



Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Framework for Health and Safety 2021-2022

Updated November 12, 2021



**WINNIPEG BOARD
OF JEWISH EDUCATION**

Disclaimer: This document is intended to provide guidance to the families of Gray Academy of Jewish Education for the re-opening of school in the fall of 2021. Information and guidance contained herein does not constitute medical or legal advice with regards to any processes, procedures, guidance or requirements documented in this framework.

Monday, August 30, 2021

Dear Gray Academy Families:

As we get ready to welcome your children for a safe return to in-class learning for 2021-2022, our school's mission, vision and Jewish values of respecting life, health and well-being have helped guide the decisions in this Framework for Health & Safety. Thank you to members of the leadership team and staff, the Pandemic Response Committee and the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education for their work over the summer in helping to develop, evaluate and revise plans for this school year.

We are grateful to our faculty, staff and parent partners for the dedication and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our entire school community over these past 18 months. As COVID-19 remains an evolving global public health issue and with the potential of a fourth wave of the pandemic on the horizon, we remain vigilant and have retained many of the health and safety requirements that have proven so effective in keeping our students, staff and families safe and healthy.

The protocols in this document are based on the guidelines outlined in the [Province of Manitoba's Restoring Safe Schools – A Planning Guide \(August, 2021\)](#), [Restoring Safe Schools – COVID-19 Education Plan](#) and recent provincial Public Health updates. Our protocols are also framed by [Gray Academy of Jewish Education's Mission, Vision, Values and Commitments](#) for our entire school community and are supported by the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education's Pandemic Response Committee which includes medical experts.

This document outlines our plans for a safe return to school, along with our full commitment to creating an environment that reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Recognizing there is no environment that reduces the risk to zero, the plan for Gray Academy's reopening seeks to mitigate the risk as much as is reasonable and relies on our entire school community adhering to [current provincial public health guidelines](#) and the protocols Gray Academy has put in place. This responsibility is incumbent upon each of us and highlights our commitment to community and caring for one another, a core value of our Gray Academy identity.

The pandemic landscape continues to evolve. We understand and are prepared to be flexible and adaptable to respond to any changes that may be put forth by the Province of Manitoba through the Department of Education, as advised by Public Health. The protocols outlined herein reflect what we know as of August 30, 2021. Gray Academy's framework for reopening is a living document that is housed on our website. **When a change or update is made, families will be notified, and changes will be highlighted clearly in the document.**

We ask each family to submit written confirmation through the Return to School 2021 Verification & Attestation form that they have read, understood and agree to follow the protocols set out for our school community. This ensures a commitment by our entire school community to ensuring a healthy and safe learning environment for all students, faculty and staff. Thank you for your partnership and the trust you have placed in us for your child(ren)'s education. May we all have a sweet, happy and healthy start to the new year.

Sincerely,

Lori Binder
Head of School and CEO

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Summary of Updates

All **updates** during the 2021-2022 school year will be summarized below when there are any additions or changes to these guidelines.

October 28th:

Music - singing indoors can take place while wearing a mask and maintaining 2 metres distance.

Library - the Kaufman Silverberg Library will re-open to students by the end of November. The physical library will still be closed to the community.

Movement in the Building – With the full vaccination status in the high school, beginning Monday, November 8, teachers will now return to their classrooms and students will now be able to go to classrooms throughout the high school. Traffic flow in the hallways and stairwells will be controlled with dedicated one-way stairwells.

Understanding Cohorts – Cohorts will continue to be maintained in elementary and high school students are able to move throughout the high school.

November 12th:

Travel – information on return from travel in keeping with provincial guidelines for travel within Canada and federal guidelines for travel outside of Canada. Families in elementary (children under 12) will be asked to submit a form to ensure the school is aware of students who are traveling and their eligibility to return to school within the provincial and federal guidelines.

Introduction

This document provides Gray Academy of Jewish Education staff and families with important information pertaining to the reopening of our school, as part of [Manitoba's Restoring Safe Schools guidelines](#) for 2021.

The information contained herein is valid as of the date of publication (August 30, 2021). As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, this information will be amended and/or revised as needed. Families will be alerted to all changes, as they are implemented.

The mental health, physical health and safety of our entire school community has always been our priority. We are excited to invite staff and students back to their “home away from home.” The plan for return to school in September includes protocols that are designed to ensure families, staff and students feel safe and supported.

When students and staff return to school, they will be oriented and receive training on all protocols using age-appropriate methodologies. Our parents are essential partners in following the day-to-day guidelines in place for our entire school community.

The information in this document includes an overview of the guidelines and protocols that are in place at Gray Academy, in keeping with Manitoba's Chief Public Health Officer, Manitoba Health, and Manitoba Education.

The guidelines set forth in this document are an addendum to the Gray Academy Family Handbook and the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education's Policy Manual. Both documents are available in the “For Families” portal at [grayacademy.ca](#) (login required).

Guiding Principles

The following principles guide this framework for Gray Academy's reopening.

Health and Safety

We have a responsibility for the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, families and for the broader community. As such, the policies, guidelines and directives of Manitoba Health and Manitoba Education continue to inform Gray Academy's operations and protocols. The overall goal is to keep the Gray Academy community safe and healthy within reason, given the circumstances, and to minimize risk to the best of our ability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mental Health and Wellness

Mental health and wellness are always at the core of how we care for our students and staff at Gray Academy. Supporting the transition back to school is a priority and will include a collaborative approach among teachers, Gray Academy's Student Support Services team and members of the provincial Child Support Services team. We will continue to monitor, support and address the emotional and social needs of our students whether they are learning in class or remotely.

Adaptability and Flexibility

Flexibility and change are to be expected. As circumstances evolve, we are prepared to respond quickly to changing conditions and to adapt. As such, the plans and details outlined in this document are subject to change as the situation evolves and as we implement any new and/or revised requirements and guidelines issued by Manitoba Education and Manitoba Health.

Family-School Partnership

The family-school partnership is always essential to the health and well-being of your child(ren) and the entire school community but even more so during the global COVID-19 pandemic. The following protocols rely upon daily collaboration among students, staff, teachers, administrators and families.

Daily Health Screening

Parents/guardians must monitor their child(ren)'s health **each morning** before bringing them to school. Any child with COVID-19-related symptoms must be kept at home. Gray Academy will be using a digital screening tool available on our [website](#) (upper right corner). This will allow staff members and families to complete the screening process in less than 30 seconds each morning. **Please note that you can save the link on the home screen of your mobile device for easy access each day.**

Use this [link](#) from the province for an up-to-date list of COVID-19-related symptoms.

Use the province's [Self-Assessment tool](#) to check if you or your child should be tested for COVID-19, or call Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 if you need more information.

If any child develops symptoms at school during the school day, the child will be isolated and cared for by a staff member. A parent/guardian will be contacted and required to pick the child up from school immediately. **Siblings of a student going home with COVID-related symptoms will also have to be picked up from school.**

Commitment to Routines and Protocols

Given the seriousness of the circumstances we continue to face during the COVID-19 pandemic, **we require all families to confirm, in writing, that they have read, understand and agree to adhere to the routines and protocols for Gray Academy's 2021-2022 school year prior to the start of school.** Please read through this document in its entirety, in addition to all future communications shared with you.

At least one parent/guardian from each student household will verify they have read, understood and agree to follow the protocols set out for our school community through an attestation form sent prior to the school year. Please note that any child who does not have this form signed and submitted by at least one parent/guardian will not be admitted to school.

Students will have an opportunity to be introduced to the 2021-2022 health protocols in age-appropriate ways at the start of the school year and when any changes are made.

We will do our best not to overwhelm families with communication while also ensuring that all families have the information needed to be essential partners in a healthy and safe return to school.

What Parents Can Do Now

- Begin to talk with your child(ren) about returning to school and some of the new routines they will experience that are a change from summertime.
- Be prepared to talk openly about COVID-19 in age-appropriate ways. Resources are provided at the end of this document.
- Practice physical distancing with your child(ren).
- Purchase masks for your children so they have multiple on hand for each school day. Practice wearing them to develop comfort and understanding. Masks are provincially mandated for staff and students in kindergarten to Grade 12. Masks will be worn at all times except when seated 2 metres apart for eating and mask breaks (see below for additional information on masks).
- Prepare for those times when your child(ren) may need to be at home because of COVID-19-related symptoms or other illness.
- Put reliable plans in place for immediate pick up of children should they become ill at school.

Vaccines

Over the past 18 months, our entire school community has worked tirelessly to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment for students, teachers, staff and, by extension, all families and our greater community. Today, the COVID-19 pandemic persists as an evolving global public health issue. Worldwide, the COVID-19 delta variant is sweeping through communities with dire consequences. As a school, we remain deeply committed to taking all steps available to us to protect every student in our care. We are equally committed to the safety and well-being of our teachers and staff, who continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to their role in your child(ren)'s life and experience at school.

In keeping with Gray Academy's mission, vision and values as a Jewish day school and with the health and safety of the entire school community as our top priority, the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education (WBJE) has implemented a mandatory **COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for Students**. This new policy for students is consistent with and complementary to the WBJE Vaccine Policy for Employees, Third-party Providers, Volunteers and Visitors.

The WBJE developed and approved this policy with tremendous care, based on extensive research, in consultation with the Pandemic Response Team, medical experts and legal counsel. Public health experts worldwide have emphasized that vaccination is the leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vaccine policy for students is part of Gray Academy's extensive COVID-19 health and safety protocols designed to protect all members of our school community, particularly our children and especially our youngest students who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. This policy supports the mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh* (saving a life), the Jewish value that preservation of human life is of the utmost importance.

This policy requires that all students turning 12 by December 31, 2021, must be fully vaccinated to attend Gray Academy for the 2021-2022 school year.

This policy is **not applicable** to students turning 12 after December 31st and is **not applicable** to students aged 11 and younger for this school year, as a vaccine has not yet been approved in Canada for this age group.

Submitting proof of vaccination

Families will be **required to submit proof of vaccination by 5 p.m. September 2** for all eligible children attending Gray Academy this year to health@grayacademy.ca. This is a secure address that will be monitored on a strictly private and confidential basis. **Once proof of vaccination has been confirmed, this information will not be retained by Gray Academy, and proof of vaccination will not be kept on file.**

Support for our families

As always, we are here to support our families. Families who have not yet vaccinated their eligible child(ren) will be given reasonable time in which to obtain a first and second dose.

- First dose should be completed by September 13th.
- Full vaccination should be completed by October 29th.
- Families of students who are scheduled for a first-dose or second dose during this time frame should send confirmation of an appointment to health@grayacademy.ca.
- Families can then follow-up with verification of the provincial vaccine card or app when received.
- All students in the process of getting full vaccination begin school as scheduled.

