



2020 - 2021 | 5780 - 5781

WELCOME BACK GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

I vividly recall the weight of the moment when BMA decided to proactively close our campus to help our community mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. We couldn't fathom in that moment how the world, and our school community, would be impacted by this virus and how long it would last. We are grateful and proud of our BMA staff and community who rallied together and supported one another as our teachers quickly adapted their lessons to meet the needs of virtual students.

We have learned many valuable lessons throughout this crisis. We've challenged the status quo. We've explored beyond our comfort zones to develop new skills and innovative models of learning. And above all, we've strengthened our school's mission by reaffirming its essential place in our community and the lives of our families.

It is this commitment to providing our children with the Jewish education they deserve that has energized and inspired our dedicated professional and lay teams to work tirelessly over the summer to design a Return to Campus plan. This plan was focused on safeguarding the health & safety of our staff, students, and community; establishing Jewish Day School education as an essential service; and meeting the academic, spiritual, and social-emotional needs of our students.

The Rambam (Yesodei HaTorah, 2:2) famously asks: "What is the path to love and fear G-d?" It is an unusual question to ask regarding a "path" to the performance of a Mitzvah when the command is simply to complete the task. I believe the message is that when it comes to bringing Kedusha (holiness) into the world, one must appreciate that the journey itself, the process, is a holy task.

This summer has been an extraordinary journey, a process unlike any other for schools to undertake. Through it all, I could not help but to be inspired and optimistic about the future of BMA as we worked together to create this comprehensive plan for our children. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have dedicated countless hours in making a Return to Campus possible. The administration, faculty, and lay leaders have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the mission of our school. I'd also like to thank the Jewish Federation of Broward County, Teach Florida, and the school leaders of the Broward County Jewish Coalition for their support, guidance, and friendship.

Our Return to Campus could not have happened without those individuals having a sense of responsibility for our school's success. Our school, to remain open, will need each and every BMA family to do the same by adhering to health & safety protocols and supporting our school in every way possible. Together, we will not only survive this difficult time, but thrive through it.

Rabbi Yoni Fein

Head of School

***Please be aware that the plans and details outlined in this handbook are subject to change as the situation evolves and as we implement the recommendations of our Medical Advisory Committee and requirements issued by Florida or Broward County and the CDC. We will be updating this handbook as needed.**



REOPENING COMMITTEES

IN PLANNING FOR THE SCHOOL'S REOPENING, SCHOOL AND LAY LEADERSHIP WORKED COLLABORATIVELY TO ENSURE A HOLISTIC AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE THREE KEY COMMITTEES FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND PARTNERSHIP THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS.

REOPENING COMMITTEE

Dr. Steven Zombek
Dr. Michael Estreicher
Mr. Jason Eichenholz
Mrs. Elise Askenazi
Mr. Brett Zuckerman
Dr. Michael Resnick
Rabbi Yoni Fein
Mr. Eli Hagler
Mrs. Michelle Moses

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Michael Estreicher, MD, Chair, Medical Advisory Committee
Dr. Jay Adler, MD
Esther Fensterszaub, RN, BSN
Dr. Arielle Hay, MD
Dr. James Hoffman, MD
Dr. Rebecca Ohayon, MD
Nini Ross, FNP-BC

ON-CAMPUS CONTACT TRACING CAPTAINS

Mr. Eli Hagler, Main Admin Building
Mrs. Roni Kurtz, Early Childhood
Rabbi Yehuda Jeiger, 1st Floor Elementary School
Mrs. Lauren Segelbaum, 2nd Floor Elementary School
Mr. Marco Cirillo, Middle School
Rabbi Yoni Fein, Alternate
Mrs. Michelle Moses, Alternate
Mrs. Esther Fensterzaub, RN, BSN





Reopening Links and Resources



- [Select on-campus or hybrid by August 14th](#)
- [Health & Safety Partnership Pledge \(complete per student\)](#)
- [Daily Symptom Screening Checklist](#)
- [Use of Masks to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [Virtual Learning Guide](#)
- [Town Hall Recordings](#)
- [Sample EC Schedules](#)
- [Classroom Technology Samples](#)
- [PikMyKid Carpool App](#)
- [Distance Learning Website](#)
- [BMA In the Know](#)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In finalizing our school reopening decision, our plans were guided by three guiding principles:

- 1** While we all recognize the benefits of on-campus learning, we must only do so if we can provide a safer, low-risk environment for our staff and students.
- 2** Jewish Education is essential to the lives of our children and families. It is a vital element to the growth and development of children who need a strong Jewish Day School education now more than ever.
- 3** Our educational philosophy is founded on the belief that each child is unique, and we must meet the needs of each student to help them reach their potential.

