

August 4, 2020

Aloha Parents/Guardians;

This message is to inform you of what Distance Learning (DL) and being in Cohort A or Cohort B means. We need to be sure everybody knows this information to lessen any confusion.

All students from kindergarten to grade 5 will not be coming to school for face to face instruction. All students will either be in a group, we call it a cohort, or doing distance learning (DL) There will be two cohorts, A or B.

Cohort A and Cohort B simply means your child will be coming to school for face-to-face direct instruction with their assigned teacher. Cohort A comes on all Mondays and Thursdays, and Cohort B comes on all Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will alternate between the two cohorts so, as an example, during week one Cohort A will come Monday and Thursday while Cohort B will attend on Wednesday. Then on the second week Cohort B will attend on Tuesday and Friday while Cohort A will attend on Wednesday. This cycle will continue as such for the rest of the school year.

On the days that they will not have face-to-face instruction, the students will be at home doing distance learning. The teacher will be contacting their students for attendance, to give assignments for that day, or checking on them to be sure they are on task completing work already assigned to them.

I realize that all (most) families have submitted their request to be in either Cohort A, Cohort B or only distance learning (DL) already. What we found out is that the numbers of families requesting Cohort A and distance learning (DL) are higher than we anticipated. With that said, we will honor your request but might need some help to make some readjustments.

Your grade level teacher might call or write asking if some families would not mind changing from Cohort A to Cohort B. We understand that families picked their choices based on their work schedule, family care, kids getting rides to and from home, etc., so we do not expect many of you to change your mind, but for those families who are flexible we would appreciate it if you could exchange your cohort choice. This is not a certainty to happen as the final numbers are not all in, but this is just a heads up.

Strictly distance learning (DL) needs to be clarified too. We will be using the Acellus program since it covers several content areas, but many lessons will most likely be a combination of that and what the school already uses (i.e., iReady, IXL, Kidbiz, Wonders, etc.), mixed in. Acellus is an online homeschooling program so parents will play an extensive and large part of its success. We will have a teacher assigned to DL who will help students virtually, but parents will be the primary instructor for their child so parent involvement is a must.

Before families can do strictly distance learning we will need all interested families to sign an opt-in program form. You will have to agree and sign the form stating you will follow the terms

of this DL. Unless it changes, this contract will be in effect for at least one semester. Instructions will not be daily but on alternate days with one day, most likely Wednesday, given to the teacher to prepare their lessons. Teachers will check in daily with all of their students, but not necessarily to give instructions.

Meal Service: All students are still entitled to breakfast and lunches even if their cohort is not in school that day or they are doing strictly distance learning. Students wanting to buy or those on free/reduced meals can come to school to get their meals and leave. We ask that if families will be getting a meal (lunch) that they please call the office to inform them. These lunches for off campus students will be served from 12:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. and are all grab-n-go style. If you are not here by 12:30 p.m. and unless you called to make arrangements in advance, you will not be entitled to a meal.

Nobody can foresee the future, so all or some of the statements above might change partially or all together. I do not even want to make an educated guess, so please keep an open mind, prepare for what we know and can control, and hope for the best.

Mahalo

James Toyooka