Dr. Richard Gall, a Gray Academy parent, has generously offered to provide Pfizer vaccines to eligible students. He is located at the Otolaryngology Associates of Winnipeg at 201-1020 Lorimer Blvd (just off Sterling Lyon Parkway near Kenaston). If you are interested in booking an appointment with Dr. Gall, please contact his office at 204-943-0629. You can also visit protectmb.ca to book appointments at a provincial site.

Exemption

In accordance with *The Human Rights Code*, the policy for students provides that families may request an exemption for medical reasons and/or reasons of religion. Requests must be made in writing by September 1, and verifying documentation is required. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be accepted or denied in the sole discretion of the WBJE/Gray Academy.

Travel - New

Returning to school following travel is in keeping with the provincial and federal guidelines as follows. Please refer to the information below to determine when your child can return to school following travel. Families with children in elementary school will be asked to [submit a form](#) to ensure the school is aware of a child's eligibility to return to school from travel.

Returning from Travel [within Canada](#) ([Click here](#) for additional information):

Fully vaccinated travellers:

- ✓ if asymptomatic – no quarantine is required upon arrival and the student can attend school

Children under 12 travelling with fully vaccinated individuals:

- ✓ if asymptomatic – no quarantine is required upon arrival and the student can attend school

Children under 12 travelling with individuals [who are not](#) fully vaccinated:

- X quarantine for 14 days upon return to the province

Additional information on self-isolation (quarantine) for asymptomatic travellers – [click here](#). For information on testing for travelers – [click here](#).

Returning from Travel from [outside of Canada](#) ([Click here](#) for additional information):

Fully vaccinated travellers:

- ✓ if asymptomatic – no quarantine is required upon arrival and the student can attend school

Children under 12 travelling with fully vaccinated individuals:

- X must follow required federal enhanced public health measures ([click here](#)) including not attending school or daycare for 14 days

Children under 12 travelling with individuals [who are not](#) fully vaccinated:

- X quarantine for 14 days upon return to the province

Additional information on Federal isolation (quarantine) requirements – [click here](#).

Reopening School

Manitoba's Restoring Safe Schools

In mid-August, the Government of Manitoba published [Restoring Safe Schools – A Planning Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year](#). The province followed up with an August 24th update on public health measures for masks, immunization and testing.

These documents, along with continuous updates, provide both public and independent schools in Manitoba with the policies and public health direction approved by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer of Manitoba to reopen schools while minimizing the risk of transmission.

Provincial Response Levels for Schools

In-class learning will begin in September 2021 for all students in Manitoba. Gray Academy has prepared its plan around Manitoba's **three Response Levels**:

Caution (Yellow): In-class learning

Restricted (Orange): Additional Restrictions

Critical (Red): Remote learning (With Exceptions)

School will open in September based on the **Caution (Yellow)** Response level, with in-class learning.

Caution (YELLOW) RESPONSE LEVEL – September 2021 (In-Class Learning)

All students from JK to Grade 12 will be in school daily for in-class learning.

Physical distancing measures will include:

- the use of **cohorts from JK to Grade 12** (see below for more information on cohorts);
- **Early Years (JK and K)** will be **its own cohort** in the early year's wing with its own entrance/exit and **1.5+ metres** of space for a variety of learning settings;
- **2 metres of space** between students in Grades 1-6 in their classrooms;
- **1.5+ metres to the greatest extent possible** between students in Grades 7-12 in their classrooms with 2 metres available at all times

Understanding Restricted (Orange) and Critical (Red) Response Levels

Manitoba Education and Public Health will determine any possible change in response levels based on the risk of transmission specific to the Winnipeg Health region. As outlined in the provincial guidelines the core components of the response levels are as follows:

Restricted (ORANGE) RESPONSE LEVEL – Additional Restrictions

- Schools must ensure **two meters of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible** and adjust classroom space, as necessary. Other spaces within schools must be repurposed to accommodate more distancing.
- **All other public health measures are still in effect.**

Critical (RED) RESPONSE LEVEL – Remote Learning (With Exceptions)

- Remote learning in place through Gray Away for all students in K to Grade 12. [Click here](#) for the full details on Gray Away, our remote plan for learning.
- JK will operate under the protocols for Critical (Red) Response for Childcare Centres with a reduced capacity to prioritize children of Critical Service Workers.
- Schools are closed to students, except for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students who are children of **critical services workers (CSWs) who cannot make alternative care arrangements.**
- Students may be brought into the school in rotating groups of no more than five for assessment and support purposes.
- Students with special learning needs and students requiring support may be accommodated at school.
- Schools will strive for equity for all remote learners, whether they are receiving supports in school or at home.

Critical Service Worker Definition

In a **Critical (Red) response level**, schools will endeavour to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 6 children of CSWs **who cannot make alternative care arrangements**. Priority access will be given to health care providers. Other CSWs will be eligible and prioritized by schools as follows:

Tier One:

- Health/Health Services • Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Providers (all teachers, administrators, and support staff) • Child Care Workers • Law Enforcement • Corrections Workers • Fire and Paramedic First Responders • Direct Social Services and Child Protection Workers

Tier Two: Additional critical services workers may include people who provide critical services to Manitobans, such as front-line natural resource workers, essential supply chain staff (e.g., truck drivers delivering food, medications and other essential goods; food industry staff working in food processing plants, etc.) gas station attendants, and grocery store staff.

Manitoba's Pandemic Response System

The province introduced its [Pandemic Response System](#) to indicate the level of risk of COVID-19 and the public health guidelines in place to reduce its spread. The four colour-coded levels are described below and will usually correlate (but not always) with the Manitoba Education Provincial Response Levels for schools (as described above). **The response system will be used provincially and may also be applied regionally or to specific communities, sectors or facilities.**



Green: Limited Risk

The spread of COVID-19 is broadly contained and a vaccine and/or effective treatment for COVID-19 is available. Transmission of the virus is at very low to undetectable levels between household and close contacts. There may be single or isolated small outbreaks, which are quickly contained. Community transmission is low to undetectable. [Learn more about possible restrictions at this level.](#)



Yellow: Caution

Community transmission of COVID-19 is at low levels. Household and close contact transmission could be occurring in Manitoba. There may be single or isolated small cluster outbreaks which are quickly contained. Community transmission is low to undetectable. [Learn more about possible restrictions at this level.](#)



Orange: Restricted

Community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring. However, the virus is being transmitted at levels that public health and the health system can manage. New clusters are more common, but can be controlled through testing and contact tracing. The health care system is able to manage COVID-19 case levels. [Learn more about possible restrictions at this level.](#)



Red: Critical

Community spread of COVID-19 is not contained and/or there are significant strains on our health care system. The virus is being transmitted at levels that public health and the health system cannot manage. Extensive community transmission is occurring. There are widespread outbreaks and new clusters that cannot be controlled through testing and contact tracing. The health care system may be close to or over capacity. [Learn more about possible restrictions at this level.](#)

For a detailed description of the four levels and what they mean to you, read [Manitoba's COVID-19 Response Level System Summary](#) (pdf).

Spaces in Our School

We are fortunate at Gray Academy to have small class sizes and ample space. We continue to measure (and re-measure) every classroom and space to determine exactly how to configure desks, classrooms, cohorts and almost every protocol for the 2021-2022 school year.

This allows us to:

- **open our Early Years program with space of 1.5+ metres** between students, in a variety of learning configurations since our youngest students are not at desks all day;
- **open our elementary school (Gr. 1-6) with 2 metres between students** in their designated classrooms (cohorts will still be used for added protection);
- **have all students outdoors for recess with adequate space between cohorts;**
- **open our high school (Gr. 7-12) for five full days of in-class learning**, with 1.5+ metres to the greatest extent possible (with 2 metres available at all times) between students and utilizing cohorts.

Addressing Health Concerns

Screening

Daily screening for symptoms is critical to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible and to mitigate exposure to others. If you are unsure whether your child needs to be tested and/or self-isolate, refer to the provincial [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#). Those with symptoms of COVID-19, as indicated by the screening tool, by Health Links or by a physician, must be tested and must self-isolate until negative test results are confirmed by Public Health.

To help minimize the risk of exposure and transmission, a daily pre-screening must be completed each morning by staff and by parents on behalf of their children through the digital screening tool in place at www.grayacademy.ca. Anyone with symptoms may not come to school. Symptoms may include any of the following and families should [use this link](#) for an up-to-date list of symptoms.

- Cough
- Headache
- Fevers/chills
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat/hoarse voice
- Shortness of breath/breathing difficulties
- Loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- Runny nose
- Fatigue
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Skin rash of unknown cause

Other questions in the daily health screening for staff and students will include questions regarding any current public health orders pertaining to travel, gatherings and being in close contact with COVID-19.

Parents, Visitors and Guests by Appointment Only:

The school building will be closed to all visitors, including parents. Access to the school building will be permitted by appointment only. A [digital screening tool](#), available on the school's website, must be completed no earlier than the morning of an individual's scheduled appointment. There will be no exceptions. **Masks must be worn when entering the school and all third-party providers, volunteers & visitors (12 and over) must be fully vaccinated** (verification made with the provincial vaccine card or app).

Staying Home When Sick and Other Factors

Students and staff may not come into the school if they:

- feel sick;
- are experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 using these [up to date list of symptoms](#);
- have travelled outside of Manitoba in the previous 14 days (only applies to individuals not exempt by the public health orders – those fully vaccinated do not need to isolate upon return from travel and those not yet eligible for vaccination do not need to isolate if travelling with individuals who are fully vaccinated);
- have been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case;
- are awaiting a COVID-19 test result or someone in the household is awaiting a COVID-19 test result.

Staying Home When Anyone in the Household is Symptomatic

A student must stay home if any one in the household has COVID-19 related symptoms the [provincial self-isolation protocols](#) and COVID testing protocols guide next steps.

When to Return to School

[Provincial Public Health guidelines](#) inform when an individual can return to school:

- following unrelated COVID-19 illness/symptoms – after symptoms resolve;
- following a negative COVID-19 test* – 24 hours after symptoms resolve;
- if an individual tests positive for COVID-19 – **only when Public Health advises it is safe** for the individual and the school community to return.

*If an individual chooses to not get tested, they will need to isolate for at least 10 days, and until they no longer have fever for 24 hours and other symptoms have resolved.

If an individual has been exposed to COVID-19, they will need to be tested and self-isolate (quarantine) for a 14-day period, even if they receive a negative test result.