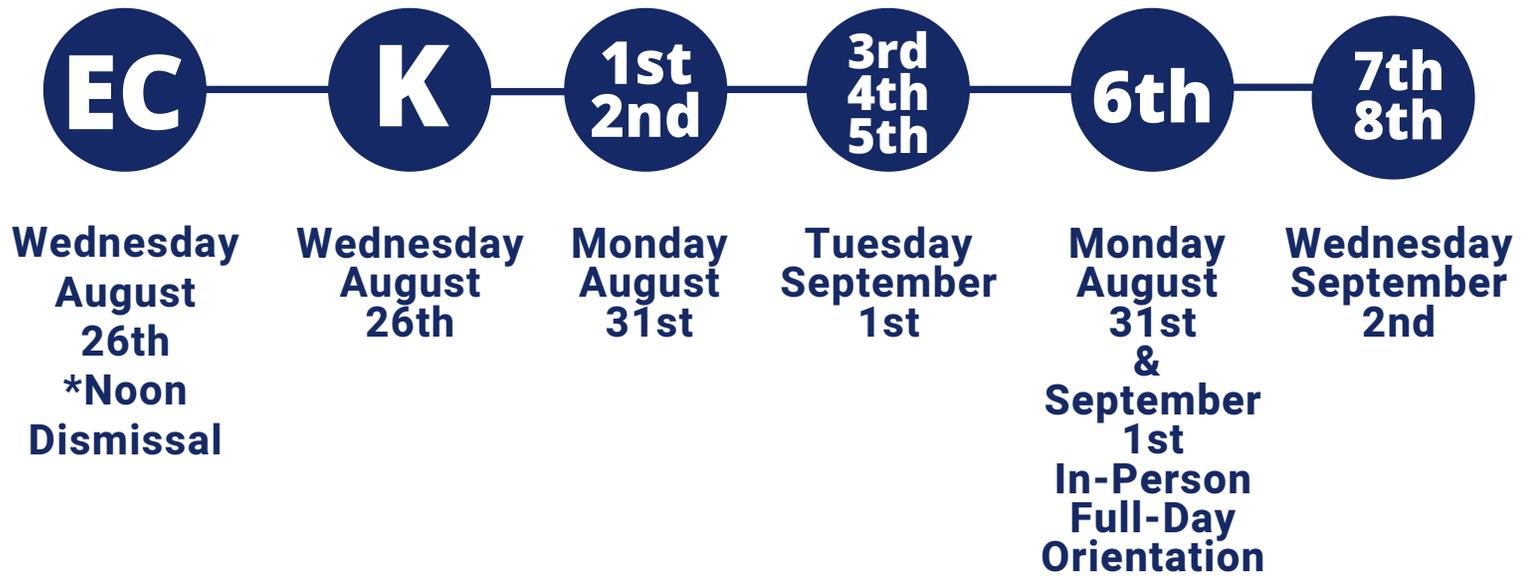
STRATEGY GOALS



7 STEPS TO RETURN TO CAMPUS

1. OPTIONS FOR LEARNING MODALITY
2. KEEPING THE VIRUS OUT
3. MITIGATING THE SPREAD
4. MAXIMIZE OUTDOOR SPACE
5. HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS
6. PREPAREDNESS FOR COVID-19 EXPOSURE
7. VIRTUAL LEARNING

STEP #1: OPTIONS FOR LEARNING MODALITY



**ON
CAMPUS**

HYBRID
*Only K-8



HYBRID TECHNOLOGY (ONLY K-8)

Students will receive a school-owned Chromebook and pertinent school resources, books, and materials so they can fully engage with their classes.

Classrooms in K-8 are retrofitted with audio-visual technology to provide access for hybrid students to view, hear, and interact with their class.

Lunch, recess, and PE will be breaks for hybrid students at home. Asynchronous physical activity checklists will be provided as a guide.

Students will have four opportunities during the year to transfer to the on-campus learning model:

