



REOPENING PLAN

'20-'21 SCHOOL YEAR

As of July 22, 2020



Dear parents and staff,

I hope that you are having a safe and enjoyable summer.

Jewish tradition teaches us that “All Jews are responsible for each other.” This everlasting value holds even stronger today, at this unprecedented time. The key to our successful re-opening of the school is that we care for each other and make sure that we do everything possible to keep each other safe.

The school is planning to re-open in September for a 5-day week with in-person learning, and remote options available for students who have medical issues. We have spent months planning how to safely welcome back your children and our staff. The Board, administration, and staff are working tirelessly to make the school year safe and successful. Our success depends on all of us collaborating with each other.

We hope and pray that this terrible pandemic will be over soon and we will all meet and celebrate our strong community that serves Jewish families and makes the world a better place.

Have a safe summer and see you all in September.

Moshe Vaknin
Head of School



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***All protocols put into place are subject to change according to the rapidly changing recommendations put out by the CDC and developing State mandates.*



Gottesman RTW Academy has received guidance on reopening from the CDC, DOE, and the Randolph Township Health Department. Additionally, we formed the GRTWA task force which includes school leaders and medical and health professionals from our school community who have helped advise us on important decisions related to the Coronavirus.

We are closely monitoring the Covid-19 pandemic and as data and recommendations change, we will update and revise our plans.

Depending on what stage New Jersey is in the reopening plan, Gottesman RTW Academy will follow:

Scenario A: In-Person Learning

Government and CDC allow schools to reopen, and New Jersey is in Stage 2 or 3; GRTWA reopens in person 5 days per week. Most of GRTWA classes will be held outdoors on weather friendly days throughout the fall.

Scenario B: In-Person Learning and Option for Remote Streaming

Government and CDC allow schools to reopen, but parents do not feel safe sending their children to school; remote learning options are available for JK – 8th grade.

Scenario C: Distance Learning for All Grades

Government orders another shutdown; GRTWA switches to remote learning for all grades. Infant room will be closed.

*Stages refer to New Jersey’s multi-phase reopening plan, “The Road Back” plan, as outlined by Governor Phil Murphy.

- **Stage 1:** Restrictions relaxed on low-risk activities if appropriately safeguarded.
- **Stage 2:** Restrictions are relaxed on additional activities that can be easily safeguarded.
- **Stage 3:** Restrictions are relaxed on most activities with significant safeguarding.

For more information on New Jersey’s “The Road Back” plan, visit: [Covid-19.nj.gov](https://www.nj.gov/education/COVID-19/)



General Practices for Opening School



To achieve physical distancing measures, the school will be divided into four separate sections and the students will travel in grade-level cohorts. This will minimize the risk of infection and decrease the number of students that would need to quarantine should we have a positive Covid-19 case.

- Students will remain in assigned classrooms and will be grouped in pods called cohorts. They will spend their academic day learning and socializing only with these children, including lunch and specials.
- The school will be divided into four sections: School A, B, C and D.

School A: Early Childhood Center
School B: Grades Kindergarten – 3rd
School C: Grades 4th, 7th and 8th
School D: Grades 5th and 6th



- Teachers will move from classroom to classroom.
- All classroom spaces will be set up to support physical distancing measures (at least 6 ft. apart).
- The hallways, stairwells, and community spaces will be clearly marked to help manage flow of traffic throughout the building and help students maintain social distancing.
- The nurse's office will be located in the art room to allow for CDC recommendations for office and separate isolation area .



- **Hand sanitizing stations** will be placed at each entrance and throughout the school.
- **No middle school lockers** will be used in order to reduce the number of students congregated in hallways.
- **Outdoor spaces** with tents will be utilized for as many classes as possible throughout the fall.
- **Increase fresh air, circulation, and air filtering to HVAC** in accordance with suggestions of environmental engineers.





Modifications to the Building and Classrooms



To ensure safe spaces for the students to learn, we have repurposed and redesigned areas in the building to serve as classrooms.

- All specialty classrooms and communal spaces will be used as educational spaces to allow for social distancing of students.
- Plexiglass shields with pass-throughs for paperwork will be attached to every teacher's desk.
- All desks will be 6 ft apart to allow for social distancing.
- The sanctuary, commons, lower school science, and middle school science center will be used for classroom space.
- The commons will no longer be used as a lunchroom and school lunch will not be provided. Students will eat in their classrooms or outside, weather permitting.



School Hours: Arrival and Dismissal



ALL students must arrive at school wearing masks.

