Introduction

This is going to be a year unlike any other we’ve experienced. There are factors we can account and plan for, and then there are things that only G-d knows. No matter what happens, though, we are going to be poised and ready to engage your children with a high-quality educational experience. To this end, we will continually push ourselves to redefine our understanding of the most engaging and effective pedagogy. We are working with several organizations such as BetterLesson, Gateways, The Chris Walsh Center at FSU, and Hebrew At the Center to stay on top of the latest practices in the areas of individualized and remote learning. As you know, we have been working through various scenarios for educating our students based on many expert perspectives and data. Our current plan is to allow families to choose whether or not to have their PK-4 students on-site or remote, and for Atid grades 5-8 to begin the year remotely. We are looking forward to the day when we can have all students and faculty back in the building safely, and we will reevaluate our options in mid-October.

*Please note: the plans and details outlined in this guide are subject to change as the situation evolves and as we continue to implement the recommendations of our medical advisory team and the requirements issued by the State of Massachusetts and the CDC. We will be updating this handbook as needed.
The School Day

Whether your students attend school on-site or remotely this year, we are one school, one community. We are looking forward to welcoming them back, reconnecting them to the faculty and with each other, and gradually phasing them into a productive, sustainable, effective learning environment. Whether students are on site or remote, they will all have opportunities to safely gather face to face on our school campus through regularly occurring Panim el Panim events.
The Five Essential Factors for Health and Safety during COVID:

1. Mask wearing
   a. Masks are to be worn at all times in the building.
   b. Every person must wear a mask that is either 3-ply cloth or disposable surgical 3-ply. It must cover both the nose and mouth.
   c. Disposable surgical masks will be given to a person should they need one for the day.
   e. Everyone is going to need time during a day to take a break from wearing a mask. We have planned mask and movement breaks to occur outdoors throughout the day, and at times such as lunch or snack, when physical distancing can be enforced.

2. Physical distancing
   a. A distance of 6 feet will be kept at most times, whether indoors or outdoors. There may be certain circumstances where 6 feet can’t be kept, and in those short periods, masks will be worn and no less than 3 feet will be maintained.
   b. This applies to arrival, dismissal, hallways, classrooms, social hall, bathrooms, outdoors, etc.

3. Symptom screening
   a. A daily health attestation must be completed for each person entering the building. We will use the School Doc website to facilitate this process. Parents must attest that their child/ren do not have any of the listed symptoms and are therefore safe to attend school for the day. If a child is symptomatic according to the attestation list, then that child may not attend school without a doctor’s approval.
   b. A full-time nurse on site will be vigilantly checking for symptoms upon students’ arrival and throughout the day.
   c. There will be specific protocols in place for isolating individuals who become symptomatic during the day.
4. Hygiene
   a. Hand hygiene
      i. Frequent hand sanitizing and washing will occur throughout the day as directed by teachers and other staff.
      ii. The school will provide sanitizer in both touchless devices and bottles located throughout the building.
   b. TBS custodian will clean high-touch surfaces and bathrooms twice during the school day, and following the school day, including classrooms.
   c. Classroom teachers and staff will wipe down desks and other high touch surfaces throughout the day.

5. Ventilation
   a. An HVAC specialist with 40 years of experience walked through our building and determined that our school is able to meet the HVAC guidelines for COVID as set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.
   b. Since there is no central ventilation in our school aside from the Merkaz, the key is to have a window opened to some width depending on the season and have a fan bringing that air through the room and out the door into the hallway. During winter months, we will use HEPA filter units to purify the air since there will be less fresh air flowing through the room.
   c. The Merkaz windows will be kept ajar with a fan, or a HEPA unit may be utilized instead (the Merkaz is the larger room with an accordion wall and stage).
COVID-19 SCHOOL ACTION PLAN

If High-Risk Symptoms are Observed

HIGH-RISK SYMPTOMS
✦ Fever > 100.4°
✦ Loss of taste or smell
✦ Shortness of breath
✦ Vomiting/diarrhea
✦ New, unexplained cough

ON A SCHOOL DAY

IN SCHOOL
✦ ISOLATION in “Sick Room” at school
✦ GO HOME from school
✦ EVALUATION by doctor
✦ ISOLATE pending evaluation/testing results

AT HOME
✦ STAY HOME from school
✦ EVALUATION by doctor
✦ ISOLATE pending evaluation/testing results