Chronic Allergies/Asthma

Many students and adults suffer from known conditions with symptoms that may present like those of COVID-19. We do not want any student to be stigmatized for a normally occurring runny nose or cough. **A student who exhibits symptoms due to a known medical condition such as asthma or allergies must provide the school with a note from a physician to differentiate from those symptoms that require a student to stay home from school.**

Notifying the School of an Absence

For safety and security reasons, parents must notify the school by calling 204-477-7410 (press 1) any time your child will not be in attendance at school, whether due to an appointment, illness, etc. If your child or a member of your household has been required to have a COVID-19 test, we ask you to reach out privately to your child's principal by email or phone to let her know.

Joyce Kerr – jkerr@grayacademy.ca or 204-477-7409

Tracy White – twhite@grayacademy.ca or 204-477-7472

In the Event of a Positive Test

Any incident of COVID-19 in a school will result in immediate contact by Public Health with instructions. This may include informing the school whether a student and/or cohort must self-isolate; if any individual(s) need to be tested and when a student may return safely to school.

All steps will be guided by Public Health.

#RESTART^{MB} RESTORING SAFE SCHOOLS



COVID-19 Response Management in K–12 Schools and Early Learning Child Care Centres



COVID-19 COMMUNICATION PROCESS

(Some of These Steps Occur Simultaneously)



Please note: the school is not permitted to release the name or any identifying information about the confirmed case of COVID-19 to any member of the school, community or media.



Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Reopening Plan Overview

The 2021-2022 school year will reopen for all students from JK to Grade 12 for full days of in-class learning 5-days a week.

Effective reopening will rely upon adherence to provincial guidelines, including:

- all classrooms configured for physical distancing of a **minimum of 1.5+ metres, in some cases 2 metres**, between students;
- the use of **student cohorts** to limit exposure of one group to another, including at recess times and the start and end of the school day;
- cohorts at Gray Academy have been organized by pairs of grades (JK/K; Grades 1/2; Grades 3/4; Grade 5/6; Grades 7/8; Grades 9/10; Grades 11/12)
- **limiting the movement of students in the building** by having most teachers move from classroom to classroom in both elementary and high school instead of having students move between rooms;
- **staggered drop off and pick-up routines**, with specific entrance and exit points for cohorts to reduce congestion;
- routines to support **physical distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning and sanitization**;

Elementary School (JK-Grade 6)

- The Early Years' program will continue to focus on the importance of social and emotional well-being, physical well-being and learning through play.
- Students will remain in one classroom for learning throughout the day, including classes with most specialists (Art, Music and French). Phys-Ed will regularly take place in the Gym and, as often as possible, outdoors and the new Early Start (JK) and Literacy/Explorations specialist classes will take place in its own classroom. The Art Room and Music Room will be used on a rotational basis to ensure separation between cohorts and/or classes with physical distancing and cleaning protocols in place.
- Students will be part of a cohort for the purposes of entry/exit ways, movement in hallways and recess (recess for JK and K will each remain separate from Grades 1-6 as per regular school routines).
- Students will go directly to their classroom when dropped off at designated times and will go directly to your vehicle when picked up at the end of the day. Supervision will be in place to support drop-off and pick-up protocols.
- The play structure, hard-top area and field will only be used at recess times when protocols are in place to separate cohorts in designated areas and with supervision.
- **The playground and play structures are closed to students both before and after school, except for supervision programs.**
- After 5:30 p.m. and on weekends the play structure and playgrounds are available for use at your own risk (unless off-limits due to public health guidelines).
- Locker use for Grades 4 - 6 will be staggered to support physical distancing.
- Elementary Cohorts:

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten (separate early years' entrance and exit)
Grades 1 and 2 (far-left section of the elementary doors for entrance and exit)
Grades 3 and 4 (far-right section of the elementary doors for entrance and exit)
Grade 5 and 6 (entrance and exit via the staircase to the left of the main school doors)

High School (Grade 7-12)

- Students will remain in classroom(s) for learning throughout the day on the floor designated for their cohort and in the classrooms designated for their grade.
- Student Cohorts:
 - Grades 7/8 (3rd floor of high school)
 - Grades 9/10 (2nd floor of high school and 2nd floor by Mac Lab and Youth Lounge)
 - Grades 11/12 (4th floor of high school and Wellness Studio)
- Two classrooms will be dedicated for each class on a cohort's floor to allow for all classes to take place.
- Phys-Ed will take place in the Gym and as often as is possible, outdoors.
- Science labs will be available to support lab work for science courses; the Art Room, Mac Lab, Kitchen and MPR will be available for elective courses within grades and cohorts, with physical distancing and cleaning protocols in place.
- Students will sanitize their desk when they leave and when they start in a new classroom using safe commercial sanitizing wipes provided by the school.
- Locker use will be staggered to support physical distancing.
- The high school schedule continues to support both in-school learning and a seamless transition should remote learning be needed. Students will have a six-period day based on a six-day cycle. Each period will be 55 minutes in length.

Routines

Start of the School Year

Faculty and Staff

The school year will begin on September 1, with three days of In-Service for all faculty and staff members to prepare for the start of a new school year and to ready the classrooms for a safe return for students.

Student Orientation (All Grade 7 Students and New Students)

Included in the welcome and orientation for all Grade 7 students and new students to elementary and high school on September 3rd will be an orientation to new routines of school.

Early Years: Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Longer Orientation Visits

We will be continuing with the important Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten meet-and-greet visits for students and parents before the first day of classes. However, we have structured these sessions to allow each family to spend more time with their child's teacher. This extended time will give our youngest students and their families an opportunity to be oriented to both regular and new routines.

Families will be sent additional information including instructions to sign up for a time slot will be asked to complete [Gray Academy's digital screening tool](#) for the family no earlier than the morning of their scheduled time. The early years' door will now be used for the start and end of each day. Families will be asked to practice this on the day they come for their scheduled visit. Parents must be fully vaccinated to attend in person. A virtual ZOOM option is available as an alternative.

First Day of School for all Students (Gr. 1-12) – Thursday, September 9

First Day of School for all Students (JK & K) – Friday, September 10

Elementary Schedule

The elementary schedule has not changed from previous years. The day is divided into eight 40-minute periods based on the six-day cycle. Each class's schedule will be consistent for in-class learning in both provincial Yellow-Caution and Orange-Restricted response level scenarios.

Should the Province move schools to the Critical-Red Response Level, the pivot to remote learning in Gray Away will mirror a student's class schedule as much as possible, with adjustments to allow for more breaks and movement needed for young children in a remote environment based on the developmental stage of the grade.

High School Schedule

The high school schedule has been amended to support in-school learning and also for a seamless transition should the province move schools to remote learning for the Critical-Red response level. Students will have a six-period day based on the six-day cycle. Each period will be 55 minutes in length.

Movement in School

To support physical distancing, the movement in school has been minimized by having teachers move from class to class in both elementary and high school for the majority of learning. The halls, stairwells and doorways in the school have been marked clearly with brightly coloured directional signs and floor markers to support the flow of traffic. Some doorways students are accustomed to using may be closed to limit student traffic.

Morning Drop-Off and Afternoon Pick-Up

Our morning and afternoon routines changed for the 2020-2021 school year. As the changes were successful to help stagger students and to provide additional safety for students in the parking lot, we will continue with these new protocols as part of our regular school routine.

We require the cooperation and patience of all families to ensure the process works. Each family will be provided with two cards to place in their vehicles (dashboard or visor) showing the family name and their pick-up zone. Each card will be colour coded for your zone and must be visible during drop-off and pick-up.

- If you still have your card from last year, please use it on the first day.
- New cards are being made for all families (2 per household). If you require additional cards, please email lboroditsky@grayacademy.ca and we would be happy to provide you with additional cards in early September.
- All Grade 7 students and new students will receive their cards on Friday, September 3.
- JK & K students will receive these cards during the JK & K conversations.
- All other students Grades 1-12 will receive the cards to take home on the first day of school on Thursday, September 9.
- If you don't have your card from last year, please ensure your last name is visible on your dashboard for pick-up time.

Drop-Off by Zones

The morning drop-off protocols have been designed to help with congestion of children in entry ways and hallways, to help with the separation of cohorts and to ensure drop-off can be done safely and efficiently without adults leaving their vehicle and/or entering the school building.

All students will be dropped off in the loop in front of the school (Abe and Fan Simkin Circle) in specific Zones that will be marked clearly.

- For safety, all students **must exit from the right side of the vehicle only.**

- We ask that families refrain from needing to remove items from the trunk during drop off as this is dangerous.
- Staff supervisors will be outside during drop-off, as parents will not be permitted to park or come into the building.

Please note that there will be **no access to the school via the interior glass doors of the AJCC**. These drop-off zones are the **only** way for students to be dropped off.

Should any parent need to enter the AJCC for any reason after dropping of their child(ren), they must park in the AJCC parking lot and enter and exit through the main AJCC doors (on Doncaster).

Every driver must be patient and aware of students and moving vehicles while going through the drop-off process. During the drop-off routine, an AJCC security guard will be present to manage vehicle traffic, in addition to school staff who will be guiding students to the appropriate entries. Please ensure you are driving slowly at all times.

Know Your Zone

- If you have a child in **high school only** – you will always use **ZONE A**.
- If you have a child in **high school and a child in grades 1-6** – you will always use **ZONE A**.
- If you **only** have a child in JK or K – you will always use **Zone B**.
- If you have a child in **JK or K and children in any other grades** – always use **Zone B**.
- If you **only** have a child in **grades 1-6** – you will always use **ZONE C**.

Drop-off Zones and Designated Times

Zone A (in front of high school entrance) – Families with Children in High School (with or without siblings in Gr. 1-6)

From 8:15 a.m.–8:40 a.m. - Families with children in high school only

From 8:25 a.m.-8:40 a.m. – Families with children in both high school and Gr. 1-6

- *High School students will enter through the high school entrance only*
- *Elementary siblings will walk down the sidewalk to the marked doorway for their grade*

Zone B (in front of early years entrance) – Families with Children in JK or K (with/without siblings)

From 8:30 a.m.– 8:45 a.m. – Families with JK or K Students and Siblings

- *JK and K students will enter through the early years' entrance only*
- *Elementary siblings will walk down the sidewalk to the doorway for their grade*
- *High school siblings will walk to the high school entrance*

Zone C (along fence by field) – Families with Children Only in Elementary (Gr. 1-6)

From 8:25 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

- *Students will walk along the fence and enter the hard-top through the open gate and walk down the hard-top to the marked doorway for their grade*

Pick-up by Zones and Designated Times

The end of the school day has also been designed to reduce congestion in the hallways and outside the school. Pick up times have been staggered and students will be picked up in specific zones. **Parents will not be permitted in the building to pick up children.** Staff will be supervising a safe dismissal from school.