10/13 - Post-Sukkot

11/30 - Post-Thanksgiving

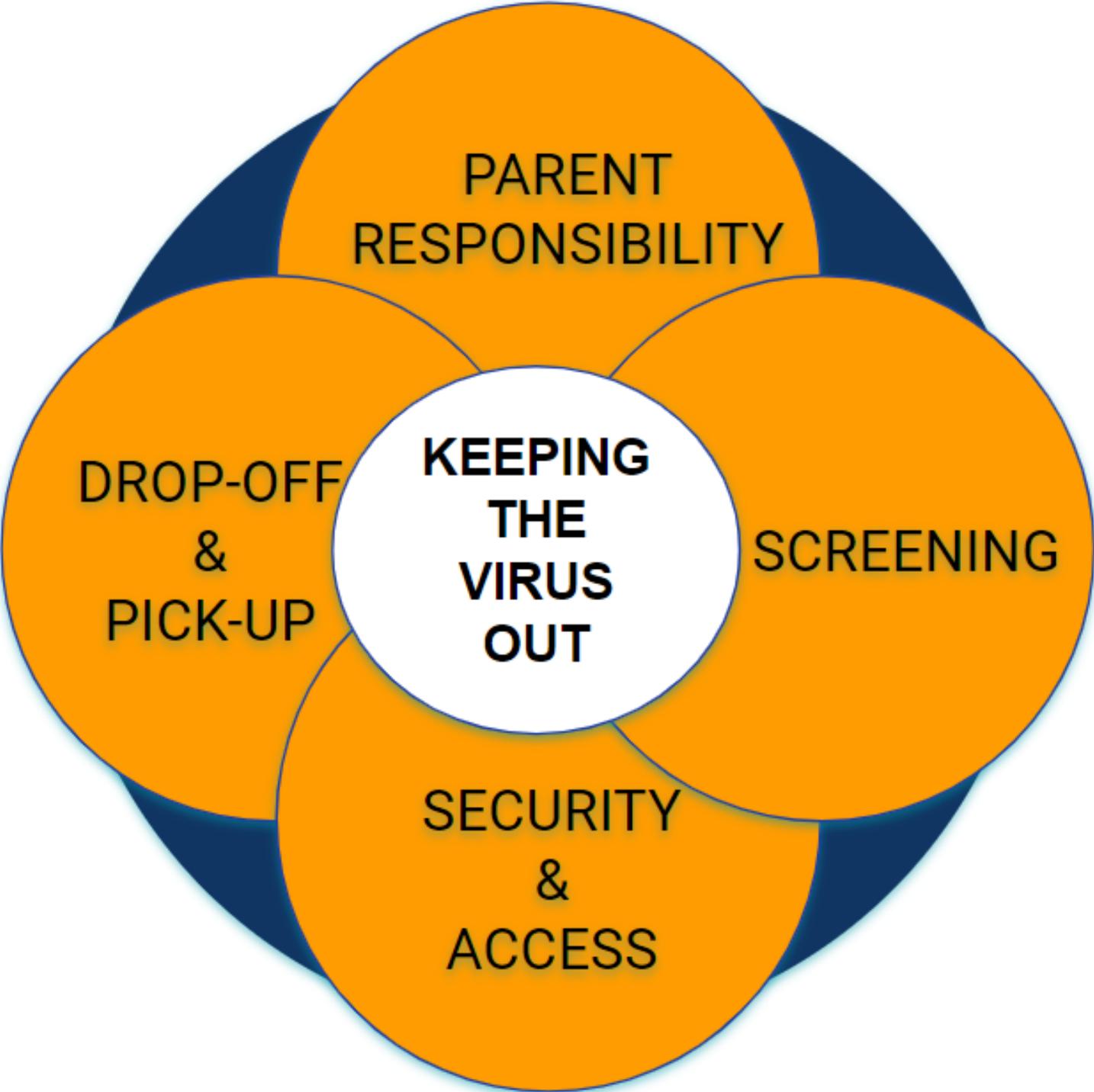
2/1 - Post-Winter Break

4/6 - Post-Pesach

We ask all parents to select either the on-campus or hybrid model via [this online form](#) by Friday, August 14th @ 2PM



STEP #2: KEEPING THE VIRUS OUT



PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

We expect all BMA parents to respect the school's expectations and take on a sense of responsibility to others by adhering to the following guidelines:

All members of our community and approved-visitors to our school must wear masks, wash and disinfect their hands frequently, and mind physical distancing norms.

All members of our community and visitors to our school must follow self-screening guidelines for symptoms of illness and refrain from coming to the school when symptomatic or concerned for a possible exposure. They should err on the side of caution to protect themselves and others.

Per the CDC, symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite

Parents must be honest in informing the school (covid@brauser.us) if:

- Your child has a fever
- Your child presents with any symptoms listed above
- Your child has had any direct exposure or primary contact with anyone confirmed to currently have COVID-19
- You have concerns that someone at home may have COVID-19
- Your child has not taken fever-reducing medication before school

For our community to be safe and our school campus to remain open, all BMA families must do their part by strictly adhering to health and safety protocols both on and off campus.

All parents must read and digitally sign this Health & Safety Partnership Pledge committing to the listed protocols. Students may not be allowed into school if this form is not signed, one per each student, prior to the start of school.



SCREENING

Parent(s) must screen their child(ren) for symptoms each morning using this COVID-19 Symptom Screening Checklist as a guide.

If any of your children exhibit symptoms that require them to stay home, as per the COVID-19 Symptom Screening Checklist, you must keep all of your children home as well until the symptomatic child is cleared, under our listed protocols, to return to school.

Temperature checks will be conducted at drop-off before staff & students leave their cars. Any staff/student with a fever above 100.4 will need to go home, and their children/siblings will have to remain/go home as well until the symptomatic staff/child is cleared to return to school.

Routine and random symptom screenings may be conducted throughout the day.

Disinfectant will be available outside, along with outdoor hand-washing stations, for students to use prior to entering the building.

SECURITY & ACCESS

Only screened students, staff, and approved therapists will be allowed entry into BMA's buildings. Parent meetings will be held virtually.

TRAVEL POLICY

The CDC has identified travel as a risk factor. Traveling by air brings additional risk due to inherent seating arrangements on an airplane, as well as the multiple people we come into contact with passing through an airport. For school, our goal is to minimize risk and mitigate spread on campus by taking realistic and practical precautions with the goal of opening school successfully.

If you choose to travel by air, the waiting period before returning to school will be 14 days.

Any student K-8 who is unable to attend school because of flying or any other reasons, will be able to use the hybrid option and return to campus after the 14 day quarantine period.

This policy will remain in effect indefinitely including the upcoming Chagim.

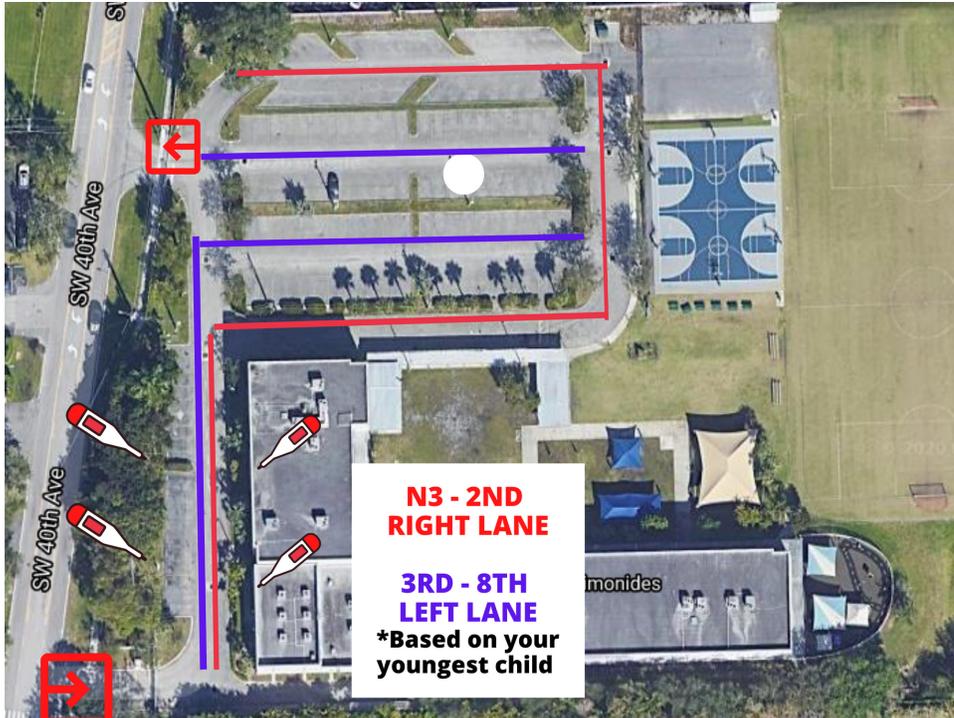


DROP-OFF

Parents will not be allowed to park and/or walk their children into the building.