To avoid students gathering in the atrium, there will be staggered schedules for arrival and dismissals and three entry points and exits for all students. Information will be sent home in August.



Upon arrival, the students and staff will have a daily health screening before entering the school.

Infant room/ecc1

8:00am

ECC2-JK

8:30am Monday-Thursday

8:30am Friday

K-8

8:15am Monday-Thursday

8:15am Friday

- Temperature checks will be taken for all staff upon entry.
- Student temperature checks will be taken at drop-off in the morning before entering the school.
- Students arriving late must go with a caregiver to the front door where temperature will be taken as soon as the nurse is available.



Transportation

If coming by bus, all students should wear masks and sit one child per seat (unless siblings), using every other row. More bus information will follow.

Students riding the bus will be required to clean hands before entering the bus, as well as have their temperature taken at school.

If carpooling, everyone should wear masks and windows should be open, weather permitting.



Enhanced Health, Hygiene and Safety

There will be a zero tolerance policy for sick children and staff. We will not allow anyone with a fever of 100 degrees or above or any other Covid-19 like symptoms such as sore throat, runny nose, cough, stomach aches, diarrhea, or other maladies to remain at the school. For everyone's safety, children at school with any symptoms will be sent home and can participate remotely with their class via the remote streaming option.



- App to track fever and other symptoms of all staff and students before school begins. This information will be required to be answered daily, by parents, in order to attend school.



- The school has a full-time nurse to support the health, safety, and emotional well-being of our staff and students.
- Our school employs two full-time social workers. They are committed to providing social and emotional support to our families, especially during these challenging times. They will be in the school daily to work with the students and families when needed.



- All students age 2 and up and all staff must wear masks.
- High-touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day, with deep-cleaning every evening.



- Hand sanitizing will be supervised at least 3 times per day on top of hand-washing.
- Bathroom hand dryers have been eliminated; paper towel holders have been installed to reduce blowing germs into the air.
- Water fountains have been eliminated but students will be able to fill water bottles during the day.
- Electrostatic fogger will be used for nightly disinfecting of all classrooms and public spaces.



Protocol for Sick Students

Within an hour of notice of any symptoms, students will need to be picked up from school. There will be specific protocols for pick-up if a child is sick or if there is a suspected case of Covid-19, and a protocol for a positive case of Covid-19 at school.

For a suspected case of Covid-19, the student will be isolated and an adult wearing PPE will supervise the student until the parent comes for pick-up. In this case, the parents must come immediately to the school for pick-up.

If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, we will follow all updated health guidelines from the CDC and NJDOH. CDC will be announcing further guidelines by the end of July and GRTWA protocols will be updated and shared.

Email Nurse Phyllis at pvida@grtwacademy.org if you suspect a positive Covid-19 case or have any questions.

Visitors Policy

To reduce the transmission of germs, only students, faculty, staff, administration, and essential personnel will be allowed in the building. There will be no visitors, including parents, unless by appointment. Visitors must wear masks.

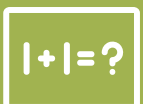




Technology

To ensure quality education for both in-school and remote learning, students K - 8 should each have a device.

- K-3rd grade students will be issued in-classroom devices (to be kept in school). Third grade students will have the option to bring their own laptop to school.
- 4th - 8th grade students will bring their own laptops to school.
- All classrooms JK – 8th grade will have HD web video cameras and microphones to allow for remote student access.
- All grades JK – 8th grade will use the Google Classroom platform.
- Professional Development for faculty over the summer and beyond will focus on remote learning.



Curriculum

- Teacher-led live learning is optimal.
- All classrooms will be outfitted with HD web video cameras and microphones for students who are unable to attend school in person.
- New curriculum to support in-school and remote learning has been obtained to optimize students' academic success.
- All grades JK – 8th grade will use the Google Classroom platform both in and out of school.
- Professional Development for Faculty continued over the summer to greater enhance learning opportunities for students.



Lillie Brandt Early Childhood Center

- Curbside drop-off/pick-up will be coordinated with teachers. Parents are required to stay outside the building.
- ECC parents will answer Med Bot App questions daily.
- Extra classroom space will allow for appropriate social distancing.
- No more than 12 children in an ECC classroom at one time. Classes that have more than 12 students enrolled will have an extra classroom to use for appropriate social distancing.
- All ECC staff will have PPE clothing and wear masks.
- Masks are required for children age 2 and up except for eating lunch, going outside, and napping. Students will be allowed mask breaks when needed.
- Children will social distance from their peers as much as possible.
- Each student will have individual classroom supplies.
- Classroom toys will be cleaned daily. Teachers will rotate toys so that they can be cleaned throughout the day.
- Children will wash their hands before and after using any indoor/outdoor playground equipment.
- Seasonal outdoor Baby Fun program will be provided if safe to do so.



