JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA ʻOIHANA HOʻONAʻAUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAIʻI 96804

NIU VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
310 Halemaumau Street
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96821

May 9, 2025

Subject: Discussing Social Media with Students

Aloha Parents/Guardians,

It has come to our attention that a disturbing meme circulating online, often titled "F Students Are Inventors," is causing concern in many schools nationwide. This meme, which can take various forms, often uses insensitive and potentially harmful humor to link the intentional damaging of school property (e.g. chromebooks). While we cannot keep up with every meme that potentially disrupts school environments, we want to raise your awareness and ask for your cooperation to have conversations with your child about their social media consumption and to reinforce positive decision making.

We want to be unequivocally clear that we do not condone or support the message conveyed by this type of content. We understand that our students may encounter such content online and sometimes may even share it and copycat actions without fully understanding the implications. However, it is crucial that we collectively address the potential harm these memes can cause.

They can:

- **Perpetuate negative stereotypes**: Suggesting that struggling students are somehow destined for a particular path based on their grades is inaccurate and unfair.
- **Undermine motivation and effort:** Such content can discourage students who are facing academic challenges and make them feel inadequate.
- **Contribute to a culture of mockery:** Sharing and laughing at these memes can create an environment where it is acceptable to make light of others' difficulties.
- **Cause emotional distress:** Students who are already feeling anxious about their academic performance may be further upset by this type of content.

We encourage a culture of empathy and respect, where students support each other's learning journeys. Please discuss the importance of thinking critically about the messages they encounter online and avoiding the sharing of content and copying actions that could be harmful or offensive to others and property.

Thank you for your partnership as we strive to ensure a positive and supportive learning environment for all our students. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via phone at (808) 307-6800 or via email at jeffrey.shitaoka@k12.hi.us. Thank you for having conversations with your children.

Kind regards,

Jeffrey Shitaoka
Principal

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER