



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
PACIFIC REGION
UNIT 35007
APO AP 96376-5007**

May 4, 2020

Dear DoDEA Pacific families and employees,

DoDEA Pacific has been working in direct and close coordination with senior military partners during the COVID-19 pandemic to monitor local environmental conditions and determine whether school facilities will be able to reopen to students this school year.

After much consideration, the following decisions have been made regarding the remainder of the 2019-20 school year:

- School buildings in Japan, Okinawa, and Guam will stay closed to students. Online learning and teaching will continue in all DoDEA schools across the Pacific; and
- School buildings in Korea are closed to students and maintaining online teaching and learning will remain the focus; however, we will keep a flexible approach that could allow any of the eight schools on the Korean peninsula to reopen before the end of the school year if conditions established jointly by the command and DoDEA are satisfied.

While the last day of instruction for graduating seniors will be two school days prior to the graduation ceremony, the last day for all remaining students will be June 9, as scheduled. Specific information detailing end-of-year procedures will be forthcoming from your school principal.

Our teachers and administrators in all locations will continue to work diligently to maintain digital learning programs in order to ensure continuity of education for our amazing students. These programs continue to evolve and differ slightly for each community and school, but the goal is the same – to provide *Excellence in Education for Every Student, Every Day, Everywhere*.

We know that this decision may be disappointing to our staff, students and families alike. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect every community across the Pacific Theater. The health and safety of our students, staff and communities is our highest priority.

This is an extraordinarily challenging and concerning time for all of us. Watching our teachers, students and communities come together to ensure continuity of education for our military-connected students under these circumstances has been incredibly inspiring. Please continue to work diligently and cohesively to ensure that we build upon our successes to this point. Communication, moving forward, will be critical to the maintenance and evolution of these digital learning programs. Feel free to communicate all needs and concerns related to these programs to your teachers and principals. This type of feedback is important to the education process.

We are also proud to share a parent resource for learning in a remote setting that was developed by the Pacific regional leadership team in partnership with DoDEA headquarters. Please take a moment to visit the site as it is a resource to lean on for parents to best support student's current school experience.

Remote Learning Guide for Parents Website: <https://sites.google.com/student.dodea.edu/pacificparentresource>

Thank you again for your continued support.

For more information regarding DoDEA's response to COVID-19, go to: <https://www.dodea.edu/Coronavirus.cfm>

Yours in education,

//Signed//
Lois Rapp
Director
DoDEA Pacific