

# Our Preparation Plan for Fall 2020

IF I AM NOT FOR MYSELF,  
WHO WILL BE FOR ME?  
IF I AM ONLY FOR MYSELF,  
WHAT AM I?  
IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

אם אין אני לי מי לי?  
וכשאני לעצמי מה אני?  
ואם לא עכשיו אימתי?

– RABBI HILLEL



SAUL **MIROWITZ**  
JEWISH  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL

A Meaningful Year Awaits.



# Introduction



Throughout the summer, members of the leadership team, faculty and board have been developing, evaluating and revising plans that would allow us to return to school safely. We have learned from schools and summer programs that have already operated in person successfully, and we've had conversations with other school leaders. We worked with medical professionals to build a plan based on science.

With the protocols we have developed, we feel we can create a situation in which there is minimal risk of spread of the coronavirus at Mirowitz. Our enrollment size, our class size, and our spacious indoor and outdoor facilities make it possible for us to practice social distancing and cohorting. To successfully open, though, will take tremendous cooperation from our students, families, faculty and staff. We believe our community can exercise the *kavod* (respect) necessary to do it!

This Preparation Plan lays out our vision for a safe return to school and the steps we will take to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission this year. It reflects what we know as of August 5, 2020. If we have learned anything this summer, it is that the landscape shifts almost daily. As conditions continue to change, this plan may be amended or revised.

## A few principles have guided our decisions:

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:** We have a responsibility for the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, and also for the broader community. We will closely follow the regulations for the safe operation of schools provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), our government officials, and our Mirowitz Medical Advisory Team.

**IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION:** We believe that the best learning environment for children is in person, surrounded by teachers and peers. We only expect to close school again if an order from the County or State compels us to do so, or if an unsafe condition exists in our school. To the greatest extent possible, and in conjunction with official health guidelines, we will strive to provide in-person instruction for our students.

**FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY:** We understand that we may have to respond quickly to changing conditions over the next several months. As such, 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 team and the requirements issued by Missouri and St. Louis County.

While school will no doubt look and feel different this year, we are committed to providing a meaningful, productive, and joyful learning environment for your children. We value your partnership and cooperation as we move forward.

**Cheryl Maayan**  
Head of School

**Diane Rosen**  
Board President

## Medical Advisory Team

We are grateful to the medical professionals whose tireless work guided the creation of this Preparation Plan.

Dr. David Rosen  
Dr. Abby Kushnir  
Dr. Leslie Fogel

Dr. Diane Rosen  
Dr. Humberto Olivero  
Dr. Sara Lander

# Mirowitz Brit



## Like never before, we must embrace the mandate of:

כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה.

*Kol Yisrael aravim zeh b'zeh.*

**The entire Jewish community is responsible for one another.**

Community קהילה (*Kehillah*) will look different at Mirowitz this year!

The reimagining of our school will likely make it one of the safest places for children to spend their days. That said, the safety of the Mirowitz community will depend on what our students and families do outside of school.



**We ask for your commitment to the following best practices so Mirowitz students and faculty will be able to learn together and stay healthy:**

- \* Mask wearing indoors with people other than your household cohort.
- \* Mask wearing outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- \* Social distancing in group situations or in public spaces.
- \* Limit social gatherings to fewer than 10 people.
- \* Avoid public spaces with more than 10 people.
- \* Commit to responsible hand-washing and sanitizing.
- \* Inform the school immediately if anyone in your immediate family contracts COVID-19, is in close contact with a person with COVID-19 or has been in a high-transmission area.
- \* Follow state travel guidelines.
- \* Monitor your children's health each day and keep them home if they have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above, a cough, fatigue, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or other symptoms that require observation, isolation or medical treatment. Follow protocols for a safe return to school after illness.
- \* Limit your own exposure through limited travel, public gatherings and maintaining safety precautions at your workplace.
- \* Practice kindness and patience with fellow parents, in-person and on social media.

