

COMMUNITY NEWS

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sa Ali, founder of Making a Change With Kindness and COJO's Chief of Staff. "A new backpack might seem small, but to a child, it's a message that their community cares about their success," Ali commented. "It was truly a joy to see that message delivered to so many families today."

Elected officials and NYPD borough command lauded the event as a model for community partnership.

"The 'Backpacks and Badges' giveaway is a perfect example of what we



Pct. 121 Community Council Team, preparing to distribute knapsacks and school supplies at Staten Island Back-to-School Event

can achieve when we work together," said Assemblyman Charles Fall. "This initiative powerfully enhances the fabric of Staten Island, showing our children that their entire community—from law enforcement and civic leaders like COJO and MACK to corporate partners like Amazon—is invested in their future. It's a testament to the generous spirit of our borough."

"This event represents the best of Staten Island and the NYPD's commitment to neighborhood policing," added Chief Terrence Hurson, executive officer of the Staten Island Borough Command. "The partnership between the 121st Precinct, the Community Council, COJO, and Amazon directly strengthens community ties and fosters trust. It's a proud day for the borough, and this collaboration sets a fantastic example for all."

The large-scale giveaway was made possible by generous sponsors, including a significant contribution from Amazon. Mirocznik noted that the support from Joe Rayski and his team at Amazon was "the driving force who made this truly possible."

As families left with new supplies and big smiles, the event served as a clear reminder of the power of a united community working together for its youngest members. ■

Israel Sci-Tech Schools Opens 2025–2026 School Year With 100,000 Students In 263 Institutions

Israel Sci-Tech Schools (ISTS), Israel's largest independent charter school network, officially opened the 2025–2026 school year, welcoming approximately 100,000 students across 263 educational institutions nationwide. More than 8,100 devoted staff members greeted students as school gates opened.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog and First Lady Michal Herzog joined Israel Sci-Tech Schools' Danciger High School



President Herzog and First Lady receiving a book from ninth grader Yarin Kabri (right) at ISTS Danciger High School, who wrote about her experience dealing with hearing impairment

are deeply dedicated to this mission. While Israeli society is facing enormous challenges—perhaps the greatest since the establishment of the state—the way to overcome them begins with the best teachers and principals who care profoundly about their students."

As the year kicks off, ISTS is launching Israel's first Code of Ethics for the responsible use of AI tools in the edu-

cation system. This year, the network's youth movement division will lead more than 40 community engagement programs initiated and led by the network's students. The division will expand its activity particularly in peripheral areas and focus on initiatives fostering resilience, a sense of belonging, and unity

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in Kiryat Shmona to welcome students on their first day of school.

This year's opening was marked by both excitement and profound sorrow, as the network mourns the loss of 158 alumni who fell in the ongoing Iron Swords War. In addition, three graduates—Itay Hen, z'v, Nimrod Cohen, and Matan Angrest—remain held captive.

Nationwide, about 2.6 million Israeli students returned to classrooms amid the war and an ongoing shortage of teaching staff. Of these, 149,000 entered 12th grade, their final year in the education system. The 2025–2026 school year began against the backdrop of the Iron Swords War, now entering its third year.

Joining the network's back-to-school events across Israel was Mark Levenfus of Scarsdale, NY, Chairman of Friends of Israel Sci-Tech Schools. Among the highlights was a gathering of all 400 ISTS principals for a special conference held ahead of the school year.

"The education of students in Israel—especially in STEM—is the most important investment in the country's future and the only way to ensure it will thrive moving forward," said Mark Levenfus. "Our world is moving faster than ever in terms of technology and AI, and I had the honor of meeting 400 principals from Israel Sci-Tech Schools who

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among students.

“We are opening the school year with a profound sense of mission,” said Raz Frohlich, CEO of the Israel Sci-Tech Schools Network. “Our educational teams bring both commitment and a deep belief in the power of education to shape Israeli society and strengthen its resilience from within. As a leading educational organization with a broad and diverse nationwide presence, bridging sectors, religions, and communities, we are placing special emphasis this year on fostering communal resilience and unity. In addition, out of our commitment to relevant education in a changing world, we developed the first Code of

Ethics in the Israeli education system for integrating AI into education.” ■

MTA Faculty
Orientation
Launches Year
Of Purpose And
Growth

MTA’s faculty came together for a powerful orientation that framed the year ahead with inspiration, clarity, and direction.

