



Heads of Small Schools August 19

For more information contact [Amy Wasser](#)

Began by supporting Lander Grinspoon whose board decided just this week not to open in person; hard to adjust to after all the work that went into preparing to safely open; Only families that are happy are those who were going to opt for remote learning; they will plan in person, socially distanced outside get togethers

A few school leaders on whose schools have opened and we heard their reflections:  
Bornblum: Staff less anxious each day and openly said that; biggest issues arising is how to support the high demands on teacher time with no way to give the breaks that are needed

Hasten has had a full week and it was better than expected but fully recognized they needed every minute of the planning they did; did walkthroughs which helped see areas they might have forgotten

Considering building in some half days to give teachers time off; starting early Friday dismissal now and holding it for the whole year (one school using the extra hour for faculty meeting)

Schools are staggering the return to give a feel for parts of the day and ease in slowly; ideas: first two days ½ days; first week add a few hours each day

Trying to be creative on when to hold staff meetings as teachers need any possible breaks during the day and don't want to stay after school; and what do you do with faculty children if there is no aftercare?

CDC is saying no close contact for more than 15 minutes in the same space

Charlotte is hiring "multi purpose people" to help with all their needs

Specialists are teaching outside

The question came up of how to handle PTO; some schools are allowing it to be donated to sick banks, others paying out; others holding to current policies with no changes; if a teacher is sick

but can teach from home school will pay for sub and let teacher work without docking them;  
most schools won't dock for COVID related absence

Tefilah: each school adhering to own policies; no singing even outside; singing outside spaced  
apart facing one directions with masks; using this year to look at tefilah education in a new way  
with more content and less davening per se: move kavanah and less kevah; question on how to  
enable shofar blowing, and again many different opinions

Concerned with morale of staff; have never felt them so down; Dan W assured with each day it  
gets better; be positive, hear them and say thank you over and over; give voice to their  
concerns and have a means for them to air concerns and how to fix issues that arise

Jen reminds us all to be conscious of wellness and self care

All felt our plans for a series on Race was an excellent idea and needs to be offered

Changing our meeting time will be hard due to all the different dismissal needs; will encourage  
anyone who needs to just to join for part of the meeting so they are included and will always  
share notes; anyone who cannot join should send Amy Wasser questions in advance and the  
answers will be shared back.

Reminder of new reshet groups for K, art, music and meet ups for PE