



REOPENING Q&A

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Academies @ GBDS will re-open on August 31st, 2020 for a “five-day, full-day” program for all enrolled students. We are following the Modified Cohort as our fundamental idea is to restrict contact to as few spaces and people as is reasonable, while still being able to offer meaningful in-person learning. Restricted cohorts of students will spend the majority of their school day in a grade-level pod - one designated classroom

We have put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for your convenience. We have also included a list of questions that are still in the process of being adequately addressed.

If you are enrolled or are thinking about securing your spot (while we still have them!) at Academies @ GBDS for 2020-2021, here is what you need to know.

How will cohorts/*kvutzot* be created?

We are creating EC, Elementary and Middle School cohorts/*kvutzot* with each grade being an individual pod.

Where will cohorts learn?

Each pod will be assigned a primary classroom where all learning activities are designed to take place. General and Judaic Studies Teachers for each grade level will move between their spaces; students will remain in their classrooms.

Will students within pods be socially distanced in their own classroom?

Students will be seated at individual desks spaced apart. Students will not be sharing school supplies, all students will have their own technology, materials and books assigned to them.

Will parents be allowed in the building to pick up and drop off students?

Parents, guests and visitors will not be able to access the building during this phase of reopening. Normal drop off and pick up procedures will prohibit parents from entering the building. Additionally, parents coming to pick up sick children or to take children to off-site appointments will be asked to wait outdoors. Our Office will be prepared to facilitate all these comings and goings via intercom and handheld 2-way radios.

Will students be allowed to use lockers?

During this phase of reopening, students will not have access to lockers or storage outside of their designated learning spaces. Storage will be provided in the classrooms.

What will be done to minimize the crossover between adults and children in the classroom?



We are limiting the number of teacher exposures to each class with each class having a team of teachers that will be entering the classroom. Music and Art Specialists will push into each classroom on a rotating schedule to limit exposure.

In addition, Academies @ GBDS students will be equipped with School in a Box Kits in an effort to not share materials. School in a Box Kits will be able to go home with students should we have to pivot to online learning throughout the school year.

How will IEP reviews look in the fall? Will I still be meeting with the Director of Special Services?

Our Director of Special Services, Holly Finley, will be in touch with all families of students with IEPs and facilitating IEP meetings via phone or video conference.

Will students or teachers be required to wear masks?

Under the current guidance, everyone will be expected to use face coverings in school, when social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings may be removed to eat when physical distancing can be maintained, for exercise outdoors and during “mask breaks” when distancing can be maintained. Teachers who teach multiple pods will be required to wear masks during their day. Students will be required to wear masks while walking the halls, using the bathrooms or in any other spaces other than their pods (with the exception of outdoor spaces when socially distanced).

Will my child need to supply their own masks/hand sanitizer?

We are installing sanitizing stations in each classroom and throughout the school. Additionally, we expect families to equip their children with hand sanitizer to be kept in their desks, and to come with their own masks.

What will happen to children who are uncomfortable or refuse to wear masks?

These students should switch to our GBDS Ba’Bayit (Learn Anywhere) program where they can participate fully in our Academies @ GBDS academic program from home without a mask.

Will there be before and after-care?

Yes, children will have to be screened prior to entering the building as per new guidelines. After-care specifics will be shared shortly.

What parts of the program have been adjusted to allow for a safe reopening?

Art and Music will be taught in classrooms. Library workshops will also be taught virtually and all library services will be rendered virtually and contactless. Snack and Lunch will be eaten in cohort spaces with supervision from the grade-level team. Drinking fountains will remain closed. We encourage students to bring a filled labeled water bottle from home daily. We will have small water bottles available in the classrooms as needed. Recess will be scheduled by cohort,



supervised by the grade-level team wherever possible and will take place in scheduled and demarcated outdoor locations which will be cleaned (see below) between usages.

We are exploring Outdoor Classrooms in Grades 1-8. We will encourage teachers to use these spaces whenever academic learning makes sense. We are mindful of the vast weather changes in our area and being mindful of this as we prepare our outdoor learning centers. However, we will encourage usage of these specific classroom spaces as much as realistically make sense.

Tefillah will take place in the classrooms, with zooming into the Tefillah room and will launch without singing.

The pledge and anthems will take place prior to Tefillah in the classrooms, with students standing respectfully in silence.

All assemblies, class ceremonies, events, holidays, school play, conferences, staff PDs and meetings will be reimaged with all necessary adjustments or virtual components to stay in compliance with guidelines.

What parts of the program have been eliminated to allow for a safe reopening?

Choir and afterschool clubs are on hold until further notice.

What cleaning products will be used in school and how often will cleaning occur?

Academies @ GBDS has a high standard for cleanliness and remains committed to upholding these standards while increasing protocols with intensive cleaning practices. The following enhanced cleaning protocols have been put in place as a result of COVID-19 and are based on local health and government guidelines.

