



RESHET PRIZMAH

Notes from Heads of Small Schools Conversation
May 6, 2020

Questions and Reflections:

How are you taking care of yourselves, as leaders?

- Walking
- Ride my horse
- Listening to what I need and allow myself to be patient with myself
- Lots of little things
- Being openly vulnerable (this is hard for you, I know it is hard for me...)
- Stay up late/ wake up early for private down time
- Schedule breaks
- Dance party
- Creative cooking (chopping food is a stress relief!)

How are you doing virtual open houses and shadows etc?

- Publicize via social media, federation lists
- Give a few time slots to choose from
- When people sign up they indicate what ages and interests their kids are so we make sure families with the same age children/ interests are on their zoom session
- Include videos of teachers as well as live presentations
- Similar to living room discussion, invite alumni and other parents
- Virtual shadow for older grades
- Livestream
- Zoom call
- Power points
- Deliver food to their homes in advance so they can enjoy during the call
- Marketing opportunity for free classes- with our teachers
- Families can join the weekly oneg online
- During step up day program, when teachers of next grade welcome students, they are recording those sessions for future use with applying families

Report cards for middle school: grades? Anecdotes?

- Record attendance
- Completion of assignments
- Follow dependent schools association rules of your area
- Write great anecdotes
- Indicate number grade with O- "online" learning next to it
- A and B OR P/F OR INC
- No final exams
- Kids who struggled before still struggle now.
- Letter grade needed for applying to high school for grade 8
- Message to families- do not push your students. Do what you can now and you will not be punished.
- Teachers developed a report that shows students social emotional growth

What models are people considering for the fall?

- Preschool needs in person time, no online
- Flipped model for older kids
- Stay online for core classes and all else in building
- Offer supervised "HW" time in the building for those who need childcare, instead of in person teaching, but not formal in person classes
- Half day models or every other day
- Looking for well vetted PD on this! PD from Better lesson and UnitED coming soon
- Question how many students you can have in the preschool and what to do with toys and contamination
- Question of staff members- who can return?
- May offer "distance learning rooms" in the building to accommodate staff children who need a place to be during the day when their classes are not in person that day but the parent needs to be at work

How do you pass a budget for the fall with so many unknowns? What are you cutting?

- Pay small stipend to teachers to take on more responsibility without hiring new people or replacing those not returning
- Board promises to pass budget even if it goes into debt this year
- Cancel food service
- Combine grades
- No raises or unnecessary purchases
- Leasing new computers instead of buying them
- Offer new contracts for building maintenance
- No raises
- Annual gala will look different- how can we raise the funds needed?
- Negotiate vendor contracts- esp if the building closes again

- Senior admin taking a pay cut
- Refund 25% of preschool
- Full refund for after school activities this year