August 5, 2020
Heads of Small Schools

- Schools are beginning to open! Bornblum, Fridel and Jewish Academy Orlando all begin either with students or teachers next week;
- Still frustration with cities and states without clear mandates; Omaha has no mask mandate; in NY State the governor will mandate if they can open
- Use of alumni or college students: JAO was approached in the spring by a local Hillel and used their students as online tutors; will expand that as they open; Fridel figuring out how to use alumni to give lunch breaks; Ann Arbor wants to use college students but worried about more people coming in the building (and parents voiced that concern as well)
- Concerns over before and after care; some after care hosted at JCC and that would mix kids; many schools cancelling before care and having after care in same pods as classes
- Have not heard too much about pandemic pods, but do worry if they have to go fully remote if that might become an issue; Some families have said homeschooling with a group will be better for younger children then online learning; A few heads have heard of parents trying to get one of their teachers to come and work for them teaching a group of students who had been in public school; other school seeing K students whom they hopped would stay but never committed, not remaining in the school and forming a pod.
- Boom in interest has been great; will they stay? Have to integrate those with little to no Hebrew background. Charlotte doing online tutoring now (20+ new kids!) before school starts utilizing retired teachers and will continue this as an after school program
- How will we integrate the students learning from home while the rest of the school is in person? Bornblum “Limud Mishulav Integrated Learning” program with very specific expectations set out for the students and parents (wear school uniforms, be at a desk, have supplies, be ON the computer for all classes, including when the class goes outside) and will have an addendum in the handbook with a signature to indicate it has been read; Charlotte hired a teacher to be with the at home kids and will have a combination of synchronous learning with that teacher and zooming into classes. Fridel having live streaming time for core classes/instruction only
• Concern that the technology being set up for at home (camera, etc) could be a
distraction; fear that the kids at home will feel left out; many using zoom buddies
• Many specials not being taught in person for concern that those teachers teach too
many children; will either be taught from home or remotely in the school or from outside;
• concern of not treating all faculty the same; different legal guidance at each school
• Ended with thinking of what we are excited about and what is making us happy: kids,
seeing the kids! A new space in the school; necklaces with each child’s face so we can
see them! A car parade to welcome back the faculty and staff

Reminder: no meeting next week due to Prizmah staff retreat and there will be a new
login for the calls beginning August 19. I will send it and you will get it in Prizmah emails,
but you will have to re-register for the calls to receive it.