



STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
HO'OKELE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
511 KUNEHI STREET  
KAPOLEI, HAWAI'I 96707

July 15, 2021

Aloha Ho'okele Elementary School students, parents, and families!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. My name is Bryan Rankie, and I am the proud new principal of Ho'okele Elementary School.

I have spent my entire career in the Campbell / Kapolei Complex starting as a teacher at Mauka Lani Elementary School, Assistant Principal at Kapolei High School, and a Temporary Assigned Principal at Ewa Beach Elementary School and Keone'ula Elementary School.

If the experiences I've had at these schools have taught me anything, it would be the importance of ensuring our students have safe and nurturing learning environments. The pandemic has made this a challenge, but in spite of that Ho'okele Elementary School was able to invite students to return to campus on a modified schedule during Quarter 4 of last school year by implementing numerous mitigating strategies. This learning experience coupled with enhanced safety procedures has better prepared us to reopen our campus for full-day in-person learning for the 2021 - 2022 School Year. Please see the subsequent document for further updates and information for the 2021 - 2022 School Year.

In regards to a Distance Learning Option, we will unfortunately be unable to offer this opportunity for the upcoming school year. After careful consideration of the May 2021 parent interest survey, updated CDC guidance, and our enhanced safety measures we have determined that the most effective instructional model for our school community will be in-person learning. I understand this transition back to school may be met with questions, concerns, and uncertainty. However, please be assured that Ho'okele Elementary School remains fully committed to implementing appropriate measures to mitigate health risks to a reasonable extent while delivering effective instruction to all students.

With this, I ask that you continue partnering with us by conducting [Daily Wellness Checks](#). As a reminder, anyone who exhibits COVID-19 like symptoms of illness must follow the Return to School Criteria. In addition to staying home while sick, the Department of Education's other Core Essential Strategies include constant masking and hand hygiene. While on campus, our mitigation strategies include, but are not limited to cohorting, physical distancing, ventilation, physical barriers and cleaning.

In addition to ensuring a safe learning environment, it is my vision and goal to reinvigorate the love of school within our students. Our staff has worked tirelessly to ensure there was effective teaching and learning during the last school year, however we are also aware that there may be social, emotional, and academic gaps that need to be addressed upon return to full in-person learning. Our staff is prepared for the challenge and will consistently monitor student progress throughout the year to ensure each student is receiving the specialized instruction they need.

I feel fortunate to be working with such a supportive community and look forward to collaborating with you all to ensure the students at Ho'okele Elementary School are achieving at their highest potential. I am eagerly awaiting the first day of school with students, August 3, 2021. Until then, please take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan S. Rankie".

Bryan Rankie, Principal

### **BEGINNING OF YEAR INFO:**

The following information can be found on the [homepage of our school website](#) under the section titled “Online Bulletin Board”.

- 2021-2022 DOE and Ho’okele Calendar
- 2021-2022 School Supply List
- 2021-2022 Bell Schedule
- 2021-2022 Back to School Information (Bus Application, Meal Payments, Student Uniforms)

### **VIRTUAL MEET AND GREET:**

For any returning parents that are familiar with our annual **Meet and Greet**, we regret to inform you that we will NOT have an in-person Meet and Greet this school year due. Instead, we will be having a Virtual Meet and Greet (via email) on Friday, July 30, 2021. Please take a look at the following items in this email as we begin to prepare to start the new school year. The first day of school for students is on **Tuesday, August 3, 2021**.

**Grade 1-5:** By Friday, July 30th at 4:00p.m., you will receive an email from your child’s homeroom teacher. This email will let you know who your child’s teacher will be. If you don’t receive an email from a teacher by Friday, July 30th, please contact our front office at 305-8500.  
**Grade K:** You will be notified after August 4th to let you know who your child’s teacher will be.

### **GRADE K-5 SCHOOL SUPPLY DROP OFF:**

We will be asking students to bring their supplies over the course of the first few days they report to school in person. Parents will not be able to help carry their child’s school supplies to their classroom. To ensure the safety of our children, parents and visitors will be asked to remain outside of the iron gates. Information on what supplies should be brought each day, will be shared by your child’s teacher.

### **APPLICATIONS FOR MORNING CARE AND A-PLUS:**

To apply for morning care and/or A-Plus, please download the [application](#) and either hand deliver or mail the packet to the Leeward YMCA. The flier can be found on the homepage of our school website under the section titled “Online Bulletin Board”.

### **RETURN TO LEARN HANDBOOK:**

Please review our current [Return to Learn Handbook](#). This document will be updated as new guidance is shared by the Department of Education.