Remote Learning Plan:

ECC:

- Learning with teachers as much as possible
- ECC age-appropriate online curriculum and materials will be sent home
- Regularly scheduled daily virtual meetings with teachers
- One to two sessions per week in art, music, PE, Hebrew, and science

Kindergarten – 8th grade:

- Synchronous learning with teachers as much as possible
- Regularly scheduled daily virtual meeting with teachers
- Adherence to the scope and sequence of the curriculum
- Ongoing multi-faceted assessments
- Same attendance and performance expectations
- One to two sessions per week in Art, Music, and PE



FAQs

Arrival and Dismissal

Q: I have children in the ECC and in K-8. Can I drop them off at the same time?

A: We understand the challenges facing parents, but for the health and safety of our community, everyone must accommodate the set arrival and dismissal times. Our hope is that the span of staggered times will be limited to 15 minutes. We will send out a schedule in August.

Q: I work late and need to drop off early and have after school coverage.

A: Due to health, safety, and staffing we will not be able to offer before care, after care or enrichment programming at this time. We hope to revisit after Thanksgiving.

Q: Are non-parent guardians/babysitters allowed to pick up children?

A: Yes, but they must be pre-authorized by parents and this information has to be shared with the school prior to opening.

Parents and Other Visitors to the Building

Q: Will I be allowed in the building if my child forgets their lunch or mask?

A: While parents will not be allowed in the building, necessary items may be left at security/front office. Our hope is families will set routines to ensure students come to school with all their belongings.

Q: If parents no longer spend time in the building, how will we communicate and remain partners with our child's teachers?

A: Teachers will continue to be accessible for one-on-one meetings and communications through email, phone, and zoom. Additionally, we will have opportunities to gather virtually for back-to-school night, holiday events, parent teacher conferences, weekly shabbat celebrations and more.

Q: How can we be together as a community?

A: We will continue to host virtual gatherings, as we did in the spring, until it is safe to gather in person.

Q: How can parents remain involved in building the school community?

A: The PA is building new avenues for parent engagement and the school is creating volunteer opportunities that align with our health protocols and guidelines.

Health and Safety

Q: I have to work and cannot stay home when my child has the sniffles or with my middle school student on distance-learning days. What do I do?

A: We know the impact of the pandemic is challenging for all of us, but the health and safety of our community is our top priority. Our hope is that being back in school much more than last spring will benefit everyone.

Q: Will my child have to wear a mask all day?

A: Starting in the 2's, masks will need to be worn at all times during the day when students are in the building. During recess if students are 6 feet apart when playing, they may take off their masks. If eating in the classroom and everyone is 6 feet apart, it would be safe to take masks off. Recess will be staggered by contact group and any equipment used will be sanitized before the next group goes out to play.

Q: How long will we have to follow these procedures?

A: There are a lot of unknowns about the virus. We will continue to follow guidelines from health and medical professionals and mandates by the state.

Classroom Learning

Q: Will my child still have all the same subjects including general studies, Judaic studies, and Hebrew?

A: Yes, your child will have all of those subjects: they will just be in smaller groups.

Q: Can I choose a remote option if my children are in grades that are doing in-person learning?

A: Yes, families who are not comfortable returning to school have a remote streaming option for our in-person learning model.

Q: If my child is out sick, can they join class remotely?

A: Yes, the school is set up for sick children to join class via our remote streaming option for in-person learning.

After School Hours

Q: Can my child spend time with friends outside their class after school hours (e.g. birthday parties, playdates)?

A: The distancing behaviors of our community – parents, students, and staff – is an understandable concern. Our community is like others; we have varied degrees of behaviors, which will continue to evolve as parents return to work, children socialize more, and families reunite with family and close friends. The school will offer best practices around physical distancing, but it will be up to individual families to follow these practices in their daily lives.

Transportation

Q: How will I ensure there is distancing practiced on the bus?

A: If using the bus, students should wear masks and sit one child per seat (unless siblings) and only use every other row in the bus. The bus company will issue protocol as we get closer to the start of school.

Food

Q: Will the school still offer the school lunch program?

A: No, the school will not offer the lunch program. Please ensure that you pack a snack and lunch every day for your child, including a beverage.



