



# Gray Academy

## OF JEWISH EDUCATION

### **MONDAY, MARCH 16 - LAST DAY OF IN-CLASS LEARNING**

**School closed for students beginning March 17, remote learning begins March 19**

#### **Dear Gray Academy Families:**

This morning, our response team and Gray Academy staff came together to continue planning our transition to remote learning for the weeks ahead, per the directive from the Province. While it remains essential for us to care for the health and well-being of our school community, we are also committed to **ensuring the ongoing quality of a Gray Academy education.**

With great care and thought, we made the decision that **tomorrow, Monday, March 16, will be our last day of in-class learning until Passover Break.** To ensure we have ample time to plan for and implement the best possible quality of remote learning for our students, we are moving two In-Service days, previously scheduled for May and June, to Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Remote learning will begin on Thursday, March 19.

#### **What you need to know for this week:**

- **Tomorrow, March 16** - school is open for all students. This will be our last day of in-class learning until Passover Break.
- **Hot lunch will proceed tomorrow**, as scheduled. After that, hot lunch will be on hold until further notice. We will be in touch with all families with current hot lunch orders.
- If anyone in your family has **travelled outside of Canada between March 1 and March 15**, or if anyone in your household is unwell, **please keep your child(ren) at home tomorrow.**

- **Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18** will be In-Service days - there will be no school for students; teachers will use these days to finalize and implement plans and resources for grade-appropriate remote learning.
- We recognize **some families will need care for their elementary-age children** when there is no school this week. We are making plans for In-Service programming for those families who are unable to make alternate arrangements in this short time-frame. If you require supervision for these days, please email our Elementary Principal, [Joyce Kerr](#).
- **Thursday, March 19** - we will launch remote learning for all students (see more information below).

### Preparing for the coming weeks:

- Teachers are preparing checklists to let all students and families in each grade know exactly what **supplies, resources and books should be taken home**.
- Tomorrow, students will be encouraged to **take home as many necessary items as they can**. Please consider sending an extra bag with your child(ren).
- Students in **Grades 4-8 will be taking home school Chromebooks** (new for Grade 4).
- All students and families may also come in **March 17-19 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** to collect items they will need for the coming weeks.
- **The Kaufman-Silverberg Library is open**; you are welcome to take out materials to enjoy at home.

### What you need to know about remote learning at Gray Academy:

- Please know that we are taking great care to formulate **grade-appropriate learning opportunities** that include a range of lessons and activities.
- We are not expecting **any student - of any age** - to be in front of a computer screen all day!
- While we cannot replicate the experience of being in a classroom with teachers and peers, we are committed to **leveraging technologies and programs to deliver high quality teaching and learning** to all students.
- Depending on the grade level, we will incorporate **live class sessions, pre-recorded lessons, existing online resources, project-based opportunities** and more.
- We are looking to you, our parents, to remain strong partners in student learning. That said, we **do not expect parents to be teaching children** at home.
- Our commitment is to ensure that your children receive the **class and teacher support** they need to participate in lessons.

- Later this week **we will share schedules for High School and Elementary** that will recommend healthy daily routines.
- For High School, be assured that your children's **credits will not be jeopardized** in any way by this alternate learning format.
- **Teachers will be available** to communicate with parents and students, as needed.
- **Tech support will be available** to ensure students can participate in online learning.
- Teachers are looking forward to a **continued partnership between teachers, students and parents.**

We have created a **new section in our Parent Portal at grayacademy.ca** where you can find all communications we have sent to families regarding [COVID-19](#), as well as links to reliable information and resources.

We are also creating a new section on the site where **students and families will be able to access schedules, lessons and resources.**

Events of the last week have been unprecedented. Moving to remote learning allows Gray Academy to play our part in "slowing the curve" and helping to protect our entire community.

We thank you and appreciate your patience and continued cooperation as we all work together to keep life as normal as possible for your children.

Sincerely,

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