

HAKIPU`U ACADEMY

Kāne`ohe, Hawai`i

Micah K. Hirokawa M.Ed.
Po`o Kula, Head of School
(808) 235-9155
mhirokawa@hakupuu.org

October 11, 2019

Aloha mai kākou,

I hope that everyone has enjoyed Fall Break and students are ready to get back to school. As an Administration we've taken the time to really reflect on quarter one - things that worked and things in theory, are still a work in progress. As we work towards the second half of the semester, please take careful note of the following revisions and friendly reminders.

School Schedule

As the school moves into renewal this year we made a commitment for students to do better in Math and Reading. In this, we've revised the schedule moving our advisory time to the end of the day and creating a time to have, what we've titled, "Boost" time -- focusing primarily on small group differentiation in Math and Reading. Because the time spent in Lower School is such an influential age, students will spend less time in "Boost" and work directly with our school counselor Mr. Howe focusing on social-emotional learning -- there is a direct correlation between student happiness and student performance. A revised copy of the schedule can be found on the Parent Portal and a hard copy will be given to you at your upcoming parent-teacher conference.

We've tried, and tried, and tried... However, the rotating schedule does not seem to be a good fit for our school at this time. In this, please note that Monday is an A Day. As such, starting this week we are locking the schedule in a "Monday through Friday" format. Teachers will make up content if their class lands on a holiday. FYI, Mo`omona: Lower School will always be on Friday's, Middle School will be on Wednesday's, and High School will be on Monday's.

Advisory is now in the afternoon, allowing our agriculture program/Aloha `Aina to work in smaller groups.

Hawaiian Focused Charter School

As a Hawaiian Focused Public Charter School, we would like to remind all participants that you are part of our community by choice. We are not a geographical exempt school and as such, you have chosen to participate in our program because you value all the components of our mission and vision

-- that being the use of a Hawaiian cultural perspective within academics and extracurricular activities, an experiential learning model with on and off-site experiences, and differentiated instruction in core subjects such as i.e. Math and Reading. We hope to serve your family to the best of our ability and support parents in choosing the best fit for their children.

Attendance

We are still struggling by way of attendance. Attending school is the LAW! There are families who have now received first and second notices regarding chronic absenteeism and tardiness. Remember school starts at 7:55 a.m. We take attendance at school very seriously and will work with families to resolve and set goals to fix this problem. We are here to help. However, by not attending school families should know that consequences can be severe, possibly ending in expulsion.

Website and Parent Portal

We are pleased to announce that we are in the process of uploading student assessment, assignments, and progress reports to our new online program called Jupiter Ed. We hope to have this up by the end of the month. Teachers are monitoring their classroom sites on a weekly basis -- always feel free to reach out to them by way email anytime. We now have an announcement board on our website called, *Aunty Leilani's Mo'olelo café*. Through this, you can stay up-to-date with events and announcements happening at school. (Parent Portal Password is Makua19 [Capital M])

Speak well - Use kind words

As parents, you are your child's first teacher. How you speak with others, how you treat others -- teaches our children how to treat others. Have strong conversations behind closed doors. Show that you can handle conflict with kind words. Be an upstanding example in lessons of empathy. Expand your vocabulary in ways that others in all areas of employment will respect what you say. As you raise the standard or maintain the standard in your home as primary examples for your children, they will become the people we hope they'd be. Find time to laugh together and live in kindness.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,



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

.....

HAKIPU'U ACADEMY - HLC PCS
45-720 Kea'ahala Road
Kāne'ohe, Hawaii 96744