

Dear KBA Ohana,

As the summer progresses, your KBA administrative team has been doing important research to formulate guidelines and procedures that will allow us to safely return to classes in the fall. We have thoroughly studied guidelines and recommendations put forth by the following organizations:

Center for Disease Control (CDC)
Hawaii Department of Health (DOH)
Hawaii Department of Education (DOE)
Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS)
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS)

These organizations have come to a close consensus regarding the best possible way to proceed in the fall semester. The following guidelines and procedures have been developed to fit our school's abilities and needs and honor the government guidelines for the fall of 2020. As information is gathered about Covid-19, we may find it necessary to adjust these guidelines. If or when that happens we will get updated information to you as quickly as we can. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive wholeheartedly to serve you and your children to the best of our ability.

Cohorts

- As recommended by the DOH and others, our elementary will be separated into class "cohorts." (A group, classmates and teacher, that will be around only each other during the school day.) Each grade will work within its own classroom or set apart space with its own teacher for the entirety of the day. Any outside visitors to the cohort will be required to wear a mask, sanitize before entering the classroom, and follow social distancing guidelines when in the classroom.
- While in the classroom cohort, elementary teachers and students will not be required to wear a mask. This is in accordance with recommendations from pediatricians in the DOH as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- The “cohort” strategy will be used as possible in the upper-division (7-12). While inside the classroom with their grade cohort, students will not be required to wear a mask.

Social Distancing

- Inside the classroom, the desks will be arranged to give a three-foot social distance between students as they sit facing the same direction.
- In the upper-division, masks will be used for in-class activities that require students to face one another in a space that is closer than six feet.
- Upper-division students will be asked to wear masks when passing between classes as they will be mixing cohorts and passing in close proximity to each other.
- Masks will not be used during PE or elementary recess as both the DOH and American Academy of Pediatrics believe that the reduced oxygen intake caused by masks during physical activity is dangerous.
- Elementary recess will rotate through different areas (basketball court, field, playground) on an assigned schedule to allow cohorts to remain distanced.
- Lunch will be eaten on the lunch lanai. The listed organizations recommend the use of outdoor areas as much as possible due to air circulation and the fact that sunlight kills the virus. Tables will be spread out to allow the cohorts eating at the same time to be distanced from each other.
- Elementary teachers for each class will guide students in keeping their own personal school materials in an area separate from their classmates.
- Upper Division Students must be responsible to keep their school supplies organized as they will not be allowed to borrow from others under Covid guidelines.

Sanitizing

- Teachers and janitorial staff will keep a regular schedule of cleaning classrooms, restrooms, and high traffic areas.
- Hand sanitizer will be kept in every room, and handwashing will be taught and practiced often.
- Students are asked to bring their own water bottles to school. Drinking fountains will be used as refilling stations, students will not drink from them directly.

Parent Responsibilities

We cannot keep our school year safe and productive without the help of our KBA parents. Here are a few things that we need your help with:

- Monitor your child for symptoms of illness, and keep them home if they are ill.
- If your child shows possible Covid-19 symptoms, tell the office right away and get your child tested.
- If someone in your household tests positive for Covid-19, tell the office right away.
- If your child must stay home because of a quarantine or illness, and is well enough to keep up with their schoolwork, monitor their work and stay in communication with their teachers.
- Check your email often. We want you to know what is going on, so please read the communication we send your way.
- Be patient with us. Our hearts are fully dedicated to serving you and your child to the best of our ability. Covid-19 adds another layer of complexity to an already challenging job, so give us the opportunity to work through all of the situations we have before us and get the important information to you. We can be a great team if we work together.
- If you have a question or are confused about anything, please ask! We want you to feel confident in us, so we will gladly answer any questions that you may have.

In a recent webinar, a pediatric representative of the Hawaii Department of Health made this important statement. We live in a post-Covid world. Eliminating all chances of infection is not possible. However, because the possibility of transmission of dangerous levels of Covid-19 between children is very low, and the student's academic and social needs are so important, education and medical authorities have worked to formulate a system that is both safe and practical. At KBA we are striving to meet your child's academic and safety needs. With your help, we are going to have a great school year. Please contact me if you have any questions. God bless!

Mahalo,



Brain Valladares
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