

August 23, 2021

Aloha kākou Connections students, parents/guardians, teachers and staff,

I hope that you have been able to use the time we have been engaged in virtual/online teaching and learning for the past week to also take care of your emotional and physical well-being. Self-care is very important. Our school and community continues to experience a rise in positive Covid 19 cases, particularly with the Delta variant. I encourage each of us to limit our travels outside of our homes to essential tasks. The infection and hospitalization rate of members of our Hawai'i Island community is alarming. Please do all that you can to protect yourself and members of your family by staying home.

We will be returning to the Honu/Kika hybrid model of attending school starting Monday, August 30th. Last year, the Honu/Kika grouping helped us tremendously to avoid the spread of the virus by having fewer students on campus each day. In our effort to have all students on campus all of the time starting the beginning of this school year, we found it very challenging to maintain adequate social distancing. We will continue our other health and safety protocols: temperature checks before entering the building, regular and frequent hand sanitizing, staying home if a person is not feeling well, having students and staff go home if they start to not feel well while they are at school. The Honu/Kika calendar for the remainder of the semester is being created and will be shared with you as soon as it is available.

- Secondary students, grades 7-12, will attend school in-person with their Honu/Kika groups two days a week and on alternating Fridays.
- Elementary students will attend school in-person two days a week in their Honu/Kika groups. Teachers will be providing intensive support to elementary students on Fridays in smaller groups. The teachers will let you know if your child/children will be attending on Fridays.

I understand that some parents may have challenges with this attendance schedule. Please email or call me directly to discuss the possibility of an alternative schedule. I can be reached at 808-935-2395 or by email: [romeo\\_garcia@connectionspcs.org](mailto:romeo_garcia@connectionspcs.org). You can also leave a message for me in the school office - 808-961-3664.

Thank you for your understanding during these challenging times. The health and well-being of our students, families, teachers, staff and our Hawai'i island community is our number one priority.

Me ka mahalo nui, with great appreciation. Mālama pono, take care.

Romeo Garcia

Po'o Kumu/Director