

# HAKIPU'U ACADEMY

## Kāne'ōhe, Hawai'i

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September 03, 2019

Aloha mai kākou,

What an amazing month it has been! Everyday as we work to develop and improve our school, we appreciate all those who contribute and help us to move forward. With such a large increase in our enrollment, there have been some logistical changes by way of the schedule as we work to assess, and reassess all students. We greatly appreciate your flexibility and patience, as we build each students' Personal Learning Plan purposefully and with intentionality -- to not rush the process and develop support with the highest level of individuality.

Throughout this communication I hope to cover the Parent Portal, Parent Teacher Conferences, Advisory, Mo'ōmona (off-site learning lab), Homework, Lunch, Attendance, Piko With Po'o, and the upcoming Parent Meeting (At-a-glance overview can be found below).

### **Parent Portal**

I am excited to announce that the Parent Portal is now open. Please visit [www.hakupuu.org](http://www.hakupuu.org) under Portals, select Parent Portal, password Makua19 (Capital M). Within the portal you'll find an up-to-date interactive calendar, the daily schedule, and a link to the teachers' personal classroom pages. Each page contains educational content within their morning Direct Instruction and their afternoon Progressive Education courses. Teachers will give highlights, updates, assignments, comments, resources, etc. We encourage you to visit the calendar/schedule daily and the teacher pages on a weekly basis. Remember you can always email the teachers and you'll find their contacts on their pages.

### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Due to the high level of new students who are being assessed and the reassessment of returning students, we will be postponing our Parent Teacher Conferences to October following our fall break starting October 14th. In this, we'll be able to give you a better report on where your students' strengths and areas of growth are.

### **Advisory**

Every morning after Piko students participate in Advisory. Elements that each student will participate in, once a week are: Mele with Po'o. As a former GRAMMY Award Winning Music Teacher I love reconnecting with students in the classroom through song. The Kupuna program, students will visit and hear from visiting Kupuna who share stories and mana'ō. A Farm to Table program that engages

students in the planning portion of Aloha 'Aina. Also, a College/Career program through Kamehameha Schools visiting with our Middle and High School. Each advisory program is focused on developmental stages -- Lower School (Exploration and Discovery), Middle School (Social and Physical Development), High School (Career and College Readiness).

### **Mo'omona (Off-site Learning Lab)**

Please refer to the schedule on the Parent Portal so your student is prepared on a daily basis. Due to the fact that Mo'omona happens in the elements, safety is our number one concern. Our Experiential Learning Specialist Uncle Lee, will discern the elements in the morning and decide if students will participate in Mauka or Makai (This does not pertain to a non Aloha 'Aina learning trip). Students will bring their lunch with them and have it offsite. If needed/emergency you can call the office after 8 a.m. to find out specifically where they are going for the day (Coming soon a Mo'omona page on the Parent Portal).

### **Homework**

There is a huge debate within education on how effective homework is. Now I know, because we all had to do hundreds of math problems, then just the odds, that we feel some level of payback is needed with our kids. However, at Hakipu'u Academy we are not against sending work home, but we are against busy work. Students will receive minimal amounts of homework. This is where we hand-off the baton and ask that you seek supplemental work if you feel your student needs extra practice in a content area. We don't expect you to be the expert, so feel free to email your child's teacher to engage in dialog that points to areas of challenge with resources you can implement at home. However, we do caution against academic exhaustion. Try to not send your child to school, only to come home and do more school. Give them the recovery time needed so they can perform at their highest ability while in our care. Recovery time should not be screen time, but quality family time, time that inspires, time that motivates, time rooted in worth.

### **Lunch**

We currently do not have a lunch program, we did try to pilot a program that inspired us to start our own in-house lunch program at our school. In this, we are honoring our initiative within Aloha 'Aina to be a Farm to Table school. As such, we have dedicated the last 40 minutes of each day to have students participate in our newly developing on-site farm. Our Hakipu'u Ho'olaule'a, *Ke Kani O Nā Ko'olau* will be our big fundraiser to purchase and instal a commercial kitchen on campus. We hope to be able to serve an affordable, healthy, 'aina based lunch in January 2020 with a free and reduced option. Till then, please continue to send home lunch with your child. We do have emergency food for those days... you know, those days!

### **Attendance**

Students must be at school between 7:30 - 8:55 a.m. Any time after that is a tardy. There is no such thing as an excused tardy, however we do appreciate a phone call to the office if your student is going to be tardy or absent. Please note that 5 tardies equal one absence. We report our attendance to the District and the Commision. If a student falls into chronic tardiness or absenteeism Administrative intervention will take place. In short, coming to school and being on time isn't an option. Let's help our students instil the value of punctuality and dependability -- the consequences are tremendous!

### **Piko With Po'o**

Every Saturday. All are invited! Students must be accompanied by an adult. Campus beautification! Check-in or just talk story. 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Come for 5 minutes, an hour, however long you can give of

your time. I've not missed one Saturday since June. I'm committed to having a campus that our students are proud to call their school!

### **Ka Hui Makua (Parent Teacher Group)**

Mahalo for all those who signed up to be part of our Parent Volunteer group. Our first meeting will be to discuss and make an action team/committee for our upcoming event/fundraiser on October 30th - to raise funds to have our own lunch program with an in-house commercial kitchen. We already have many entertainers interested in performing at this event i.e. Jake Shimabukuro and Na Wai. Our first meeting will be next Wednesday, September 11th at 6 p.m. in Apuakea, the Middle School building at Hakipu'u Academy. If you have not signed up yet, please do so by emailing Aunty Leilani, Office Manager at [lroth@hakupuu.org](mailto:lroth@hakupuu.org)

We are all agents of change. At times it can become overwhelming when we look forward and see the remainder of the journey ahead. When the pessimistic voice of change is shouting in our face, and another step forward seems like a lifetime away -- it's important to pause, enjoy the view, and feel the calm, cool whisper of success as we reflect on how far we've come.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,



Micah K. Hirokawa M.Ed.  
Po'o Kula, Head of School

### **At-a-glance Overview**

#### **Parent Portal**

- Is now open at [www.hakupuu.org](http://www.hakupuu.org)
- Password: Makua19 (Capital M)
- Check calendar/schedule daily, subject sites weekly

#### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

- Parent teacher conferences postponed to the week of October 14th

#### **Advisory**

- Exciting Advisory classes: Mele, Kupuna, Farm to Table, College/Career

#### **Mo'omona (Off-site Learning Lab)**

- Check Parent Portal for calendar/schedule
- Be prepared for Mauka or Makai. Bring a lunch!
- Call office after 8 a.m. for location update if needed/emergency

#### **Homework**

- Minimal homework. The fight against busy work is real!
- Parent teacher partnership in student education
- Quality time at home isn't screen time

**Lunch**

- No lunch program, bring a home lunch
- Lunch program in hopes starting January 2020
- Farm to Table

**Attendance**

- Students must be at school between 7:30 - 8:55 a.m.
- 5 Tardies equal 1 absence
- Chronic tardiness or absenteeism will result in disciplinary action

**Piko With Po‘o**

- Every Saturday, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Campus beautification!
- All are invited! Students must be accompanied by an adult.

**Hui O Na Makua (Parent Teacher Group)**

- Parent Volunteer group. Sign up with Aunty Leilani, Office Manager [lroth@haikpuu.org](mailto:lroth@haikpuu.org)
- First meeting at Hakipu‘u Academy, September 11th at 6 p.m. in Apuakea (Middle School)

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