



August 1st, 2024

To: Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School learning community
From: DJ Adams-Director
Re: Alaka'i O Kaua'i School Opening Plan 2024-2025

Aloha mai kakou Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School learning community,

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou kakou (Happy New Year as we commence a fresh school year that is) as we start the journey of 2024- 2025 together in collaboration. Mahalo nui for your support of our unique charter school as we enter our seventh year of operations. Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School is sharing the 2024-2025 opening plan here with you as we all work collectively together in the best interest of our keiki. Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School is extremely fortunate to be a small school with massive outdoor spaces in a beautiful rural setting plus large classrooms that can adapt quickly to ever changing times. This plan is also posted on the school website plus printed copies are available in the office on Main Campus.

Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School will continue to strive to do everything possible to safeguard the health of our learners, staff, families, and the greater community. We feel comfortable that with clear precautions and procedures, we will continue to try to keep students on campus for full time face-to-face education. We will also be depending on the cooperation of families in following our guidelines and procedures as well as those put into place by government officials. The following practices are aligned with the County of Kaua'i, the Hawai'i Department of Health, the CDC guidelines for schools, the Hawai'ian State Teachers' Association, the Hawai'i Department of Education, the Hawai'i Government Employees Association, and the state of Hawai'i Charter School Commission.

A friendly reminder that all federal, state, and local government regulations will continue to guide our school opening plan and accordingly this is a living and fluid document. In addition, the Board of Directors has given permission for the School Director to make swift, minor adjustments to the plan as required in the best interest of the learning community.

A further friendly reminder that any families who travel off island are expected to follow any current policies of travel and related quarantine as required by government and health officials.

Pick up and drop off procedures

-Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School start time is 8:45am and due to legal restrictions we cannot accept student learners prior to 8:15am.

-Any of our student learners who ride the bus must follow the expectations of Akita Transportation.

-Families with multiple student learners at various grade levels will pick up all their family at the same time based on pickup of the student learner in the lowest grade level.

-At pick up, we ask parents to wait in their vehicles, keeping a safe distance from one another. Once your child is picked up, we do politely request that you please vacate the space quickly to help with traffic flow for all of our families.

Classroom Education

Adaptations to equipment, furniture, materials, and classrooms have been made to create both indoor and outdoor classrooms for each grade level.

Student learners are asked to have their own individual supplies and should not share with others. These personal supplies should be labeled for each student learner.

Lunch and Recess

-Student learners will be eating their lunches in their outdoor and indoor classrooms.

-Water fountains can be used but we do request that for the sake of our environment we explore other options. A good alternative would be sending a water bottle and making sure it goes home for cleaning daily.

Off Campus Education

-In the event we are mandated to close, then the Off Campus Education Program will begin.

-The Off Campus Education Program does require each student(or parent)to connect daily with each teacher via phone, email, or text for attendance verification.

-All student learners are responsible for their work assigned in the Off Campus Education Program as it will be used for assessment purposes.

-Any family that has potential issues with electronic connections or shortage of electronic devices please contact the school so we can assist with potential solutions.

-Student Learner/Parent Off Campus Education Ideas:

- A table or desk to sit at that is well lit and allows for a workspace.
- A quiet background free from distractions.
- Students must be prepared for school each day and may need parent assistance

• Students are expected to attend to their schoolwork during the class day. Playing on the computer or I-Pad, distracting others with messages or inappropriate conversations is unacceptable.

• Parent Responsibilities:

- Provide access to individual I-pads or computers
- Ensure WIFI is reliable and can connect for all day class
- Communicate concerns and challenges to teachers directly via email or phone call, outside of Zoom class times.
- Keep background distractions to a minimum.
- Set up clear routines and responsibilities plus establish a family online agreement for computer/I-pad/internet use during and outside of school time.

School Cleaning and Maintenance

Professional cleaning of school will occur each evening from the hours of 3:30pm to 7:30pm.

Health Screening and Expectations

-Students should not attend on campus with any fever.

-If a student becomes ill at school, he/she will be isolated, and the family will be immediately contacted to come and pick up the child.

-Any staff member feeling ill should stay home or return home if he/she becomes ill at work.

In conclusion, Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School is blessed to be located in a rural setting with large windows, multiple entries and a vast playground. Thanks to these advantageous conditions of our physical space and the low population density of the school, we are already better positioned than most schools locally, state wide, nationally and globally to deal with any potential continued challenges of a pandemic.

We greatly appreciate your patience, understanding, and flexibility in supporting this process of providing the best quality education possible under ever shifting circumstances on our beautiful island.

Respectfully,

DJ Adams- Po'o Kumu

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