

July 8, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Peace and all good to you and a wish that each of us had the opportunity to spend time during the July 4th celebrations to whisper thanks to our God for the gifts we have as citizens.

I am the first to communicate with you concerning the new school year that begins for (you) your student on **Tuesday, August 6, 2019**.

The traditional back-to-school packet will be sent on Monday, July 15th.

Due to the fact that there are many changes and adjustments to “ the way we have always done things” and because we are conscious of what we learned from the early days of computers: **garbage in equals garbage out**; we will be sending information in a few letters dealing with a single subject so as not to provide too much information at one time.

My letter to you today will deal with:

- > the new way student Orientation Day on August 6th will be done;
- > expectation for the students regarding the **HALLMARKS** of a

Damien Memorial Education:

Responsible

Respectful

Community-minded;

- > respect and pride of self, others and school property..

In my next letter I will address the changes that have been made to enhance **safety and security**:

- > physical entrance to the building

Students before 7:45, 8:45 (depending on the letter day)

Students arriving late

Parents and visitors at any time

New guidelines for early dismissal of a student.

- > electronic and infrastructure improvements
- > physical improvements to the building to enhance the learning environment

While writing this letter to you I have been listening to radio station 101.1 the classic oldies. I was reminded of a song by Cass Elliott:

**New World Coming**

...There's a new day coming

That belongs to You and Me

There's a New World Coming

The one we have had visions of

It is coming in peace, it is coming in joy, it is coming in love

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Dr. Kyle Atabay and I want you to know that there **is** a new day

coming at Damien Memorial School

the one we have had visions of

**It is coming with mutual responsibility** (students and adults)

**It is coming with mutual respect** (students and adults)

**It is coming with mutual community-mindedness** (students and adults).

## **STUDENT ORIENTATION DAY AUGUST 6**

### **1) All students in Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 :**

Will **have school** from 7:45 to 11:15. The morning will involve Orientation Sessions in the gym, the taking of portraits by House of Photography and sessions in the homerooms

### **2) All students in Grade 12:**

Will **have school** starting at 12:05:

Orientation Session in the Gym

Homeroom / Pictures

**President's Un-cocktail Party for Seniors**

**They will be free to leave when they are finished.**

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR THE STUDENT AS REGARDS THE DAMIEN MEMORIAL HALLMARKS**

Responsibility, respect and community- mindedness are shown by a simple expectation for behavior:

**Exemplary behavior is expected of the Damien Memorial Student at all times.**

Good enough is never good enough. One of our **Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education** is we strive for excellence in all endeavors.

There is no need to have in a handbook page after page of how you can do wrong. There is no need to have behavior influence a grade.

We are **Damien Memorial** and we are about **responsibility, respect and community-mindedness** so our code of discipline is the expectation of Exemplary behavior as we pursue excellence in all endeavors.

**HOMESCHOOLING** is a pedagogical method that has gained many advocates in the past 20 years. We have several students in our school who were homeschooled during the elementary years and then joined a school community: for socialization in general and perhaps to participate on a team in particular.

One reason we go to school is to learn how to get along with people; diverse people.

Your son or daughter is not becoming the person you and we want him or her to be: **If during school they are listening to their phones or playing games on their phones.** This isolationist behavior runs counter to being community-minded.

School is where you learn the interactive skills, the listening skills, the empathy skill, that you take into your life and work.

**Phones, ear phones, ear buds visible from the time the student arrives at school until classes end will be collected** and the PARENT will have to come to the school to retrieve the item.

## **RESPECT AND PRIDE OF SELF, OTHERS, SCHOOL PROPERTY**

As a school we have spent much psychic energy, and time reminding students about dress code dos and don'ts. All of which leads to a lessening of responsibility, respect, sense of community and common pride. Parents and Guardians are the first teachers of the need for self-respect, self-pride. We need your assistance to be sure your student leaves home in **dress code**.

Without your assistance it becomes our responsibility and our corrective courses of action are limited and effective but at the same time can stay with the student.

This year on Orientation Day when a student receives a **locker** number, **the student will also receive a lock combination.** The school has purchased locks for all lockers to

compliment our theme of: responsibility, respect, community- minded. At the end of the year the student will leave the lock on the locker  
(Since it belongs to the school.)(What if my student loses the lock? (To whom does the lock belong?)((\$10)

The **Laptop** belongs to the APPLE Company from whom we lease it.**This year when your child's Laptop has to be taken to a service center to be fixed: *the parents will be required to bring the laptop to the service center*** ( this will allow the parents to gain an understanding of the cause of the problem and the cost to repair the Laptop that belongs to APPLE..)

I thank you for giving us the opportunity to partner with you in helping your child form him or herself to be the person each of them and Our God wants.

May Blessed Edmund Rice and Hawaii's Saints Damien and Marianne ever guard and guide Damien Memorial School.

Sincerely,

Brother Brian M Walsh  
President