3:20 - 3:30 p.m. JK/K (and siblings) – Zone B

- *A staff member will walk students outside and bring them to their appropriate zone to await your arrival.*
- *Siblings will come out at 3:20 p.m. and they will proceed through their designated door for their grade/cohort. A high school sibling will not be called over the intercom but should independently get ready to depart in time for pick-up (staff will be made aware of any high school students with this pick-up time).*

3:30 – 3:40 p.m. Elementary Students (Grades 1-6) – ZONE C

- *Students will listen to hear their family name over the intercom and will then proceed to your vehicle through the designated door.*

3:40 – 3:50 p.m. High School Students (and elementary siblings) – ZONE A

- *Students will listen to hear their family name over the intercom and will then proceed to your vehicle through the designated high school door.*

High School only alternative – pick up in AJCC lot – Families with high school students only may sign up for the reserved section in the AJCC parking lot. Parking is along the wooden fence adjacent to Willow Avenue. Students will be called to exit the high school doors at 3:40 p.m. and use the cross walk to meet you at your vehicle at this time. You must turn right exiting the parking lot to help with traffic flow. Email lboroditsky@grayacademy.ca if you will be using the reserved section.

Pick-Up Times for Early Dismissal

ZONE	For Pick Up of:	Regular	2:30 Dismissal	2:15 Dismissal
A	High School Students Only	3:40-3:50	2:30-2:40	2:15-2:25
A	HS Students & Elementary Siblings	3:40-3:50	2:30-2:40	2:15-2:25
B	Early Years (JK/K) & Siblings	3:20-3:30	2:10-2:20	2:00-2:05
C	Elementary Students Only	3:30-3:40	2:20-2:30	2:05-2:15

Addressing the Needs of All Families

If your family's situation has not been addressed in the pick-up and drop-off protocols, please contact your child's principal directly and they will be able to address your individual circumstances. If you have a child in High School or in both High School and Elementary, please contact [Tracy White](#). If you have a child in Elementary School, please contact [Joyce Kerr](#).

Carpools

The provincial advice for carpooling comes from [Manitoba's Transportation Advice](#) and includes the following to keep in mind if you choose to carpool.

- It is difficult to maintain physical distance in a vehicle
- If you carpool with someone outside of your household limit this to one additional passenger who should sit in the back, side seat, with the window open (if possible)
- Ensure proper hand hygiene and disinfect the vehicle regularly
- Place belongings in the trunk of the vehicle

Walking or Biking

For students who are biking or walking to school, please use the entrances/exits and times noted above. For parents who may be walking to pick up their child(ren) at school, you must wear a mask and meet your child at the appropriate zone listed above.

Leaving Early/Arriving Late for a Scheduled Appointment

There are times when a student may be arriving late or will need to be picked up early from school due to a pre-scheduled appointment.

Arriving Late:

- Please notify the school in advance (grayacademy@grayacademy.ca or call 204-477-7410) if your child will be arriving late.
- Drop them off at the main school entrance (closest to the play structure) and watch them enter the school from your vehicle

- The student will be directed to check in at the office and then walk to their classroom
- Elementary students (Grades 1-3) will use their regular route to their classroom
- Elementary students (Grades 4-6) will use the inside staircase to the 2nd floor and students in grade 4 will turn left at the top of the stairs and students in grades 5 & 6 will turn right to go to their classroom
- High School students will walk towards the Art room and turn right towards main street and enter the school through the inside high school entrance

Leaving Early:

- Please notify the school in advance (grayacademy@grayacademy.ca or call 204-477-7410) if your child will need to leave early.
- Please call the office when you have arrived.
- High School students will exit through the high school doors and will sign out in the 2nd floor rotunda before exiting.
- Elementary students will exit through their regular elementary exit and security will walk them to the door and ensure they get to your vehicle.

Program on AJCC After School Hours Pick-Up Routine

Parents of children who have a scheduled program on the AJCC that begins at 4 p.m. or earlier on a regular basis must contact the office (204-477-7410 or grayacademy@grayacademy.ca) to give us your child(ren)'s name, day of program and time (4 p.m. or earlier). This will allow the office to ensure the child(ren) goes to the glass doors for that day only. Parents must meet their child on the AJCC-side of the glass door. For regular programs that take place from 4:15 p.m. onwards, regular dismissal routines apply. If you have any further questions, you may contact the office.

Playground Hours

We know some families like to use the playground immediately before and after school. This year the play structure, hard-top area and field will only be used at recess times when protocols are in place to separate cohorts in designated areas and with supervision.

The playground and play structures are closed to students both before and after school, except for supervision programs. After 5:30 p.m. and on weekends, the play structure and playground are available for use at your own risk (unless not in use due to public health guidelines).

Appointments for Visitors

One of the biggest changes to get used to this year is that parents and all other guests are only permitted to enter the school building by appointment. This is a measure to protect your children and our entire school community. We continue to welcome appointments for parents and visitors and will prioritize these appointments for phone and over Zoom. For appointments that are more suited for an in-person conversation, access to the school building for parents and visitors will be by a scheduled appointment only.

Prior to entering the building for an appointment, an individual must complete the [online screening tool](#) located on the Gray Academy website no earlier than the morning of the appointment.

All parents, visitors and guests must wear a non-medical mask upon entering the building for the appointment and must be fully vaccinated (validation using the provincial vaccine card or app). Appointments will only take place in spaces where 2 metres of physical distancing is possible. **If you have not completed your screening form, you will not be admitted.** While parent security fobs for entrances are inactive at this time, those with appointments will be admitted by security who will be expecting them.

Dropping off a Forgotten Item

If an essential item such as lunch, homework, gym clothing, etc., is forgotten, you must contact the office to arrange drop off. Families will be permitted to drop items on a table situated between the main school doors.

Shared Spaces within the AJCC

There are spaces outside the envelope of our school building that are shared with other AJCC partners, such as the Rady JCC. Over the summer we have been working together to support each other's protocols and all protocols throughout the building. We have developed traffic flow protocols for when our students go to the gym for Phys-Ed and will continue to work together to ensure the health and safety of our students and the visitors to the AJCC.

Recess

Recess is an important part of a child's day and provides for the important movement breaks needed to support learning. Public health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low risk for transmission. Recess for students in Grades 1-6 will be organized to allow for a staggered exit and entrance to avoid congestion in the hallways and doorways. We are fortunate to have two separate play structures, a large hard-top play area and a large field for play. Recess for JK and K will each remain separate from Grades 1-6 as per regular school routines.

Students will remain in their cohort group for all recesses and will be assigned one of the three play areas for the day: the play structure and hard-top closest to the school building; the second play structure and adjacent hard-top; and the field. Physical barriers will mark the division between each cohort's play area. This will rotate daily.

Students may not bring shared play equipment or toys (including cards) from home. However, the school will provide and maintain equipment for play for each cohort. The equipment will be sanitized between each recess. Time will be spent educating students on safe play outside in keeping with provincial guidelines and will include hand hygiene before and after recess. Non-medical masks are not required during outdoor play. Staff on duty will be supervising students to ensure safety and the appropriate physical distancing for outdoor play.

Masks during recess - Students in Grades 1-6 will wear masks during recess. Students will continue to have mask breaks and will be able to remove their masks when they are distanced 2 metres (6 feet) apart and seated for eating. Mandatory masks during recess will continue to be reviewed throughout the year.

We often receive requests from families to keep a child indoors over recess. This year, if your child is well enough to be at school, they are well enough to be outside for recess and benefit from the fresh-air break and unstructured time that supports student learning.

Lunch and Snacks

Elementary: As per our regular school routines, students eat their snacks and lunch in their classrooms and proper hand hygiene will be enforced before and after eating. Continuous education on the importance of clean hands for individuals and others will be a priority. Water fountains will remain available for bottle filling only. Mouth pieces on all water fountains will remain disabled throughout the year. **We ask all families to send a filled and labelled water to school with their child(ren) daily.**

High School: Students will each lunch at the end of third period (11:45 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.). Students will spread out throughout the cohort floor (classrooms, rotunda and lounges) to ensure 6 feet (or every 2nd desk) to be able to unmask and eat lunch. The only exception is for students who have a lunch time class who will eat lunch at their desk while sitting 6 feet apart. Staff will continually remind and educate students on the importance of hand and surface hygiene. Water fountains will remain available for bottle filling only. Mouth pieces on all water fountains will remain disabled throughout the year. We ask all families to send a filled and labelled water to school with their child(ren) daily.

At this time, our focus is on starting school and getting students used to new routines. We will not be starting the year off with the milk and hot lunch programs, but we are looking at ways to implement these safely at a later date.

Schmoozers

We are awaiting information about Schmoozers from the Asper Jewish Community Campus and the possibility of a re-opening some time in the fall.

Music – Updated

With updated guidelines from the province and after thorough review, safely singing indoors can take place with the adaptations from public health. Indoor singing is permitted with the following requirements.

- 2 metres must be maintained between students and students should be positioned to face the same direction (not each other)
- Masks must be worn (this is consistent with current mask guidelines)

Phys-Ed Class

Phys-Ed classes for all students will continue to take place in the gym. We are fortunate to have a very large gymnasium that provides ample space for safe physical health education. As much as is possible, Phys-Ed classes will take place outdoors. Specific [provincial sports' guidelines](#) are in place for the modification and adaptation of a variety of sports and a focus on risk mitigation including the proper sanitization of equipment, physical distancing and modification of activities.

Masks during Phys-Ed - Students will wear masks during Phys-Ed and will have appropriate mask breaks as needed. This will continue to be re-visited on an ongoing basis.

Uniform for Gym

Gray Academy students have a designated uniform for Phys-ed classes in both elementary and high school.

Elementary: This year, all students in elementary will come to school in their gym uniform on the days when they have Phys-ed class. This change is to reduce the need for groups of students to be in locker rooms at the same time.

High School: High school students are welcome to come to school in their Gray Academy gym uniform on the days when they have Phys-ed class. This change is to reduce the need for groups of students to be in locker rooms at the same time. This will also help reduce the demand on the change rooms. **It is still a requirement to be in the proper Gray Academy Phys-ed uniform for class and in the regular uniform when changing.**

Dress for the Weather: On days with Phys-ed class, it is important for students in both elementary and high school to **dress for the weather for outdoor classes**. While Phys-ed class will not take place during inclement weather, there will be times that another layer will be

needed in the fall, winter and spring. The Phys-ed staff will share additional information with families once school begins.

Phys-Ed Days: Updated

Elementary:

JK – Day 3 (am), Day 1 & 5 (pm)

K – Day 3, 4, 6

Grade 1 – Day 3,5

Grade 2 – Day 2, 4

Grade 3 – Day 3, 4, 6

Grade 4 – Day 3, 4, 6

Grade 5 – Day 1, 5, 6

Grade 6 – Day 1, 2, 5

High School:

Grade 7 – days 2, 5, 6

Grade 8 – days 3, 4, 5

Grade 9 – days 2, 3, 6

Grade 10 – days 1, 2, 4

Caring for Uniforms

This year more than ever, families are reminded of the importance of regularly laundering your child's uniform.

