

# REOPENING PLAN A

## 2020-2021





MRS. CB NEUGROSCHL  
Head of School

MRS. TAMAR APPEL  
Associate Principal

MRS. BAILEY BRAUN  
Dean of Students

MRS. NINA BIELER  
Dean of Ninth Grade

RABBI ZEV PRINCE  
Assistant Principal  
of Co-Curricular Life

MRS. DENA BLOCK  
Director of Admissions

MRS. RACHEL FELDMAN  
Executive Director

Dear Parents and Students,

We hope that you are doing well and enjoying summer vacation. We are excited and looking forward to the 2020/21 school year—a year full of learning, growth and the excitement to be back together! We recognize that many things about school life this year will be different. However, Ma'ayanot's core function, providing a holistic, warm, and excellent, Jewish and General education, will be the same.

We are working to provide you with a comprehensive welcome back guide, which will be shared in a couple of weeks. As part of our reopening plan, we are reconfiguring the building to ensure all health and safety guidelines are being met. This includes larger classrooms and/or learning areas to enable social distancing, installing hand sanitizer stations, floor markings and custom signage throughout the building, as well as expanding the cleaning services team.

Of course, this plan depends upon several factors. First and foremost, our commitment to follow **the ongoing guidance of medical and public health officials**, because there are many things that we are still learning about COVID-19. We will continue to be guided by the recommendations of our medical advisory team and any requirements issued by the Township of Teaneck, Bergen County, the State of New Jersey, and the CDC. We are committed to following their recommendations and doing all that is possible to safeguard our community's health and safety.

The second **key to this plan is the commitment of our students, parents, and teachers to abide by the guidelines**. Without a doubt, our recommendations are restrictive; we will require masks to be worn at all times in our building, social distancing to be observed, and hand hygiene to be followed. We cannot compromise on these basic guidelines, and we ask that our entire community support these behaviors, without exception.

## MA'AYANOT TOWN HALL MEETING

As previously noted, we will be holding a **Ma'ayanot Town Hall Meeting on Monday July 27, at 8:45 pm (\*Note new time)** to discuss the broad strokes of our reopening plan. Many parents submitted questions already and the attached **Frequently Asked Questions** document reflects the answers to these questions. We will give a fuller picture addressing our reopening plans at the Town Hall Meeting and welcome you to submit additional questions at [Townhall@maayanot.org](mailto:Townhall@maayanot.org). We are proud of our plan, and we believe that it reflects a thorough path forward through this pandemic and towards a full resumption of our Ma'ayanot experience once the pandemic has passed.

**Please read the attached Frequently Asked Questions Sheet reflecting questions posed by our families and discuss it among your family.**

At this time, we would also like to share the following updates with you:

## TRAVEL/QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

**If your child has traveled internationally, or from one of the designated "hotspot" states with significant community spread of COVID-19, she must quarantine and self-monitor for 14 days upon returning to New York, New Jersey or Connecticut.** This quarantine is mandated by New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, regardless of a negative COVID-19 test upon return.

If this applies to your child(ren), please plan accordingly and ensure that they have 14 full days to quarantine prior to the start of school. [Click here](#) to view the latest State of New Jersey travel/quarantine requirements.

## NEW MEDICAL REQUIREMENT / FLU VACCINE

This year every Ma'ayanot student will be required to have a Flu vaccine before November 1st and parents will need to sign an agreement to that effect before school starts.

## TECHNOLOGY POLICY: BYOD/DEVICE CHOICE FOR 11TH AND 12TH GRADES

Effective this year, 11th and 12th grade students will have the option to bring their own device (laptop/Chromebook) for use in class. Having already been introduced to appropriate digital citizenship, and a wide range of tools and apps, students may have developed a personal learning preference and choosing the device which best suits the majority of their needs will enable them to be more effective, efficient, and independent learners. Therefore, Juniors and Seniors are now eligible to bring their own personal device to utilize within the classroom instead of being given a school iPad for the course of the year. Students opting in to the BYOD Program will be required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy and a BYOD Agreement before school begins.

All Juniors and Seniors must complete the attached form indicating their choice to utilize the BYOD option or to have a designated school iPad. If there are specific questions, please contact Michele Major, Director of Educational Technology. Please complete this BYOD/Device Choice Declaration Form [here](#) by August 2nd. (The form is only accessible using a student's Ma'ayanot email address).

