

## **The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences, PCS**

**A Hawaiian-Focused Public Charter School**

99-128 Old Volcano Road #845, Volcano, HI 96785 (808) 985-9800 [www.volcanoschool.net](http://www.volcanoschool.net)

March 25, 2020

### **Response to COVID-19 and Remote Learning**

Aloha Volcano School Families,

This letter is to provide an update regarding our response to COVID-19 and plans to move forward with Remote Learning.

We apologize that communications have not been more clear. We have been receiving changes in directives to public schools including charter schools on a near daily basis.

We will continue to use our automated communication system and will also post updates on the Volcano School website [www.volcanoschool.net](http://www.volcanoschool.net) to keep families informed. In addition, you should be receiving a call from your child's teacher this week, to check in with you about technology, child supervision, and other needs and to confirm the best mode of communication with your family.

#### **Schedule**

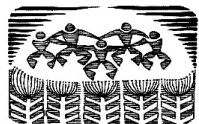
As you know, Volcano School planned to shift to Remote Learning the week after Spring Break. Since then, we have been subject to state-level directives prohibiting us from moving forward as planned.

The concerns and challenges at the state level are primarily from Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) and regarding serving students with special needs. Volcano School and many other charter schools are well-equipped for Remote Learning and capable of addressing the concerns that have been raised at the state level regarding equity of instruction primarily because of our smaller size, experience with distance learning, expertise with special education, and dedicated teachers and staff.

As of the writing of this letter, we have been directed to refer to all educational activities as "enrichment" until April 30. However, we expect that this date may change to allow formal instruction sooner (possibly as early as this Friday) or the date may be extended to allow "enrichment" only education only for the rest of this school-year.

For our purposes, we are moving forward with Remote Learning starting Monday, March 30. Though we will refer to activities as "enrichment" until or unless we are authorized to provide formal education, we will be implementing our full Remote Learning program.

Students and families are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this time so that your child(ren) can continue to progress in their education and learning. Students will not be penalized for lack of attendance or adequate performance during the enrichment period.



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We are planning to resume school with full Remote Learning on May 1 or as soon as we are permitted to do so.

March 23 - March 27	Extended Spring Break for students	No expectations of students.  In addition to prepping for remote learning, teachers are contacting families to make sure we understand and can accommodate everyone's situation.
March 30 - April 30 (tentative)	Remote Learning Enrichment	We will be providing our full Remote Learning program.  Students and families are strongly encouraged to participate fully in these educational activities so that students can continue to progress in their education and learning.  Students will not be penalized for lack of attendance or performance on assignments during this week.  Each core teacher will be the primary point of contact for school assignments.
May 1 (tentative)	Formal education	Resuming formal education. Continue with Remote Learning, as needed.  We will be taking attendance and grading work.

### Remote Learning

VSAS is prepared to offer a rigorous and engaging educational program through Remote Learning. Our teachers have received training on how to use online tools and have been working on transitioning their classroom curriculum to a remote format for the past few weeks. We anticipate needing to work through some challenges as we transition our entire educational program and appreciate your patience and partnership.

Teachers will communicate the learning plan for their students. The Remote Learning plan for each student will be determined by teachers and will include a combination of online, print/book, and experiential assignments, as appropriate. Teachers are implementing a variety of formats to best meet their students' needs as well as their own teaching styles.

Remote Learning supplemental assignments were sent home Friday, March 13. These supplemental packets were primarily designed so that your child will have something work on in the event that there is an unanticipated gap such as with technology challenges. Some teachers also sent home assignments for core learning in addition to the supplemental work. Please follow directions from your child's teacher on having your child work on these assignments. Packets that were not picked up by students prior to break are being mailed

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home to families this week. In addition to the supplemental packets, the Hawai'i DOE Superintendent's office has prepared continuity of learning activities and resources for families that is quite good and can be accessed with this link:

<https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/resources-student-parent/home?authuser=0>

We are asking families to support your child(ren) at home to ensure the best learning outcomes possible in this unfortunate and unprecedented situation. We realize the challenges for many families of supervising and helping students with their schoolwork while also having to work from home. With the exception of scheduled online activities or meetings with the teacher and deadlines for assignment completion, each family will have flexibility to come up with a schedule that fits your unique situation. We ask that parents honor their children's learning by supporting learning but not doing work for their children.

Families who do not have anyone to supervise and work with your child at home, please let your child's teacher or Kim Miller, Social Worker, [kmiller@volcanoschool.net](mailto:kmiller@volcanoschool.net) know so that we can help to accommodate your needs.

VSAS will continue our educational program in a Remote Learning format until it is determined that is no longer needed. In the event that we are able to reopen our campus program before the end of this school-year, we are prepared to provide a Remote Learning option for any family who requests it.

#### **Access to Materials and Equipment**

We will be communicating with students and parents primarily electronically. Some learning activities will be online and some will be paper/book and experiential, but instructions will mostly be communicated online unless a student is not able to access materials online for any reason.

Every student has a Volcano School Google account with access to Mail, Drive, Hangout/Meets, and other tools that may be used by the teacher. Subscriptions to online tools required by the teacher will be free for student use.

Families who do not have high speed internet or computer (or other internet-capable device) will be accommodated.

- Spectrum is offering free internet and hot spots to support remote learning.
- VSAS is able to loan computers and hot spots, if needed.
- Teachers are prepared to provide print curriculum for any student who is not able to access educational program online.
- Teachers will be contacting families to find out each student's access to technology and needs.