Teachers and staff members, with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), will warmly greet our students and walk/guide them to class.

Students have designated entry points to the building, and distanced floor markings to help guide them to their class safely. Additionally, the actual door children will enter through matches the floor decals.



PICK-UP

- K-8th grade students will remain in their classrooms for pickup.
- Early Childhood students will come outside and remain in their groups until they are picked up.
- We will be implementing a carpool app called PikMyKid. A geo-fence will be set up around the perimeter of the school and the app will alert the school, and your child's teacher, that your car is now on campus. When that alert comes in, your child's teacher will dismiss the child outside.
- Staff will be available to help students navigate hallways/stairwells and carpool lanes.
- Parents will only be allowed in the carpool lane once appropriate for the age of the children they are picking up. For example, from 3:05-3:15, only EC ONLY families will be allowed into the carpool lane. Other families who arrive too early may be asked to leave campus and come back.
- Parents will be strongly encouraged to not come early and plan to sit on campus.

Early Childhood: 3:05-3:15pm (2:05-2:15 on Friday)

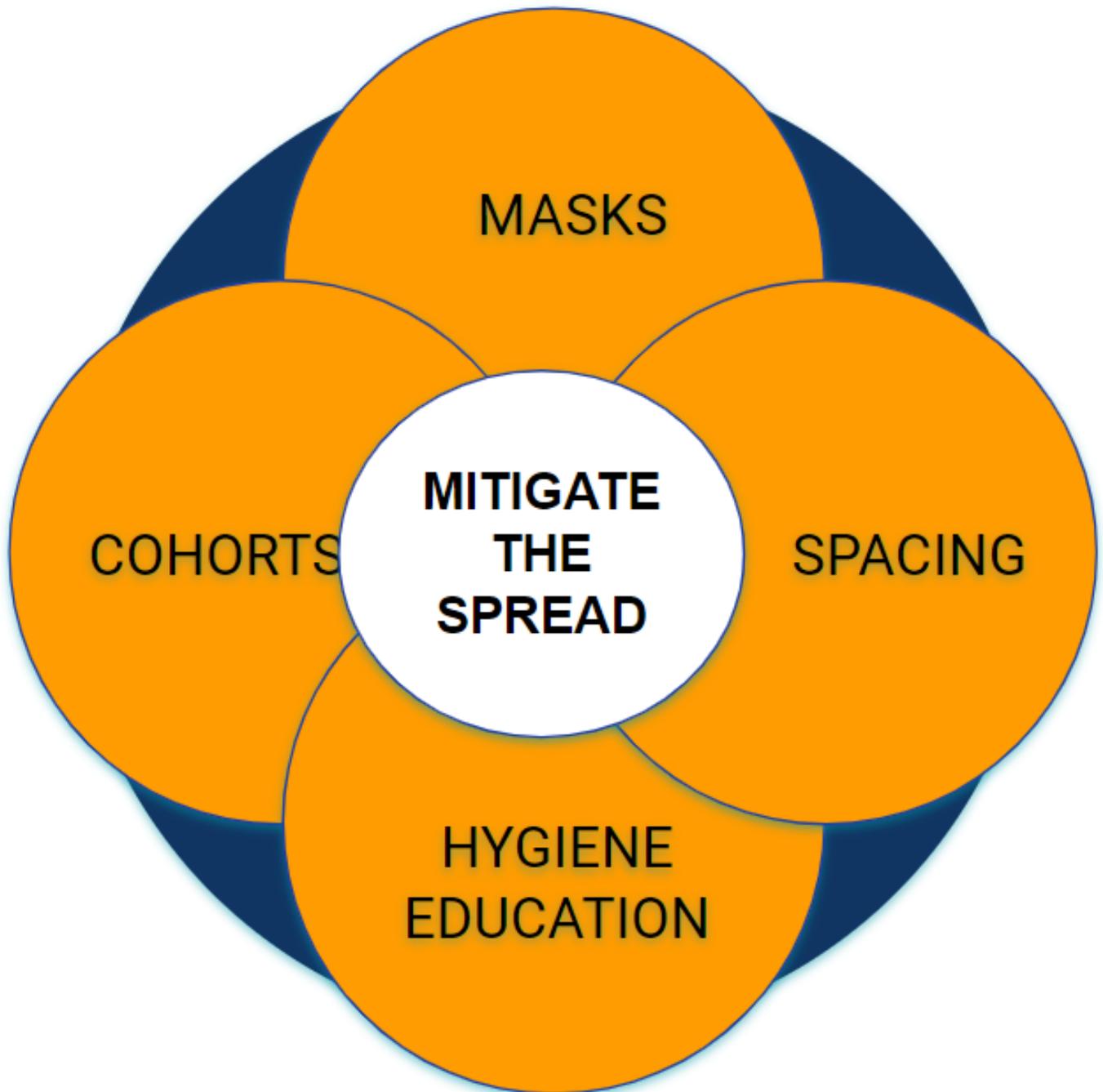
Elementary School: 3:30pm (2:30 on Fridays)

**Middle School: Mon/Wed-4:30, Tues/Thurs: 3:30
(2:30 on Fridays)**

- Students not picked up on time will remain in their classrooms until 3:45 (4:45 for MS). Students will then be brought outside, with masks, until picked up.