## IN-PERSON AND "RAPIDS REMOTE" CLASS SCHEDULE

In order to limit the number of people in the building and to facilitate social distancing best practices, on each full school day of the week (M-Th), we plan on having three grades in the Ma'ayanot building and one grade attending "Rapids Remote" classes. This day of "Rapids Remote" learning will not be all zoom classes. Instead, each grade will have a full day of school scheduled with a balance of dynamic synchronous and asynchronous lessons for which our faculty have been preparing. On Friday, we are fortunate to be able to have all grades in the building. This is possible since there are fewer classrooms needed on Friday.

This is the tentative rotation of in-person and "Rapids Remote" class schedule by grade.

**Mondays** - 9th, 10th, 11th grades in school & 12th Grade on Zoom

**Tuesdays** - 9th, 10th, 12th grades in school & 11th Grade on Zoom

**Wednesdays** - 10th, 11th, 12th, grades in school & 9th Grade on Zoom

**Thursdays** - 9th, 11th, 12th grades in school & 10th Grade on Zoom

**Fridays** - All Grades in-person

While many new policies and procedures will be in place this year to ensure the health and safety of our community, we remain committed to providing a meaningful, productive, and joyous learning environment for all of our students. As we draw closer to our scheduled opening on August 31st, we will update our families by sending out the Ma'ayanot Reopening Plan and other relevant communications.

We look forward to "seeing" everyone at our Town Hall Meeting; Monday, July 27th 8:45 pm - Town Hall Meeting link here (<https://zoom.us/j/99315472180>).

As always, please feel free to be in touch with any questions or concerns. Mrs. Neugroschl can be reached throughout the summer via email at [neugroschl@maayanot.org](mailto:neugroschl@maayanot.org).

Sincerely,

**Mrs. CB Neugroschl**

Head of School

**Mr. Yosef Rubinstein**

School President

**Mr. Daniel Altman**

Ma'ayanot Reopening Taskforce Chair  
Past President

**Mrs. Rebecca Kurz**

Ma'ayanot Reopening Taskforce Chair  
Parent

# FAQs

**REOPENING PLAN A**

2020-2021



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WILL STUDENTS BE REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS?

Any student who traveled to a location that is subject to the State of New Jersey's 14-day self-quarantine advisory, **MUST** quarantine for that period of time prior to entering the building at the start of the school year. You can only fulfill this quarantine requirement by actually quarantining; a negative COVID-19 test does not provide for an exemption to this requirement. Information related thereto can be found at <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-information/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey#direct-link>

### WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF FAMILIES PRIOR TO SCHOOL OPENING?

Each family, parents and students, will be required to sign an acknowledgment of the Ma'ayanot Reopening Policies and an agreement to abide by such policies. Each student will also need to agree in advance to get a flu shot by November 1.

### WHAT HEALTH SCREENING PROCEDURES WILL BE NECESSARY FOR A STUDENT TO ENTER SCHOOL EACH DAY?

Every day, all students, staff, and faculty will need to take their own temperature and attest that they are symptom-free and have not been in close contact with anyone else symptomatic. A daily health survey will be answered on a mobile device that will generate either a green pass that must be shown before boarding a school bus or entering the building or a "stay at home" message. Instructions will be shared closer to the start of school.

### HOW WILL TRANSPORTATION BE AFFECTED?

We will require masks to be worn by students (and bus/carpool drivers) on their way to and from school. If a car only contains family members, masks need not be worn.

For those traveling to Ma'ayanot by bus, the following general procedures will be in place:

- All students will be required to wear masks the entire time they are in the vehicle
- Bus seating will load from back to front and skip rows when possible.
- Buses will operate with windows open for maximum air flow, if weather allows
- Larger size vehicles will be used for routes whenever possible

- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized prior to our students boarding, if used for other routes in between
- To reduce students' time on the bus and maximize efficiency due to each grade's Rapids Remote Day, central group stops will be implemented as much as possible

More specific information will be provided closer to the beginning of school.

## **WILL EVERY STUDENT BE IN SCHOOL EVERYDAY?**

No, each grade will be in school for four days a week. Three grades will be in school each of Monday-Thursday and the entire school will be in school on Fridays. Each student will be in school for 4/5 days a week. On the day students are not in school they will have a full schedule of dynamic "Rapids Remote" classes with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning.

