



Dear DJCS Families and Staff,

Plan for 2020-21 COVID Pandemic school modifications

The Downtown Jewish Community School has collaborated with the Centre for Jewish Education (UJA) and has aligned practice accordingly with the Part-time Jewish Education models during the pandemic. We have consulted with educational experts regarding the re-opening of schools in Ontario and Canada and across the world. The DJCS was able to successfully pivot into a remote learning model from March 15-May 31, 2020. We thank all the parents, students, and staff for the commitment made to the school and success of the program.

The Board of DJCS has taken all these factors into account. The DJCS scenario for the upcoming year will be a blended model to ensure safety for students, families, staff and our community. The blended model is defined as both a remote learning platform and on-site with social distance suggested guidelines as per Health Canada and Toronto Public Health.

**Plan for 2020-21**

***September 13 - December 1, 2020***

All classes will be taught remotely.

***December 6 – May 30, 2020 (or until circumstances change)***

Jewish Studies weekly classes alternating 50% of the school by grade, on-site and remote, 9:30-11 am.  
One hour for students to go home for remote learning for Hebrew classes.  
Hebrew Alef and Bet classes remote 12-1 pm.

How 50% will work in practice:

December 6 - grades JK-3 and High School on-site, grades 4-7 remote learning

December 13 - grades 4-7 on site, grades JK-3 remote learning

The schedule will be posted in the school calendar on the DJCS website.

In order to re-open and come back on-site, groups must be self-contained. Teacher and students are one homogeneous group called a **cohort**. A cohort allows for contact tracing and follow-up for Covid-19. This works for Jewish Studies. Hebrew classes have a different teacher and are multi-level and in a different classroom. **Hebrew classes do not represent a cohort and will therefore be on a remote platform for all of 2020-21.**

The DJCS have invested into an upgraded platform for education for delivery of all remote lessons allowing for synchronous and asynchronous learning. There will be break out rooms for discussions and

focus on students with exceptionalities that require 1:1 and/or small group. Our Hebrew language learning was able to pivot to the Behrman House online learning center, which we piloted March to May with great success. We are also going to offer staff professional development for technology delivery of lessons and successful engagement online.

The hours for learning this year will be consistent both remotely and on-site. Remote learning platforms will allow transition at the beginning and end of classes and different programming throughout the time.

On-site attendance will have lessons 9:30-11 am, with transition and screening by the MNJCC for temperature and a Covid-19 questionnaire. More details will follow 30 days before returning on site as many changes happen daily and we want to be current in our practice. We will also be providing updates on our websites of Covid-19 Toronto Public Health updates as well as MNJCC protocols and updates as they adapt and change. No adults or strollers are allowed in the MNJCC. All students will be dropped off at the entrance and picked up at the entrance. Students in JK-grade 3 will be escorted by assistants to the entrance. It will be crucial for all parents to show up on time, line up in front of the building with social distance and be patient (as in all other aspects of daily life with line ups).

DJCS is working diligently with the MNJCC logistics and facilities managers to ensure we can pivot classes and maintain flexibility according to Toronto Public Health Guidelines and Ministry of Education suggested guidelines. The MNJCC will be doing a thorough deep cleaning of all classrooms before each session. More details will follow 30 days prior to returning on-site. DJCS staff will have access safely to the classroom and resources weekly. The DJCS Board and staff are preparing all aspects of school life to be remote and on-site which requires double the planning and increased resources for technology, staffing and cleaning. The Board will not pass on these costs this year; however, it is important that the DJCS community understands the degrees and depths of planning that is going into the sustainability of our school.

Family Education programs will be adapted to the blended model as we have done in the last term with great success. We are currently setting up a partnership in Israel with the Museum of Jewish Peoplehood at Beit Hatfutzot (Diaspora Museum) in Tel Aviv for virtual museum tours and workshops for grades 4-7. Details will follow throughout the year. We have also reached out to Yad Vashem educational programming to connect to our DJCS curriculum and are in discussions re programming. Our commitment to Jewish Learning will remain strong and perhaps emerge even stronger through this experience.

We are one community and with perseverance and understanding, we will emerge through this experience together and with strength.

Board of Directors of the Downtown Jewish Community School

Belinda Keshen, Principal