STEP #3: MITIGATE THE SPREAD



MASKS

- All staff are required to wear either surgical 2/3-ply or KN95 masks. Staff may also wear face shields in addition to the masks.
- Students in K - 8 are required to wear masks that cover both their nose and mouth. [Here is a list of CDC-recommended masks for students.](#)
- Masks must be worn at all times except during snack, lunch, designated mask breaks, and outdoor recess/PE (when active).
- Masks must also be worn outside when walking to and from carpool as well as if students within a cohort are congregating within 6 feet.
- State guidelines require cloth-coverings (indoors) for children ages 2 and up when possible. Students in N2 - Pre K are required to bring a clean mask to school each day. We will support and guide these students to learn how to wear the masks properly. As always, we will be student-centered with warmth and love to promote mask-wearing during close-contact activities and will work with each student at their developmental level.
- Masks must be labeled with the student's name. Any masks found without a name will be immediately thrown away. Students should have 5 spare masks in their classroom in a clearly marked ziplock bag. Used masks should be cleaned and replaced daily.
- The following masks are not allowed on campus and will be confiscated: masks with exhalation valves, political messaging, and/or potentially scary images. Any other colors and designs are acceptable.
- Students may wear a face shield in addition to, but not in place of, a mask.

COHORTING

- Students in N2 - 5th grade will remain with their class, in their designated classroom, throughout the day. Students within each cohort will have their own desk, cubby, and individual supplies whenever possible. Staff, wearing PPE, will be able to move from classroom to classroom, if needed.
- Middle School will be one cohort to support the academic quality of the tracked program.
- Cohorts in K - 8 will wear bracelets with their cohort color throughout the day.
- Scheduling for N2 - 8 is designed to ensure that no two cohorts overlap in recess/PE and other learning activities.

SPACING

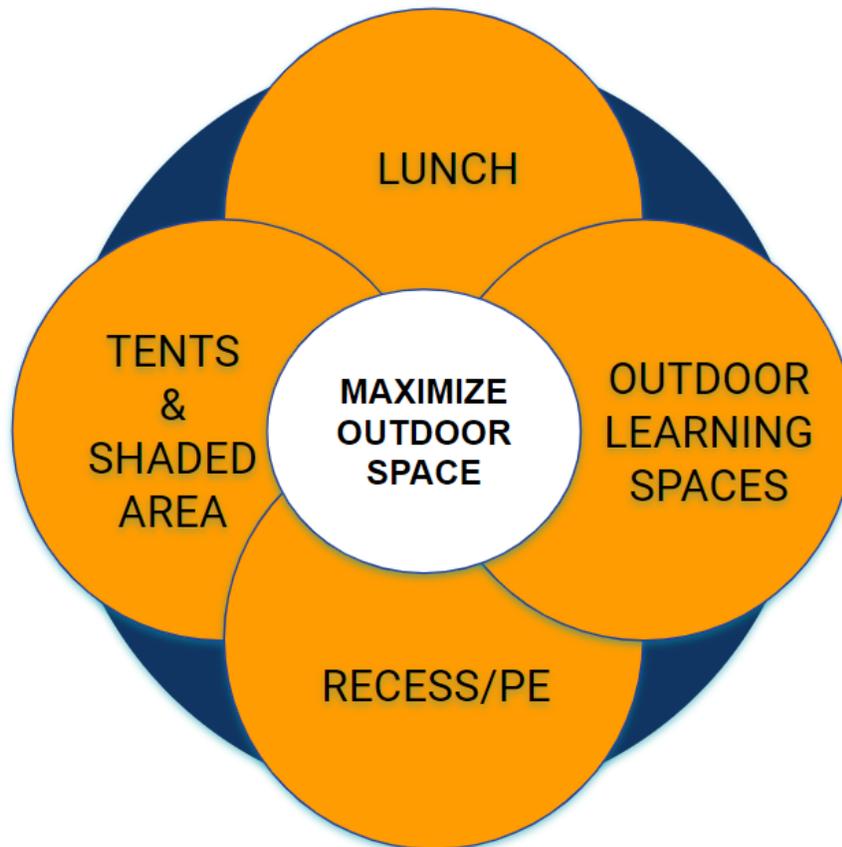
- Physical distancing of 3 - 6 feet will be maintained whenever possible, especially indoors.
- During outdoor breaks and lunch when masks are not worn, a minimum of 6 feet distance will be maintained when possible.
- The facility has been enhanced with signage to promote distancing whenever possible.

HYGIENE EDUCATION

- Students will learn about proper hygiene practices and have designed routines for hand-washing & sanitizing throughout the day.



STEP #4: MAXIMIZE OUTDOOR SPACE



LUNCH

Maximizing outdoor space when distancing and/or masks are not possible, is vital for schools. We have outdoor shaded cafes for students to each lunch, weather permitting. Other precautions of distancing will be utilized if lunch is eaten indoors. EC students will eat in their classrooms with distancing.

Students must bring lunch from home as we currently are not offering hot lunch through the school.

FACULTY LOUNGE

Our typical smaller indoor faculty lounges will be repurposed and used only as a staff bathroom. Teachers will use the lunchroom as a work lounge with distanced work spaces. A large shaded areas will be available outside for staff to take a mask break and prep.

