



# Distance Learning Program

March 30 - May 28, 2020

April 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Families of Hale'iwa Elementary School,

We hope everyone is well. With Superintendent Kishimoto's announcement on Friday that all DOE schools will remain closed until the end of this school year, we imagine that you are as sad and disappointed as we are. While we only want to return to school when it is safe for everyone, we held out a little hope that we would be able to have our students be together with us in their classrooms again before the end of this school year. There are still many details that we need to work out, but we wanted to share some information with you that we hope will alleviate a small bit of the stress that we know all of you are feeling right now.

## **Grades for students:**

The DOE has provided guidance for all schools with respect to students' grades. First, there is no 4th quarter for this school year. Instead, schools will use "calendar time" from March 30 to May 28, 2020 to ensure continuity of learning for all students. Most importantly, **"all students will be held harmless during the closure of school facilities and continuity of learning"**. This means that :

- students will NOT receive a grade for 4th quarter because there is no 4th quarter.
- Students' grades from quarters 1 to 3 cannot be lowered.
- All students will receive a year end grade based on their grades from quarters 1 to 3 but this year end grade cannot be lower than what was earned during the first 3 quarters.

We understand that continuity of learning in this distance learning mode is less than ideal. Despite our best efforts to connect with students via google hangouts and provide them with engaging learning opportunities via the hard copy packets and our electronic resources, we realize that it is probably difficult for parents to get their children to complete "everything". We want to reassure you that, **it is okay**. We appreciate all of the support that parents have given the school during this time. Hale'iwa will continue to do our best to provide students with continuity of learning and we are grateful for whatever parents are able to do with their children at home.

In the coming weeks, we will work on ways to have families submit any work that was completed so far by our students, so that our teachers can provide feedback to the children about the work. Once again, this will NOT be mandatory and if no work is turned in, there will be NO penalty to any student. We are providing this opportunity because we do not want our students to think that the work we provided them was "for nothing".

## **Students' belongings:**

During the next few weeks, Hale'iwa will also try to figure out how we will have students pick up their belongings that are still in their classrooms. Once we determine a safe way for students' personal items to be returned to them, we will let everyone know.

### **Thinking about next school year:**

With the economic strain that this pandemic has put on the state, all schools' budgets will be very tight next year. We also understand that this situation has put tremendous economic strain on many of our families. Since "we are all in this together", Hale'iwa's plan to address these budget issues that are affecting all of us is this:

- The school will NOT send out a "traditional" school supply list for next school year. Instead, we will ask families to only provide the following items for each student, if they are able to, and with the expectation that these items will be available when the new school year begins. If they are not available, parents do not need to worry-- we understand!
  - 2 bottles of hand sanitizer
  - 2 bottles of hand soap
  - 2 boxes of kleenex
  - 2 rolls of paper towels
- The school will also have a stock of cleaning supplies for all classrooms, but in this "new normal", we can never have enough of the items listed above.
- We may need to ask at the beginning of each quarter for these items again. If families are able to provide them, that is great. If not, no problem!
- Because we will not have a traditional school supply list and our own budget will be cut, we will be reusing many of the school supplies that were brought in this year. **This means that items like crayons, marker pens, glue sticks, binders and other consumable items that your child may still have in their classroom will NOT be returned to them at the end of the year so that we can use them again next year.**
  - However, if your child has personalized items or if there are specific items that you want to ensure are returned to you, please contact your child's teacher to let her know.
- Depending on what happens, Hale'iwa may send home a short school supply list in January 2021 to replace consumable items that may need to be replaced by that time. It is our hope that by that time, if we need to request additional school supplies, most families will be in a better position to provide these supplies if necessary.

### **A special note for our parents:**

*Many of our staff are parents of school aged children and we know that this situation is STRESSFUL. Our staff who are parents want to send their kids back to school just as much as we imagine that all of our families do. It is our hope to also find ways to support parents during this difficult time. With this in mind, our counseling support team has created Hale'iwa HELPS -- **H**ealthy **E**ngagement **L**ifts **P**arent-to Parent **S**upport. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please complete this [Hale'iwa HELPS online survey](#).*

With everything going on, we are sure there are still many other details that need to be worked out to bring this school year to a close. As soon as we "figure things out", we will communicate updates to all of our families. Please continue to reach out to us via our email : [haleiwaschool@haleiwa.k12.hi.us](mailto:haleiwaschool@haleiwa.k12.hi.us) if we can be of assistance in any way. And once again, thank you so very much for all of your support of Hale'iwa Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Malaea Wetzel  
Principal