Cubbies and Lockers

Elementary Cubbies: Cubbies (and hooks) give each student a dedicated space to keep their lunch, school bag and outerwear. This also helps to maximize the space in the classroom for safety. Cubby access will be staggered to help with physical distancing. Please remember to label all items.

Lockers (Grades 4-12): Lockers give each student a dedicated space to keep their belongings. The limiting of student movement will minimize the number of times they will need to access their locker. Students must be in masks when at their locker.

School Supplies

The [school supply list for elementary](#) and [high school](#) were sent out in June (and posted on the For Families section of grayacademy.ca) and will ensure that supplies are not shared among

students. Each elementary student will use their own labeled supply box with which to store their own supplies.

When specialized supplies are provided by the school and used for learning (i.e., science lab equipment), proper sanitization of the equipment will take place.

Masks (K-Grade 12)

Please ensure your child(ren) have an adequate supply of non-medical masks. We also ask that you supply your child with a **labelled container** to store their mask for when they are taking mask breaks, are eating or do not require their masks. JK students are asked to be in a mask for drop off and pick up times. Gray Academy has an adequate supply of disposable masks available should an extra mask be needed during the school day. **See below for details on mask usage and care.**

Off Campus Privileges for High School

During the enrollment process each year, families are given the opportunity to give permission for their child(ren) (ages 12+) to leave campus during lunch (grades 7-12) or during a free period (grades 9-12).

Off-campus privileges will be reviewed throughout the year to ensure public health orders for businesses include protocols consistent with the school. **At the start of the year** our main goal will be on safety and well-being in school, getting used to new routines and developing a healthy mindset in caring for one's own health and the health of others. Students will have access to various indoor and outdoor spaces within AJCC during their breaks.

As we also believe that high school students benefit from being given some independent choice in their day, we will begin rolling out off-campus privileges in mid-September. Students will benefit from the education needed to follow the provincial protocols in place for local business and this will be an essential component to the continuation of this privilege for students.

The roll-out of off campus privileges will begin on the following dates. This will include education on health protocols as well as the safety requirement to sign out and sign back into school.

September 13 – Grades 11 & 12

September 20 – Grades 9 & 10

September 27 – Grades 7 & 8

Supervision Program

Gray Academy's Supervision program is in place to help support families. All provincial protocols that are in place during the school day will also be in place for our supervision programs. **Families who register for these programs will receive detailed information** about drop-off, pick-up and more.

Early Morning Drop-Off:

- This program is in place for those for whom it is an **absolute necessity as we need to** keep physical distancing and maintain proper staff supervision ratios. We thank you for your understanding.
- Families utilizing this program must drop their children off between 8:00 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. when a staff member will be outside to greet your child and guide them inside for supervision.

Late Pick-Up:

- Families registered for this program will receive detailed information.
- Protocols are in place for student pick-up in the loop as parents will not be permitted to pick up their child(ren) from the classroom.

Supervision Program Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Supervision Program Drop-Off:

- Only registered students may be dropped-off **using ZONE B**.
- The daily health screening must be completed before you bring your child to school.
- A staff member will be waiting outside to greet your child for drop-off at 8am. Families must bring their child to school for 8am and leave time for all children to safely get out of their vehicles. **No late arrivals will be permitted once the staff supervisor is back in the school for 8:10am.**
- Students will meet the staff supervisor inside the for their cohort group.

Supervision Program Pick-Up:

- Parents are to park their car and call the AJCC security desk at the Elementary entrance at 204-477-3538 and tell the security guard your child's name and grade.
- Give your child a minute or two to pack-up and come meet you at the school entrance.
- You must wear a mask and bring your dashboard name card with your family name to enter inside to the double doors of the school entrance.
- Show the security guard your name card, and your child will meet you at the door.

- If there is any change in your usual pick-up routine, e.g., a grandparent or other authorized person is coming to get your child, you must notify the office in advance.
- Please note that supervision ends precisely at 5:30 p.m.
- At 5:20 p.m., all remaining students will come with their supervisors to the hallway by the school entrance to prepare for pick up.

Emergency Response Practices

Health and safety have always been a priority at Gray Academy. This includes an emphasis on physical safety at the start of each school year (and throughout) to ensure all students are educated in all emergency responses. Modifications will be made to evacuation practices (fire drills) and lock-down practices as current procedures are not conducive to physical distancing. An emphasis on education within classrooms will help to ensure the important understanding of responding to emergencies.

School-Wide Events

Gray Academy's co-curricular program includes holiday celebrations, assemblies, gathering for Shabbat and much more. These moments help to create community and provide opportunities for our students to experience the meaning of an upcoming holiday and to participate in our Jewish traditions.

These programs will continue to be an important part of school life for our students but will be reimagined, as in-person assemblies and gatherings will be replaced by virtual assemblies and in-class celebrations. Gatherings by grades and/or cohorts will be kept to a minimum. We will continue to ensure our students' benefit from being in "community" and contributing to school-wide celebrations.

Library - Updated

The Kaufman Silverberg Library will re-open to students by the end of November. Schedules will be maintained to ensure there is time allotted between classes from different elementary cohorts. Routines will also be established to support high school student use of the library for both taking out materials and having access to study/workspaces. Ensuring hand hygiene and maintain physical distancing is essential when visiting the library.

The library will still be closed to the community. However, parents and the community can still access to books and resources through a digital request system. The library will ensure books are available for pick up and a library drop-box is located at the front entrance of the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

Procedures for Student Onsite Illness

If a child develops symptoms while at school, the child will be isolated in a separate room and will be supervised by a staff member. A medical mask will be provided to be worn by the student exhibiting symptoms (unless there are safety issues that prevent the student from wearing a mask). The staff member will also don a medical mask and any other needed PPE. The room will be disinfected once the student has left.

Parents will be notified to come and pick up their child immediately as well as siblings.

Parents should contact Health Links (204-788-8200) or their child's health care provider for direction, if required. A sick child can return to the school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that student has a positive COVID-19 test, further direction will be provided by public health. **All families are required to have a backup plan for pick-up if parents are unavailable.**

Parents and Visitors by Appointment Only

The school building is closed to all visitors, including parents. Access to the school building will be permitted by appointment only. A [digital screening tool](#), available on the school's website, must be completed no earlier than the morning of an individual's scheduled appointment. There will be no exceptions. Non-medical masks must be worn when entering the school and all visitors must be fully vaccinated.

Technology

Each classroom has been set up to be tech ready to support the ability for a student to log in to a live classroom from home when they may be required to self-isolate or quarantine and are well enough to learn. School Chromebooks will be provided for all students in Grades 3 through 6; high school students must bring their own device – laptop, Chromebook or tablet with keyboard. A limited number of school Chromebooks are available to students who do not have a device or may need to borrow one on a temporary basis. If you would like support in selecting a device for your child, please feel free to reach out to [Judy Doctoroff](#).

Digital Platforms: The following digital platforms will be used to support learning and communication in all three response levels.



JK-Grade 2



Google Classroom

Grades 3-12



Meet

Grades 3-12



JK-Grade 12, School-Wide and Parent Community

Lost and Found

A new lost and found protocol will be in place. Items that are labeled will be reunited with their owners by staff. It is essential that families label all items sent to school with your child's first and last name. Items that are not labeled will be donated or discarded on a monthly basis.

Health and Safety Measures

Daily Morning Health Screening

In previous years, many families would send a child to school with a slight cough or feeling a little under the weather. During this pandemic, we have all learned how important it is to stay home when sick for ourselves and for others.

All staff and students must do a **daily digital morning health screening** before coming to school. Parents/guardians must monitor their child(ren)'s health **each morning** before bringing them to school. Any child with COVID-19-related symptoms must be kept at home. Gray Academy will be using a [digital screening tool](#) in place at www.grayacademy.ca. This will allow staff members and families to complete the screening process in less than 30 seconds each morning.

Use this [link](#) from the province for an up-to-date list of COVID-19-related symptoms.

Use the province's [Self-Assessment tool](#) to check if your child should be tested for COVID-19 or call Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 if you need more information.

If any child develops symptoms at school during the school day, the child will be isolated and cared for by a staff member. A parent/guardian will be contacted and required to pick the child up from school immediately.

Facility Updates

Over the summer we have been working together with the Asper Jewish Community Campus to ready the building for the start of school. Floor markers, signage, physical barriers and other updates and amendments continue to support a healthy return to school.

Ventilation and HVAC System

While we are fortunate to have a well-ventilated building at Gray Academy, the AJCC has implemented upgrades to the building's ventilation system. This includes **increasing the fresh-air intake** to the maximum possible for the system and upgrading the HVAC filters to **MERV 13 filters**. These higher density filters are recommended and increase particle capture efficiency.

Entering and Exiting School

Doorways are now designated for entering and exiting the school. This will help alleviate congestion and will ensure students movement is within designated cohorts.

Physical Distancing

We are fortunate at Gray Academy to have small class sizes and ample space. We continue to measure (and re-measure!) every classroom and shared space to determine exactly how to configure desks, classrooms, cohorts and almost every protocol in place for 2021-2022 school year.

This has allowed us to:

- **open our early years' program (JK & K) with space of 1.5+ metres between students in a variety of learning settings;**
- **open our elementary school (Gr. 1-6) with 2 metres between students in their designated classrooms;**
- **have all students outdoors for recess with adequate space between cohorts;**
- **open our high school (Gr. 7-12) for daily full-days of in-class learning with cohorts, 1.5+ metres between students to the greatest extent possible and 2 metres available at all times**

Other closed spaces throughout the school have been measured for maximum occupancy. This will allow spaces such as the Multi Purpose Room, Wellness Studio, student lounges, etc. to be used safely. Occupancy will be limited in washrooms, change rooms and other small spaces.

The focus on physical distancing is for indoor spaces, at times other than brief contact such as movement in hallways, doorways and rotundas. Our protocols for drop-off, pick-up and movement through the school will help to support health and safety for everyone.

Orange Response Level:

If Public Health moves schools to the Orange - Restricted response level, additional spaces will be used to ensure high school students have 2 meters (6 feet) distance to the greatest extent possible. Students will continue to be part of their same cohort. Additional spaces such as the Mac Lab, Youth Lounge and Berney Theatre, will be used for teaching and learning.

Movement in the Building - Updated

Elementary: To support physical distancing, the movement in school has been minimized by having teachers move from class to class for the majority of learning. The halls, stairwells and doorways in the school have been marked clearly with brightly coloured directional signs and floor markers to support the flow of traffic.

