



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**James B. Castle High School**  
45-386 KANEOHE BAY DRIVE  
KANEOHE, HAWAII 96744

October 1, 2020

Aloha Castle Families,

As the first quarter comes to an end, CHS continues to work hard to deliver a robust distance learning model, provide families with access to technology and synchronous "live" sessions with teachers, as well as individualized student support. While some students have thrived in this new learning environment, between 20-30% of students continue to struggle. Week to week our academy teams work diligently to monitor individual student progress towards the Hawaii Common Core and Content Performance Standards as well as respond to the unique socio-emotional needs of our students. Teachers, counselors, and administrators continue to schedule office hours with students receiving below a "C" in any given subject area, call home, and provide individual counseling and on campus support to our vulnerable population.

CHS also includes various forums for students to share their unique experiences such as Academy Ambassadors, School Community Council, Advisory Board meetings and Friday academy meetings. Throughout quarter one we received very personalized comments from students regarding the challenges they have faced with the remote delivery of instruction. The feedback revealed the following themes: Students need more...

- contact time with teachers to practice the skills needed to plan, organize, and advocate for themselves in a distance learning environment, especially during the asynchronous days.
- group/peer interaction to work through assignments, ask each other questions, and problem solve in order to build the confidence they need in an online learning community.
- one on one/small group discussion time with teachers to receive specific feedback on assignments to validate they are on the right track.

There are a significant number of students who lack the skills to work independently in a new remote environment and need guidance from their teachers on a more frequent basis. As we build more contact time for support into our Quarter 2 schedule, more time does not mean more work, rather additional support for all learners based on individual student needs. Therefore, CHS will be implementing the following changes to the Quarter 2 schedule:

- ***All students will be expected to attend class everyday, "A-D" as well as scheduled office hours with teachers on "E" Days.***

- **Students who initially opted into the 100% Distance Learning model for Quarter 1 will transition to the Quarter 2 Distance Learning Model with all students.**
- **All students will attend each class twice a week. The second day will focus on student support, asynchronous planning, extra practice, and one to one/small group assistance on assignments. In order to be marked "present" in Infinite Campus, all students will need to attend classes daily on the A-D days.**
- **The additional time in class is flexible time, designed by the teacher, based on individual student needs, to ensure the student is engaged in the learning and connected to adults and peers on campus.**

Please refer to our school website for the Quarter 2 revised schedule and distance learning model expectations. If you have any questions please contact your child's Academy Principal and/or Counselor. Upon return from Fall Intersession, Monday, October 12th will be a waiver day, no school for students. On Tuesday, October 13th, all students will report on a "B" day for periods 1,2,3,4.

I want to thank you for your flexibility, patience, and continued support as we continue to navigate the challenges that have been imposed on all of us due to COVID-19. We miss having all students on campus and encourage you to reach out if you need anything. Our commitment is to provide the best possible educational experience via the Distance Learning Model.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bernie Tyrell

Castle High School Principal