

Rambam Record Parshat Toldot

Rambam Open House: COME AND HEAR

170 boys representing 23 different Yeshivas attended Rambam Mesivta's 26th Annual Open House. The program highlighted Rambam men from different grades and different neighborhoods.

Rabbi Dr. Andrew Sicklick opened the program talking about the process he went through four years ago in choosing a high school for his son, Sam, who is a senior in Rambam.

Dr. Sicklick mentioned how happy he was with the choice he made and spoke about the excellent well-rounded experience Sam has benefited from in learning Torah, academics and extracurricular activities, "One of the advantages of having smaller grades is that it provides more opportunities. There are no quotas or limitations on participation - whether its athletic teams, academic teams, hobbies, additional Torah learning, your son can participate in a variety of programs. He doesn't have to choose one or the other."

Senior, Yoni Grossman and freshman, Binyamin Werner spoke about the opportunities that they embraced in Rambam. They introduced Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman who paid tribute to Rabbi Dr. Sicklick for scaling back his hours teaching in Montefiore Medical Center in order to join the Rambam Limudei Kodesh staff.

Rabbi Friedman spoke about how Rambam inculcates in its students a love and proficiency in Avodas Hashem through Tefila and Limud haTorah. "Years ago we initiated a Sefardi minyan in order to give our talmidim the opportunity to celebrate their proud Mesora --- and we are proud to have Rabbi Gez, a true "chacham" davening and learning with the boys every morning."

Rabbi Friedman also outlined the unique Limudei Kodesh program and spoke about the product one would expect after four years. He stressed the importance of personal midos and the value of being concerned about Klal Yisrael in a hands-on way.

Senior Akiva Schuck and freshman Azi Frogel shared their perspective on Rambam, the chevra and the extracurricular activities introducing Mr. Hillel Goldman, Associate Principal, who also coordinates all extracurricular activities.

Mr. Hillel Goldman, who inspires students throughout the school with his engaging classes in English literature and writing, spoke about the importance of having "smart fun." He listed the myriad of activities that take place on an ongoing basis, joking that

there seems to be "more clubs than students." He spoke about providing a team for every talent, a club for every curiosity and a place for every person.

Rabbi Yotav Eliach soon took the podium and spoke about Rambam's goal of inspiring students to be the leaders of tomorrow. He highlighted a number of alumni and their active roles in the Jewish community.

Rabbi Eliach also outlined Rambam's academic program and amazing track record paradigmatic of Rambam graduates. "We were fortunate to be the only high school that was granted coveted Blue Ribbon status "based upon their consistent high level performance on standardized state and national exams and other criteria." This honor came on the heels of our being recertified by the Middle States Association. Clearly outlining what makes Rambam unique, Rabbi Eliach emphasized the school's merit-based admissions program and focus on midos.

Sumptuous food, melava malka style, capped off a warm and informative glimpse into what Rambam has to offer those who join.



Veterans' Day Assembly: Freedom is Not Free

Rambam's principal, Rabbi Yotav Eliach, explained why those oft-spoken words are more than just a cliché.

In introducing Rambam's 26th annual Veterans Day, Rabbi Eliach explained the vital role that the armed services provide protecting our freedoms and lifestyle in the US. "We have freedom of religion, freedom to speak out and unlimited opportunities in this country." Rabbi Eliach pointed out that the United States military is still actively engaged in conflicts around the world. However, we are fortunate the battles are being fought thousands of miles away from our homeland. The men and women in the Armed Forces are actually putting themselves at risk protecting our freedom. Freedom indeed is not free.

Rambam Mesivta has been paying tribute to veterans since the inception of the school.

Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman explained that Hakaras haTov is a fundamental Torah concept. America is a Medinas Chesed, affording us the ability to live a full and vibrant Jewish life. "We must be loyal to the government in general and thankful to our troops in particular," said Rabbi Friedman.

Mr. Hillel Goldman, Associate Principal, explained that, "recognizing the sacrifice of our veterans and honoring them is an important educational message that has to be transmitted to students as part of their high school education." Rabbi Eliach introduced Captain Erik Kucich who teaches Biology and Earth Science at Rambam. Captain Kucich spoke about the challenges that he faces whenever he's called upon to do a tour of duty. "During my last stint, which lasted almost a year from 2016 to 2017, I was called up suddenly and had to leave my wife with three little kids and a house that was under construction. It was a challenging and difficult sacrifice to make but I knew it was the right thing to do," he explained. "When people see me and say 'thank you for your service,' I'm not sure they realize that I consider my service to be an honor and a sacred obligation. Hence, no thank you is needed."

Captain Kucich explained that his unit was in charge of 5000 men and helped our allies in psychological operations against the enemy. He reiterated Rabbi Eliach's points made earlier by explaining that we live in a tough world both in Asia and in the Pacific with Korea; we are preparing for the worst. Fortunately, he explained that the battle ground is far away from the United States. Citizens in the United States need not worry but must be aware of what is going on around the world, explained Kucich.

At the end of the assembly, Captain Kucich expressed his gratitude to the Rambam community and presented Rabbi Eliach with a special plaque of appreciation and an American flag that was flown during his service in Qatar, Iraq and Kuwait.

Students from Rambam gave Captain Kucich a standing ovation, indicating that the appreciation was reciprocal, demonstrating that the educational message of the assembly was successfully internalized by the students.



