



Collaboration * Continuity * Connection

Parent Handbook

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COLLABORATION * CONTINUITY * CONNECTION

Dear Parents,

We are living through unprecedented times. Now, more than ever, the success of our children's academic progress and more importantly, their social and emotional well-being, depends on the strength of the school-home partnership. VHA@HOME, our remote learning model, is guided by three key objectives:

Collaboration: We want to work with you to provide the best possible educational experience for our children. We have heard your feedback and incorporated what we have heard. We hope that the conversation will be ongoing.

Continuity: We want to ensure continuity of learning. The scaled curriculum will cover key areas of skill, development and content to ensure seamless grade advancement in the fall.

Connection: We all miss seeing your children each day. In fact, that special relationship is the reason that we became teachers! We will strive to maintain the warmth and closeness of that relationship even while we are physically distant.

TIPS FOR LEARNING AT HOME

Create a schedule as if your child goes to school every day:

Have your child wake up at the same time every day / Keep a regular bedtime

Consistency and structure are calming during times of stress. Kids, especially younger ones or those who are anxious, benefit from knowing what's going to happen and when.



Set up a designated space for schoolwork: Free of distractions, but still under your supervision.

Dress for Success: VHA will not be requiring students to wear uniforms, but dress should be appropriate and set the tone for a day of learning.

Not all screen time is created equal. Please watch [this helpful video](#) from Dr. Eli Shapiro of the Digital Citizenship Project.

Be flexible: Even the best-laid plans are set aside by a classroom teacher if the students need a break. YOU are the best judge of how your child is faring. If he/she needs an unscheduled break, you can let that happen.

Stay active: Kids spend a lot of time moving around at school and it's important to ensure they're still engaging in activities they enjoy while at home.

Be forgiving of yourself and your child

Schedule Family Time: This 'challenging situation' has created an opportunity that children have not had for generations...time with their parents! Take advantage of this gift, THIS is what your children will remember!

SCHEDULE

Consistency is Key: The schedule from week to week will remain largely unchanged, Breaks, lunch, PE and subject blocks will remain consistent to help foster the comfort and security that comes with routines.

Each Sunday, the weekly schedule will be posted to your child's Google Classroom. Each morning by 8:00 AM, the daily schedule will be posted along with links, videos and materials that will be needed for that day.

The instructional day, for all students, runs from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Grades 2-8 will Daven each morning from 8:30-9:00 and Kindergarten and Grade 1 will Daven from 8:50-9:00.

Please see a sample Weekly Schedule below:

	Monday, April 27	Tuesday, April 28	Wednesday, April 29	Thursday, April 30	Friday, May 1
8:50-9:00	Davening	Davening	Davening	Davening	Davening
9:00-9:20	Phonics: Printing practice, letter sounds and sight words	Phonics: Printing practice, letter sounds and sight words	Phonics: Printing practice, letter sounds, and sight words	Phonics: Printing practice, letter sounds, and sight words	Phonics: Printing practice, letter sounds, and sight words
9:20-9:40	Math: Counting	Math: Counting	Math: Counting	Math: Counting	Math: Counting
9:40-10:15	Zoom Meeting: Welcome Back!	Zoom Meeting: Measurement	Zoom Meeting: Animals	Zoom Meeting: Story	Zoom Meeting: Share something you made or did this week
10:15-10:30	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS
10:30-10:45	ELA: CVC Words (word families)	ELA: Spring Writing Assignment	ELA: CVC Words (word families)	ELA: Spring Writing Assignment	ELA: CVC Words (word families)
10:45-11:15	SCIENCE/SS: Animals	SCIENCE/SS: Animals	SCIENCE/SS: Animals	SCIENCE/SS: Animals	ART: Directed Drawing
11:15-11:30	D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read)	PE	D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read)	FREE PLAY	FREE PLAY
11:30-12:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:30-1:00	ZOOM MEETING attendance, schedule, mitzvah notes	ZOOM MEETING attendance, schedule, mitzvah notes	ZOOM MEETING attendance, schedule, mitzvah notes	ZOOM MEETING attendance, schedule, mitzvah notes	ZOOM MEETING attendance, schedule, mitzvah notes
1:00-1:30	MACHBERET letter kuf	MACHBERET letter kuf	MACHBERET letter kuf	PARSHIOT Acharei-Kedoshim	PARSHIOT Acharei-Kedoshim
1:30-1:45	SNACK RECESS	SNACK RECESS	SNACK RECESS	SNACK RECESS	SNACK RECESS
1:45-2:05	ZIGGAWAT letter kuf	ZIGGAWAT letter kuf	ZIGGAWAT letter kuf	ZIGGAWAT letter kuf	SHABBAT PARTY
2:05-2:30	SHABBAT UNIT. Shabbat booklet	SHABBAT UNIT. Shabbat booklet	SHABBAT UNIT. Shabbat booklet	SHABBAT UNIT. Shabbat booklet	SHABBAT PARTY
2:30-2:45	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS
2:45-3:00	MORAH READS A BOOK	D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read)	P.E.	D.E.A.R (Drop Everithing and Read)	MORAH READS A BOOK

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

WEEKLY SCHEDULE - Posted to Google Classroom on Sunday

DAILY SCHEDULE - Posted to Google Classroom by 8:00 AM

RESOURCES - Each day's schedule will include live sessions with the teacher (see 'Zoom Guidelines' below), pre-recorded lessons and print/digital materials. All necessary links and materials will be posted to Google Classroom.

Teachers of younger children may also send an email with these resources (as that is easier for younger children to access), but all resources will still be archived in Google Classroom.