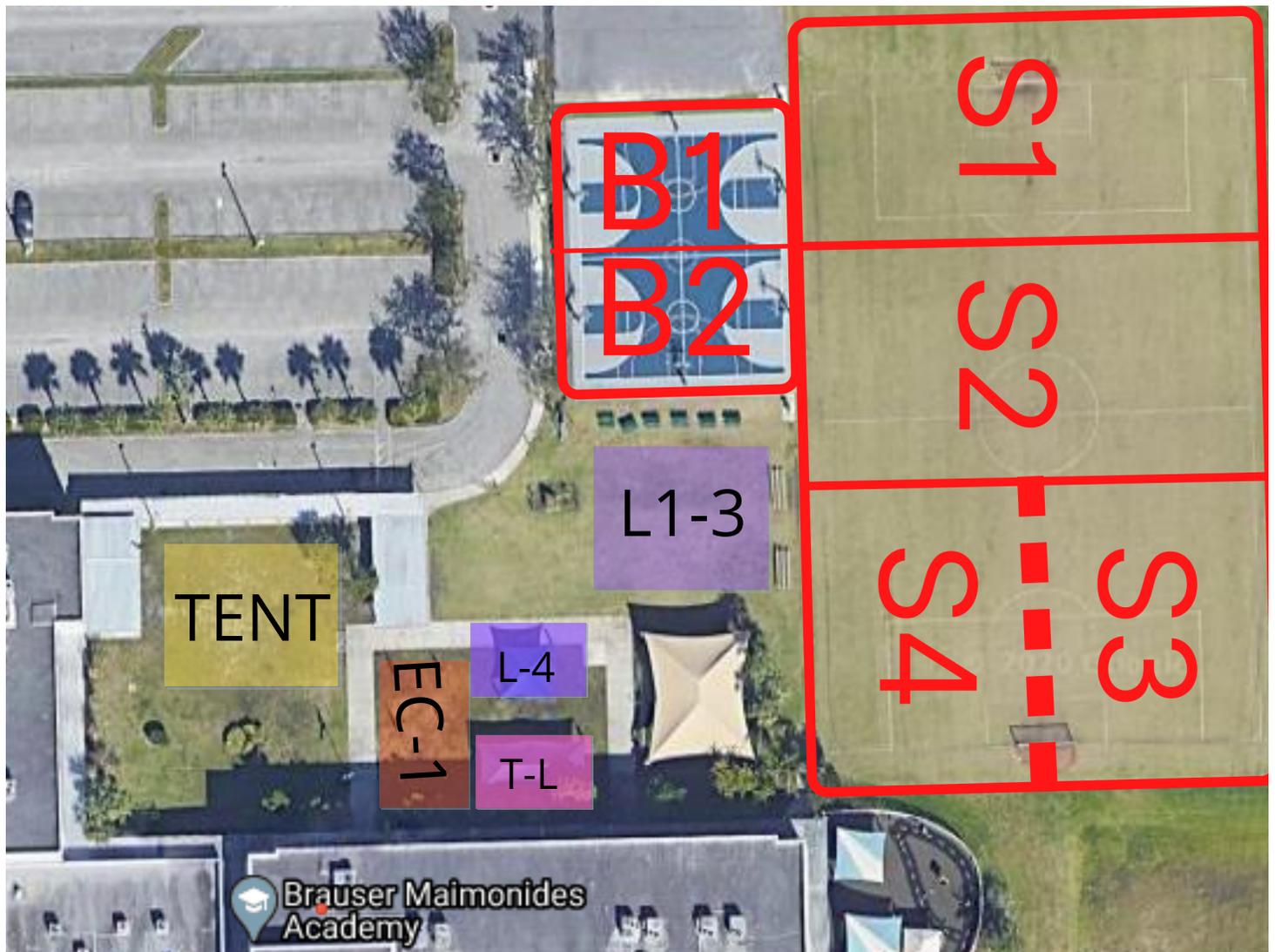
LEARNING ZONES

Additional shaded areas will be available for outdoor learning activities. EC will have additional designated shaded play areas as well.



RECESS | PE ZONES

The basketball court and soccer field are redesigned to create additional zones for recess and PE marked by paint and cones.