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### **Campus Facilities are Closed**

VSAS Campuses are closed until further notice. No one is permitted on campus except for essential personnel. We are working on implementing a pick-up/delivery system for families and will communicate that information to you by the end of this week March 27.

### **School Meals**

School meals are being provided at a number of DOE schools and may be picked up from any of the following DOE schools 7:30-8:00 am for breakfast and 11:30-12:00 pm for lunch.

- Ka'ū High and Pahala Elementary
- Mt. View Elementary School
- Waiākea High School
- Pahoa High School

We are in the process of collecting information to inform meal service. We will minimally provide meals in Volcano and Pahala, as needed, either through VSAS kitchen or partnership with other schools.

### **Supports for Families**

We realize that this is a difficult time for all of you. We hope that you are coping with the pandemic and changes in family life and routine associated with it. If your family is currently experiencing or anticipating any hardship, such as access to food, medicine, or other basic needs or emotional or behavioral challenges with children, please let us know.

Please contact Kim Miller at [kmiller@volcanoschool.net](mailto:kmiller@volcanoschool.net) or 808-985-8537 if you are experiencing a hardship or if you are interested in helping to support families in hardship.

In addition to education-related services, we are establishing an informal network for sharing and distributing food or supplies. We are asking any families who have supplies at home and/or who are willing to help transport supplies to please go ahead and let Ms. Kim know so that we can be prepared for a quick response to any needs.

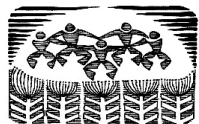
We realize that the outbreak of COVID-19 may cause fears and anxieties for your children, families, or yourselves. If you or your child is experiencing emotional challenges related to this situation, please contact Kim Miller for assistance.

### **Communications**

VSAS will need to stay flexible to adapt to this situation as it evolves. Please stay tuned for updates, which will be sent out via our automated call system and posted on the school websites.

If you did not receive an automated call, email, and text messages related to COVID-19 and Remote Learning from the school Wednesday, March 25, please contact us at 808-985-9800 or [knagamine@volcanoschool.net](mailto:knagamine@volcanoschool.net) or your child's teacher to provide a current working phone number and email address or to add any of contact methods for receiving

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automated notifications. Automated call updates are always sent by email and text message with occasional pre-recorded voice calls when needed.

Updates are also being posted on the school website [www.volcanoschool.net](http://www.volcanoschool.net) on a regular basis.

I will be hosting a Virtual Lunch Q&A for families and students this Friday, March 27 at 12:30 pm using Zoom. Below is the information to join the Zoom meeting. The meeting will open at 12:15 pm for those who are new to Zoom and need extra time and support to login. The meeting will accommodate up to 100 participants. We will publish the Q&A on the website for those who are not able to attend.

To join Zoom meeting, go to: <https://zoom.us/j/742759308>  
Enter Meeting ID: 742 759 308

For those of you will need to call in from a phone,  
Dial: 1-(669)-900-9128  
Enter Meeting ID: 742 759 308

Mahalo for all you do and for being a part of our learning 'ohana.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

Aloha mai,

Kalima Kinney  
Principal



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## Remote Learning Contacts At-a-Glance

<p>Questions about expectations for your child's learning and school assignments</p> <p>Communications about absences (i.e. sick or otherwise unable to complete assignments)</p> <p>Lack of internet or devices</p> <p>Lack of childcare or someone to work with your child at home</p>	<p>Your child's teacher</p> <p>First initial last name@volcanoschool.net e.g. <a href="mailto:jpatton@volcanoschool.net">jpatton@volcanoschool.net</a></p>
<p>Questions about Individualized Education Plans and supporting students with special needs.</p>	<p>Your child's Special Education teacher:</p> <p>Mara Saltzman <a href="mailto:msaltzman@volcanoschool.net">msaltzman@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800 leave message</p> <p>Jim Highfill <a href="mailto:jhighfill@volcanoschool.net">jhighfill@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800 leave message</p>
<p>Questions about suspicion of education-related disability</p>	<p>Chris King-Gates, Vice Principal <a href="mailto:ckinggates@volcanoschool.net">ckinggates@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800 leave message</p>
<p>Update contact information and methods for automated call system</p>	<p>Kaye Nagamine, SASA <a href="mailto:knagamine@volcanoschool.net">knagamine@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800</p>
<p>Hardship (COVID-19 or otherwise)</p> <p>To share resources, supplies or assistance for other families in hardship</p>	<p>Kim Miller, Social Worker <a href="mailto:kmiller@volcanoschool.net">kmiller@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-8537</p>
<p>Feedback on quality of Remote Learning for Campus PK-5 or Kula 'Amakihi CBE 1-8</p>	<p>Kalima Kinney, Principal <a href="mailto:director@volcanoschool.net">director@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800 leave message</p>
<p>Feedback on quality of Remote Learning for Campus 6-8 grades</p>	<p>Chris King-Gates, Vice Principal <a href="mailto:ckinggates@volcanoschool.net">ckinggates@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800 leave message</p>
<p>Any questions or needs not otherwise addressed</p>	<p>Kaye Nagamine, SASA <a href="mailto:knagamine@volcanoschool.net">knagamine@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800</p> <p>Kalima Kinney, Principal <a href="mailto:director@volcanoschool.net">director@volcanoschool.net</a> 808-985-9800 leave message</p>