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GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Niu Valley Middle School
An International Baccalaureate MYP World School
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August 3, 2021

Aloha Parents, Students and Friends of Niu Valley Middle School,

Welcome to a new and exciting school year. I hope you all had a safe, fun and restful summer. Our campus was a very busy place this summer. Our Summer Transition sessions for incoming 6th graders and our Summer Hub sessions provided learning opportunities for our students over the course of four weeks. Our New World Language Building is in its second phase of construction for the three remaining classrooms. Security cameras were installed around the campus in order to keep our campus safe. Teachers, both new and returning, were involved in professional development workshops. They are all very enthusiastic and excited to meet our students.

Please refer to our NVMS Safety Handbook that is posted on our website niuvalleymiddle.org. There are also some important notices and forms that you may fill out and return by email. If you haven't gotten on our email blast through our PCNC Joanne Imada, please email her at joanne.imada@k12.hi.us.

Beginning SY 2021-22, communication to families for urgent/emergency announcements will be sent via the Hawaii DOE School Messenger Email Blast service and text Blast service.

To receive **text messages**, please be sure to Opt-In to the service by following these directions:

- Send a text "Y" OR "YES" to the number **67587**.
- Repeat this process for any wireless number you wish to include.
- You can opt-out of these messages at any time by simply replying STOP.

- Message and data rates may apply so check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

I am excited to see our students in-person on August 4, 2021. To keep everyone safe we will continue to implement the following essential safety protocols (see handbook):

- Conducting daily wellness checks at home before coming to school and stay home when sick.
- Wearing of masks in and out of the classroom
- Practicing good hygiene including proper hand washing
- Maintaining safe social distancing when possible
- Following all school's safety procedures

On July 21, 2021 Interim Superintendent, Keith Hayashi, sent his message to all administrators in Hawaii. He called it his 3-1-1 Plan.

3 for students: Academics, Attendance, Social Emotional Learning

1 for adults: Caring and support for our entire staff

1 for the system: Safe return of all students and employees

Our school plans also are in concert with the State's 3-1-1 Plan. We continue to strengthen our IB curriculum in making learning both relevant and rigorous. We are focused on designing our instructional practices to be engaging and equitable for all students. We strive to provide learning opportunities for all students to be successful while attending to individual academic and social emotional needs. In doing so, we continue to support our learners and promote the value of learning and being present. Our teachers and staff are committed to do their best and we are also committed to providing the best care and positive support. Above all, the health and safety of our entire school community is foremost. We continue to practice our safety protocols.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have given us an opportunity to create a new normal for our school. We have the potential to change schooling and magnify the effective practices from the past while leveraging the lessons learned during pandemic teaching. Niu Valley Middle School is determined to deliver a great school year to all our students.

Sincerely,



Principal, Niu Valley Middle School