



Saturday August 15, 2020

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, Mr. Coulter.** The Hawaii Board of Education voted to delay the opening of school until August 17 in part in order to give schools a longer time to prepare for an even more unprecedented educational experience than we experienced in the spring. In the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year teachers were challenged to deliver their curriculum in a new and all online format to their entire class. This was a unique experience and every teacher can share stories of what worked for them and what didn't work well or at all.

When we are able to implement it, the blended learning model will require teachers to deliver lessons that work for students in a smaller class on campus while also working for those students who are at home in a separate cohort. This will need a lot of creativity and innovation to give a complete curriculum with far less direct instructional time. As teachers we are up to the challenge and are also grateful for the extra time to plan this out.

We have also been given the challenge to provide an educational plan for those students who will choose to do all of their learning at a distance. We have had many inquiries about what this will look like. How can a teacher prepare lessons with blended learning classes and also give those learning at home full time the educational support they need and deserve? This question is at the heart of many teachers' and schools' deliberations right now.

The Kona Pacific teachers are working to develop the best way to serve their students in the blended program and in the remote learning program and do so in a sustainable way. While we are planning, we know that parents must plan as well. We know that the various opinions swirling around us about attending school in person or not are not taken lightly by families. Please be patient with us as we work together to develop a comprehensive plan so all of the stakeholders in the school can have their needs met to the best of our ability. We will relay our decision on what a full distance learning program will look like as soon as our faculty have had the time to fully discuss this and come to a consensus.

Welcome to the start of our 2020-2021 school year!

2020 has already been the strangest year in memory, and the new school year is starting off in a unique way as well. The entire Kona Pacific Team has been meeting and working every day for the last almost three weeks to plan and be ready for the return of our students to school. We



learned just late Thursday afternoon that we would actually be working entirely in a distance learning mode for the first quarter of the school year. So we have “pivoted” (the new multipurpose word in these constantly changing times!) to prepare for a quarter of distance learning for all students.

Because the decision to go with all-distance learning came so late, teachers will be using this first week of school to get things all in place for the rest of the quarter. There will at least be an all-school writing assignment to begin the first week of school, and possibly some other assignments from your child’s teachers. The new weekly Wednesday schedule for the quarter is still being worked out.

We had intended to have a full and exciting start of school newsletter to share at this time, but will wait a week and keep this newsletter short and to the point covering just the information you need to know going into the first week of school.

We are excited about working with the students again after the summer break, and look forward to a wonderful school year filled with meaningful and robust new learning.

Here are the things to know heading into the first day and week of school:

1. **Communication is the key!** Given how challenging conducting learning is entirely in distance mode, it will be even more important than ever that you have a strong and reliable communication channel with your child’s main teacher. The preferred media for many teachers is email, because this allows the teacher to communicate with all parents in the class without revealing individual email addresses. Text messages may work well for parent to teacher communications. Check with your child’s main teacher to see what the standard means of communication will be.
2. **Attendance is required every morning this year.** In contrast to quarter 4 of the last school year, the State of Hawaii requires us to take attendance of every student this school year, and for reporting purposes we need to do so prior to 9am each morning. Your child’s teacher will let you know how they want to take attendance. In distance learning mode, taking attendance is just a check-in to make sure that your child is present and ready to engage in the learning experiences for the day.
3. **Assessments, assignments, and learning reports will be given this year.** Also different than quarter 4 of the last school year, this year students in grades 1 through 8 will be assessed, assignments will be counted, and grades and/or indicators will be given to record the level of achievement of all students in their various subjects. Your child’s teacher will let you know specifically how this will work for their class. Your child will be asked to come to campus on occasion during the first quarter to work individually or in groups of four students



or less to be assessed in the core academic subjects. This is extremely important to determine where our students are at academically after being off campus since March 11.

4. **Most classes will have class websites again. Upper grades will be using Google Classroom to coordinate assignments, grades, etc.** In order to best facilitate the learning process with the whole class in a full distance learning mode, most classes will have class websites. Upper grades will be using Google Classroom. Your child will be trained by their teacher in how to use these tools. You will probably be offered training by your child's teacher as well, in order to make the school-home partnership as strong as possible in these challenging times.

