



Dear Ka'ōhao Families!

Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year! Like every new school year, there is much excitement and anticipation of receiving new teachers, new classmates and friends, and for some, a new school.

For the past two years, we have had a school-wide theme that has acted as guideposts to our school vision and mission. In 2016-17, it was having an “Attitude of Gratitude” where we emphasized a heart of thankfulness and to be grateful in big and small ways towards others. In 2017-18 our theme was, “Kindness Matters” where we practiced how to be kind to others in all circumstances, because being kind matters! While we are not perfect as a school community, and there is much we could have improved about matters of gratitude and kindness, I loved how the themes were incorporated into the classrooms, student council, school events, and even in the homes of our families! We all agreed that they were aspirational goals and we only get better as we are given opportunities to display thankfulness and kindness. In other words, practice, practice, and practice!

This year, our theme will be, “Everyone Matters” to promote an environment of inclusion and to celebrate each and every person. Our school charter is to focus on the whole child, understanding that each child has strengths as well as areas of growth both inside and outside the classroom. It is when we choose to come together as a team of individuals that our unique talents and interests will benefit the whole.

We are proud that we have been able to provide a rigorous curriculum in an inclusion setting, which has yielded results. We recognize that each student deserves an individualized education program, and we provide opportunities for each student to achieve their personal best. And while academic achievement is important, we believe that social and emotional learning is just as vital to future success in education, career, and life.

I invite each of you to be our partners in your child's education. Research shows that student success stems from supportive households. Therefore, I ask that each of our families to get involved! Join our parent group, Ka'ōhao School 'Ohana (KSO), volunteer for school events and your child's classroom! There is something for everyone to get involved, because “Everyone Matters!”

For all of our families, I personally invite you to one of our Parent Orientation Meetings where you will get more information about what is in store for the coming year, sign up for volunteer opportunities, and meet new (and old) friends. See you there!

- Fri (8/3), 8am (Cafeteria)
- Mon (8/6), 8am (Cafeteria)
- Wed (8/8), 6pm (Learning Lab)
- Fri (8/10), 8am (Cafeteria)

NEW THIS YEAR!!!

Sun Protection

ALL students are **strongly advised** to wear sun protection when outside. Please provide a hat for recess and PE as well as sun block. Our goal is to keep our keiki safe when they are outside in the harmful rays of the sun. For more information, check out the following resources:

<https://www.skincancer.org/prevention/sun-protection>

https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/sun-safety.htm

Healthy Foods and Snacks

Health and Wellness is also very important because we are trying to protect our keiki from the inside out. Refrain from sending sugary treats with your child for snack or lunch. School-wide events, classroom parties, and birthday celebrations will all follow our Health and Wellness policy. Create memorable experiences versus high sugar treats as celebrations. Check out the attached resource from Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation for more great healthy ideas!

Other important reminders:

There will be **NO MEET 'N' GREET** this year. Class lists will be posted on Wed (8/1), by 3pm.

- First day of school is Fri (8/3)
- First bell is at 7:50am!!!
- Look for your child's teacher at the Assembly Area (between the cafeteria and office)

Registration will be held during the following times*:

- Wed (8/1), 3-6p for LAST NAMES A-J
- Thurs (8/2), 3-6p for LAST NAMES K-Z

Purchase school supplies, sign up for our lunch program, order your field trip shirts, and become a KSO (Ka'ōhāo School 'Ohana) member! KSO is our version of a PTA, but better because EVERY dollar goes towards the school to enrich their school experience.

****If you cannot come on your designated day, please by Fri (8/31).***

For more information about the school, see our school handbook (attached).

It is going to be a great school year!

Dr. Noh
School Director