



March 17, 2020

Dear Agamim Families,

We already miss your sweet children, and it has only been two days! It was so uplifting to see so many of you (from our 6-foot social distance, of course) as you came to the building today.

As we build our extended absence plans with our teacher teams and school contractors, I am in total awe of what our school is accomplishing each day for our children. Bus drivers are cleaning and prepping their vehicles for our first delivery of food tomorrow. New bus routes for food deliveries are being made as we speak. All available members of our staff have been working hard (but far apart!) with our kitchen team to sort nearly two hundred meals for tomorrow. Our faculty and paraprofessionals have been testing out new technologies and methods of delivering high quality instruction from afar. Staff are getting their temperatures taken as they come and go. And we are getting praise from our Authorizer for not only being prepared so early in the process but for sharing everything we know and helping other schools get the support they need, too. This has been a beautiful moment for public education as charter schools and districts are partnering closely to ensure Minnesota children have the best educational outcomes possible and the swiftest access to the services they need to be healthy, safe, and able to learn. I am just overwhelmed with gratitude for Agamim.

Here are some important updates from today, March 17th.

SURVEY DATA NEEDED ASAP

- **Thank you** very much to each Agamim household that has already completed our data request survey. We have almost every Agamim family accounted for and need your help completing this information for all households. This data is critical to our planning for Distance Learning, meal support, and childcare for “essential workers.” The link to the survey is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AGAMIMCLOSURE>

FOOD/MEAL UPDATES

- **Food Deliveries:** We are ready to do our first ever door-to-door delivery service tomorrow! As this is a completely new process for our staff and for our bus company, we are hoping to deliver all meals by noon at the latest and hopefully much earlier than that. If you canceled your order via the survey, your family will not receive a meal dropped at your doorstep. If you did order meals, breakfast and lunch foods will be dropped off together.
 - **We do need a permission form from every house we deliver to stating that we have your permission to deliver food to your home.** The drivers and Agamim staff riding with them will work with families to collect these forms at drop off.
 - **If your family is not home/does not answer when we deliver the meals, the food will be left at your doorstep.**
- **Extra Food Support:** If your family requested extra food via the survey today, we will do our best to send extra food to your home whenever it is available. If at any time your family has a change in circumstances and would benefit from meals or extra food for your family, please let us know by calling or emailing the office at info@agamim.org. Thank you for reaching out to us as we want to ensure no Agamim families experience food shortages.
- **Agamim’s Food/Supply Shelf:** Throughout the closure, Agamim will be taking food and supply donations to add to our food shelf located inside Door 4. This food will be available for families to come and go with what they need. We also will use this food to send home to families via the breakfast/lunch

delivery system. If your family needs specific food or non-food items like school supplies or cleaning supplies, please let us know by contacting the office.

- **Food donation ideas:** noodles, sauce, protein (canned is fine), rice, beans, bread, nut butters and jelly, fresh vegetables and fruits, bottled water, snacks, breakfast cereals, shelf-stable milk containers, granola bars, etc.
- **Non-food donation ideas:** toiletries, Lysol wipes, sanitizer, toilet paper, laundry soap, etc.
- **School Supplies for pickup:** notebooks, loose leaf paper, pencils, etc.
- **Students' Resident District Hot Food Access—Breakfast and Lunch:** If your family would like to take advantage of hot meal programs near you, the state has provided the funding to ensure your local resident district has a designated school that will serve any children (all children under 18) in any home in their district boundaries. If you need help finding your area school offering meals, please let us know and we can help.
- **Ordering for April:** For families who wish to receive Agamim's shelf-stable food options for delivery to their home, please use the April order form coming out soon by email.
- **Application for Educational Benefits:** If your family has experienced a change in financial status, please consider filling out and returning to the school an Application for Educational Benefits. During the closure, this form will not be necessary to receive meals. But it will be helpful to have in place once the closures are lifted and also to help your family access other support resources during the shutdown. [The application packet is attached HERE.](#)

ESSENTIAL WORKER CHILDCARE

- Our **childcare program is starting tomorrow**. Thank you to our staff who have volunteered to support our families in this important way. All family members who qualify under the state's guidelines for "essential workers" will need to fill out a registration form to enroll their children. This can happen in person at drop off or in advance through the main office. Families will also have to show proof of employment. If you have any questions on these guidelines, please call the office.
- We have been able to extend our Childcare to include **before-care starting at 8 AM and after-care ending at 6 PM**.

DISTANCE LEARNING PLAN—Preliminary Ideas Below for Extended Closure (starting March 30th)

- Our learning plan for possible extended closure is taking shape more and more each day. Having your family's technology access information is key to helping us ensure every child has equitable access to instruction and work.
- **To help facilitate courses and provide a centralized location for classroom information** (e.g., materials, PowerPoints, lessons, tests, etc.) we are ready to move forward with a **schoolwide use of Edmodo** and **Zoom** (for video conferencing/phone calls). Click on each program name to learn more about them. As we will have a whole school account, there is no need at this time to sign up for individual accounts. Teachers will send home specific processes for getting into these programs as we get closer to March 30th.
- **A few grade levels are hoping to send trials of Edmodo and Zoom to families this week or next**. These test runs will help all staff learn how to use these media most effectively and ensure a smooth rollout on March 30th.
- **Students with no device/internet access** will be contacted by the school as we have a few options for your family.

- The state was very clear that no new instruction may occur before March 30th. Agamim, however, will help families start to recreate a school day-like routine by sending home **missing work and/or enrichment packets and resources**. Enrichment packets will not be graded. Missing work will need to be returned to the teacher either by sending a photo or an email scan to enable grading for credit.
- **Many elements such as grading, assessment, accommodations, etc., are still in early stages of development. This information will be shared soon in stages as our plans are refined.**

ATTENDANCE PLAN FOR STUDENTS— Preliminary Ideas Below for Extended Closure (starting March 30th)

- For possible extended closure, our state mandate for **distance learning requires licensed teaching staff to have a daily, reciprocal interaction with all students**. This could mean logging into Edmodo and filling out an attendance poll to signify your child is present. It also could mean students/parents connecting by phone or Zoom with their licensed teachers.
- **If your child is sick** and unable to do the day's work from home, please call the office to let us know your child is ill.
- **If your child misses his/her arranged time to connect with the teacher**, you must contact the office to give a reason for the absence.

Thank you to our entire staff for their extraordinary work, and thank you all for your incredible support.

Very best wishes,
Miranda



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