



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT
WEST HAWAII COMPLEX AREA OFFICE
75-140 HUALALAI ROAD
KAILUA KONA, HAWAII 96740-3723

April 6, 2020

Aloha Parents/Guardians,

As we enter the second week of distance learning instruction during this unprecedented time for our nation, state, and communities, I want to acknowledge that we are aware of the immense impact on families during this time. Likewise, an immediate shift in the way that instruction happens for our children has been required of all educators. Thank-you for your patience as our dedicated teachers and school leaders adjust to this new way of delivering instruction through virtual platforms that involves planning for “real time” and/or “delayed” instructional modes. Although teaching via a distance-learning model cannot replicate the rich face-to face interactions that exist in the traditional classroom environment, we believe that quality learning can still occur.

I also understand that the term “continuity of learning” may be vague to parents, so I want to clarify what it means in terms of instruction that will enter your homes via virtual methods and/or packets of instruction. During this time of school closure, the Hawaii Department of Education is focused on delivering instruction in a manner that ensures the safety and well-being of our students and providing enrichment activities in order for students to retain the content and skills learned during the first three quarters of this school year.

- Instruction will be focused on mastery of content and material that was introduced in the first three quarters to help students solidify their proficiency in the core content and elective areas.
- Third quarter grades will be mailed to homes by April 15, 2020.
- There will be no formal assessment or grading for enrichment activities, but teachers will conference with students through online meetings and other communication venues to collect data on your child’s progress.
- Although your child’s work will not be graded, the benefit of your child’s engagement will pay large dividends in his/her future academic progress when school reopens.

If you have not already received this information, you will be receiving information outlining:

- The different ways information will be shared and class meetings will be held.
- A schedule outlining the times when class meetings will occur and office hours for students/parents to contact teacher(s) for individual or small group assistance. For the elementary level, this will be shared as an individual teacher class schedule. For middle and high schools, it may be a school-wide schedule by class period.

We are committed to making sure that students continue to experience the care and commitment of our faculty and the routine of daily learning. We ask for your assistance in keeping your child engaged in the learning process.



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More than ever, our partnerships with parents are extremely valuable and we know that communication is key to working together to get the best possible results for your child(ren). Please reach out to your child's teacher or principal if you anticipate or become aware of any issues with your child accessing the remote learning opportunities. Information is also accessible through this link: [HIDOE Covid-19 Information](#).

Please be safe and well.

Sincerely,



Janette F.L. Snelling
Complex Area Superintendent

JFS:dk

Attachment



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