

The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences, PCS

A Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter School

99-128 Old Volcano Rd. #845, Volcano, HI 96785 (808) 985-9800 www.volcanoschool.net

July 15, 2020

VOLCANO SCHOOL REOPENING PARENT LETTER UPDATE

Aloha parents and families,

This letter is to provide you with an update to the June 30 parent letter on the Volcano School's Reopening Plans as well as another opportunity to make your voice heard by taking the [Volcano School Reopening - PARENT SURVEY](#).

Volcano School Reopening Plan is based on the [US Center for Disease Control Guidance for Schools](#) and guidance from local health professionals and agencies including Hawai'i Department of Health for all COVID-19 Safety policies and procedures. We will be starting the school-year with a conservative approach with regards to social distancing, masks, screening, and other COVID-19 prevention strategies. The plan communicated in this letter reflects this conservative approach. We will evaluate and make any adjustments after the end of the first quarter. Any urgent or time-sensitive adjustments may be made at any time, as needed.




Many parents as well as teachers and staff are struggling with competing priorities of risk of infection with negative impacts to academic learning and social-emotional development for our children. Further complicating matters, the COVID-19 situation itself continues to evolve. We will work with parents to provide an arrangement that will best meet your child's needs to the extent that we are able. We will continue to balance consistency that parents and students can depend on with flexibility to meet the changing needs of our students and families in this difficult time.

Impacts to Daily Life -- Reopening Phases

[Governor Ige's Reopening Presentation](#) provides an overview of the various impact levels that we can anticipate. While schools are exempt from these guidelines, this visual provides a good starting place for developing our school Reopening Plan. Note also that Impact levels (reopening phases)

Impacts to Daily Life from Stabilization to Resilience

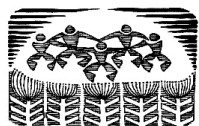
(Impact level may vary by County)

Impact to Daily Life	STAY AT HOME (Major Disruption)	SAFER AT HOME (Moderate Disruption)	ACT WITH CARE (Minor Disruption)	RECOVERY (Minimal Disruption)	NEW NORMAL (No Disruption)
 Face Coverings	Follow recommended Safe Practices				
 Stay at Home	Stay at home except for essential activities	High-risk populations* and kūpuna recommended to stay at home			High-risk populations and kūpuna exercise caution when in public
 Gatherings	No gatherings	No gatherings over 10 and maintain >6ft physical distance		Gatherings up to 50 and maintain >6ft physical distance	Maintain >6ft physical distance

can vary by County.

From Governor Ige's Reopening Hawai'i Presentation

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Volcano School administration will designate the impact level for Volcano School based on state and county designations, current active COVID-19 cases on island, and any school-level risks and exposures. We will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 cases and other information on island.

Volcano School Reopening Plan by Impact Level

Impact Level	Stay at Home (Major Disruption)	Safer at Home (Moderate Disruption)	Act with Care (Minor Disruption)	Recovery (Minimal Disruption)	New Normal (No Disruption)
Campus Program	Full-Time Remote Learning for all.	Combination of remote and face-to-face learning on an A/B schedule for most students with accommodations for vulnerable learners and options for full remote.	Combination of remote and face-to-face learning on an A/B schedule for most students with accommodations for vulnerable learners and options for full remote.	Combination of remote and face-to-face learning on an A/B schedule for most students with accommodations for vulnerable learners and options for full remote.	Normal operation
Kula 'Amakihi Program	Full-Time Remote Learning for all. No in-person or face-to-face meetings or gatherings.	Normal operation with social distancing and personal protective equipment. Parents/learning coaches provide transportation and attend with child.	Normal operation with social distancing and personal protective equipment. Parents/learning coaches provide transportation and attend with child.	Normal operation with social distancing and personal protective equipment. Parents/learning coaches provide transportation and attend with child.	Normal operation

During a "Red" Stay at Home Major Disruption impact level, all students will be in full remote learning. During "Orange," "Yellow," or "Green" impact levels, the majority of students in the Campus program will be on an A/B schedule. Some students will come to school on A days and be in remote learning on B days, and some students will come to school on B days and be in remote learning on A days. A schedule is Monday, Thursday, and every other Wednesday in person. B schedule is Tuesday, Friday, and every other Wednesday in person. The VSAS 2020-2021 calendar indicating alternating A and B weeks is provided with this letter.

