



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MANOA SCHOOL
3155 MANOA ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822

March 9, 2021

Dear Mānoa School Ohana:

With new CDC school reopening guidance, low COVID-19 case numbers, positivity rates hovering around 1%, and a vaccine rollout where nearly 20% of Hawaii's adult population (including school personnel) has received at least the first of two doses, Hawaii State Superintendent Dr. Christina Kishimoto recently announced a call to action to reopen our elementary schools for the 4th quarter of the 2020-21 school year. Our staff has been working out the logistics since that announcement to make daily, in-person school reopening a reality.

Beginning on Monday, March 29, 2021, all students in grades K-5 will attend school face-to-face every day. We will follow the updated CDC mitigation strategies to keep everyone safe while on campus.

In preparation of this instructional model shift, the first week back in the 4th quarter will have a modified schedule.

On Monday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, we will have our A and B rotation day starting at 8 am and ending at 2:15 pm. Wednesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 25 will be full distance learning days with no synchronous (live) instruction taking place. By making both days distance learning, Mānoa School teachers will be afforded the time to get their classrooms in order for all students to return the following week. Friday, March 26 is the Kuhio Day holiday (no school).

Starting Monday, March 29, we will implement a staggered start and end time to reduce congestion in our pick-up and drop-off areas. Grades K, 1, and 2 will have their day run from 8:00 am till 1:45 pm (1:00 pm Wednesdays). Grades 3, 4, and 5 will have their day run from 8:15 am till 2:00 pm (1:15 pm Wednesdays). Drop-off and pickup locations will remain the same. Drop-off will run in the 15 minutes prior to the start time. Pick-up will run in the 15 minutes after the end time.

Students who enrolled in the 100% Distance Learning option for the 4th quarter will also experience changes. Starting Monday, March 29, students in the 100% Distance Learning option will transition off of Acellus to K12, an online learning platform that's been vetted by the Hawaii DOE to be an interactive, engaging curriculum with a rich, multimedia format and easy to navigate content. As classroom teachers will shift their focus to their in-person students, Mānoa's 100% Distance Learning offering will become fully asynchronous as a stand-alone option. We will not be offering live synchronous video instruction.

Please understand that pivoting to a full face-to-face model is a huge undertaking. I want to take this time to recognize the Mānoa School teachers and staff for their persistence and flexibility while navigating through all the changes and challenges faced this year. I also want to thank every Mānoa School family for your endless patience and support that you have provided during this pandemic.

Please save Tuesday, March 23 at 5:30 pm for a virtual online meeting where we will share our updated reopening plan. A separate web address with the meeting information will come in a separate email.

If you have any questions or reservations about returning, please feel free to contact me at 988-1868.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kusuda
Principal