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March 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of Nu'uanu School,

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) recently announced a goal to increase in-person instruction at elementary schools during the fourth quarter. The overall aim is to safely maximize in-person learning opportunities for elementary students for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Because campuses are in various stages of reopening, timing will vary by school. Under the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state Department of Health (DOH) for in-person learning, each school will assess its capacity to adhere to the guidance while conducting various student services such as morning drop off and afternoon student pickups, breakfast and lunch provisions, recesses, afterschool programming, etc. School leaders are committed to ramping up in-person learning safely.

According to CDC and DOH, when community transmission of COVID-19 is low or moderate and schools are extra attentive with all other mitigation strategies, physical distancing of 6-feet can be safely modified in school settings. Health officials emphasized all other mitigation strategies must be enforced including universal and proper mask usage, hand-washing, cohorts, cleaning of facilities, and contact tracing protocols.

"We understand that not every school can accomplish 6-foot distancing at all times while bringing classrooms back to full capacity," state epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Kemble wrote in a letter to the HIDOE. "We encourage those schools to implement all OTHER mitigation measures to the full extent possible, to provide a layered mitigation approach that will still maximize safety."

Nu'uanu Elementary School's Reopening Plans

Upon return to school on Monday, March 22nd, all students will CONTINUE with their 3rd quarter schedules – Blended Learning (Cohort A & B) and teacher-led distance learning programs.

Beginning Monday, April 5th, we will be transitioning all Cohort A and B students in first and fourth grade only to daily face-to-face/in-person learning. These students will physically attend school Monday thru Friday for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. Morning drop off and afternoon pick up times along with recesses and lunch will remain the same.

Grade	Drop Off Time	Pickup Time
First	by 7:50am	2:15pm
Fourth	by 8:00am	2:25pm

First and fourth grade distance learning students with Ms. Miguel and Ms. Tupper will continue with this arrangement.

Students who are currently receiving distance learning instruction from their first and fourth grade **homeroom teachers** will move to the Department of Education's recommended K12 Learning Solutions online program. Through this online program, students will work independently and at their own pace to complete lessons and activities. **There is no direct teacher instruction for this online program.** First and fourth grade homeroom teachers will no longer be providing distance learning instruction and will focus on their face-to-face/in-person students. Furthermore, for parents who feel uncomfortable with the move to face-to-face/in-person instruction, they may switch to the K12 Learning Solutions online program. Please contact Principal Ned Uemae at 595-5422 **by Thursday, March 25, 2021** to register for the K12 Learning Solutions online program.

Kindergarten, grades 2, 3, and 5 students will continue with their Cohort A & B schedules. Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 students receiving teacher-led distance learning instruction from Ms. Miguel and Ms. Tupper will continue with their respective distance learning program. We will continue to honor the contract signed by parents agreeing that their child will remain in this distance learning program for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Because the safety and well-being of our students and staff is of utmost importance, our administration took great care in planning for this adjustment.

The following factors were considered in making this transition:

- Our school's layered mitigation strategies are in place and will continue to be implemented daily.
- There has been a downward trend of COVID-19 cases - 15% in the last two weeks.
- Vaccinations have become more widely available to staff members and the community.
- No transmission of the virus has occurred at a HIDOE facility to date.
- The parameters outlined in the DOH and CDC health policy guidance are in alignment with the thresholds needed to transition to in-person learning.

We are optimistic we can sustain these positive changes if we continue to follow the recommended safety measures.

Once again, if families feel uncomfortable with the move to daily face-to-face/in-person learning, they may opt-in for distance learning through the K12 Learning Solutions online program. Information can also be found on our school website.

As students continue to return to campus, please perform a wellness check using the following guidance: Return to School Work and Daily Wellness Check. Individuals who are exhibiting any symptoms or who have been directed to by DOH to quarantine should not come to campus. If someone in your household has been tested for COVID-19 or if they are exhibiting symptoms, please contact Sally Moses, our school health aide, before coming to campus.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we monitor and respond to this pandemic. Please contact me at (808) 595-5422 or email me at Ned.Uemae@k12.hi.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ned Uemae

Ned Uemae
Principal