**THANK YOU for partnering with us.** We look forward to a productive year of learning and growth.

# Health Measures



The Mirowitz faculty and staff are committed to providing the best learning possible for your children. We believe that education is better delivered in person. We also are committed to protecting the health of our students, teachers and staff. With the guidance of our Medical Advisory Team, we have implemented all required mitigation strategies, along with many additional measures that will provide extra protection.

Families that are not comfortable with in-person learning have the option to join the classrooms via Zoom. Details of this remote option are described later in this document.

## Masking

The evidence is clear on the importance of face coverings in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

- \* All students and employees will wear masks throughout the day. Employees working in close proximity to children may wear both a mask and a face shield.
- \* A face mask must cover both the nose and mouth. Masks with vents are not permitted.
- \* When administrative staff are working alone in a private office, or when teachers are alone in their classroom, masks may be removed.
- \* Teachers will allow students to remove masks for brief periods outdoors when social distancing can be enforced, as well as during lunch, snack and drinking.
- \* We know that it is sometimes difficult to recognize a person or to read facial cues while that person has their face covered. All employees will also wear a picture of their smiling face to assist children in recognizing us.

## Physical Distancing

### \* Use of Outdoor Space

Our outdoor learning spaces have always been a priority, and we will expand on those by installing tents for outdoor classroom use. Lunch and PE will be outside when weather allows. Each Mirowitz student should bring a towel for comfortable outdoor seating.

### \* Indoors

Mirowitz will provide each student with a transparent desk divider for their table/desk. Adult desks will have acrylic barriers. Some spaces in the building, such as the lobby and library, will be repurposed and reconfigured to allow for distancing among faculty and staff.

### \* Movement in the Building

Movement in the building will be controlled and directed to reduce the mixing of students. Procedures will be in place to ensure distancing when children travel through the hallways. The number of children in the bathroom at any one time will be limited.

### \* Cohorts

Each class will be considered a distinct cohort. Students will remain in their cohort, and cohorts will not mix with each other. This will minimize the impact on learning (by reducing the number of individuals who must quarantine) if a student or teacher is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Cohorts may have more than one teacher during the instructional day.

The middle school will constitute one cohort, as classes necessitate a mix of students from different grades throughout the day.

Preventing interaction between cohorts will be prioritized over distancing of children within a cohort, although distancing precautions will be taken within each cohort.

### \* Small Group Work

Our advisory committee has permitted small-group work as long as the students are wearing masks. Desk dividers will provide additional protection.

### \* Class Size

Classes will be limited to 14 students in grades K-4, and 16 students in grades 5-8.

### \* School-wide Events

School assemblies, faculty meetings, parent/teacher conferences, curriculum night and other large attendance events will take place virtually.

## Daily Screening

To help minimize the risk of exposure and infection, a daily pre-screening and reporting must be completed each morning by parents, on behalf of their children, and by faculty and staff. Anyone with symptoms will be excluded from school.

### \* Morning Health Screening

While in the car, children will secure their masks and answer a number of questions regarding symptoms. An administrator will take the child's temperature. When children are cleared, they can exit the car and proceed into the building. Mirowitz faculty and staff will participate in the same screening when they arrive in the morning. Parents will be expected to wear masks throughout the temperature check and the entire time they are on campus.

Students and families arriving after carpool hours must buzz at the door to have the student's temperature taken outside.

### \* App for Screening

Parents have an option to complete the verbal screening questions daily on an app that we will make available for you. Families that choose this option will display the app to the administrator, and we will proceed with taking the child's temperature.

- \* **Symptoms? Please stay home.** Our ability to continue in-person learning will depend on every parent's commitment to keeping their children home and every staff member's commitment to staying home if they are not well. If your child has a cough or another COVID-19 symptom that is chronic or related to another condition (for example: asthma), we ask that you provide a note from your child's doctor.

## Morning Arrival

### \* Drop Off Locations

Families will be assigned a specific drop-off time and location. Times will be staggered to eliminate crowding and back-ups in the morning. Parents will have an opportunity to request a drop-off time that works for their family. A family's pick-up location will be the same as the drop-off location.

