



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
PACIFIC SOUTH DISTRICT
Okinawa/Guam



3/19/2020

Dear Pacific South Parents and Staff,

I am writing to provide an update regarding our decision to temporarily suspend school operations in the DoDEA Pacific South Region. The last day of in-class instruction for students will be Friday, March 20. We are closing school facilities from Monday, March 23 through Sunday, April 12. In-class school instruction will resume on April 13.

The health and safety of our students and employees is my number one priority, and we are implementing this temporary suspension in order to enhance our mitigation efforts as we collectively confront the COVID-19 pandemic. USFJ and DoDEA Pacific districts in Japan have already enacted effective mitigation measures to protect students, employees, and our military community from the spread of COVID-19 in Japan and Okinawa. With no cases of COVID-19 so far among SOFA members, including our students and staff, the success of these mitigation measures has allowed DoDEA Pacific districts in Japan to remain open. However, we made the decision to close Japan schools out of an abundance of caution and in order to enhance our mitigation strategy. This closure will allow for a thorough school cleaning, which would not be possible while students are in the building. Further, we will work with our faculty and staff to ensure everyone is fully able to implement effective preventive measures.

While our schools will be closed for in-person classes, online learning opportunities will be provided to all students beginning Wednesday, March 25 – April 2. Teachers will provide work for students to complete using various learning platforms (Google, student email, Clever, ThinkCentral, Khan Academy, MackinVia, Schoology). You will receive additional information from your child's teacher/school soon. Please contact your student's school if you need additional technology support at home.

Expectation for assignments will vary depending on the age, grade, and ability of your student(s). If there are any questions regarding assignments, please contact your child's teacher. Families with students with special needs will be receiving additional information about services for their child.

To be clear, this temporary school closure is not an additional vacation. School instruction will continue and we intend to reopen our school facilities on Monday, April 13, following our scheduled spring break. Spring break will proceed as scheduled April 6-10.

We truly appreciate our partnership with our families and appreciate your support and flexibility during this time.

Sincerely,

Jim Journey

Pacific South

District Superintendent