

Paw Print

Should Schechter Take Regents?

By Sharon Reshef

As the last weeks of school approach, so too do the ever-daunting New York State Regents exams. Some students take four or five in one year, depending on which courses they are taking, and many study extensively in order to excel. However, this is not without much grumbling about how they should not be forced to take such exams.

Many believe that as Schechter is a private school, and since other private schools such as The Abraham Joshua Heschel School and Solomon Schechter Westchester do not take the Regents exams, Schechter Long Island students should not be forced to take them, either. Others believe that the students only take the Regents to compete with local high-achieving public schools, such as Syosset and Jericho. What many do not know is the real reason behind why Schechter follows the Regents curriculum: the school's accreditation.

In order for a school to be recognized as a legitimate educational institution, it must be accredited, or certified, by the state or some other official accrediting body. Schechter is accredited by New York State, which means that although it is a private school, it must conform to

New York State's education laws, including the Regents curriculum. On the other hand, Heschel and Solomon Schechter Westchester are accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which does not require that they take the exams.

Why, some might argue, does Schechter not simply receive accreditation from Middle States and relieve its students of the unpopular exams? Upper School Principal Allan Dalfen explained, "There was never the political will to get Middle States accreditation. To do so would require a lot of time and effort and would be very expensive, so nothing has changed."

Some recognize the value of sitting for the Regents, despite their apparent unpopularity among the students. Although sophomore Leora Graber admitted that she "does not like" taking the Regents, she said that they "make our school more competitive and up to par with the rest of the schools in the state."

Philip Roth, a freshman, held a similar opinion, saying that taking the exams "puts [Schechter] up to the standards of both Jewish private schools and public schools." Dalfen was of two minds, stating that "on the one hand, our students do well, but on the other hand, the curriculum stifles creativity. It does not give much room to teach other things within the



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For Schechter students, New York State Regents exams are requirements for graduation.

classes, and the courses themselves are limited and not as creative as they could be."

Despite any value that they may have, the Regents still seem to be largely disliked by the student body.

However, unless a loud enough cry is raised, students will just have to continue to grumble their disapproval during midterms and finals.

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B-ball Game on MSG Varsity Brings Pride, Spirit to School

By Netta-Lee Lax

MSG Varsity, a subordinate television station owned by Cablevision, came out to Glen Cove to broadcast a showdown between two local IPPSAL rivals. The New Gym was clad in ornamental MSG Varsity banners and signs as the Portledge Panthers and Schechter Lions, longtime rivals, took the floor. The bleachers were filled to capacity, with the broadcast booth separating the Schechter cheering section from the Portledge crowd. At 5:30 sharp, senior Jenna Turow sang the Star Spangled Banner, and senior Maria Dominguez, freshman Rachel Multz and sophomore Leora Graber followed up with an emotional rendition of Hatikvah. Senior Max Geller announced the starting lineups, and seventh grader Max Kulchinsky did

the radio broadcast.

Senior and captain Josh Rubin started at the point for the Lions. Senior captains Marc Canarick and David Mendelowitz started at center and at the two spot respectively. Senior Alec Eiber and junior Daniel Stecker were the starting forwards. The game started off shaky for Schechter as the team incurred a shot-clock violation on the first possession, but the Lions got back in the game and ended the first quarter leading the Panthers 15-6.

Rubin and Canarick played stellar defense, making steals and creating opportunities on the offensive end. Schechter finished out the first half with a strong 29-15 lead.

Portledge started off the second half strong with a 7-3 run, but Schechter still managed to close the third quarter with a solid 42-30 lead. Then the Panthers' star forward, Christian Sbarro, began to take over, hitting shots all over

the court. Tragedy struck when Rubin fouled out of the game, which allowed Portledge to tie the game at 48. Canarick was able to keep Schechter in the running, but Sbarro sealed the deal with two free throws that made the final score 59-51 with a Portledge win.

Despite this, as Upper School Principal Allan Dalfen remarked before the game, "Any exposure is good, because most people don't even know the school exists. The best exposure would be a win, but we will take even a loss." The experience, however, went beyond wins and losses. Having our school featured on regional television reminded us all of that feeling of kehilah, community, that is unique to Schechter, and hopefully allowed others to get a glimpse of that special mentality that exists here.



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