



Dear Arielle Budow,

The first three weeks of school have gone smoothly, thank G-d, and the OCA campus is filled with the joyful sounds of children learning, davening, and engaging with one another. As a school community, we are committed to taking all precautions necessary to remain open as safely as possible so that our students can learn in person.

Heading into the upcoming Sukkot break, the Baltimore Jewish day/yeshiva school community has come together to send a unified message of caution regarding travel and Sukkot/Simchat Torah celebrations. It is imperative for each of us to remain vigilant and cautious in our decision-making in order for us to be able to reopen school on time and remain open following Simchat Torah.

As a school, we recognize that Sukkot and Simchat Torah are times for joyous celebration with friends and family. However, this year is different and we cannot celebrate and travel as we have in the past. COVID-19 is still very much with us and all restrictions and precautions are firmly in place.

We understand that other schools have made the decision to remain closed for an extended period of time after Yom Tov and teach via Zoom. OCA families have conveyed the importance of our opening school in person, while still offering a Zoom option for those students who need to be home.

Please read the attached Day School Yom Tov Letter and OCA Travel Policy to help you with your planning. We recommend that families refrain from traveling and be very cautious about hosting out-of-town guests. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Students whose families opt to travel or host out-of-town or international guests will be able to join their classes via Zoom.

Gmar chatima tovah! May Hashem grant us all a year of good health and safety.

Best,

Mrs. Deborah L. Rapoport