Tent: Outdoor Lunch & Play

L1-4: Learning

EC-1: EC Play & Learning

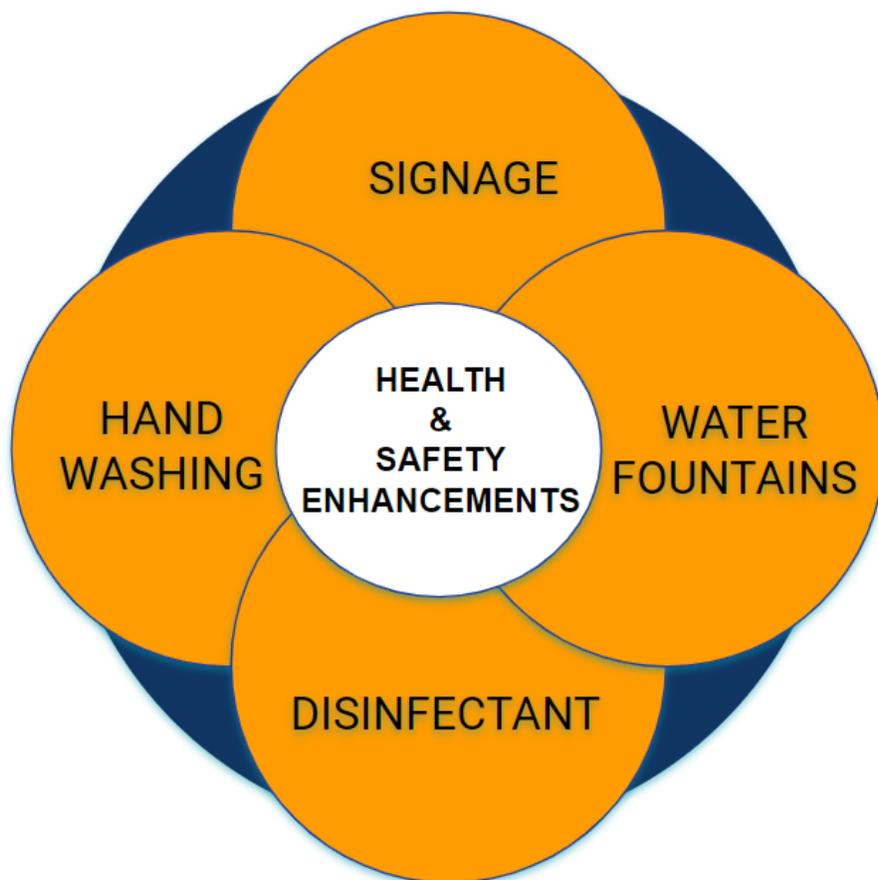
T-L: Teacher Lounge

B1-2: Basketball

S1-4: Soccer & Recess/Outdoor Play



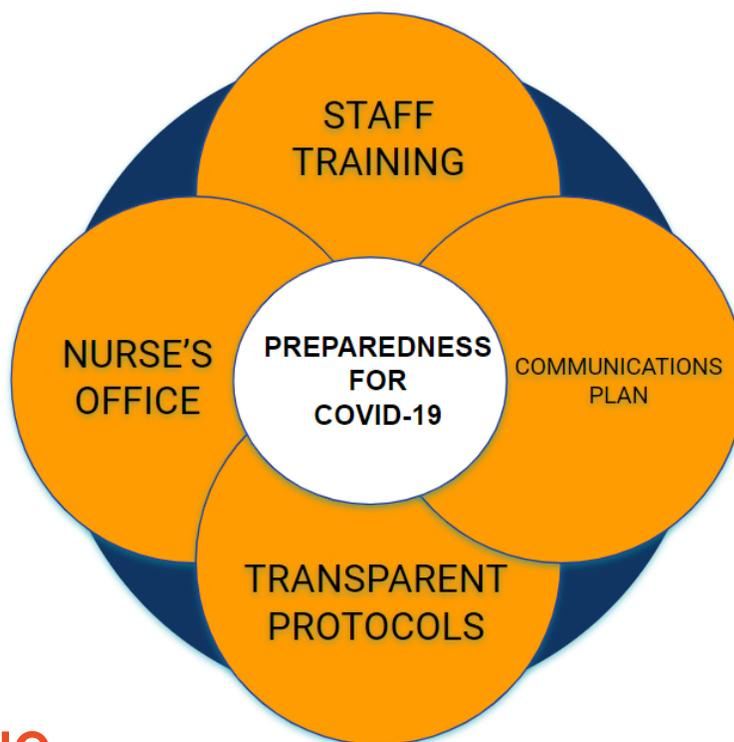
STEP #5: HEALTH & SAFETY



HEALTH & SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

- Automated disinfectant dispensers have been installed throughout the building in high-traffic areas. Additional disinfectant will be provided in classrooms, offices and bathrooms.
- Outdoor hand-washing stations installed
- Water fountains will be converted to automated water-bottle fillers, students should bring enough water for the day
- Purchased disinfectant fogger machines to spray high-contact areas and toys
- Increased cleaning crew, one per floor, throughout the day with a routine disinfecting schedule
- Increased night cleaning crew with nightly disinfecting of rooms, high-contact areas, and toys
- School-wide signage to promote hygiene

STEP #6: PREPAREDNESS



STAFF TRAINING

- Administration completed Contact Tracing certification through Johns Hopkins University
- Staff training on managing children with symptoms, cultivating a warm and calm learning environment, and age-appropriate resources for communicating with students
- Orientations for students and staff to learn new routine.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

- We worked with the Florida Department of Health in designing a communication toolkit. This enables swift, transparent, and actionable communications with parents regarding COVID-19 updates at school.

NURSE'S OFFICE

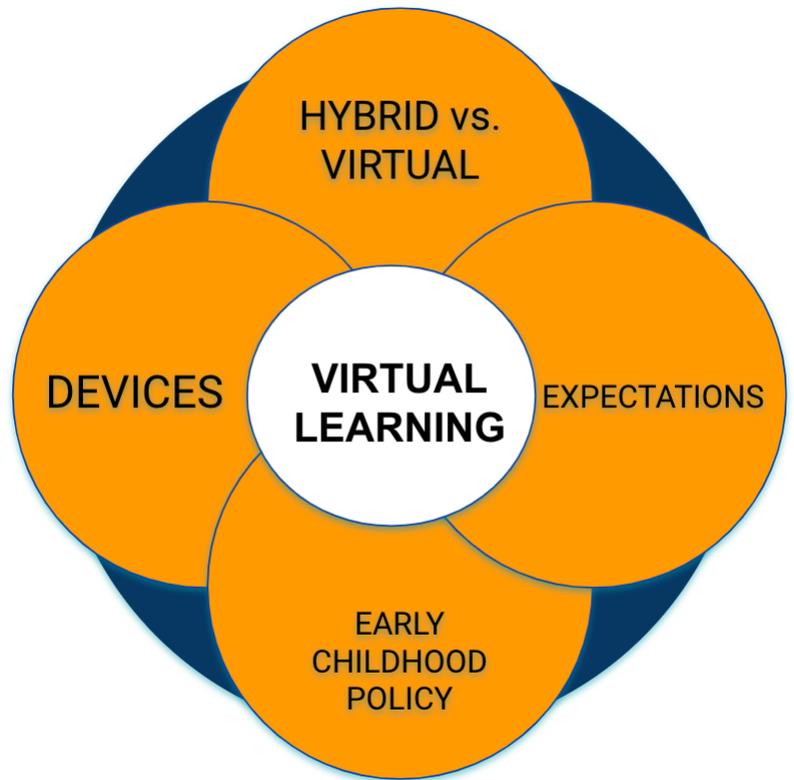
- We moved the nurse's office to the "Kitchen". This room will not share an AC unit with any other area. The nurse will also remain in her office for non-CVOID related injuries, and will have separate pods for students with symptoms.

