

Dear YCQ Parents, Faculty and Staff,

**We're writing to make a major and exciting announcement about our educational programs at YCQ.** In the subsequent three emails, we'll be announcing the promotion of **Mrs. Melissa Cohen to Associate Principal General Studies K – 8**, and the addition of two highly experienced and creative curriculum coordinators to our staff for the 2022-2023 school year. **We urge you to read each email carefully – these are significant investments in assuring that a YCQ Education is of the highest quality in both Judaic and General studies.**

These investments are the result of a process that started a year ago. As part of our drive for excellence, merged with a desire to adapt to the changing world of education, YCQ has been working with Rabbi Dr. Michael Berger to assess our strengths and opportunities for development. Rabbi Dr. Berger, in addition to his scholarly work as a Professor at Emory University, including major efforts in the publication of the works of figures such as Rabbi Joseph Soloveichik z"l and Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein z"l, has over 20 years of experience in school administration and consulting, including work for the Avichai foundation.

Dr. Berger first visited YCQ a year ago with the goal of identifying major areas of strength and opportunities for development to provide our students with the best possible education. Dr. Berger noted that your children are blessed with dedicated administrators who work exceptionally hard on their behalf. Nonetheless, the most critical issue Dr. Berger identified was simply that too many leaders at YCQ were stretched too thin to fully address the complexities of running a yeshiva of true excellence in 2022.

The changes mentioned above are some, but not all, of our efforts to address this situation. At the start of the year, we added a Director of Communications position, and have opened searches for a Director of Student Activities and Director of Admissions. Once filled, these positions will create even more capacity amongst our leadership to invest in your children's education and take YCQ to new heights of excellence.

We have also invested, over the last year, in introducing the most advanced analytical techniques into our classrooms for evaluating student learning in mathematics and language arts. The results of this MAP testing give faculty deep insight into areas of strength and weakness of each student across a broad array of level-appropriate skills in mathematics and language arts. This allows differentiated and responsive instruction to help each student achieve their full potential.

We're happy to report that the results of our initial rounds of MAP Testing show that our curriculum is working. **For example, in both mathematics and language arts, our Grade 7 and Grade 8 students, the products of a full YCQ education, are performing substantially ahead of what would be expected for a normal performance distribution.** However, we expect that MAP testing will allow us to achieve even stronger results in the years ahead.

We have a great deal to be proud of as we end our 82nd year, and we are very excited about the future. Stay tuned for more details about the process of transformation that we are pursuing.

We are grateful for your partnership and wish you a wonderful summer.

Dr. Joel Wein, President  
Mr. Israel Glaser, Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Rabbi Yaakov Lonner, Executive Director  
Rabbi Mark Landsman, Principal