High-touch areas throughout the school will be cleaned multiple times each day. Every classroom will be equipped with CDC approved cleaning products, which teachers will use to wipe down any commonly touched surfaces throughout the day. All spaces will be thoroughly cleaned nightly.

What measures will be taken if someone at Academies @ GBDS tests positive for COVID? What measures will be taken if someone at Academies @ GBDS has direct contact with someone who tests positive for COVID? To what extent will Academies @ GBDS be able to conduct contact tracing if someone in the school tests positive or has direct contact with someone who tests positive?

We will follow guidance from the CDC regarding isolation, quarantine periods and the necessity to close school. There may be times when classrooms, wings, or the entire building will be closed for cleaning and sanitizing due to a positive COVID-19 case or related concerns. There may also be situations when a cohort of students who had close contact with a known positive COVID-19 case will need to be quarantined for 14 days. Our online learning program Learn



Anywhere @ GBDS will then be available to these students. Parents will be contacted by Academies @ GBDS administration if their child has been in close contact with a positive case.

If a student is quarantined for a period of time at home, will they have access to virtual learning?

Yes, students who choose to learn in-school, may switch to distance learning (our Learn Anywhere @ GBDS program) when sick or quarantined.

Under what conditions would Academies @ GBDS switch entirely to virtual classes?

If our country goes red or it is recommended by public officials. In addition, if the Academies @ GBDS Task Force and Leadership feel at any time that this is in the best interest of our staff and/or students, we may make the pivot to virtual learning.

How is GBDS Ba'Bayit Different from Remote School last spring? As with all "firsts", there is a learning curve. We now have the benefit of hindsight to help perfect this virtual experience for those who need it. Academies @ GBDS has purchased additional video technology to produce a more dynamic and interactive streaming experience. In addition, teachers have participated in professional development activities to enhance their ability to effectively teach both in-person and online.

What will the expectations be for parents to check children for symptoms prior to sending them to school?

Sending a student to school who has exhibited COVID-19 symptoms in the last 24-hours places other students and staff members at risk of becoming ill. It also increases the likelihood that school will have to temporarily close. As such, parents will be expected to complete a screening at home each morning and report it to the school via the recommended platform, prior to sending students to school. If the answer is "yes" to any of the following, students should be kept home:

1. Do you have any of these symptoms that are not attributable to another condition?
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Feverwill
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
2. Do you have a temperature at or above 100.4 F?
3. Have you been in close, direct contact with; or a caretaker for an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past week?



Will there be temperature checks when students arrive at school?

Yes, we will be screening all students and faculty before they enter our building.

What will happen to students who display symptoms? Where will they go until their parent/guardian picks them up?

We are creating a separate area (possibly an outdoor medical tent) for students to wait for parents/caretaker to pick them up. Parents/caretakers must be ready to pick up sick children promptly. Parents are being tasked with creating a plan for swift pick-up. Sick students will be kept away from others to the extent possible until they are picked up. Students will be brought out to parents, in keeping with our rule of limited entry to the facility.

What are the procedures for kids with runny noses/coughs?

We will be proceeding with extreme caution and will be asking parents to keep home children with just about any symptom of illness at all. We will be erring on the side of caution, and sending students home who exhibit any symptoms as well. We will be treating our teachers the same way.

What if a student or teacher tests positive or is exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

The decision to operate by cohort allows for a more limited, surgical set of closings in the event of a positive case. We could send home just the cohort into self-quarantine or the grade-level pod, depending on the circumstance.

Who do I get in touch with if someone in my family or community has COVID?

Please notify both the Health Department and Academies @ GBDS immediately should you discover that you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

If someone in my immediate family travels, are there any protocols we need to follow when they return?

Our school will remain aligned with all public health guidelines with regard to travel. This means that all requirements for quarantine will be applied to all Academies @ GBDS families.

How is Academies @ GBDS preparing to help children who have concerns about returning to school?

Our school Social Worker, Mara Yacobi, is preparing social-emotional supports to ensure students feel safe and comfortable returning to school. All of our teachers are also working on how to lead discussions regarding safety, resiliency, problem-solving, and stress management. Our small class-sizes and personal teacher connections help make this easier as well.

How can parents help children prepare for the return to school?

Parents can help children get comfortable wearing a mask and with maintaining appropriate social distancing by modeling these behaviors and practicing at home, where they feel safe.



They can encourage children to decorate and personalize their masks, as this may help create a sense of ownership and control over the situation. Parents can be on the lookout for signs of discomfort (physical or social/emotional); and remind children that they can speak with their teachers and other school staff if they are feeling anxious, nervous or uncomfortable. Please be sure to fill out the survey that will be sent home by Mrs. Yacobi.

Here are the next set of questions that we are in the process of answering:

- **What can you tell us about the state of ventilation in the building?**
- **Will there be a PTO hot lunch program?**
- **How will the library lending service work this year?**
- **Can the front office administer my child's medication?**
- **If a child is out sick, what is required for them to come back?**
- **What if a child is sick but not tested for covid?**
- **If a child has to quarantine due to an exposure, does the whole family have to quarantine as well?**