

Dear Hebrew School Families,

We are eager to share with you an update on our planning process for the Chabad Hebrew School 2020-2021 school year.

Since our “in-person” classes have been suspended, Chabad Hebrew School and our community have strived to navigate this complex experience with patience, flexibility, and creativity. The coming school year will require that we continue to be well-prepared to adapt to an influx and fluid environment on the ground. We remain committed to navigating uncertainties as a community with humility, transparency, authenticity, compassion, and respect.

We are deeply grateful to all our Hebrew School families for your perseverance and partnership as we have engaged in online learning and virtual experiences. These last few months have been filled with both joyful and difficult experiences as everyone has been stretched in different ways. Amidst the challenges and triumphs, we thank you for continuing to trust in Chabad’s vision and mission. We look forward to strengthening our community and commitment to relevant and engaging Jewish Education in the 2020-2021 school year.

Guiding Principles:

1. Maintain unwavering commitment to the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community;
2. Continue to provide meaningful, joyful, and intentional Jewish educational experiences for our students.
3. Ensure our students’ academic growth across all Hebrew School content.

Recommendations: Our planning is informed by Governor Murphy and the recommendations put forth by the Department of Health and the New Jersey Board of Education.

In addition, we are in close collaboration with our colleagues in Hebrew Schools throughout New Jersey and around the country, and with medical advisors from across disciplines.

Preliminary Plans We expect that we will implement a combination of the following scenarios throughout the 2020-2021 school year:

1. In-Person Learning: We believe that it is essential that our students have opportunities to come together in person, *provided that it is we are able to do so safely*. With a return to our physical location, we expect some of the following accommodations (based on current information):
 - o Adjustments to classroom configuration, arrival and dismissal protocols, and schedule
 - o Students, faculty, staff, and/or families wearing masks and/or face

shields ○ Limiting group size and student to teacher ratio ○ Frequent hand-washing, and deep cleaning/sanitizing of all spaces.

2. Off-Campus Learning: If the health guidelines indicate the need, we will be prepared to pivot to fully virtual learning. We are already planning for this scenario by considering:

- Lessons learned from the first iteration of Virtual Hebrew School
- Professional development for faculty and staff
- Materials and supply kits for students to take home
- Equitable access to technology for all of our community members. Our hope is for the virtual learning to be as seamless as possible for both the student and parent.

3. Hybrid Learning: While we are eager to safely return to our physical building, we recognize that some members of our community in high-risk circumstances might not feel comfortable doing so. We are exploring options for providing virtual options for students and families who might experience vulnerable health situations.

Thank you to the families that have shared input and engaged in dialogue with us about the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to communicate frequently as the planning process and current situation evolve. In the meantime, please continue to reach out to us.

We thank you sincerely for your patience, commitment, and partnership. We know there is much important work ahead for our whole Chabad of Hunterdon County community, and we look forward to engaging in it together. We will continue to build on the strength of our community in the year to come.

With profound gratitude,

Rabbi Eli & Rachel Kornfeld
Rabbi Avraham Posner