This is the tentative rotation of in-person and "Rapids Remote" class schedule organized by grade.

**Mondays** - 9th, 10th, 11th grades in school & 12th Grade on Zoom

**Tuesdays** - 9th, 10th, 12th grades in school & 11th Grade on Zoom

**Wednesdays** - 10th, 11th, 12th, grades in school & 9th Grade on Zoom

**Thursdays** - 9th, 11th, 12th grades in school & 10th Grade on Zoom

**Fridays** - All Grades in-person

## **WILL GRADES BE SEPARATED AS COHORTS? WILL STUDENTS STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED BY TRACKING?**

We currently anticipate that each grade will be organized as its own cohort, with its own designated classrooms, hallways, davening areas, and spaces for lunch. However, the traditional Ma'ayanot individualized tracking will continue. Once classes have begun, there will be class size limits making switching tracks less possible than usual.

## **WILL MASKS BE REQUIRED IN SCHOOL?**

Everyone in school will be required to wear a mask indoors at all times. This includes in-class, as well as in the hallways, and bathrooms. No exhalation masks will be allowed. There will also be no exemptions from the mask requirement.

## **WILL THERE BE MASK-FREE TIME?**

If students are outdoors and socially distanced, then a mask will not be required. We will be building in outdoor time as much as possible during the regular school day.

## **WHAT WILL CLASSROOMS LOOK LIKE?**

Classrooms have been re-arranged so that students are seated in a “checkerboard” pattern, and virtually every classroom will have six feet between students and six feet between students and teachers. We currently do not envision any physical barriers in classrooms. Since social distancing is less predictable, even with desks placed six feet apart, we are requiring masking indoors at all times to assure that a reliable barrier (i.e., masks) remains in place at all times.

## **ARE THERE NEW CLEANING PROTOCOLS??**

As each student enters each classroom, she will take a disinfectant wipe from the wall dispenser and clean her desk. Hand sanitizer stations are installed in every room and upon entering the building. Additional cleaning staff have been hired to clean the bathrooms and communal areas throughout the day and perform more intensive cleaning and disinfecting procedures every night.

## **HOW ARE THE MA'AYANOT FACILITIES BEING PREPARED FOR OUR SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL?**

As part of our reopening plan we are building a few larger classroom/learning areas to allow for more classes to meet in compliance with social distancing regulations. All of this construction is included in, and consistent with, our larger Ma'ayanot Capital Campaign. Additionally, we are updating our HVAC filters to MERV-13, installing hand sanitizing stations, custom signage and floor markings for social distancing. Each classroom will have cameras, mikes, and screens installed to allow for a streamlined experience for students who must learn remotely. We are also designing outdoors spaces for learning and mask breaks for students and faculty.

## **WILL THERE BE PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE GYM?**

There will be no in-school gym classes, due to space and safety concerns. Physical education alternatives are being worked upon and will be presented as part of our full reopening plan.

## **WILL STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE CAMPUS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?**

No student will be allowed to leave the campus during free periods or lunch.

## **WILL THERE BE A WAY FOR A STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS REMOTELY?**

All classrooms will have webcams and screens installed so that students who are unable to come to school for medical reasons will have the ability to participate remotely.



## **WILL VISITORS BE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL?**

Our school building will be “closed” to everyone other than Students, Staff, Faculty, other school personnel, and essential vendors. Parents and non-school personnel will not be allowed in the building.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE NEED TO SHUT DOWN SCHOOL?**

We will follow the same model our community experienced in the final months of the 2019-20 school year: Our building will be closed, but remote learning will continue. We have learned a great deal about how to best deliver distance learning from our experiences in the Spring of 2020 and have already been working on improving that model, should it be necessary. Ma’ayanot will provide distance learning schedules for students that will be similar to live classroom quantity and quality, with both synchronous and asynchronous work.

## **WILL MA’AYANOT REDUCE TUITION IN THE CASE OF INCREASED DISTANCE LEARNING?**

At the current time, we do not anticipate reducing tuition under those circumstances. The overwhelming majority of the Ma’ayanot budget is fixed, and relates directly to salaries. Additionally, our commitment to providing a top-rate education for our students has meant incurring significant additional costs for reopening school and retrofitting our facilities in preparation for this year.