#### This Week

1. **Class parent meeting.** Your child's teacher will have a class-wide parent meeting with you to go over the many details of the new plan, if they haven't done so already. New things are coming up all the time, so additional meetings may be offered.
2. **Physical packet and training.** Your child's teacher will prepare a physical packet to go home with your child to aid in the educational process this quarter. They will arrange with you to come to school to pick up the packet. They may also schedule a session for you and your child to be trained in the class system for distance learning.
3. **Assessments.** Your child may be asked to come to campus for assessment this week, and certainly will be in the weeks following. These assessments are crucial for determining each student's current academic levels after more than 5 months off campus. Thank you for working with your child's teacher to complete this important task of the first quarter.
4. **Scheduled visit to campus.** If you are scheduled to come on campus this week with your child for picking up a physical packet, for training, and/or for assessments of your child, we ask that you follow these steps. (Note: for safety purposes, we ask that parents only visit campus this week if they have received a scheduled time with their child's teacher, or unless they need to visit the school office for enrollment purposes, to purchase school t-shirts, etc.)
  - a. **Face masks or coverings** are required by the State of Hawaii of all visitors to campus. Please have your mask on from the time of exiting your vehicle to the time you arrive at your child's classroom. Your child's teacher will direct the need or not for mask wearing at that point. Please wear your mask or face covering again from exiting your child's classroom until you enter your vehicle. These are the mask-wearing requirements of all adults and students on campus to comply with state mandates and help keep every member of our community, especially those most vulnerable, during these times. We appreciate you working with us on this. If you are unwilling to wear a mask on campus, please arrange with your child's teacher another way to receive training in the distance learning program your child will be receiving.
  - b. **Steps up, driveway down.** Please enter campus via the steps, and exit via the driveway.



- c. **Check-in.** At the top of the steps
- 5. following procedure will be foWe will ask people arriving to hand sanitize, check temperatures, (send people away if they have a temp), check name on your provided class list, provide an (Orange) on-campus name tag, and send them to you. We ask them to exit down the driveway.

Parents can send in their own hand-sanitizer, the students just have to wash their hands regularly throughout the day.

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Monday August 17th	All day	1st Day of School!
Monday August 17th- Thursday August 20th	Teacher will announce times and activities	Orientation Week
Friday August 21st	All day	Statehood Day - NO SCHOOL

### **First Day/Week of School**

### **School Year Theme and Goals**

### **Special Needs & Technology Challenged Students Allowed on Campus Starting August 17th?**



## **Kindergarten**

Kindergarten Teachers will be sending out a sign-up sheet for parents to schedule assessments. Parents will choose a time between Tuesday and Thursday of next week to come to campus. Our Governing Board will be discussing in its meeting next week the possibility of bringing Kindergarteners onto campus early for the blended A/B model. The Waldorf kindergarten curriculum is set apart from elementary and not conducive with distance learning. We want to be able to fulfill the needs of our youngest students if our Governing Board sees it as 100% safe to do so.

### **This is Our Procedure if we have A Covid Case on Campus**

#### **Check in Station for 1st Week of Assessments**

Uncle David will be greeting all visiting families and students at the top of the stairs during our 1st week of meetings and assessments for a mandatory temperature check. He asks that you remember to wear your masks and practice social distancing with other families as you enter and exit campus.

#### **DISTANCE LEARNING (Add new?? - Stay tuned to teacher correspondence)**

The Hawaii Board of Education has voted to delay the opening of school until August 17 in part in order to give schools a longer time to prepare for an even more unprecedented educational experience than we experienced in the spring. In the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year teachers were challenged to deliver their curriculum in a new and all online format to their entire class. This was a unique



experience and every teacher can share stories of what worked for them and what didn't work well or at all.

Now we are asked to deliver our lessons in a whole new way that offers plenty of new questions. The blended learning model will require teachers to deliver lessons that work for students in a smaller class while also working for those students who are at home in a separate cohort. This will need a lot of creativity and innovation to give a complete curriculum with far less direct instructional time. As teachers we are up to the challenge and are also grateful for the extra time to plan this out.

We have also been given the challenge to provide an educational plan for those students who will choose to do all of their learning at a distance. We have had many inquiries about what this will look like. How can a teacher prepare lessons with blended learning classes and also give those learning at home full time the education they deserve? This question is at the heart of many teachers' and schools' deliberations right now.

The Kona Pacific teachers are working to develop the best way to serve their students in the blended program and in the remote learning program and do so in a sustainable way. While we are planning, we know that parents must plan as well. We know that the various opinions swirling around us about attending school in person or not are not taken lightly by families. Please be patient with us as we work together to develop a comprehensive plan so all of the stakeholders in the school can have their needs met to the best of our ability. We will relay our decision on what a full distance learning program will look like as soon as our faculty have had the time to fully discuss this and come to a consensus.

Mahalo for your support of the school during this time. We look forward to having clear answers to all of your questions soon.



## **New Staff**

A new member has joined our Team! Please share with us in giving them a warm Aloha welcome:

Adia Paulet - 4th grade Education Assistant

(From last newsletter) We will share details about the backgrounds of these new team members in our next newsletter. (Phil)

In addition, we are in the process of hiring a few additional team members, and will announce these as soon as they have been approved by the GB.

