



VANCOUVER  
TALMUD TORAH

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RETURN  
TO  
SCHOOL  
PLAN

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2020

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# VTT'S RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Guided by our Mission

Our mission to be an inclusive Jewish community day school will inform and guide the way we navigate this challenging time. We will lean on our Jewish values to work together in partnership with our community in an effort to prioritize and ensure the health and safety of our staff, students and families. VTT is placing the health and safety of our community as our top priority this year. Our re-entry plan is guided by this mission.

VTT is intending to run a school day with similar hours to what we had previous to COVID. You can expect your child to be in school full day with some flexibility for parents to allow for a staggered pick up and drop off time as determined by the school.

Staggered Re-Entry:

- Early childhood students will begin their gradual entry on Wednesday, September 9
- SK students will begin their gradual entry on Thursday, September 10
- Grades 1, 3, 4, 6 will attend full day on Wednesday, September 9
- Grades 2, 5, 7 will attend full day Thursday, September 10
- All grades on site for the full day (with exception to early childhood and SK who continue their gradual entry) on Friday, September 11

STAGE 1 IN-CLASS	STAGE 2 IN-CLASS	STAGE 3 HYBRID	STAGE 4 HYBRID	STAGE 5 REMOTE
<p><b>COHORT SIZE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary: <i>No limit</i></li> <li>• Middle: <i>No limit</i></li> <li>• Secondary: <i>No limit</i></li> </ul> <p><b>DENSITY TARGETS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul> <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time all students, all grades</p>	<p><b>COHORT SIZE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary: 60</li> <li>• Middle: 60</li> <li>• Secondary: 120</li> </ul> <p><b>DENSITY TARGETS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul> <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits.</p> <p>Self-directed learning supplements in-class instruction, if required</p>	<p><b>COHORT SIZE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary: 30</li> <li>• Middle: 30</li> <li>• Secondary: 60</li> </ul> <p><b>DENSITY TARGETS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% for all schools</li> </ul> <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children of essential service workers</li> <li>• Students with disabilities/diverse abilities</li> <li>• Students who require additional supports</li> </ul> <p>In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits and density targets.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.</p>	<p><b>COHORT SIZE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary: 30</li> <li>• Middle: 30</li> <li>• Secondary: 30</li> </ul> <p><b>DENSITY TARGETS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% for all schools</li> </ul> <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children of essential service workers</li> <li>• Students with disabilities/diverse abilities</li> <li>• students who require additional supports</li> </ul> <p>In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits and density targets.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.</p>	<p><b>COHORT SIZE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary: 0</li> <li>• Middle: 0</li> <li>• Secondary: 0</li> </ul> <p><b>DENSITY TARGETS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0% for all schools</li> </ul> <p>In-Class Instruction Suspend in-class instruction for all students.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning in place of in-class instruction.</p>

# REGULAR CLASS SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule - Grade 1 - 7	
Doors Open/Early Childhood	8:15am
Instruction begins	8:35am
Period 1	8:35am-9:10am
Period 2	9:10am-9:45am
Morning Recess	9:45am-10:05am
Period 3	10:05am-10:40am
Period 4	10:40am-11:15am
1st Lunch Recess Bell (11:15am-11:35am)	
Lunch Time - Grade 1 - 2 Lunch Recess - Grade 3 - 7	11:15am-11:35am
2nd Lunch Recess Bell (11:35am-11:55pm)	
Lunch Time - Grade 3 - 5 Lunch Recess - Grade 1 - 2 Grade 6 - 7 remain at recess	11:35am-11:55pm
3rd Lunch Recess Bell (11:55pm-12:10pm)	
Lunch Time - Grade 6 - 7 Lunch Recess - Grade 3 - 5 Grade 1 - 2 remain at recess	11:55am-12:10pm
Classes begin	12:15pm
Period 5	12:15pm-12:50pm
Period 6	12:50pm-1:25pm
Afternoon Recess	1:25pm-1:45pm
Period 7	1:45pm-2:20pm
Period 8	2:20pm-2:55pm
Final Bell for Dismissal	2:55-3:30pm
Rishonim/Junior Kindergarten Half Day	8:15am-12:00pm
Rishonim/Junior Kindergarten Full Day	8:15am-2:55pm/4:30pm option Mon - Thur (Fri - 3:20pm)
Kindergarten to Grade 7	8:30am-2:55pm

## RESTRICTING ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

- All employees and students who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days must stay home and self-isolate in accordance with guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control. Self-isolation is also advised for those who are considered a close contact of a confirmed case.
- Health Screen: All parents must assess the health of their children prior to bringing them to school each day. Parents must be able to confirm that their child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease. Parents with questions should call 8-1-1 or the [BC health assessment tool](#).
- Travel Restrictions: Children and staff returning to British Columbia from outside Canada must self-isolate and be monitored for symptoms for 14 days after their return. Returning travelers that develop COVID-19 symptoms during the period of self-isolation are required to self-isolate for a further period of 10 days after the onset of symptoms until symptoms resolve, or until 14 days has passed from date of return to Canada, whichever is later.
- Visitors to the school: Visitors entering the school should be prioritized to those supporting activities that are of benefit to student learning and wellbeing. All visitors should confirm they have completed the requirements of a daily health check before entering. The office will keep a list of the date, names, and contact information for all visitors who enter the school. At this time, parents are not permitted in the school building without making prior arrangements.
- Administration Wing: Plexi glass will be placed at certain high traffic desks within the school, such as the front office and the Learning Commons. Where possible, we ask that teachers call down before sending a child and only send a child to the main office if absolutely necessary.

## LEARNING GROUPS/COHORTS

A learning group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school term (e.g. a school quarter, semester or year) and who primarily interact with each other. A learning group could be made up of a single class of students with their teacher, multiple classes that sometimes join for additional learning activities, or a group of secondary school students with the same courses. Students at all ages in elementary school will be traveling in learning cohorts of 60 or less.

In Stage 2, members of the same learning group must minimize physical contact.

In Stages 3 and 4, staff, as well as middle and secondary school students, will have to maintain physical distance at all times (even if they are part of the same learning group).

Learning groups are a recommended public health measure to help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Organizing students and staff into learning groups helps to reduce the number of different interactions and potential exposure to COVID-19 and supports better contact tracing if there is a confirmed case in a school community.

The maximum learning group size in an elementary school setting for Stage 2 of COVID-19 is 60 students.

## **INTERACTING WITH LEARNING GROUPS**

VTT will attempt to minimize the number of adults (staff and others) who interact with learning groups they are not a part of as much as possible while continuing to support learning and a positive, healthy and safe environment.

Those outside of a learning group must practice physical distancing when interacting with the learning group. For example, a teacher teaching on call can teach/support multiple learning groups but should maintain physical distance from students and other staff as much as possible and should wear a mask as a precaution when physical distancing can not be guaranteed.

During break times (e.g. recess and lunch), students may want to socialize with peers in different learning groups. Students will be instructed to

- o minimize physical contact when outdoors;
- o maintain physical distance (2m) when indoors. If a student is unable to physically distance, the student will be instructed to socialize within their learning group or where they can be supported to physically distance.

## **HOURS OF OPERATION & PICK-UP/DROP-OFF TIMES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

- There will be a staggered pick up and drop off schedule created and multiple locations where this will occur within the school.
- Students will not congregate in any location awaiting their ride. Instead, they will wait in their classroom and their teacher will inform them when they can go down to the pick up spot.
- We will be employing an app that allows teachers to be informed when parents are at the school and ready to pick up their child.

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

- Staff may choose to wear masks and gloves during drop-off and pick-up times.
- Only students and staff will be allowed in the school. (Parents are not allowed at school at this time - with exception to the Early Childhood parents who will have one opportunity to enter the building on a strict and staggered schedule)
- At this time Early Childhood and SK students will be dropped off in the drive-through at VTT's main entrance on 26th Avenue. Students in Grade 1 and up will enter through the parkade.
- Parents and children must remain in their vehicles until signaled by the staff to disembark.
- Parents are expected to do a thorough check of the health of their child before bringing them to school
- Vancouver Coastal Health has requested that parents of Early Childhood children sign off on a daily basis stating that their child and family members are in good health and for the child to attend school.
- Once the student is approved to stay at school, he/she will be brought into class by our staff - parents will not be permitted to enter the school building. After the initial orientation period, children SK and up will walk to their assigned class after being dropped off.
- All Early Childhood and SK students will be dismissed through the 26th Avenue drop off and students Grades 1-7 will be dismissed through the parkade. The pick up location is determined by the youngest sibling in a family. Ex. if a Grade 4 student has an SK sibling, they will meet their family on the 26th Avenue entrance.
- If a student is being picked up early, parents must phone the school to request the child be brought to the main entrance at 26th Avenue.
- Parents are asked to have their children wash their hands right before leaving home.
- In early childhood and SK, students will wash their hands immediately upon entering the classroom. All other students will use hand sanitizer if a sink and soap are not readily available if hands are not physically or visibly soiled.

## PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIME & PIKMYKID APP

Parents will be assigned a time to drop off their children sometime between 8:15 and 8:35 a.m. and pick up sometime between 2:55 and 3:30 p.m. In our ongoing efforts to enhance your children's safety, we have decided to begin using the PikMyKid Dismissal Application. Throughout North America, it has been proven to simplify dismissal, reduce traffic congestion, and, most importantly, improve overall safety. The unique features of PikMyKid allow you, as parents, to easily change pick up modes, quickly delegate to an alternate individual for pickup, change to an 'After School' program, and even schedule for future pickup mode, pickup individual, and after school programs. This app allows you to be in full control of your child's dismissal and it gives us, the school,

complete information regarding dismissal and the ability to acknowledge every change and to instantly check your child's dismissal status should you have a question.

We are very excited about this addition and know you will be too. Check your emails over the next week for additional information and we will be on our way to a safer, quicker, and more efficient dismissal process. To learn a little more on your own, please check out the following link that will show you a few of the PikMyKid features.

<https://www.pikmykid.com/features/for-parents/>

## FOOD - SNACKS & MEALS

- At this time, all food, including snacks (for early childhood students), will be provided by parents. For the safety of the children, VTT will not be offering any food to children during this time (with the exception of pre-sliced Shabbat challah in early childhood and The Perfect Bite's hot lunch catering program).
- All meals, including snacks, will be served from children's lunch containers. No plates from school will be used.
- Children will eat in small groups at a distance from one another.
- Strict hand hygiene routines will be followed before and after lunch.

## USE OF WASHROOM FACILITIES

- The number of students in the washroom will be limited.
- We will have strict hand washing routines before the children leave the washroom.
- Sink taps and toilet flushing handles/seats will be frequently disinfected.
- Washrooms will have signs that inform students to only enter one learning cohort at a time

## NAP TIME (where applicable)

- Sleep mats will be spread out to create as much distance as possible.
- Bedding will be sent home on a weekly basis to be washed.
- Children will follow hand washing routines when they wake up and before they play.

## LOCKERS & SUPPLIES

- Students will have the use of their lockers, but will not be permitted to touch the locker space of any other student and will also have their locker assignment within their cohort so that they remain away from other cohorts when using their locker.

- The school will be providing supplies to students. Each student in Grades 1-7 will bring a pencil case in which they will keep their own supplies. Supplies may be shared within cohorts, but supplies will be sterilized when used across cohorts and efforts will be made to reduce the sharing of the same supplies even within the same cohort.
- Computers and I pads: In cases where devices are not 1:1, they will be disinfected between uses.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Understandably, physical distancing is challenging in a childcare and school setting. At the same time, it is important that we do what we can to try to assist children. Emphasis is on minimizing physical contact between elementary students in the same cohort and when students are outside. A physical distance of 2 metres should be adhered to outside of these above scenarios.

With children on campus, we will:

- Avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes.
- Help children to learn about social distancing by creating games.
- Take children outside more often.
- Set up regular activities outside such as snack time, arts and craft time.
- Regularly clean and disinfect items that are designed to be shared, such as game controllers.
- Set up mini play stations within the classroom to reduce the number of students in a group.
- Increase the space between children during activities such as snack/lunch and nap.
- When children want to use the same area/activity, we will redirect some children to another area.
- Discourage any food or drink sharing.
- Eliminate group food preparation activities,
- Stagger snack/lunch times to accommodate smaller groups with more space.
- Reinforce and remind of the rule of “hands to yourself.”
- When possible, we will space out the in-use cubbies/lockers so that there are empty spaces in between each used cubby/locker if possible.
- Set up distinct areas for children who may have symptoms of illness until they can be picked up.

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

This is a challenging time for all. Nevertheless, we will endeavour to make this experience as positive as possible for our students. We will aim to:

- Have fun with the children.
- Reassure students about their personal safety and health. We will tell them that it is okay to be concerned and there is a lot we can do to stay safe and healthy.



- Answer questions with information that is suitable for their age level.
- Maintain familiar activities and routines. This can reinforce the sense of security for children. At the same time, build in the social distancing routines and strategies into the play activities.
- Use our counselor, Donna Cantor, as a resource for our students to rely on should they need more support.

## MUSIC, DRAMA & ART

Although there will not be any performances or festivals, we will continue to offer a robust and meaningful arts program to our students. Specific protocols will be in place depending on the modality.

- Students will attend these classes with their cohort and a focus will be placed on creating space between students to provide a safe distance between each musician/singer
- As students will be in the same cohort, physical contact will be minimized
- Utensils/instruments will be sterilized between cohorts
- Class will be offered outdoors whenever possible

## PHYSICAL HEALTH & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We will be prioritizing time outdoors for our students across all of our classes.

We will also be ensuring that VTT students continue to get a regular dose of fitness over the course of their week. Our outdoor education offerings have grown significantly and we look forward to sharing these with our students. All classroom teachers have been encouraged to take their classes outdoors whenever possible and to take advantage of the many beautiful outdoor spaces we have available to us.

## FIELD TRIPS

At this time, while in Stage 2, only day field trips are permitted. No overnight trips are permitted. We will be planning trips to outdoor locations whenever possible to maximize the opportunity we have to be outdoors learning about the world around us.

## SCHOOL GATHERINGS

Where possible, we will be meeting as larger groups virtually or outdoors. Otherwise, small gatherings of students will be limited to cohorts.