High School: Supporting physical distancing is still essential while moving throughout the school. Due to the full vaccination of the high school, as of November 8, teachers will now be able to return to their classrooms to create learning environments to support their subject areas. Students will no longer stay on one floor and will be able to go to their teacher's classroom. Maintaining hand hygiene and clean surfaces will continue to be essential. Traffic flow in the hallways and stairwells will be controlled with dedicated one-way stairwells and

students will continue to be mandated to wear masks unless 2 metres apart for eating, drinking or a mask break.

Understanding Cohorts - Updated

Students in elementary will be in distinct cohorts (groups) since there are times when two metres physical distancing is not possible. Cohort groups remain separate from other students, to reduce the risk of virus transmission throughout the school day.

At Gray Academy, cohorts are used to help with the following:

- Entering and Exiting School
- Recess Play Areas (Grades 1-6)
- Floors/Areas of the School (Early Years and Elementary)
- Supervision Program

When different cohorts are in same area of school, there must be a minimum of 4 metres between the cohorts. This will be used for recess, outdoor high school classroom in the garden and the MPR for the few high school courses that may have students from two distinct cohorts.

Hand Hygiene

One of the best measures to protect against transmission is frequent hand hygiene. Additional time for hand hygiene will be built into programming to ensure students follow the proper guidelines. This will include regular reminders of proper handwashing protocols. Signage is visible at handwashing stations throughout the school as reminders, and hand sanitization stations are strategically placed throughout the school in 13 hallway locations and in every classroom and bathroom.

Proper Hand Hygiene:

While proper hand hygiene protocols are always in place, extra diligence is required at this time. Students and staff will frequently wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use approved hand sanitizer at the following times.

- At the start of the day and before going home
- Before and after eating
- After going to the washroom
- After getting hands dirty
- After wiping their nose or handling dirty tissue
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose (staff or students with these symptoms are not permitted in the school. However, we are aware that students may cough or sneeze due to seasonal allergies or coming into contact with an irritant).
- After cleaning a surface

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing, particularly on high-touch surfaces and in common/shared areas, will be an essential part of our daily routine. This will include disinfecting commonly touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, electronic devices, chairs, desks, art supplies, toys, games, gym equipment and other equipment).

We will be ensuring that washrooms and classroom surfaces are cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day. Two dedicated cleaners will be assigned to the school – one for elementary and one for the high school.

Personal Protective Equipment

Gray Academy is equipped with appropriate PPE for a variety of needs and in case of emergencies. This includes medical grade masks in case a student or staff member becomes symptomatic at school. Appropriate use of PPE follows provincial guidelines.

Mask Use

The province has now mandated mask use for all staff and students in kindergarten to Grade 12. Masks are also required throughout the Asper Jewish Community Campus. All staff are required to wear medical-grade disposable masks provided by the province. We ask students in Junior Kindergarten to wear a mask for drop-off and pick-up.

Classroom teachers will support mask use and help children feel comfortable using them and seeing others use them. This is important for children in scenarios outside of school where mask use may be required of them.

Mask breaks will be built into the day with students seated and 2 metres apart. When students are eating, they will be seated 2 metres apart in order to unmask. **Students wearing masks must have a labelled container to store their mask when not in use.**

Appropriate masks include disposable masks and reusable non-medical masks. Polyester/cotton blends are recommended by public health. **Neck gaiters and bandanas do not provide sufficient protection and are not permitted.** Improper mask use can be more detrimental than no mask use. Learning proper mask use (at all ages and developmental stages) is also essential and will be a priority in our orientation and training days for all grades.

Junior Kindergarten: Although at this time our youngest students are not mandated to wear masks, JK students will see other students and staff wearing them. Becoming comfortable around others who are wearing masks is important, and staff will guide children in learning more about them, as they may be required to use them outside of school settings (e.g., when they see a pediatrician or dentist). Families may choose to have their children wear masks at school if they wish.

Kindergarten to Grade 12: Students will wear a mask upon arrival to and departure from school. They will wear masks in school with appropriate mask breaks. Ongoing support and education will be in place for students.

Students in Grades 1-6 will have 2 metres while seated in their classrooms and the schedule in high school has been amended to capitalize on larger spaces to ensure that every student will have mask breaks throughout the day.

Masks – What you need to know:

Putting on a mask - hands should be cleaned before donning a mask

- Handle the mask with the strings or elastic ear loops as much as possible
- Place the mask on your face carefully so it covers your mouth and nose
- Mould the nose bridge to ensure it does not move while it is on
- Avoid touching the mask once you have put it on
- If the mask needs to be adjusted, hands should be cleaned before and after adjusting the mask

Removing a mask - should be placed in a container or bag for cleaning later (reusable non-medical masks should be laundered daily)

- Remove from behind using the strings or elastic ear loops
- Do not touch the front of the mask
- Discard the mask immediately, ideally in a no-touch receptacle
- Perform hand hygiene by handwashing with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Never:

- Pull the mask down below the nose, mouth, or chin
- Dangle the mask from one ear or both ears

Protocols for Mask Use

Masks are mandatory for use indoors by staff and all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

- Staff must wear medical-grade masks (masks should be changed minimally twice a day)
- Staff and students must wear masks at all times except when they have a supervised mask break (see details below) or are eating snack/lunch.
- Students must change masks minimally twice a day or as often as needed
- If you are in your own office, masks need to be worn when you have someone join you.

Mask breaks can occur where there is physical distancing of 2 meters and students are supervised.

- Mask breaks indoors can be up to 5 minutes while seated 2 meters apart and supervised by a staff member.
- Mask breaks can be outdoors (while distancing) for longer periods of time while supervised.
- Masks should be stored in a container/bag (masks should not be placed on the desk)

Masks can be removed when outside.

- Distancing measures still need to be in place.
- Masks are mandated during recess due to nature of play.
- Masks are mandated during Phys ed (both indoors and outdoors) – mask breaks encouraged.
- Masks must be worn when coming to school and leaving.
- Currently singing can take place while students out outside and distanced. Masks must be worn.

Masks before and after eating/drinking.

- Staff and students must be seated 2 meters apart while eating.
- Supervision at the start of the year is essential to ensure students sanitize/wash their hands properly before eating.
- Masks are to be stored in a container/bag while eating.

For more information and a video: [click here](#) to go to the Government of Canada's information on how to wear a non-medical mask properly.

Mask Education Videos

[Government of Canada – Video and Information on Non-Medical Mask Use](#)

[Video on Why Masks are Important – For Students](#)

[Wear It Well – A Mask How to For Kids \(Made in Manitoba\)](#)

Water Fountains

Water fountains will remain available for bottle filling only. Mouth pieces on all water fountains will remain disabled throughout the year.

We ask all families to send a filled and labelled water to school with their child(ren) daily.

Education

Attendance

In Manitoba, all students are expected to participate fully in school, even when remote learning is required in Red-Critical Response Level (remote for all students, with the exception of children of critical workers).

For September, the province is reopening schools at the Yellow-Caution Response Level, **all students** from JK-Grade 12 are in school for five days a week of in-person learning.

Students who have been directed to isolate or quarantine will be able to access their classes (with minor exceptions) through live or recorded lessons and/or support from a teacher (based on grade of learner).

Students who may be at higher risk of COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions and who are medically advised through a physician's letter not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-related risk factors will be supported by staff at Gray Academy.

The province limits this to children with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions that increase their risk. Parents and caregivers must consult with physicians on the need for an accommodation.

Support for Learning While at Home

With Gray Academy's strict health screening and the protocols in place to support the health and wellness of our entire school community, supporting learning while a student is away from school is a priority.

The following protocols have been developed to support all learners throughout the school (JK-Grade 12) in age-appropriate ways, keeping in mind the following.

- length of time a student may be away
- technology skillset of student (differences across grades)
- availability of adult support and supervision at home for each student (elementary)

Who can access at-home learning?

At-home access to the classroom is available to students who are required to isolate or quarantine. Gray Academy is open 5 days a week for in-person learning in both the yellow and orange pandemic response levels as per the provincial guidelines. Students who need to isolate or quarantine and are well enough to learn from home may access the classroom learning from home **within the protocols set out for students at Gray Academy** based on their age and stage of development.

Can I choose to learn from home?

Gray Academy does not have an optional remote learning program when the school is open.

Gray Away, the school's remote learning platform, will open, should the province move schools to the red pandemic response level. Students must be in school unless they fail the health screening.

Virtual Etiquette to Support a Positive Learning Experience

Please see information below for specific guidelines by grade level. Students must be set up for success when accessing the classroom from home during their absence from school. This includes, but is not limited to, the following helpful guidelines.

- Set up a workspace conducive to learning (desk, kitchen or dining room table) with a comfortable chair, adequate lighting, supplies for learning and access to water
- Students must be dressed (no pyjamas) and may not access the classroom virtually from a bed
- Plain (only) Virtual backgrounds can be used if set in advance of the class or the background of their learning space (continuous virtual background changes are distracting)
- Camera must be on, and the microphone set to mute (this helps with any background noise) except for when the child is called upon or volunteering to participate in the class
- Active participation is essential
- Snacks and lunches must be limited to when it is recess/break/lunch time or when the rest of the class is having snack and/or lunch together
- Movement breaks are important and should be taken during break/recess times

Parent/Guardian Support for At-Home Access to Learning

- Adult supervision is necessary for students when accessing the classroom through Google Classroom
- This supervision is needed to support your child's engagement and progress with learning while at home, including the timely completion of assignments.

JK-Grade 2:

- Teachers will connect with parents as needed (based on duration of absence) and ensure the student has what they need when a longer absence is anticipated.
- When there is a special classroom activity (i.e., teacher of the day, Kabbalat Shabbat, holiday celebration, etc.) that lends itself to having a student participate over **ZOOM**, the teacher will reach out to make arrangements with the family.
- Please email your child(ren)'s teacher(s,) as early as possible, if you anticipate they will be away.

Grades 3 & 4:

- Teachers will connect with parents to ensure the student has what they need when a longer absence is anticipated due to isolation or quarantine.

- Students in Grade 3 are just beginning to be introduced to **Google Classroom** and Grade 4 students are getting close to becoming independent in using this platform.
- Should a longer absence be anticipated, the teacher will connect with the family to discuss use of **Google Classroom** and the schedule for participation.
- Students can participate through Google Classroom when they are well-enough to be online for learning.
- Adult supervision is necessary to support student learning from home.
- Please email your child(ren)'s teacher(s,) as early as possible, if you anticipate they are well enough to access the classroom from home during the duration of their absence due to isolation or quarantine.

