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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GDOE Provides Back-to-School Information: Classes Start on August 10th

The Guam Department of Education would like to elaborate on specific information that parents and our family and community stakeholders need to know for the beginning of SY 2022 - 2023::

First Day of School:

The first day of school for all students is Wednesday, August 10, 2022. Students will be attending school five (5) days a week. School hours for SY 2022 - 2023 will remain unchanged from prior school years:

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	
8:30 a.m. to 2:43 p.m.	8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	JFKHS, THS, SHS, CSA, & JPTSA	6:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
		GWHS, OHS, & SSHS	7:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Bus services for our students will be provided, and the bus schedule is anticipated to be published this Sunday.

Safe & Healthy Schools:

We will continue to encourage all students and staff to follow COVID-19 mitigation strategies to ease any anxiety or concerns they may have in regard to regular operations and the return of all students to in-person instruction.

The GDOE continues supplies and equipment to the schools to support these safety measures. In addition, the GDOE has trained its school employees with regard to the implementation of these protocols.

Uniforms:

School uniforms are required this year. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their children's school for further clarification of the required uniform and for information regarding the vendor at which they should purchase uniforms. For online students, uniform tops are required. Schools will have a limited amount of uniform vouchers for families that may need that support, and parents and guardians should contact schools directly. Over time, GDOE will be providing additional voucher support to families in need.

Immunizations, Screening, Testing, and Vaccinations:

Guam Law (10 GCA Health and Safety, Ch. 3 § 3322. Vaccination and Immunization) requires that each child should be properly immunized for school attendance. Health requirements for enrollment and attendance include the following:

- Updated shot records
- Physical Examination at entering kindergarten, sixth and ninth grade
- TB Skin Test at kindergarten, sixth and ninth grade or TB Clearances if the student had a previous positive TB Skin Test result

Guam Department of Education (GDOE) has an exclusion policy for lack of required immunizations, Physical Examinations, and TB Skin Tests or TB Clearances. Absences incurred from exclusions are unexcused.

Exemptions to immunization are as follows:

- Religious beliefs: Parents and guardians would need to submit an annual certification from the Director of DPHSS.
- Medical Contradictions: Parents and guardians would need to submit a written statement from a Licensed Healthcare Provider indicating vaccination contraindications.

At the beginning of every school year, the School Health Counselor will disseminate and collect Student Emergency Information and Healthy forms (EIHF). These forms need to be completed as soon as possible at the beginning of each school year. Parents and guardians are responsible for updating student information if there are any changes to contact information. These changes must be submitted the following school day. Anyone persons who are listed as an alternative to pick up students from school must have valid photo identification.

School Meals:

School breakfast and lunches will continue to be served at no cost to students who wish to participate. Due to the health and safety requirements, schools will be offering staggered lunch hours and maximizing physical distancing in accordance with our health guidelines. Menus for Headstart, Pre-K, and K-12 will be made available on the GDOE website and other social media platforms.

Interscholastic Sports:

The GDOE plans to continue with extracurricular activities throughout the school year. This includes interscholastic sports for middle and high school students.

Social-Emotional Wellness Support:

The return of in-person learning may bring with it anxiety and stress. The GDOE has compiled a directory of organizations in the community that can provide students with social-emotional support. On-going training for teachers and school administrators on social and emotional wellness and learning for students so they can be prepared to address and refer appropriately.

Supporting the needs of students with readjustment, transition, and learning loss by addressing and providing services for students to seek the additional supports to thrive in a safe learning environment (e.g., small groups, class presentations, and referrals for therapeutic services). Disruptions to students' mental and emotional health, social systems of support, and learning environments require a new focus on social and emotional well-being. Although the need to assess students' social and emotional well-being in a virtual environment is new, we can still draw from assessments that were developed and validated prior to the pandemic.

A comprehensive system for monitoring student well-being will support students in schools and classrooms and allow for tiered referrals for special services. The use of validated screeners on social and emotional well-being, learning conditions, and other non-academic measures are critical in the transition to school for students. Integrating social and emotional activities and conversations with students as part of the daily classroom agenda in addressing wellness and learning.

Contact Information:

For general inquiries, students, family, and community stakeholders may send an email to info@gdoe.net.

Family and community stakeholders may also contact the Interim Public Information Officer, Michelle Franquez, at (671) 300-1677 or, may send an email to matfranquez@gdoe.net.

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