**The two entry locations will be:**

**1 The front door to our lobby**

**2 The south door near Morah Sallie's and Morah Laura's classrooms**

Cars assigned to this location will drive through the north B'nai Amoona entrance as we typically do for afternoon dismissal, and pull forward to the school's south door.

### \* Carpools

Parents are encouraged to limit the number of passengers/families in a carpool to reduce possible exposure. All carpools must register with the school, including the names of all potential drivers and passengers, for the purposes of contact tracing in the event of a positive case of COVID-19. Mixed-family carpools should wear masks while in the car.





# Health Measures *(continued)*

## Visitors and Guests

In order to minimize exposure to coronavirus, only students, faculty, staff and approved providers will be permitted to enter the Mirowitz building during the school day. All other visitors or guests (including parents, grandparents, siblings and alumni) will not be permitted in the building during school hours. We realize this is a complete departure from our school culture, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

## Cleaning and Sanitation

- \* We have had our HVAC system serviced and have installed a filtration system that is rated for bacteria and virus.
- \* We have enhanced our daily and weekly cleaning and disinfecting procedures to follow CDC and state guidelines and best practices.
- \* Plexiglass partitions will be placed in areas such as the school office and on teachers' desks.
- \* High touch surfaces (including door handles, copy machines, faucets, sinks, toilet handles and light switches) will be cleaned three times during the school day. The building will be cleaned thoroughly each night.
- \* Books and materials that cannot be easily cleaned will be returned to a drop box where they will remain for 48 hours before being re-shelved.
- \* When students do need to share materials, they will be instructed to use hand sanitizer before and after.
- \* Water bottle filling stations will be available. Students will be expected to bring clean water bottles each day for their personal use. Drinking fountains will not be available for the duration of the pandemic.

- \* Playgrounds will be used by one class at a time. Children will sanitize or wash their hands before and after using the playground.
- \* Shared supplies, such as for art, music or PE, will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- \* Students will be assigned their own devices and will not use shared laptops or iPads.
- \* Community spaces will be sanitized between use by different cohorts.

## Hand hygiene

- \* Hand sanitizer will be placed inside and outside every classroom, office and common space. All hand sanitizers are ethanol based.
- \* Students will be re-trained in proper hand washing. Students will be instructed to wash or sanitize throughout the day.
- \* Hand hygiene will take place at the beginning of the day, before and after meals, after outside play, after using the restroom, before and after classroom activities that involve sharing materials, and after coughing or sneezing or blowing one's nose.
- \* Handwashing posters will be posted at all sinks.

## What parents can do now:

- \* Buy masks for your children (1 for every day of the week, plus several to leave at school).
- \* Practice social distancing.
- \* Buy shoes and lunch containers that your child can use with independence.
- \* Buy several water bottles for your child. Mark clearly with their name.
- \* Plan for your entire family to get the flu vaccine.
- \* Maintain your child's health through healthy eating and exercise.

# Sick Policy

In order to protect each other, we must exercise an abundance of caution and stay home when we are not feeling well.

Sick policies for students and employees have been altered to minimize the number of sick people in the building, and to allow continuity of learning for quarantined, mildly ill or asymptomatic students. Faculty and staff will not be financially disincentivized from staying home if they are sick.

Students and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home until 10 days have passed after symptoms appeared and at least 3 days have passed since recovery from symptoms. This means the fever is gone for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and all respiratory symptoms are gone. A fever is defined as 100.4 or higher.

Parents have an obligation to inform the school if a family member tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms consistent with the virus.

## When Someone Is Sick

Our daily health screenings and culture of shared responsibility will prevent students and employees from coming to school sick. Should a child or employee get sick or present with symptoms during the school day, we will:

- \* Isolate the student until the child can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- \* Sick employees will be sent home immediately.
- \* Advise the child's parent to contact a healthcare provider immediately to determine whether symptoms are a result of COVID-19.
- \* Should any member of the Mirowitz community test positive, we will immediately contact the County Health Department and follow their guidance regarding quarantine, contact tracing, classroom or school closure, notification of community, and sanitizing protocols.
- \* A few staff members are participating in the Johns Hopkins contact tracing course and will advise us should contact tracing be necessary.







# Health Protocols

The health department has developed region-wide protocols for handling community members with symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19. We will be following the protocols established in the *isolation guide* shown in diagram on the next page.

**Q** What should I do if my child is not feeling well (non-COVID-19).

**A** Your child should remain home until:

- Your child feels better and symptoms have improved.
- Your child has had no fever (less than 100.4° F) for 72 hours without using medication to lower fever.

**Q** What should I do if my child has had close contact (less than 6 feet without a mask for more than 15 minutes) with a person with COVID-19.

**A** Anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure. Anyone who has close contact with someone being tested for COVID-19 will be required to isolate until the result is returned negative or for 14 days, whichever is shorter. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes without a mask.



## Student with + test for novel coronavirus

YES

**Student\* AND household contacts\*\* immediately excluded from school**

until approved by the Health Department for return to school.

YES

### Contacts indentified:

Students with close contact with the + student:

- ~ During the student's infectious period (48 hours before and for 10 days after symptoms developed)
- ~ Within 6 feet
- ~ Contact > 15 minutes

Includes classroom contacts seated within 6 feet in the front, side and back of student AND students who were within 6 feet for > 15 minutes during lunch, free period, transportation, sports teams and extracurricular activities.

YES

### Face covering used?

NO

YES

**NO FURTHER ACTION**

**Provide a list of students who are possible close contacts to the Health Department**

St. Louis County Case Reporting at [cdcs.doh@stlouisco.com](mailto:cdcs.doh@stlouisco.com) or 314-615-2660:

Provide student name, parent(s) name, phone number and home address

YES

**Health Department will determine which students should be quarantined and excluded from school.**

\*Student with a positive test will be isolated and should not come to school until no fever for > 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) AND symptoms improving AND approved by the local Health Department to return to school (typically 10-14 days from start of symptoms).

\*\*Household contacts and students who are determined to be close contacts will be quarantined and should not come to school until at least 14 days after the last potential exposure AND approved by the local Health Department for return to school.

Information revised 7/20/2020

Prepared by Rachel Orschein, MD  
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# Our Program

## Before and After School Programming

### Athletics

Fall athletic competitions in St. Louis County have been canceled.

### Aftercare

In order to maintain the safety of our students and staff, no aftercare or after-school activities will be offered this year.

### Before Care

A limited number of students can participate in a morning running/walking club for \$5 per day. The club will meet outdoors on the field from 7:30-8 a.m. On bad-weather days, Before Care students will be assigned a separate space in the gym where they can jump rope, hula hoop, read, crochet or do whatever they would like during the 30 minutes.

### Aftercare Enrichment

In past years, we have allowed outside vendors to use our space after school to provide enrichment opportunities. As no non-school personnel will be allowed in the building, we will be unable to offer enrichment of this type during this school year.

## Lunch

Bistro Kids will continue to provide our food service as an option for families.

- \* Lunch will be individually packaged for each student and delivered to classrooms where students will eat with their cohorts.
- \* When the weather allows, classes will be encouraged to eat outdoors.
- \* When eating indoors, seats will be assigned, plastic study carrels will be used, and students will be placed so that they are not facing one another.

## Specialties

### \* T'fillah and Kabbalat Shabbat

Classes will join t'fillah and Kabbalat Shabbat via Zoom from their classrooms.

### \* School Trips

All fall overnights, including the middle school trip, are postponed until further notice. (If field trip fees are unused, Mirowitz will credit your account.)

### \* Calendar Changes

Due to the changing nature of teaching, we are providing faculty with a professional development day once each month. This will allow them to meet with their teams via Zoom, since they cannot gather in person. It will also give us the ability to improve our pedagogical practice in the new environment. The updated school calendar was posted on our website on August 3.

### \* Music and Drama

Singing has proven to be a risk for transmitting coronavirus, but with masking and physical distancing, we have been assured that group singing is permissible. Music also will include increased use of bells and hand-held instruments. All equipment will be cleaned between classes. Music and drama will meet in the Wolf Beit Midrash.

### \* Band

The research on band instruments is still unfolding, and we are planning to adjust our curriculum so band students can safely have instrumental music education. Fourth graders will have one lesson a week in bucket drumming and music fundamentals. This instruction will contribute to their later success in band. Fifth through eighth grade bands will continue instruction with recommended safety precautions.

### \* Art

Art classes will meet in the art room with a break between classes so we can sanitize all seats and surfaces. Each class cohort will use their own art tools and materials.

### \* Physical Education

PE will meet outside or in the gym.

### \* Library

Books from the library may be available for check out and will be brought to classrooms for independent reading. Returned books will be placed in a drop box where they will remain for 48 hours before being shelved.

### \* Recess

Students will have time to play outside in their cohorts. Cohorts will not mix. Students will wear masks outdoors when social distancing is not possible. Children will sanitize or wash their hands before and after using the playground.

## Technology

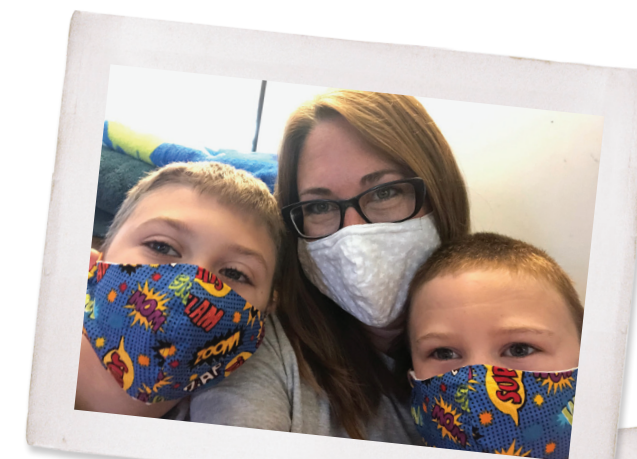
Students will not be using shared devices.

- \* Students will be assigned a device for use at school. Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be assigned an iPad. Students in grades 3-8 will be assigned a Mac laptop.
- \* If we return to Mirowitz in the Cloud at any point during the year, students will take home and use their assigned device.

## Support Services

Children who receive special services (OT, PT, speech) will continue to receive those services. They may be provided in person or via Zoom.

- \* Providers of in-person services will wear face coverings and practice social distancing. Students will be seen in designated spaces around the building or outdoors.
- \* Some teachers who provide student services may be able to hold sessions via Zoom after the core day has ended, between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., thus reducing the need for students to miss class time in order to receive services.





# Remote Learning



## Remote Learning Option

We will include your children remotely if they are home with symptoms, or if you choose to keep them home. In these cases, your child will join the regular classroom via Zoom. We respect your family's decision to keep your children at home, and will do our best to keep them connected, engaged and moving forward with their academic development. To support students' remote learning, families choosing this option will receive:

- \* The in-school class schedule with specific, highlighted times when your child should prioritize being present on Zoom, particularly during the mini-lesson at the beginning of each lesson. This schedule will vary depending on grade level.
- \* A handbook for using technology to access the classroom, instructions for turning in school work and for communicating with the teachers.

All synchronous, remote instruction will be held via Zoom. In order to create secure virtual classrooms to facilitate effective instruction, the school is requiring teachers to use best practices for safety and security at all times, including abiding by Zoom's Best Practices for Securing Virtual Classrooms.



## If We Return to Mirowitz in the Cloud

At the same time that we plan for reopening, we have also been planning for a potential return to Mirowitz in the Cloud (where the whole school would be learning remotely) should the need arise. In this scenario, the entire school will follow a different schedule. We have spent the summer honing our professional knowledge about remote learning.

Our program will include strategies for making remote learning more robust, engaging and user friendly than was possible in the spring. It will include a number of elements: higher standards for student attendance and participation, consistency from day to day, synchronous learning five days a week, easier access for children to connect to various classes, more live Zoom time with teachers and specialists and more small group work. We stand ready to share our plan when this situation is necessary.

## Our Vision

A vibrant, socially responsible and inspired Jewish community led by educated, capable, energetic, joyous, compassionate, ethical and inquisitive leaders



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