Grades 5 & 6:

- Teachers will connect with parents to ensure the student has what they need when a longer absence is anticipated due to isolation or quarantine.
- Students can participate through **Google Classroom** when they are well-enough to be online for learning.
- Students should communicate directly with their teachers through **Google Classroom** and/or email if they will be accessing the classroom from home while they are away due to isolation or quarantine. Parents can also reach out to their child's teachers in advance of absence.

High School:

- Students will independently access Google Classroom for each of their courses if they are well enough to access learning from home when they are required to isolate or quarantine.
- Parents may communicate directly with their child(ren)'s teacher if they have any questions and/or anticipate a longer absence due to a failed health screening.

If you have any questions about supporting your child(ren)'s learning while away, please reach out to your child's Principal.

If We Return to Gray Away

We are fully prepared for Gray Away (remote learning) should the need arise. In this scenario, the entire school will follow similar schedules to what they are using in school. Schedules may be slightly amended based on a student's grade. [Click here](#) for the full details on Gray Away, our remote plan for learning.

Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular Programs

Extra-Curricular programs are an important part of student life at Gray Academy. Many of our programs will be offered with adjustments to ensure provincial guidelines are followed. This will include athletics, band, Reach for the Top, patrols, debating and more. As programs are introduced, you will receive the information needed. Below is an overview for athletics and band.

Athletics

Athletics provide students with a multitude of benefits that supports students' mental health and well-being. The safety of students is our priority and all [provincial guidelines for sports](#) will be followed. [The Manitoba High School Athletic Association's Return to Sports Plan](#) (August, 2021) will help guide the information as it pertains to competition and tournaments in the province. Gray Academy will look to the provincial guidelines as it seeks to provide opportunities for students. Additional information will be shared with students and families at the start of the school year.

Band and Drumline

Students in Grades 4 and up will have the opportunity to participate in the schools' **drumline** program in-person. This year, some amendments will be in place for the health and safety of our students. Senior band will be offered virtually for the start of the school year. Further information will be shared with families.

Musical

Safety will be centre stage as we navigate decisions for a musical in the spring. Adhering to all current provincial recommendations will be essential to running a musical, especially directives regarding singing, to ensure a safe rehearsal environment for all students and staff. Should the school be able to proceed with a musical, full details on health and safety protocols for rehearsals and performances will be shared at a later date.

Educational Travel

All educational travel has been suspended at this time. We are committed to providing future opportunities for our students only when it is safe to do so.

Resources

Latest Manitoba COVID-19 Education News

[Click here](#) to read the province's most recent education news including links to reopening documents, resources for families and frequently asked questions.

Current Information about COVID-19 in Manitoba

[Click here](#) to access the province's COVID-19 resources including the self-assessment screening tool, updates and resources.

Current COVID-19 Symptoms

[Click here](#) to access the current list of symptoms of COVID-19 and other background information on COVID-19.

Health Links

[Click here](#) for more information about Health Links, Manitoba's 24-hour phone-based nursing triage system. You can reach Health Links by calling 204-788-8200.

Manitoba Education Restoring Safe School Guide for Parents

[Click here](#) to access the Restoring Safe Schools Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students (2021).

Talking with your Child(ren) about COVID-19

Below are a few resources for parents from a variety of sources.

[COVID-19 Parenting - Talking About COVID-19 \(WHO\)](#)

[Supporting Your Child's Mental Health as they Return to School](#) - UNICEF

[Just for Kids – A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus](#) – Goats and Soda NPR

[Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus Crisis](#) – Child Mind Institute

COVID-19 Vaccine

[Manitoba COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#) – includes vaccine finder, immunization clinics, resources and more.

My Child in School

[Click here](#) to access My Child in School, the provinces resource for families outlining the outcomes of the K-12 curriculum by subject.

Appendix

[Appendix A – Letter to Families \(Provincial Reopening Plans\) – August 5, 2021](#)

Provincial Re-Opening Plan for the 2021-22 School Year

Gray Academy will maintain vigilance, as mandates shift to recommendations

Dear Families:

While our offices are still closed and most of our staff continue to enjoy a few more weeks of summer break, we are reaching out today to update you regarding the Government of Manitoba's plan for the re-opening of schools for 2021-2022.

This afternoon Education Minister Cliff Cullen and Chief Provincial Public Health Officer Dr. Brent Roussin announced the release of "[Restoring Safe Schools: A Planning Guide.](#)" As Dr. Roussin noted, the plan emphasizes Manitoba's "shift from public health orders to public health recommendations" and a "return to close to normal activities."

Central to today's announcement is that all students across all grades will return to full-time in-class learning. We are very excited to welcome everyone back to school in September. At the same time, Gray Academy will proceed with continued vigilance and a strict focus on the safety and well-being of our entire school community.

The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education continues to leverage the expertise of its Pandemic Response Team, which includes medical professionals and board members. Based on current global COVID-19 statistics and the strong possibility of a fourth wave in Manitoba, the Pandemic Response Team believes now is not the time to let our guard down.

What Gray Academy families need to know:

- Based on our previous experience and the recommendations outlined in Restoring Safe Schools, Gray Academy will **retain many of the health and safety requirements** that have proven so effective in keeping our students, staff and families safe and healthy.
- We will be setting out **very clear requirements for students, staff and families** before the start of the school year.
- Gray Academy's **daily health screening** for every child, staff member and visitor will remain in place.
- While specific details are yet to be confirmed, **distancing, cohorting and mask requirements will continue** at school.
- Visitor entry into the school will still be permitted **by appointment only**.
- **Frequent hand washing and last year's drop off and pick up** routines will remain.
- We are again **working closely with the Asper Jewish Community Campus** to ensure ongoing consistency of protocols, cleaning and ventilation across our facility. AJCC will continue to require mask use in all common areas of the building.
- All Gray Academy requirements will be documented in a new **Framework for Health and Safety, updated for 2021-2022**. Families will receive the updated document in late August. ([Click here](#) for last year's Framework.)
- Continuing to **review and update** our protocols on an ongoing basis will remain an essential part of our pandemic response, as risk and public health recommendations evolve.

Thank you for your partnership

Thank you, once again, for the tremendous trust you have placed in us in caring for the health and well-being of your children. The physical health and mental wellness of our students is essential to their learning and development. We take this responsibility very seriously and will continue to do all we can to keep our community safe and our students learning together as we begin our new year.

Sincerely,

Lori Binder
Head of School and CEO
lbinder@grayacademy.ca

Appendix B – Letter to Families (Getting Ready for a New School Year) – August 20, 2021

Getting Ready for an Exciting New School Year!

Plenty of info on the way for 2021-2022

The start of our 2021-2022 school year is just weeks away! We are so excited to welcome all students in all grades back to the classroom, including many who are new to Gray Academy this year.

Below you will find more information about getting ready for 2021-2022 and what to expect in the weeks leading up to our new school year.

Welcoming faculty and staff

- We are looking forward to welcoming all faculty and staff back to school **September 1-3** for In-Services and preparation for our new school year.
- Next week you can look forward to receiving announcements about **new teachers, education assistants and program coordinators** for the 2021-2022 school year.

Protocols and routines

- As noted in our [August 5 email to families](#), Gray Academy will **retain many of the health and safety requirements** that have proven so effective in keeping our students, staff and families safe and healthy, including daily health screening, cohorting, mask use, distancing, pick-up and drop-off and more.
- We are **currently finalizing our protocols**, in consultation with the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education and the WBJE Pandemic Response Team.
- All Gray Academy requirements will be documented in a **new Framework for Health and Safety**, updated for 2021-2022. Families will receive the updated document next week. ([Click here](#) for last year's Framework.)
- All families will be asked once again to **sign off that they have read, understood and agree to abide by** all health and safety protocols for 2021-2022.

Orientation and first day of school

- The first **full day of school for Grades 1-12** is Thursday, September 9.
- The first regular school day for **Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten** is Friday, September 10.
- Friday, September 3 will be a full-day orientation for **all students entering Grade 7**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- On September 3, all students who are new to Gray Academy will come to school for a brief orientation session. **New students in Grades 1, 3 and 6** will come to school from 9 to 9:30 a.m.; **Grades 2, 4 and 5** will attend from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m.; **Grades 8-12** will come in from 9 - 11 a.m.
- Next week, **Early Years (Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten)** parents will receive information about signing up for a brief, 15-minute meet-and-greet with their child(ren) and child(ren)'s teachers on either September 3 or September 9.
- We will be offering an **orientation session via Zoom for parents** who are new to Gray Academy (along with any parents who want a refresher) on our School Routines and Protocols. Watch for details and registration information next week.

Class placements and timetables

- All Early Years families will receive their child(ren)'s class placements on **August 26** to facilitate scheduling of meet-and-greets with teachers.
- All Elementary families will receive their child(ren)'s class placements on **September 2**.
- The school invests great care in the placement of all **Early Years and Elementary classroom groupings** students, with serious consideration for the academic, emotional and social needs of each child, including pairing students with teachers who fit their learning needs best. For all of these reasons, **all class placements are final**.
- High School students will receive their **timetables** on the first day of school.

Our latest list of Important Dates

- Since providing an initial draft in June, we have made some updates to our list of **Important Dates for 2021-2022**.

- [Click here](#) to view the most up-to-date list of Jewish holidays, in-service days, milestone events and other noteworthy days to add to your calendar.
- You can also access our 2021-2022 [dynamic calendar](#), which always shows **the most current info**. (This link also offers instructions on how to sync the dynamic calendar directly to your iPhone or Android.)

Organize your uniforms

- If you haven't done so already, have your child(ren) try on their uniform(s) to make sure all pieces are in good condition and fit as they should.
- If you need any new items, please **order immediately** to receive them as soon as possible.
- [Click here](#) for a reminder of **uniform requirements and options** for all grades, including important information about shoes.
- Go directly to topmarks.ca to view sizing info, view the catalogue and **order your items online**.

Pick up required school supplies

- [Click here](#) to view the complete 2021-2022 list of supplies for **Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6**.
- NOTE: the deadline for optional Gray Academy Elementary School Supply Packs is long past, so **ordering is no longer available** for the coming school year.
- Even if you ordered School Supply packs, there are still **several items families are responsible for obtaining on their own**, as indicated on the lists.
- [Click here](#) to view the complete 2021-2022 list of supplies for **Grades 7 through 12**.
- Please note that **all High School students must have their own device for school** (Chromebook, tablet with keyboard, etc.). Now is a great time to watch for sales on these items, should you need to purchase one.

We're here to help

- Our school office re-opens Monday, August 23
- From August 23 to September 3, the office will be open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

- If you need help logging into the Gray Academy Family Portal, please [click here](#).
- If you have questions about preparing for the school year, please email your principal: [Joyce Kerr](#) (Early Years and Elementary) or [Tracy White](#) (High School).

Thank you

Thank you, once again, for your partnership and the tremendous trust you have placed in us in caring for your children's well-being, learning, growth and development.