MATERIALS - Many teachers have created resource packages to be picked-up from school. We recognize that you may not have a printer at home and they will include everything that your child will need to be successful.

ACCESSIBILITY - Teachers will be very busy during the school day but will be making themselves available to respond to your child's (or your), questions to ensure that students do not get stuck and miss out. Teachers will be posting their "Office Hours" for students to ask questions.

We ask that you are respectful of teacher's personal time and that students not email outside of school hours.

As always, our 24-hour policy will apply. If you reach out to a teacher, you can expect to hear back within one school day.

Recognizing that we did not have Parent-Teacher Conferences before the break, Teachers will be reaching out to you in early May to discuss your child's progress.



ENRICHMENT - The curriculum offerings for VHA@HOME have been carefully considered by the teacher and administration. Some students will work more quickly than others. Teachers will be providing OPTIONAL resources for those who wish to extend their learning.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP's) - If your child has an IEP, you will be contacted by the Administration to discuss which aspects of the IEP can be modified for the VHA@HOME experience.

We are dedicated to working with available resources to set-up every learner for success.

WHAT THE TEACHER NEEDS FROM YOU

Create a productive learning environment for your child(ren)

- Quiet work space
- Access to necessary technology/device
- Create a schedule conducive to remote learning
- Ensure availability of necessary supplies

Support your child(ren)'s attendance and engagement (age-dependent)

Offer timely and constructive feedback to teachers –We want to hear how your child is doing, and how WE are doing. Please let the teacher know if your child is struggling with the work or if he/she finds it easy.

ATTENDANCE

Teachers will take attendance during their live sessions daily. If your child is not able to attend the live session, please inform the teacher.

If your child is not going to be participating on a given day, please let the teacher know.

ASSESSMENT



Teachers will use a variety of assessment strategies to track your child's progress. These will differ from subject-to-subject and grade-to-grade.

A modified Term 3 Report Card will be issued in June. VHA Administration are working with Ministry staff to clarify reporting requirements for Remote Learning.

RECESS / PE / BODY BREAKS

Recess and Physical Education have been scheduled into your child's day. Still, some children will need a 'body break' to foster better concentration when they return to their studies. Be mindful of your child's capacity and allow breaks as needed.



ZOOM GUIDELINES

To ensure that our virtual classrooms remain safe and secure we must insist that ALL families adhere to the following guidelines:

Students MUST:

- Use their name (or a parent's) as the user ID (the teacher will not admit a name they do not recognize)
- Enable video camera
- Keep microphone off until the teacher asks you to turn it on
- Display proper 'classroom behaviour' by not calling out and following the rules of the classroom.

Your child's teacher will review specific classroom rules with the students. Teachers will use the 'Waiting Room' function at the start of each class. It is recommended that your child join the meeting 3-5 minutes early to ensure a timely start.

Note: Your child's teacher will likely disable the chat function during lessons as this can be a big distraction when they're trying to teach.

If you are new to Zoom, please read [this handy tutorial](#) prepared by Mrs. Jolene.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

As parents and as educators our highest priority is helping children to navigate this very uncertain time. To that end, teachers will endeavour to create opportunities for social emotional learning and development, and you can look forward to additional programs such as [Jodi Derkson's mindfulness video](#).

MIDDOS MINDERS



Don't forget that parents can award virtual Midos Minders. We will continue to have Midos Minder Raffles in the coming weeks.

Don't forget to email them to Mrs. Parmar at office@vhebrewacademy.com.

Download a printable page of Midos Minders by [clicking here](#).

PICTURES

In an effort to foster connectivity even at a social distance we're going to create a slideshow of pictures every week. We encourage you to please email photos of your children engaged in their school activities throughout the week. Email photos to Mrs. Jolene at yha@vhebrewacademy.com.

VHA@HOME WEBSITE

For your convenience, we have created a webpage for VHA@HOME information. It can be accessed from [the VHA homepage](#). Check the website regularly for additional resources and announcement.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are many online learning resources, activities and games available for you to share with your child. Parents will need to determine what is/is not appropriate for their children.

Here are some ideas:

Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library - <https://www.onlyatthej.com/art-culture/library>

Keep Learning - <https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning>
From the Ministry of Education.

Reading Eggs - <https://readingeggs.com>

Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org>

Tinkergarten - <https://www.tinkergarten.com/activities>

Sesame Street - <https://www.sesamestreet.org/caring>

Raz-Kids - <https://www.raz-kids.com>

Lalilo - <https://lalilo.com>

Scholastic Teachables - <https://teachables.scholastic.com/teachables/learn-at-home.html>

Scholastic ScienceFlix - <https://sdm-sfx.digital.scholastic.com/?authCtx=U.794217314>
First Aid for Feelings-

http://teacher.scholastic.com/education/pdfs/FirstAidForFeelings_Eng.pdf

A Workbook to Help Kids Cope During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Museum of Vancouver - <https://museumofvancouver.ca/discover-the-collection>

Can view some artifacts and learn more about them.

Variety of Museums/Art Galleries - <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/bored-during-self-isolation-tour-these-museums-from-the-comfort-of-your-couch-1.4852971>

Take a virtual tour of a museum or art gallery.

Games to Help Kids Think Critically - <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/critical-thinking-apps-games>

These are apps that are for ages 2 to 13+. Some are free and others are paid.

Variety of Resources - <https://www.zdnet.com/article/all-the-free-online-resources-parents-guardians-need-in-home-schooling>

This article includes a large amount of resources on a variety of topics for primary and secondary learners.