ON A NON-SCHOOL DAY

✦ EVALUATION by doctor
✦ ISOLATE pending evaluation/testing results

Any student who experiences high-risk symptoms MUST be seen by a doctor for proper testing, diagnosis and/or treatment prior to being cleared to return to school.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID Result</th>
<th>Alternative Diagnosis</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>School Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Isolate, contact tracing</td>
<td>MINIMUM 10 days from symptom onset AND 72 hours fever-free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Treat per diagnosis</td>
<td>Upon doctor clearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Home for 72 hours</td>
<td>Upon doctor clearance (minimum 72 hours symptom-free)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Tested</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Quarantine 14 days</td>
<td>At end of quarantine, unless testing obtained or alternative diagnosis found</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All symptomatic cases will need clearance to return to school. Clearance form is available on SchechterHub.
COVID-19 SCHOOL ACTION PLAN

If Low-Risk Symptoms are Observed

LOW-RISK SYMPTOMS

✦ Unexplained headache
✦ Unexplained abdominal pain
✦ Unexplained fatigue
✦ Unexplained body aches
✦ Unexplained mild runny nose
✦ Persistent sore throat
✦ Any combination of the above symptoms

STAY HOME AND MONITOR FOR 24 HOURS

IF SYMPTOMS RESOLVE

RETURN TO SCHOOL (after 24 hours symptom-free)

IF SYMPTOMS DO NOT RESOLVE

PROCEED TO HIGH-RISK ALGORITHM

Exposure & Quarantine Guidelines

| Household contact confirmed COVID | Quarantine for 14 days. Monitor for symptoms. Consider testing. If positive test and no symptoms, isolate 10 days from date of test. If negative test, continue 14-day quarantine. If symptoms develop, follow high-risk protocol. |
| Close contact confirmed COVID (<6 feet apart for >15 minutes) | Same as above. Does not matter if masks were worn. |
| Non-close contact confirmed COVID (>6 feet apart or <15 minutes) | No action needed. |
| Household or close contact pending COVID testing, contact is symptomatic | Quarantine pending results. |
| Household or close contact pending COVID testing, contact is asymptomatic | No action needed. If test is positive, see above. |
| Return from area on Massachusetts quarantine list OR air travel from anywhere | COVID test required 4–5 days after returning home. If negative, student can return to school. If unable/unwilling to get tested, student must quarantine for 14 days. |
**Arrival:**

- As described above, all people entering the building for MWJDS must have a daily health attestation submitted via School Doc in order to enter the building.

- While we normally would love to have parents and visitors in our building to share in the joy of our school experience, we simply cannot allow anyone other than staff and students into the building this year due to health and safety concerns.

- Parents will not be permitted to walk children into the building. Faculty and staff are available to assist any child who needs extra support.

- Drivers are expected to wear a face mask while dropping off and picking up students.

- Students will be allowed into the building beginning at 8:20 am, but no earlier.

- While waiting to enter the building, students will stand physically distanced from one another. A staff member (likely the nurse) will meet them at the front door. Students who are well, and whose parents have submitted the health attestation for the day, will be permitted to go up the stairs to the school. Any child without a health attestation on file will have to wait until a parent can be contacted to fill out the attestation. The staff/nurse will also take a two-second forehead scan for temperature.

- Students will sanitize their hands prior to ascending the stairs, and then sanitize once again at the top of the stairs prior to entering their classroom.

- Students will bring all of their belongings into the classroom— including coats, backpacks, lunch, etc. so that they are easily accessible throughout the day. Teachers may choose to keep some of these items outside of the classroom at times with the understanding that students must maintain physical distancing when accessing these belongings.

**Dismissal**

- Parents should arrive at the school for 2:30pm pickup.

- Students will remain in their classrooms until brought outside to a parent or pre-determined driver.
Classes

- Students will stay with their cohort of students all day. In most cases, students will be in their indoor classroom or one of our outdoor designated spaces throughout the day.

- Physical distancing will be consistent whether in the classroom, hallways, the social hall for lunch time, and when outdoors

Z'man Kodesh

Tefillah (prayer) will remain a central part of our Judaic studies curriculum and our learning goals will continue to balance learning to participate in traditional tefillah with understanding the words of the prayers, making meaning of them personally and as a community, and allowing each student to explore their own spiritual life. This year, we will take the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions as an opportunity to focus even more on the meaning of the prayers, and to explore new modalities of prayerfulness and reflection as part of our tefillah practice. Whenever possible, we will use outdoor spaces during tefillot and utilize technology to bring the cohorts’ prayers together, both on-site and remote.
**Lunch**

- Students will eat lunch either outside or in the social hall since it has vaulted ceilings and better ventilation than a classroom. As the highest risk of spread occurs when masks come off, we will distance students 6-8 feet from one another and discourage loud talking, shouting, etc.

- **The school will not be able to provide any food or drinks this year, so please pack for your children accordingly. Please make sure your child has enough water to get through the day, as there will be no water fountains or bubblers available.**

- Microwaves will not be available.

- Please refer to the parent handbook for acceptable foods and our nut sensitivity policy.

- No sharing of food whatsoever.