TRANSPARENT PROTOCOLS

- Our Medical Advisory Committee has created a comprehensive operational plan for dealing with COVID-19 cases. This is in-line with the protocols set by the CDC and the Florida Department of Health. We will make these available to parents on our reopening site.

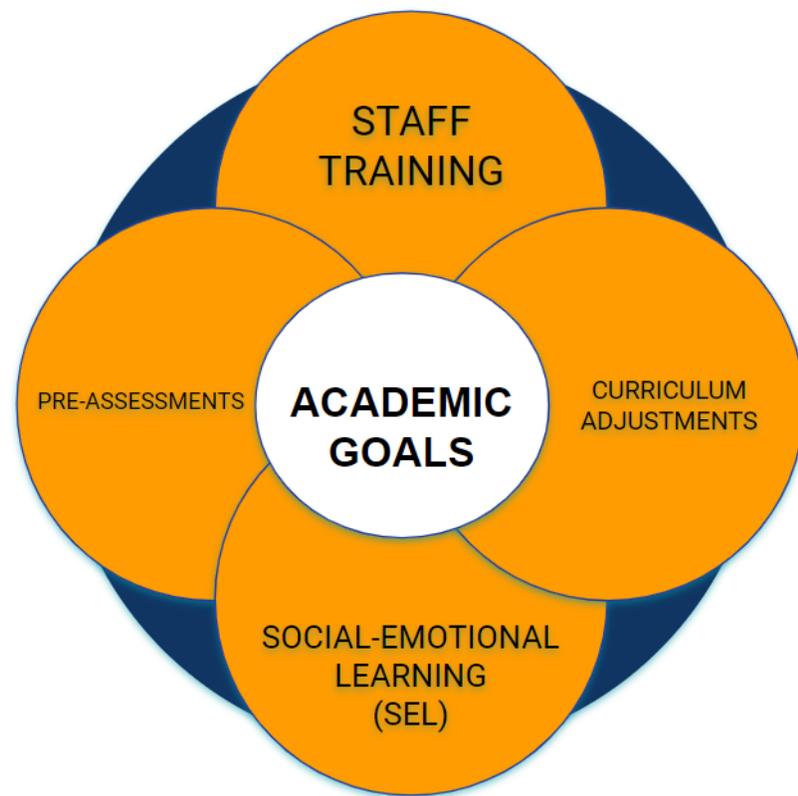


STEP #7: VIRTUAL LEARNING



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- Different from Hybrid learning where students interface with a brick-and-mortar classroom, virtual learning will take place when an entire class or grade needs to quarantine. Additionally, should there be multiple cases across divisions in a short period of time, the school could set a school-wide move to virtual for a specified period of time out of precaution.
 - If students must have virtual learning, our goal is to have teachers continue to teach from their classroom, utilizing the same hybrid technology, so long as they are medically cleared to enter the building. Should a teacher be required to remain home during that time period, we will meet the expectations set for each grade in the [Virtual Learning guide](#). Middle School will follow the same schedule virtually as they have when on campus.
 - Handbooks for both Elementary and Middle School have been updated to include a COVID-19 supplement that details expectations for students during a virtual learning scenario.
 - School-owned devices will be provided for students K - 8 in this scenario and parents must sign the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement to receive their device.
 - If an Early Childhood class requires a quarantine period, we will not be offering a virtual option. Parents will receive a 90% credit for the tuition paid per day during that period. This credit will apply only after the first 14 day quarantine period has taken place.
 - Students who require a quarantine will need to follow the screening protocols for re-entry to school. Students can elect to remain in hybrid learning once the quarantine period ends and classes resume on campus.

ACADEMIC GOALS



ORIENTATION

- We will be scheduling virtual orientations, and “Get to Know Your Teacher” meetings, prior to the start of school. During the first few days of school we will have orientations to help students adjust to the transition to campus.

PRE-ASSESSMENTS

- Some pre-assessments such as MAP and Reading (Hebrew and English) will be conducted virtually prior to the start of school for specific grades.
- All students in K-8 will have pre-assessments at the start of school to identify their progress in the expected entry skills for their grade.

CURRICULUM ADJUSTMENTS

- Our curriculum and personalized learning tools will be adjusted to help students progress at their level based on the pre-assessment data collected

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Middle School students will have both homeroom and Advisory built into the schedule to provide students support and guidance
- Elementary School students will have regularly scheduled SEL lessons with Mrs. Yudith Furman, our Director of Counseling, and their teachers.
- Early Childhood teachers will continue training in Conscious Discipline and focus on child social-emotional development as a focus for this year.
- All staff will be trained during in-service in utilizing positive psychology principles for school including emotion management, coping strategies, positive relationships, and mindfulness.



SAMPLE SIGNAGE



**IF YOU
SNEEZE,
WASH YOUR
HANDS!**





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WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU SOON!



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First Day of School

Brauser Maimonides Academy