester without decking yourself out in official TRY merchandise! We are happy to announce that this year we are partnering with "Pack for Camp", a family-run online store that is hosting our new [TRY Logowear Store](#). On their site, you'll find clothing and accessories, in addition to a variety of essential and non-essential supplies including toiletries, towels, electricity adapters, and much more! Toiletries, towels, etc. will all be sent to our Israel campus directly, saving you precious room (and weight) in your luggage, whereas TRY merch will be mailed to your homes in North America.

Pack for Camp offers free shipping in the US on orders over \$99. Shipping to Canada is also available. Please allow 7-10 days for shipping, so make sure to **place all your orders before January 6th!** Please note, some shipping delays may occur during the holiday season.

### TRY Webinar - Save the Date!

We will hold an orientation webinar session for all TRY students and families on **Sunday, January 10th at 2:30 PM (EST)**. We ask that all families be represented at this meeting, as we will give out important information, answer questions, and review our procedures. More details will be provided closer to the date.

[Click here to register.](#)



### Cell Phones

As mentioned in a previous email, we're teaming up again with [Talk'n'Save](#) as our recommended cell phone and/or SIM card provider for our students' time in Israel. You may be eligible for **free shipping in the US and Canada** if you place your order early, plus an additional **\$10 discount** off your first monthly invoice if you use the coupon code TRY10.

For more information about the plans offered to our students, please check out the [Talk'n'Save website](#), or call 1-866-825-5672, to schedule an appointment with a Talk'n'Save representative.



### SAT Course & Test

On TRY, we are happy to offer an SAT course, as outlined by Aliza Zeff, Director of Teaching & Learning, in her introductory email. In addition, students can take the SAT and SAT II exams in Israel.

In order for us to run an SAT course, we need a minimum number of 3 participants. To register for the course please email [Aliza](#) by December 28th. The cost of the course is \$450. The exam will take place on May 9th at a local school in Jerusalem. Students wishing to sign up for the SAT (with or without doing the prep course) can find details of how to do so on [our website](#). The deadline to register for the exam is April 8th.

Once the TRY students arrive and the program begins, we will send a weekly newsletter with updates and highlights. If another member of your family or community (grandparent, sibling, rabbi etc.) would like to receive a copy, please send an email to [Elinor](#), our Registrar and Family Liaison, with the full name and email of the person, and their relation to the student.

With warm regards from Jerusalem,

**Jonathan Madoff**  
Director  
Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim  
[jonathan@ramah.co.il](mailto:jonathan@ramah.co.il)



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**