**Recess**

- When possible, recess will take place outside. Factors such as inclement weather or EEE could hinder our ability to be outside.

- Children will be able to take their masks off if they are more than 6 feet apart; however, if their play may bring them within less than 6 feet of distance, then masks must be worn.

- Cohorts will not be allowed to inter-play without masks on, regardless of distance

- Playground equipment may be used, and an adult will ensure that children sanitize their hands prior to and following play. When using playground equipment, masks will be worn at all times due to potential proximity.
Dress for Success

Please refer to general guidelines in the family handbook. Fresh airflow and circulation is going to be paramount. Whether in the building or outdoors, your child needs to be prepared for the weather conditions. We will be going outside nearly every day unless conditions make it unsafe. If we are on-site during the winter months, we will need to have some windows open in each classroom at times, so coats, hats, gloves, etc. may also need to be worn in the building.

Support Services

- Support personnel will change masks and wash hands between rooms and sessions.

- Our support team remains dedicated to serving your family and providing for your child/ren’s educational and social/emotional needs through creative and individualized means during this challenging time.

- We will provide support services on-site via pushing in to classes, or individual or small group sessions outside of the classroom, and virtually one-to-one or in small groups.

- We remain committed to meeting the needs of every child in our school.
Hybrid Option

Parents may choose to have their child/ren learn on-site for as many days per week as they wish. We ask that you set the days firmly for periods of 4-6 weeks at a time so that teachers can plan accordingly. For example, if your child will be on-site Monday through Thursday each week, we will expect to see them on those days, and not on Fridays.
There are three primary factors that would lead to us having to close the school for on-site learning for an indefinite amount of time.

1. State or Local government orders all schools to close. In this case, we would not be able to open the school until they lift the closure.

2. Members of the CJP Medical Taskforce guiding schools and Jewish institutions in the Boston area advise the Jewish day schools to close based on current conditions. In this case, we would await the go-ahead from this Taskforce to reopen.

3. If our on-site conditions warrant a temporary closure per the guidance of the CJP Medical Taskforce. Proper precautions and cohorting can greatly reduce the risk of COVID spread, but if we determine the risk of spread is too high then we will close on-site schooling, and look to re-open following guidance from the CJP Medical Taskforce.
Vision

We are committed to integrating our on-site and remote learners as seamlessly as possible so that all feel connected and engaged in the learning experience. Students will be learning primarily through live-streamed, synchronous instruction with the classroom teacher, and with support personnel as appropriate.
Technology

We are fortunate to have technology that will allow remote students to stay connected and have the ability to participate organically. We are aiming to make the experience as natural as possible in the following way:

- An iMac with a large monitor will be placed strategically in each classroom so that remote learners can see and be seen by classmates on site. The iMac will have external speakers if necessary to ensure that online learners can be heard clearly.

- An iPad will be mounted on a tripod, and it will be aimed at the teacher so that remote learners can have a clear, up-close view of the teaching and interactions.

- Teachers will wear a lavalier microphone around their necks so that remote learners can hear more clearly.
Computers/Tablets Policy

If a student owns their own Chromebook or PC or Mac:
• They may bring it back and forth between home and school
• They may not share it
• It does not need to get washed each time

If a student only has a device to use at home but needs a device in school:
• We will assign and dedicate a device to them.
• It might be a desktop Mac or it might be a Chromebook.

If a student needs to borrow a Chromebook for home use:
• We will charge a security fee.
• We will give them one Chromebook to use.
• Chromebook may travel between home and school, will remain dedicated to that student.

If student forgets device at home:
• A CLEAN desktop machine will be available for in school use that day.
• This device will need to be cleaned after each use.
• This device may be used by different students each day.

iPads:
• K-2 students will each get two iPads assigned to them; one for home use (will require security deposit) and one for in school use.
• Home device will not travel back and forth.
The guidelines we have put into place at school are there to allow our students, faculty, and staff to learn, be nurtured, and stay healthy. We are all in this together, and our community is only as protected as our least protected member. This is a true test of our mutual respect and responsibility.

We will do our very best to ensure that IN school the guidelines we have outlined will be followed, and we are having students, faculty, and staff commit to these policies.

In addition, we ask for our families’ commitment that OUT of school you will follow best practices in keeping virus spread to a minimum. These practices, outlined in the MWJDS COVID-19 Addendum to the Family Handbook, include:

- Mask wearing when not at home and social distancing cannot be maintained whether indoors or outdoors
- Responsible hand washing/sanitizing
- Informing the school if anyone in your household contracts COVID-19
- Promptly picking up your child if they become sick at school
- Completing our school’s daily health attestation honestly
- Following state travel and quarantine guidelines

"All of Israel is responsible for one another."
(Talmud, Shevuot)