Rabbi Schenker set the tone by delving into three core aspects of education that he described as the keys to success in the classroom. His words reminded the faculty that true teaching is not just about transmitting information, but about building relationships, sparking curiosity, and instilling lifelong values.



Rabbi Dr. Berman

Building on that foundation, Rabbi Konigsberg shared critical updates on policy and staffing, ensuring that every teacher is equipped with the tools and support needed to help students thrive. His guidance

reflected the school’s commitment to maintaining a strong structure that allows creativity and growth to flourish.

The heart of the orientation was the time spent in grade-level meetings, where *rebbeim* and

teachers engaged in thoughtful discussions about how to maximize the potential of every *talmid*. These conversations highlighted MTA’s belief that each *talmid*’s growth matters and that through collaboration and careful planning, the faculty can bring out the best in every individual.

The orientation was further elevated by the presence of Yeshiva University President, Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, who inspired the faculty with words of *chizuk*. “We can inspire the creativity and curiosity of our students because when they are rooted in our Torah tradition, they can then add their unique *Toras Adam* to their journey,” Rabbi Berman shared. “We must remember that every student is holy, and when we root them in tradition, we enable them to shine.”

Rabbi Taubes closed the program with words of Torah that connected the faculty’s work to the larger mission of the yeshiva. His remarks reminded the teachers that their daily efforts in the classroom are part of a greater vision of building *bonei Torah* and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

Together, these sessions provided a dynamic and meaningful start to the year. With inspiration from their leaders and a shared sense of mission, the faculty left orientation ready to welcome students back and guide them toward becoming *bonei Torah* and leaders for *Klal Yisrael*. ■

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VISIT OUR OPEN HOUSE THIS SUNDAY
SUNDAY, September 7th

2775 Barbara Road, Bellmore	12-1:30 PM	\$849,000
2 Leonard Dr., East Rockaway	3-4 PM	\$749,900
797 Caldwell Ave., N. Woodmere	11-12:30 PM	\$1,299,000
1127 Fordham Lane, Woodmere	1-2:30 PM	\$1,650,000

FEATURED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

 NEW LISTING! LAWRENCE \$P.O.R. 8BR, 6.5 Baths, Colonial Jordan Rosenberg 516-459-0278 Etty Levy 516-852-1439	 PRICE REDUCED! WOODSBURGH \$2,999,000 7BR, 7 Baths Colonial Carol Braunstein 516-592-2206	 PRICE REDUCED! CEDARHURST \$1,375,000 4BR, 3.5 Baths Split Level Randy Green 516-459-2375	 PRICE REDUCED! HEWLETT \$1,045,000 3BR, 2.5 Baths, Split-Level Stacey Simens 516-455-8152 Nanci-sue Rosenthal 516-316-1030
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

 NEW LISTING! HEWLETT FOR LEASE Former Medical Office 1200+/- SF Plus Basement, Private parking, 5-Towns location.	 NEW LISTING! LONG BEACH FOR LEASE Recently renovated 2nd floor office suite for lease. Across the street from the LIRR station. Close to all amenities.	 NEW LISTING! OCEANSIDE FOR LEASE 3 Separate Office Spaces With Tons Of On-Site Parking.	 BELLMORE BUSINESS FOR SALE An amazing opportunity to own a very successful and highly rated business/food establishment. 1216+/-SF Plus Full Basement.
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And you forget
a sheaf in the
field . . .

(Devarim 24:19)

Certain opportunities and potentials are so lofty, that they cannot be accessed by the conscious self; they can only come about “by mistake.” An example of this is the mitzvah of shikchah, which can only be fulfilled by forgetting.

(The Chassidic Masters)

Thus if a person drops a sela, and a poor man finds it and is sustained by it, then he [who lost the coin] will be blessed on its account.

(Rashi; Sifri)