



HAFTR

BACK TO SCHOOL BLUEPRINT



Dear HAFTR School Community,

We are so proud of what we have accomplished together over these past few months, even though our Spring semester looked very different than any of us anticipated. While this COVID-19 episode has provided us with challenges, it has also brought our school community together, galvanizing us around a common purpose and revealing the depth of our individual and collective character.

We have been inspired by the tremendous learning and growth of our students, as well as the creativity and collaboration of our teachers and parents. This year has been one for the record books, culminating in memorable and uplifting end-of-year celebrations and graduations. Our yeshiva's reputation of being a premier educational program has been reinforced by our extraordinary professionals and lay leaders.

As we plan for the upcoming school year, HAFTR will do everything possible to safely facilitate in-person classroom instruction for our students by proactively preparing a variety of educational models. Following our custom of open communication, we want to include you in our planning process. Although New York State has not yet released its guidelines, and we do not yet have concrete plans for reopening school, our team has been working hard to plan for the various scenarios that may manifest themselves. As long as the COVID-19 situation remains fluid, we are forming contingency scenarios and identifying practices that we anticipate may be implemented.

The partnership with our parent body is the foundation of our school community. We hope that everyone remains healthy and safe, and we look forward to a wonderful and exciting school year to come.

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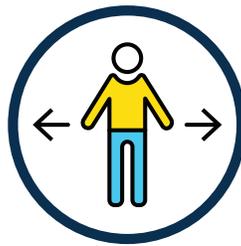
Blueprint for Moving Forward

PART ONE

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS



**WASH YOUR HANDS
FREQUENTLY**



**MAINTAIN
SOCIAL DISTANCING**



**AVOID TOUCHING EYES,
NOSE AND MOUTH**



**PRACTICE RESPIRATORY
HYGIENE**



**SEEK MEDICAL
CARE EARLY**



**STAY INFORMED
AND FOLLOW ADVICE**

Safeguarding the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We have formed a task force of school administrators, lay leaders, medical professionals and security experts. They are guiding our formation of best practices to meet or exceed standards that help reduce spreading viruses.

NEW HEALTH PROCEDURES

Signage and hardware are being installed in all our buildings to communicate, promote, and enforce these new procedures. Some of these best practices include:

- We expect all members of the HAFTR community to take responsibility for helping to keep our buildings a healthy environment for everyone, by respecting the safety of all school staff and students.
- Our alliance with our HAFTR families will play a critical role in supporting our renewed health and safety measures.
- Families must help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by checking their children daily for any symptoms. If a student is sick or has had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19, they must stay home from school.
- **Parents must report illness or a COVID-19 diagnosis to Wellness@haftr.org.**
- Staff members or students with fever must remain home for a minimum of 72 hours after returning to normal body temperature.
- HAFTR will be requiring mandatory flu vaccinations for this school year. We expect all our staff and students to be vaccinated no later than November 30.
- Additionally, we ask our HAFTR families to continue to follow CDC, state, and local guidance on health and safety measures outside of school.

HEALTH GUIDELINES AND PREVENTION MEASURES

HAFTR students and staff will only be allowed to enter a HAFTR campus if they do not exhibit any signs of illness. Students will be required to have parental confirmation of their health. All staff and essential visitors to the school buildings will be required to fill out a health screening form upon entering, and will not be allowed on premises if they are symptomatic.

Per CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, fever or chills, fatigue, muscle aches and pains, sore throat, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.



- When on premises, all staff and essential visitors will be required to wear masks, wash or disinfect their hands frequently, and follow social distancing norms.
- All staff are required to comply with self-quarantine guidance regarding exposure to COVID-19 and travel to COVID-19 hotspots. This is subject to change as the guidance changes.
- If a student exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the school day, they will be brought to a designated, well-ventilated isolation room where they will be quarantined and cared for by the division’s nurse until they can be picked up.
- Assemblies and large gatherings will be cancelled until further notice.
- Field trips and interscholastic extracurricular activities will be on hold until further notice.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Protective gear will depend on NYS requirements. In the meantime, HAFTR is planning to have an inventory of supplies to include masks and gloves. We are developing plans for a wide range of options that could include:

- Faculty, staff, students, and essential visitors will be required to wear a face covering and/or face shields while in classrooms and moving around common areas.
- Faculty, staff, and students may not be required to wear face covering in class, but will be required to wear masks when moving outside their classrooms.
- This guidance, along with expectations for our Early Childhood students, is still developing.

HAND HYGIENE

- Students and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day, especially upon arrival, before eating, before putting on or taking off masks, and before dismissal.
- To facilitate adherence, we have installed additional “touchless” sinks and sanitizing stations have been added throughout our buildings.
- Students will be taught proper hygiene techniques.
- Additional signage has been added to remind students and staff to wash their hands.



CLEANING AND SANITIZING PROTOCOLS

HAFTR has prided itself on cleanliness and a highly efficient maintenance staff. During this time our efforts will only increase, to make sure that our buildings are safe for our staff and students day in and day out. We will continue to adhere to existing required facility cleaning practices and procedures, and add any new requirements of the Health Departments as they arise. We have already begun stocking an abundance of cleaning and sanitizing supplies, and are working to develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and sanitizing.

- We have purchased new equipment for cleaning and sanitizing our classrooms and common spaces, including high grade carpet cleaners and power wash sprays.
- We have purchased top of the line ULV Spray Foggers. Using a powerful, FDA approved COVID-19 virucide sanitizing solution, each building will be sprayed and sanitized every night.
- Buildings will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day, and deep cleaned nightly.
- Bathrooms and high touch points will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
- The school is replacing all HVAC filters to maximize safety.
- The use of shared objects such as supplies, electronic devices, toys, books, or learning aids will be limited when appropriate, or thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between use.

SECURITY

HAFTR's open-door policy routinely welcomed all visitors to our programs and classrooms with open arms. In this new reality, we will regrettably be unable to continue our open-door policy. Non-essential visitors, including parents and family visitors, will not be allowed to enter HAFTR campuses.

- Essential visitors include vendors, package delivery, and special education professionals.
- All essential visitors to the school buildings will be required to fill out a health screening form upon entering, and will not be allowed on premises if they are symptomatic.
- While on premises, they will be required to wear masks, wash or sanitize their hands frequently, and follow social distancing norms.
- Additionally, essential visitors will be constrained to the area they are essential to, and will not come in contact with any staff or student non-essential to their task.

TRANSPORTATION

Transporting students poses a particularly difficult challenge to restarting school. We have not yet been informed by our local school districts how, or if, bussing will be provided to our community students for the 2020-21 school year. We will continue to be in close contact with the districts, and will communicate any updates. All of our planning will be considerate of our students who live locally, as well as students who travel from further neighborhoods to our schools. In the meantime;

- We have built and are applying the finishing touches to a **brand new carpool app** with an advanced system for arrivals and dismissals. We will share it with you as soon as it is complete.
- Students who use our private transportation will still have the opportunity to apply for bussing.



PART TWO

EDUCATIONAL MODELS

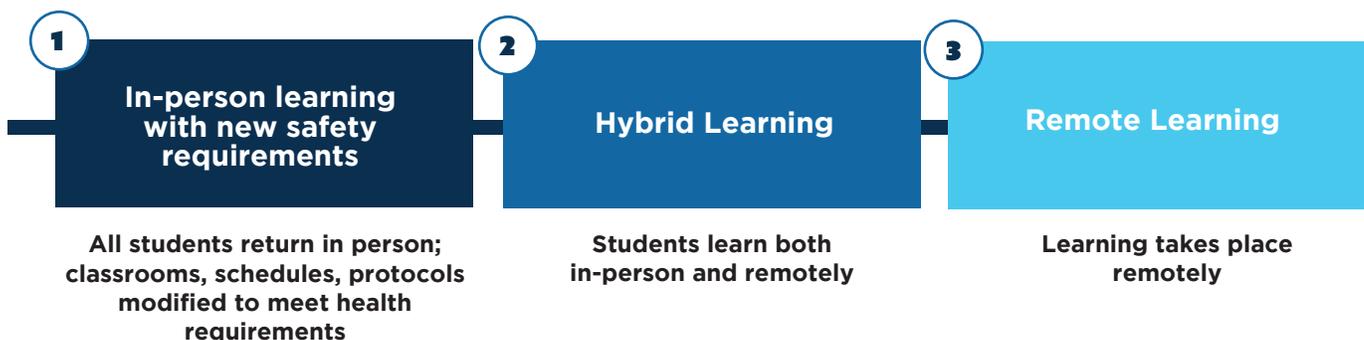
Although the New York State Department of Education has yet to release their guidelines for reopening, many other states, including New Jersey and Connecticut, have. Based on current data and speculation regarding New York's guidelines, we aim to facilitate in-person classroom instruction for the maximum number of students.

All of our educational models align with our school's mission, do not compromise the quality of our program, and ensure safety and educational appropriateness, while adhering to Department of Health guidelines.

Whether students are learning in-person or virtually from home, they will be given the opportunity to engage in HAFTR's rigorous dual curricular educational program in a meaningful way. Our team is committed to maintain HAFTR's high standards for academic learning and extracurricular programming and to continue to facilitate the innovative learning opportunities our school is known for. While the situation at large remains fluid, all divisions are planning scenarios that include hybrid and fully virtual educational models in the event that there is a spike in COVID-19 cases, and we are required to once again close our physical buildings entirely.

We recognize that although our goal is to have as many students as possible in our buildings, some students may not be able to attend in-person due to health restrictions. In addition, there may be times when students, or even entire classes, may not be able to attend in-person classes due to illness, COVID-19, or an exposure to COVID-19 quarantine. We are developing an assortment of virtual learning options using varied technology, to ensure we are able to act responsively to the fluid and diverse needs of our students.

Continuum of Reopening Models



HAFTR EARLY CHILDHOOD - 8TH GRADE

HAFTR's Early Childhood, Lower School, and Middle School divisions take great pride in their premier educational programs that both challenge and support all learners in an environment that is warm and conducive to student development.

Continuing our reputation for excellence, our team is working on educational models for the coming year that will allow us to achieve our goals no matter the structural iteration of our school. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to have all Nursery through 8th grade students in our buildings every day.

MODEL A (Least Restrictive)

- Students will attend regular classes with in-person classroom instruction.
- Cohorts of students will be formed. Cohort numbers and class configurations will be determined once the Department of Health guidelines are released. Grouping students in cohorts best positions us to have as many students as possible present for in-person learning, while still being able to trace and contain potential outbreaks of COVID-19 within our community.
- In this scenario, contact between cohorts will be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Each cohort will be provided with adequate supplies for recreational and educational activities in order to avoid inter-cohort contamination.
- Student movement around the building will be minimized. For departmentalized grades, teachers will travel to classrooms.
- **If public health mandates require only a partial reopening, making Model A infeasible, we will prioritize the full attendance of our N - 5th grade students following Model A, and Middle School students pivoting to Model B.**

MODEL B

- HAFTR EC - 8th grade will operate in a hybrid model of synchronous learning for students both in-person and virtually.
- Our full educational program will be sustained for every student. New technology is being installed throughout our buildings allowing teachers to simultaneously instruct classes to students in-person and virtually.
- Students will be divided into two groups to attend classes in-person and virtually on a rotational basis.
- A number of rotation models are being evaluated to assess optimal configuration for our students' educational growth, safety, and social emotional well-being. Developmental appropriateness for different grade levels and divisions are being considered as well.
- **To reiterate, it is our goal to avoid Model B if possible, with our N - 5th grade students taking priority for 5 day per week attendance.**

MODEL C (Most Restrictive)

- HAFTR EC - 8th grade will transition to a fully virtual educational model with students continuing learning from home.
- While we are extremely proud of the exemplary virtual learning program we delivered this Spring, the experience has given us the opportunity to learn many lessons that have increased our institutional capacity.
- As we prepare for the possibility that public health data mandates we close our physical buildings completely, our school is prepared to deliver a virtual learning experience that builds on the success we have had, introducing new programs with significantly more live classes to better mimic a typical school day.
- **It is important to note that based on current projections and the reopening plans of other Northeast states, this plan does not seem likely for the start of school, and will be avoided if allowed by Department of Health mandates.**

HAFTR HIGH SCHOOL

As we plan for the upcoming school year, HAFTR High School is committed to sustaining our warm and inclusive culture that promotes students' academic growth and achievement and facilitates their mastery of Regents, AP and *Limudei Kodesh* curricula. We are resolved to maintain differentiated levels of instruction in core curriculum subjects, a wide range of elective courses, and individualized student schedules, enabling students to reach their maximum individual potential. In addition to our robust academic and college- and Israel-preparatory program, we will provide opportunities for students to engage in meaningful co-curricular activities and programs with the goal of maintaining positivity, *achdut* and religious growth.

To effectuate these goals during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are considering four educational models, based on anticipated New York State Department of Education and Department of Health guidelines. HAFTR High School classrooms will be grouped into four quadrants, one for each grade, to reduce movement through the building. Students who are unable to attend school in-person will be able to participate in instructional activities virtually via enhanced technology in the classroom.

MODEL A (Least Restrictive)

- Students will attend regular classes, following their individual schedule with in-person classroom instruction.
- Cohorts of students will be formed where feasible. Grouping students in cohorts best positions us to be able to trace and contain potential outbreaks of COVID-19 within our community.
- Seating arrangements will comply with recommended guidelines, and students will wear a mask at all times.
- Students in each grade will learn in designated classrooms in one quadrant of the building; student movement between classrooms will be minimized. Teachers will travel to classrooms.

MODEL B

- Students in each grade will be divided into two groups, both of which will be in the high school building on a full-time basis.
- While Group A meets in one classroom with their teacher, Group B will be supervised in another location in the building with virtual access to their teacher's instruction. New technology is being installed throughout our buildings allowing teachers to simultaneously instruct classes to students in-person and virtually.
- Both groups will have full opportunities for participation in all instructional and assessment activities. The teacher will alternate in-person instruction between the two groups.

MODEL C

- HAFTR High School will operate in a hybrid model of synchronous learning for students in-person and virtually.
- Our full educational program will be sustained for every student. New technology is being installed throughout our buildings allowing teachers to simultaneously instruct classes to students in-person and virtually.
- Students will be divided into two groups to attend classes in-person and virtually on a rotational basis.
- A number of rotation models are being evaluated to assess the optimal configuration for our students' educational growth, safety and social emotional well-being.

MODEL D (Most Restrictive)

- HAFTR High School will transition to a fully virtual learning model in which students will continue learning from home.
- We are very proud of our successful transition to a virtual instructional platform this Spring, and we have taken the opportunity to learn from this experience and assess the effectiveness of a variety of instructional formats and activities that were utilized.
- We are designing a robust master online learning schedule and preparing measures to enhance students' and teachers' virtual educational experience.



PART THREE

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND SCHOOL CULTURE

In addition to taking steps to safeguard our students' and staff's physical health, we are also considering the impact of social isolation on both our educators and students. Social emotional learning will be critical in re-engaging our students, repairing relationships, and rebuilding a strong foundation for academic success.

- Supporting our students' social emotional well-being is paramount. Our outstanding guidance team's goal is to support the growth and development of the whole child, maintain a sense of community and togetherness, and position them to be their best selves both inside and outside the classroom. Our guidance professionals regularly plan and facilitate meaningful programming throughout the school year to develop these goals.
- Ensuring a smooth transition back to a traditional learning environment will be our guidance team's top priority. Our warm and approachable team is always available to provide counsel, guidance and answer any questions that may arise.
- Teachers and staff will be provided with professional learning to prepare for meeting the social emotional needs of our students, and informed on how to talk to students regarding the effects of COVID-19 on the classroom. Teachers will also be educated on detecting indications of anxiety or trauma in students, and will share these observations with guidance department directors so the appropriate supports can be made available to students and families.
- Students of all ages take cues of how to respond in a given situation from the trusted adults in their lives. To that end, faculty members will model appropriate coping skills and attitudes regarding the upcoming school year. Students' questions will be referred to the most appropriate professional, and will be answered in an honest, calm and supportive manner.
- Our guidance team will continue to offer a range of support to enhance the social and emotional well-being of students. These services include teacher consultation, push-in sessions with classes to focus on mindfulness and resilience, check-ins with students, and targeted individual and small group counseling. Additionally, ongoing initiatives and programs to promote optimism, camaraderie and social connectedness will be designed to maintain the warm and inclusive environment at HAFTR.
- To help students thrive, collaboration between school and home is critical. The guidance team of each HAFTR division is available for consultation with families throughout the school year, and will proactively reach out to parents to discuss targeted interventions and support for students. Please reach out to our professionals with any questions or concerns.

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BLUEPRINT FOR MOVING FORWARD

We once again want to express our deepest gratitude to our educators and staff who skillfully navigated this pandemic. They have continually shifted and reinvented educational best practices while still providing a premier educational experience for our HAFTR students.

Although COVID-19 has had significant impacts on education, HAFTR is committed to safely reopening our school. We know there is no substitute for the attention and engagement of in-person learning. We have made every effort to ensure we will adhere to conceivable best practices based on current information. Ultimately, our 2020-21 school year will be dictated by guidelines still to be released.

Through our planning and preparedness, we hope to continue to be flexible as we navigate the uncharted road ahead, reimagining how to continue providing our students with HAFTR's high standards of academic learning and extracurricular programming.

It will take all of us working together to make this successful.

We will keep our communications with you transparent and frequent, continuing to include you in our planning process, and updating you as we receive additional state and local guidance.

Mr. Neil Wiener, President

Mr. Amir Kornblum, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Ari Solomon, Executive Director

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