	A Schedule	B Schedule
In Person	Monday, Thursday, every other Wednesday	Tuesday, Friday, every other Wednesday
Remote Learning	Tuesday, Friday, every other Wednesday	Monday, Thursday, every other Wednesday

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The only change for Kula 'Amakihi students will be on collaboration days when the event schedule will be adjusted to accommodate social distancing based on location and activity.

Student Schedule Assignments

The Volcano School Reopening Working Group is finalizing a draft schedule for all of our students to determine which students will come to school in person on A or B days, which students will need to be in school full-time, and which need to be in full remote learning. The schedule assignments will be based on your responses on the Volcano School Reopening – PARENT SURVEY and our knowledge of your children. We plan to have scheduling assignments for your children communicated to you early next week. You will have an opportunity to request a change in the assignments for your children.

Remote Learning Support

For students on A/B schedules, a teacher and/or educational assistant will be available for questions and support. Additionally, we are working on setting up WiFi hubs at which students may access the internet and get help with assignments. More information on WiFi hubs will be sent out soon. Teachers are working to streamline Remote Learning assignments to ensure that students are able to do Remote Learning assignments as independently as possible.

Full-Time Remote Learning

We are asking that any parents who are able to have their children in full remote learning, please consider doing so. The VSAS Kula 'Amakihi Community-Based Education program is already well-equipped to accommodate full remote learning. In the Kula 'Amakihi program, students learn at home 4 days a week, meet with a teacher at least once a week, and participate in weekly collaboration days (mostly at partner sites) once a week. Any child who is in remote learning full time because of COVID-19 will be served in the Kula 'Amakihi program, but will not lose their space in the on campus program. If you would like more information about Kula 'Amakihi, please call 808-985-9800. or email Lisa Barnard at lbarnard@volcanoschool.net. In addition, we are offering a **Kula 'Amakihi Info Session with Q&A and opportunity to meet the team on Wednesday, July 22 at 1 pm**. The session will be recorded. Kula 'Amakihi Info Session login:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/96839938261?pwd=SzRFYUI2bEJHRDV6eWR3QzMrSG1Udz09>
Meeting ID: 968 3993 8261 Password: 4b5v68 Dial-in +1 669 900 9128

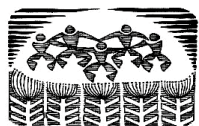
Attendance

If your child is sick, **do not bring them to school**. If your child is too sick to come to school but is able to do work, we will consider the day as a remote learning day. For students who are on A/B or 5 day schedules, parents may choose to keep your children at home and participate in remote learning at any time if you do not feel comfortable sending your children to school. Students participating in Remote Learning will not be counted absent. We are discussing a check-in method for attendance on Remote Learning days. The attendance method will be finalized with teacher input the week before school.

Huaka'i (Learning Trips) and Transportation

VSAS will be continuing huaka'i learning trips and field studies as part of our place-based curriculum. Because transportation restrictions are based on social distancing, the number of students that can fit on a bus or van is significantly reduced. All huaka'i learning trips will require either 1 bus and 1 van or 3 vans for each class. Any parents who are able to drive their children to huaka'i sites on those days will be greatly appreciated. Kula 'Amakihi Community-Based Education program students will need to be transported directly to the Friday collaboration site.

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School bus service to and from school will continue with social distancing. We are asking any families who are able to transport your children to and from school to please do so to enable space on the bus for social distancing.

Start of School

The 1st day of school for students is August 4. August 4 - August 14 will be half days with the school day ending at 12:30 pm. The first full day of instruction will be on August 17.

1 st Day for Students	August 4
Half Days, Release 12:30 pm	August 4 - 14
First full day of school	August 17

Beginning August 17, with the exception of designated early release days, start and end times are the same as in previous years with 7:55 am start of school for all students, 2:15 pm end of school for elementary grades and 2:20 pm for middle and high school grades. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:00 am at Old Volcano Road Campus and 7:30 am at Keakealani Campus.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Disinfection and Hygiene. All tables, student desks, and touch surfaces will be disinfected at least once a day. Students will primarily remain with their class and use of shared spaces will be limited. For shared spaces, tables and touch surfaces will be disinfected before and after each use. Extra hand-washing stations on campus and hand sanitizer at every room will also be provided. We will also continue to provide scheduled time and instruction for frequent hand-washing and other safe hygiene practices.

