July 6, 2020

Dear Parents and guardians of Konawaena High School Students,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as schools prepare for the return of students. First and foremost, please continue to be safe, encourage the wearing of masks, social distancing, and washing hands often.

You may have already heard about initial plans for the reopening of schools on Tuesday, August 4th. Please be assured that Konawaena Complex principals and staff have been working hard to establish procedures for a safe return. School is going to look and be different this year. Everyone will be required to wear masks, classrooms will be rearranged to promote social distancing, and student and staff temperature checks with non-contact thermometers may be taken daily. We know this year is going to be a challenge but I’m confident that with all of us working together we will emerge from this pandemic a stronger, more resilient community!

To adhere to social distancing guidelines for in-person, on campus instruction, Konawaena can accommodate about half the student body at a time. Students will be divided into two groups by last names. Group A will be last names A-Ka and Group B will be students with last names Ke-Z. Each group will physically come to school two days per week while working from home on assignments the other days. This type of rotating schedule is what schools in our complex and most schools across the state are adopting. We are working as a complex to provide an AB rotation that would be best for student learning and families as best can be managed. We will work with families to ensure that siblings with different last names living in the same household will be able attend school on the same days/schedule. All students will be responsible for the online portion of their classes on the days of the week they are distance learning from home and daily attendance will still be taken. Our goal is to work toward bringing back as many students as possible, in person, at the same time.

Most schools, including Konawaena High School, will also offer a full-time online option for those that choose to have their children remain at home and not physically come to campus at all. This is an option for this school year only. The full-time online program will utilize the Acellus and/or Plato program(s) with an assigned teacher providing support during online office hours. I want those that choose this option to know this is a commitment to independent learning for at least a semester. The commitment to either option will be strictly maintained however we will consider moves on an individual, space available basis. Please let me re-emphasize, this is not like the online enrichment activities that were conducted in April and May. Self-motivation, self-direction, and family support are important for any full online learning program to be successful.

A survey of these two options will be sent very soon and we need your help. For planning purposes, we need to know which students are planning to return to school and who is planning to remain home. Along with some background information the survey asks about your schedule preference- whether your child will return to campus for the two-day rotation or if your child will opt for the full distance learning option. The survey will come as a Google form and can be completed on your phone or computer. Again, our goal is to bring back as many students as we can full time so that is why it is so important for us to have these counts for planning purposes.

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Konawaena High School Students Will: Care for self and ‘ohana, Grow from adversity, OWN THEIR FUTURES
Please take the time to complete the survey by Thursday, July 9 and be on the lookout for more info coming out through school messenger, posted notices and/or videos on the school websites, and emails.

We appreciate your support and will do all we can to make 20-21 a safe and great year!

Shawn Suzuki
Principal, Konawaena High School

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