Wishing everyone in the Gray Academy family Shabbat Shalom!

[Appendix C – Letter to Families \(Health & Safety Updates\) – August 23, 2021](#)

Health and Safety Updates for 2021-2022

With the start of a new school year fast approaching, we are very excited to welcome all of our students back to the classroom.

In keeping with our Jewish values of respecting life, health and well-being, we are beginning our school year with extra vigilance.

As stated in our [August 5 email to families](#), Gray Academy is retaining many of the health and safety requirements that have proven so effective in keeping our students, staff and families safe and healthy, including daily health screening, cohorting, mandatory mask use, distancing, pick-up and drop-off and more.

We are currently finalizing the details of our Framework for Health and Safety for 2021-22, in consultation with the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education and our Pandemic Response Team.

Below you will find some of the most important pieces of information included in this year's Framework, which will continue to evolve:

What families need to know regarding staff, workers and visitors

- All Gray Academy faculty and staff are required to be fully vaccinated.
- All third-party providers (suppliers, workers, etc.), volunteers and visitors will be required to show proof of vaccination before entering our building.
- Daily health screening, with updated questions, will remain mandatory for all faculty and staff.
- All third-party providers (suppliers, workers, etc.) volunteers and visitors will be required to complete a health screening every time they enter our building.
- Face masks will remain mandatory for all faculty and staff (medical grade), suppliers/workers, visitors and volunteers entering our building.

What families need to know for all grades

- Face masks will be mandatory for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12.
- To facilitate distancing and minimize contact among groups of students, we will continue to have all students in cohorts.
- Zone-based morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up protocols will remain in place to ensure staggered arrival times and minimize congestion in hallways on arrival and at dismissal.
- Daily health screening, with updated questions, will remain mandatory for all students, JK to Grade 12, before coming to school every day.
- Access to the classroom from home will be available for students in Grade 4 and up who are well enough to learn but are required to isolate or quarantine.
- The rigorous cleaning and sanitization protocols put in place last year in partnership with the Asper Jewish Community Campus (AJCC) will remain in place.
- Gray Academy has a well-ventilated building with an upgraded HVAC system that continues to utilize MERV 13 filters to increase particle capture efficiency.
- We will once again be leveraging our outdoor spaces, including our outdoor classroom, new seating and new picnic tables.
- All Gray Academy requirements will be documented in a new Framework for Health and Safety, updated for 2021-2022. Families will receive the updated document next week. ([Click here](#) for last year's Framework.)
- All families will be asked once again to sign off that they have read, understood and agree to abide by all health and safety protocols for 2021-2022.

What families need to know about Early Years and Elementary

- Students will be kept in the following cohorts: Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten; Grades 1 and 2; Grades 3 and 4; Grades 5 and 6.
- We will continue with our established protocols for frequent hand sanitizing and washing throughout the day.
- In classes, all students across all grades will continue to be spaced two metres apart.
- Face masks will be mandatory for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 6.
- Students will have breaks from wearing a mask when seated at their desks, two metres apart, and when eating snacks or lunch.
- Students in Junior Kindergarten will not be required to wear masks in school; however, we request that all JK students wear a mask when entering and exiting the school building.
- Facemasks will be mandatory for students in Grades 1 through 6 during recess.

What families need to know about High School

- Students will be kept in the following cohorts: Grades 7 and 8; Grades 9 and 10; Grades 11 and 12.
- Face masks will be mandatory for all students in Grades 7 through 12, in and out of the classroom, any time students are not two metres apart.
- Each class will take place in a single room with the teacher.
- All High School students will be spaced 1.5 metres apart during instruction time, to the greatest extent possible, with the ability to shift to two metres throughout the day for mask breaks.

Next steps

- On August 30, all families will receive a digital copy of our Framework for Health and Safety, updated for 2021-2022.
- The Framework will also be visibly accessible at all times from the homepage of grayacademy.ca.
- The Framework will include specific details about mask requirements, daily health screening, daily school routines, distancing and more.
- All families will have until September 2 to submit their attestation, stating they have read, understood and agree to abide by all Gray Academy Health and Safety Protocols for the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you!

Thank you, once again, for your partnership and the tremendous trust you have placed in us in caring for your children's well-being, learning, growth and development.

Appendix D – Letter to Families (Mandatory Vaccine Policy for Students – August 24, 2021)



COVID-19 VACCINE

Mandatory Vaccine Policy for Students

Eligible students must be vaccinated to attend Gray Academy this year

Dear Gray Academy Families:

Over the past 18 months, our entire school community has worked tirelessly to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment for students, teachers, staff and, by extension, all families and our greater community.

Today, the COVID-19 pandemic persists as an evolving global public health issue. Worldwide, the COVID-19 delta variant is sweeping through communities with dire consequences. As a school, we remain deeply committed to taking all steps available to us to protect every student in our care. We are equally committed to the safety and well-being of our teachers and staff, who continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to their role in your child(ren)'s life and experience at school.

In keeping with Gray Academy's [mission, vision and values](#) as a Jewish day school and with the health and safety of the entire school community as our top priority, the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education (WBJE) has implemented a mandatory **COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for Students**. This new policy for students is consistent with and complementary to the WBJE Vaccine Policy for Employees, Third-party Providers, Volunteers and Visitors.

COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for Students

This policy requires that all students turning 12 by December 31, 2021, must be fully

vaccinated to attend Gray Academy for the 2021-2022 school year.

This policy is **not applicable to students aged 11 and younger**, as a vaccine has not yet been approved in Canada for this age group. Once vaccine eligibility for this age group is approved, the WBJE will re-evaluate the specific requirements of its COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for Students.

Students turning 12 within the 2021-2022 school year will be required to be vaccinated once they become eligible.

Submitting proof of vaccination

Families will be **required to submit proof of vaccination by 5 p.m. September 2** for all eligible children attending Gray Academy this year to health@grayacademy.ca. This is a secure address that will be monitored on a strictly private and confidential basis. **Once proof of vaccination has been confirmed, this information will not be retained by Gray Academy, and proof of vaccination will not be kept on file.**

[Click here](#) for further details and instructions regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine Policy for Students.

Support for our families

As always, we are here to support our families. Families who have not yet vaccinated their eligible child(ren) will be given reasonable time in which to obtain a first and second dose.

Dr. Richard Gall, a Gray Academy parent, has generously offered to provide Pfizer vaccines to eligible students. He is located at the Otolaryngology Associates of Winnipeg at 201-1020 Lorimer Blvd (just off Sterling Lyon Parkway near Kenaston). If you are interested in booking an appointment with Dr. Gall, please contact his office at 204-943-0629.

You can also visit protectmb.ca to book appointments at a provincial site.

Exemption

In accordance with *The Human Rights Code*, the policy for students provides that families may request an exemption for medical reasons and/or reasons of religion. Requests must be made

in writing by September 1, and verifying documentation is required. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be accepted or denied in the sole discretion of the WBJE/Gray Academy. [Click here](#) for specific details.

Background

The WBJE developed and approved this policy with tremendous care, based on extensive research, in consultation with the Pandemic Response Team, medical experts and legal counsel. Public health experts worldwide have emphasized that vaccination is the leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vaccine policy for students is part of Gray Academy's extensive COVID-19 health and safety protocols designed to protect all members of our school community, particularly our children and especially our youngest students who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. This policy supports the mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh* (saving a life), the Jewish value that preservation of human life is of the utmost importance.

Each year, as we approach Rosh Hashanah, we greet each another with blessings for a happy, healthy and sweet new year. This year may our blessings for health reach far beyond our own community, as we all look to a post-pandemic future.

Sincerely,

[Lori Binder](#)

Head of School and CEO

Appendix E – Letter to Families (Signature Required-Framework for Health and Safety 2021-2022) – August 30, 2021

SIGNATURE REQUIRED:

Framework for Health and Safety 2021-2022

Routines and protocols for a new school year



Dear Gray Academy Families:

We are incredibly excited to welcome students back to classes next week! We are also very pleased to provide, as promised, our updated **Framework for Health and Safety**, outlining the most up-to-date **protocols and routines for the 2021-2022 school year**.

Important information for a new school year

- This edition of the Framework **builds upon the original** version created last year.
- In it you will find details on **start-of-school and day-to-day requirements and protocols**, including daily health screening, classroom configurations, mask use, distancing, drop off and pick up, and much more.

- Among the critical additions this year is our new mandatory **Vaccine Policy for Students**, requiring all eligible students (turning 12 by December 31, 2021) to be vaccinated fully to attend school this year.

Please read the Framework carefully

- This document outlines our plans and protocols for a safe return to school, along with our full commitment to creating an environment that reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- a safe and successful school year will hinge on collaboration and cooperation among students, staff, faculty, administration and parents.
- The Framework highlights our commitment to community and caring for one another, a core Gray Academy value.
- We are here to support all students and families, as we embark on another year of school life in the time of COVID.

Signature required before the start of school

- The school requires **signed confirmation from at least one parent/guardian** from each student household verifying that you have read, understand and agree to follow the protocols set out for our school community
- All families must sign and submit their [verification and attestation](#) form by **5 p.m. Friday, September 3.**
- If a child resides in **two households**, the parent/legal guardian in each household must complete this form.
- The form can be completed and submitted using your **desktop, tablet or smart phone.**
- Where required, your **initials and/or signature** can be drawn with a mouse, stylus (or your finger on a tablet or smart phone)
- **Any student whose parent/guardian has NOT submitted a signed verification will not be able to start school next week.**

The Framework will continue to evolve

- The protocols outlined in this year's Framework reflect the latest pandemic details and protocols as of August 30, 2021.

- The pandemic landscape continues to evolve here in Manitoba and around the globe.
- We will continue to monitor all pandemic developments and will adapt and respond to any and all new or modified mandates from the Government of Manitoba.
- In particular, we are monitoring a worldwide surge in the COVID-19 delta variant and the possibility of a fourth wave of COVID-19 in our province.
- As always, we will inform families promptly of any new mandates and/or protocols.

Thank you, in advance for reading and signing your attestation by Friday, September 3.

References

Provincial

[Manitoba Restoring Safe Schools – Planning Guide for 2021-2022 School Year \(August, 2021\)](#)

[Manitoba Pandemic Response System](#)

[Restoring Safe Schools – A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students](#)

[Manitoba Education COVID-19 Information Portal](#)

[Government of Manitoba/Chief Public Health Officer COVID-19 Information Portal](#)

[Manitoba Prepare and Prevent Covid-19](#)

Federal

[Planning for the 2021-2022 School Year in the Context of the COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

[Government of Canada COVID-19 Updates](#)

World Health Organization

[COVID-19 Resources](#)