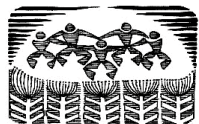
Student Materials & Equipment. Use of shared materials and equipment will be reduced. Students will have assigned materials that will not be shared with other students. When shared materials and equipment are used, they will be disinfected between uses.

Computers and Other Electronic Devices. Our goal is for each student to have their own assigned device in school that is not shared with other students. We anticipate having 1:1 device per student in place shortly after the start of the school-year for grades 1-10. Whenever a shared computer or other electronic device is used it will be disinfected both before and after each use.

Students who need a computer for remote learning at home will be provided with an additional computer or other appropriate device for home use. Parents are asked to ensure that the device is well cared for so that we can continue to provide this service for our students.

Health Screening and Quarantining. All students, staff and visitors are encouraged to self-screen using the checklist below before leaving home. When at least two symptoms are present, the individual should stay home and not come to school.

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COVID-19 Symptom Screening Checklist:

- ☐ feverish or unusually warm (has flushed cheeks)
- ☐ coughing/sneezing
- ☐ sore throat
- ☐ shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- ☐ headache/stomach ache/nausea
- ☐ muscle pain/unusual fatigue
- ☐ new loss of taste or smell

At this time, VSAS is planning to screen all students and visitors **BEFORE** exiting their vehicle, getting on the bus (for students who ride the school bus), or entering campus. Any student, employee, or visitor with two or more symptoms on the screening checklist will not be allowed on campus or in any school vehicles.

Any student, employee, or visitor who displays symptoms while on campus or on a school sponsored huaka'i (learning trip) will need to leave. While waiting to be picked up, students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be quarantined. Any student who displays COVID-19 symptoms and is unable to be picked up within a reasonable time frame or who is displaying more severe symptoms may need to be transported to Hilo Medical Center (or other health facility as noted on the emergency card).

Emergency Card. A new emergency card will need to be completed before a student may come to school. The emergency card may accompany the child on the first day of school. Any student who does not have an updated emergency card will not be allowed to be on campus.

Social Distancing

VSAS COVID-19 Plan is for all students and staff to maintain 6' social distancing, whenever possible.

Face Masks or Shields. All students and employees will be required to wear either a face mask or a face shield. Students will be able to choose a face mask or shield depending on their preference and ability to wear the face covering consistently. Any student or staff who is unable to wear a mask or shield will need to provide a doctor's note to be allowed on campus without a mask or shield. All campus visitors will be required to wear a face mask except service providers who may wear face shields if needed to provide the service.

Parents will be asked to provide 2 face masks for each child—one that the child is wearing (or kept in the child's backpack if a face shield is worn) and another mask that stays at school. Parents will be responsible for ensuring a clean mask travels with the student every day. VSAS will also have extra masks on hand. VSAS will provide face shields for all PK-2 students and any 3-10 grade student who prefer a face shield. VSAS face shields will stay at school, be assigned to the student, and be disinfected at least once a day. Sneeze guards for student desks and tables will also be provided and disinfected at least once a day.

Sneeze Guards. Sneeze guard table/seat dividers will be placed on some tables and desks as additional protection, when needed and to the extent possible.



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E KĀKOU WORKING TOGETHER

These are certainly very challenging and uncertain times. What is certain is that none of us can do this alone. If every one of us does everything we can, we can not only make the best of this situation but also create new ways of learning, working, and being together. Anyone who is able to help other students and families or volunteer at the school or an alternate site, please let us know. If you are not able to help at this time and may have needs yourself, no shame! That is what community is for! We all do what we can. and together we can thrive in the face of any challenge!

For continued updates and opportunity to ask questions and provide additional input, please join the **Volcano School Reopening Info and Q&A sessions on Tuesday, July 21 1 pm and Tuesday, July 28 at 1 pm.** Volcano School Reopening Info Session login:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/93297589071?pwd=Wk8zUTNGODJUNDdaYXZyY2xhQW42dz09>
Meeting ID: 932 9758 9071 Password: 3ceSKD +1 669 900 9128

We are planning an exciting year for our students with new partnerships and projects! We are honored and grateful to be on this learning journey with you.

Mahalo for all you do for your children and the Volcano School!

Me ke aloha,

Kalima Kinney
Principal