## **IMPORTANT EMAILS FOR PARENTS**

Here is a list of commonly requested email addresses for KPPCS:

- Phil Centers - [philc@kppcs.org](mailto:philc@kppcs.org)
- Leadership Council - [leadershipcouncil@kppcs.org](mailto:leadershipcouncil@kppcs.org)
- Governing Board - [gb@kppcs.org](mailto:gb@kppcs.org)
- Student Records/Jen Brant - [students@kppcs.org](mailto:students@kppcs.org)
- Nutrition Program Coordinator/Melissa Miller - [nutrition@kppcs.org](mailto:nutrition@kppcs.org)
- Receptionist/Falicia White - [reception@kppcs.org](mailto:reception@kppcs.org); [office@kppcs.org](mailto:office@kppcs.org)
- Enrichment/Cheyenne - [cheyennea@kppcs.org](mailto:cheyennea@kppcs.org)
- Human Resources/Edie Lupien - [hr@kppcs.org](mailto:hr@kppcs.org)



## **ENRICHMENT**

We are sad to announce that there will be no Enrichment during Q1

### **STATEMENT FROM MELISSA AND FREE AND REDUCED PRESS RELEASE FROM MELISSA (ADD PRESS RELEASE ATTACHMENT)**

(From Melissa)... In the newsletter we need to provide information that we will still be continuing with the NSLP and SBP (national school lunch program and school breakfast programs).

In order to participate all families must contact me Melissa Miller at [Melissam@kppcs.org](mailto:Melissam@kppcs.org) and place orders for either days weeks or monthly.

In doing so I will place your students order and families will be responsible for picking up orders.

Headlines bold and bulleted at the top of the messaging.

- 1. KPPCS is slated to do all distance learning for the first quarter**
- 2. How attendance is done for distance learning (see below)**
- 3. Expect to hear from your class teacher regarding next week if you haven't already.**
- 4. Health and safety protocols in place (masks, temperature taking, and hand washing need to happen upon arrival to campus)**

"See below for the details"



Descriptions and elaborations can happen below here

1. As previously communicated, the KPPCS governing board has voted to align with the other charter and other public schools in Hawaii and defer face to face instruction...

From the fourth grade newsletter

"The silver lining in this dark cloud is that we are all now in the same distance learning program. We will now be creating our lessons for the whole class rather than for the two different models that were given at the start of the year. This is to provide a stronger class culture, accountability and academic rigor for all students. Quarter four of third grade was a huge learning curve and we are ready to deliver a rich fourth grade Waldorf curriculum via distance learning. Please note these differences: attendance, participation, student work, and grades will reflect on student learning reports.

As the wise Heraclitus said: The only constant in life is change. We imagine you are all feeling that more than ever this year and especially in these past couple of days. Although we are heartbroken to not be in the classroom to greet each child, to sing, to discuss and to laugh together, we are eagerly looking forward to connecting and creating a healthy class rhythm for all our fourth grade students and their families. As your teachers, this transition to distance learning has us thinking, dreaming, pondering and researching the best possible way to keep our class learning together."

Link to the first grade learning log (can be helpful for other grades too)

2. The Department of Education and the Charter Commission require us to take attendance every school day, even during distance learning. That means that every class teacher must have made contact with every student first thing in the morning and send that data directly to Student Records Coordinator, Jen Brant who notifies the Department of Education. Excused absences and tardies should be messaged in to [reception@kppcs.org](mailto:reception@kppcs.org).
3. Our school provides for much freedom and autonomy for individual teachers. Each teacher has their own way of organizing their distance learning plans and communicating with families. Those of you with students in more than one class are already aware of these differences. Please



be vigilant about staying in touch with your class teacher(s). They work hard to keep all their ducks in a row, and you can support them by being responsive. They are 100% committed to your children.

Students with IEP and 504 plans....(Heather has been messaged to complete this sentence)

4. There is a sink in every classroom, in the bathrooms, and added sinks outside some of the buildings. There's even a sink at the bottom of the stairs (bottom of "amphitheater hill"). Please wash your hands as you arrive on campus at one of our many sinks. There are also hand sanitizer stations scattered throughout the campus. Our regular contracted cleaning company is going to be cleaning and sanitizing Sunday through Thursday during after school hours, which is double their pre-pandemic hours. Our Campus Steward will be cleaning and sanitizing high traffic areas consistently throughout every school day. Temperature taking will also happen upon arrival to campus, usually be the receptionist, or someone else standing outside the office. Masks are required on campus to be worn when walking from point A to point B, but may be taken off at the teacher's discretion when six feet of distance is established.