

בית חינוך הרב דסלר • קליבלנד
Hebrew Academy
of Cleveland



2020/2021 REOPENING PLAN

REVIEWED BY THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH,
MEDICAL GUIDANCE AND A PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 24, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

When the COVID 19 pandemic brought the world to a halt in mid March, schools across the globe were forced to close. Yet, the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland was fortunate to provide the continuation of studies, enrichment programs, and celebrations through a robust remote, virtual education allowing staff and students to remain connected. Parents, Rabbeim, teachers, interventionists and students worked tirelessly to provide a truly remarkable remote experience. They deserve our heartfelt appreciation. We take pride in the incredible parental feedback which lauded both the dedication and the heart that went into the entire school experience during one of life's most challenging periods. But we know that the most successful remote experience does not compare to face to face, in school learning. The American Academy of Pediatrics concurs when it states: "Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well being and provide our children with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/ speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits." Thus, it goes without saying that the Academy leadership and board join its faculty and parent body in their hopes and expectations that school will reopen on August 26, 2020 for the 2020/21 academic year.

How will we do it? We will accomplish it with your partnership and support, for which we are grateful. Attached please find the Academy's Reopening Plan but please understand that the final plan will reflect the most updated guidance of the COVID 19 Guidance For Ohio's Schools and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health in conjunction with the Academy's medical guidance. **Our plans may change to reflect the evolving recommendations and best practices.**

Parents can maximize the experience for their children by setting an example in exuding a sense of calm despite the reality that we will all need to get used to the temporary uncertainties or surprises that may well come our way.

As we look forward to a fantastic new school year, we do so with a tefilah on our lips that our loved ones and our school community will remain safe and healthy. We do so with a commitment that we will continue to be there for one another and that the lessons of compassion, connectivity and resilience that we have imbibed over the challenging pandemic will remain with us for the coming year and beyond in the best of health. Besuros tovos for all!



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FIRST TWO DAYS OF SCHOOL:

The Oakwood Campus (Kindergarten and Junior High School) and Yavne High School will begin school on Wednesday, August 26 as indicated on the school calendar.

The Taylor Road campus, (early childhood and grades 1-6) which has the highest concentration of students, will have a soft and staggered start. We understand that this might be somewhat difficult for some parents but are committed to the safety and efficiency required to reopen school.

- On Wednesday, August 26, the elementary school will begin only for grades 1 and 2 (boys and girls). Grade 1 will begin at 9:30 a.m. and grade 2 at 10:30 a.m. This will enable our staff to provide additional time and attention to the younger children. Dismissal is at 12:00 p.m. Early childhood's orientation will not take place this year. Instead, parents will receive a detailed email with information.
- On Thursday, August 27, which is the first full day of school, grades 1-3 (boys and girls) will begin at 8:30 a.m. and grades 4-6 (boys and girls) will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a regular full day dismissal. The early childhood division will begin with a shortened day and the following staggered schedule: 4's begin at 10:30 a.m., 3's at 11:15 a.m., and 2's at 12:00 p.m. all with a dismissal at 1:30 p.m..
- On Friday, August 28, the early childhood division will have the same staggered schedule as Thursday with a dismissal at 1:45 p.m. All other grades will have a regular start and full day (Friday) schedule.

PROCEDURES FOR ARRIVALS:

Upon arrival each morning, there will be temperature/health checks at each entrance of our three campuses. The checks will be facilitated in a safe and efficient manner. Anyone with COVID or flu like symptoms or temperature above 100°F is asked to remain home. Any student or teacher with fever or symptoms will be sent home. The Department of Health recommends that if a child becomes ill, they should stay home for 72 hours for parents to monitor symptoms. To ensure the safety of students and staff, regretfully, parents may not accompany children into the building. Arrangements for drop off and pick up will be communicated prior to school opening.



SOCIAL DISTANCING:

Social Distancing and reducing student density is a critical strategy in reducing the rapid spread of COVID 19. To that end, we will make every effort to maintain social distance among students. An effort will be made to minimize transitions throughout the day. Additionally, we might see desk or plexiglass dividers where necessary throughout the campuses.

HAND WASHING/SANITIZING/DISINFECTING:

Hand washing and sanitizing will help reduce the spread of COVID 19. Staff and students will be reminded and encouraged to practice frequent hand washing throughout the day. The school will provide hand sanitizer stations in the lobbies and sanitizers in the classrooms and bathrooms of its campuses and is committed to disinfecting its premises often. An EPA approved disinfectant will be used to disinfect high touch surfaces such as handrails, door knobs, restroom fixtures twice daily.

COMMON AREAS/MULTI-PURPOSE ROOMS:

At the Taylor Road facility, larger common or multi-purpose areas like the Gym, Cafeterias and Libraries will be limited for use as classrooms or staggered for smaller groups of students. This will vary by building.

FACE SHIELDS/MASKS:

Face shields and masks provide a barrier which prevents the spread of respiratory droplets. Therefore, all school staff, volunteers and, as of now, students in grade 3 and up are mandated by state and county law to wear face coverings unless it is unsafe to do so. This may be accommodated by face shields or clear masks which are preferable and more conducive to an enhanced learning process and effective teacher/student communication. Parents are expected to provide (preferably clear) masks or face shields for their children but an emergency supply of disposable masks will be available in our offices. Facial coverings are not required when staff works alone in an assigned work area. Weather permitting, outdoors will be encouraged as it will provide students with a measure of relief from masks.

SNACKS AND SUPPLIES/LOCKERS:

Students are asked not to share snacks nor school supplies and to bring their own water bottles. In an effort to maintain social distance, students will be dismissed to lockers in a staggered manner.



LUNCH:

To promote social distance, lunch at the Taylor Road Campus will be served in the classrooms. Lunch at the Yavne and Oakwood Campuses will be staggered to accommodate smaller groups.

VISITORS:

During this period of time, an effort will be made to limit the number of visitors. Parents and visitors are welcome by appointment only. Your understanding is appreciated.

DISMISSALS:

To maintain social distance, the South Taylor Road Auditorium will not be used for school wide dismissals. Instead, dismissals will be by family, announced on the PA system, and called directly into the classrooms.

BUS TRANSPORTATION:

Bus transportation is provided to eligible students by the districts of residence and is subject to the district's protocols. The districts have requested that we underscore to the parents the imperative of students following the expectations of the district.

QUARANTINE PROTOCOL:

In the event of exposure of a staff member or student, the school will follow the guidance of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health as it relates to quarantine and isolation protocols. If a student or staff member is exposed to COVID, families and staff should notify the school. If there is a KNOWN exposure, including household contacts, they must self-quarantine at home. An educational plan will be provided for students under COVID related quarantine or medical necessities.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The school will make every effort to establish and communicate clear guidelines and expectations which are both sustainable and subject to the fluidity of the evolving realities. Signage within the school will remind staff and students of the protocols and expectations.

MEET THE TEACHER:

The Meet the Teacher evening this year will be held virtually. Details will be provided.

ברכנו אבינו כולנו כאחד בברכה והצלחה וכל טוב!

