

# **ALOHA TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

## **From the Desk of Marsha Hirae High School Principal**

**New Middle School Principal:** On June 16<sup>th</sup>, HBA welcomed our new Middle School Principal, Mrs. Claudia Atta. She is a veteran educator, having worked in the Department of Education in Hawaii for the past 18 years, serving as a K-12 certified teacher, school-level administrator, and technology curriculum specialist. Her most current position was director of the state on-line learning program, Hawaii E-School, which delivered credit courses statewide for high school students.

**Fond Aloha:** After serving Hawaii Baptist Academy as an elementary school teacher and principal at the former Leeward Campus in Waianae, a high school and middle school math teacher on the Stan Sagert High School Campus, and the Principal on the Dan Kong Middle School Campus, Bev Little bids a warm aloha to HBA and Hawaii. God's blessings to Mrs. Little as she pursues her passion of teaching math to high school students in Nevada.

**The Class of 2008:** One hundred seven seniors graduated from Hawaii Baptist Academy at the fifty-fifth commencement exercises in the Neal Blaisdell Center Concert Hall on June 7, 2008. Twenty-seven students were recognized for attending HBA since kindergarten—the largest number thus far. Forty-four percent of the graduates received honor diplomas. The top honors went to co-valedictorians, Miku Konsolas and Kylie Matsumoto. Miku will be attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Kylie will enroll at the University of Southern California. Salutatorian, Nicole Ing, will attend Occidental College in California. One hundred percent of the Class of 2008 will be college-bound this fall.

**Aloha to Faculty Members:** We said aloha to four faculty members at the close of the school year in June. Mrs. Kathryn Reyes is enjoying her newborn baby and will be moving with her family to Florida; Miss Marie Chong will be attending graduate school in the fall; Mr. Rusty Weaver, after having taught English for three years at HBA, will be moving on to new adventures; Mr. Jim Worth will be retiring from a life-long teaching career; and Mrs. Lesley Stevens will be transferring to the middle school to teach Math 8.

**Special Office Hours:** The school offices on all campuses will be closed on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, so our faculty and staff can attend our annual Focus meeting. The day will be devoted to spiritual renewal and prayer in preparation for the 2008-09 school year.

## **From the Desk of Nolan Namba High School Vice Principal**

Welcome to all incoming freshmen and new high school students and welcome back to all returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors! I hope you are having a fun, restful, and safe summer break, and I look forward to seeing you all in August! God bless you and your families!

## ***Major Changes in next year's handbook for Middle and High School***

***Students: Please go through the handbook carefully with your parents soon after you receive it.***

- (1) Change in descriptions of school conduct violation categories: from Category I, II, III, and IV to Zero-Tolerance, Major and Minor violations.
- (2) Change in violation category of pornography to expanded category of involvement in sexually immoral activities; addition of examples of premarital sex and homosexuality. Also, clarification that holding hands as an allowed public display of affection is limited to couples of the opposite sex.
- (3) Change in citizenship grading structure, penalties and reporting to parents:
  - (a) Elimination of prior year's usage of "strikes"; all violations resulting in penalties will involve demerits and/or other forms of school discipline.
  - (b) Citizenships grades for each quarter will now be as follows:
    - 0 to 3 demerits = A
    - 4 to 6 demerits = B
    - 7 to 9 demerits = C
    - 10 to 12 demerits = D
    - 13 or more demerits = F
  - (c) Penalties for low citizenship grades will now be as follows:
    - A or B = no penalty
    - C = immediate behavioral probation for 2 weeks
    - D = immediate behavioral probation for 4 weeks
    - F = immediate behavioral probation for rest of that quarter plus following quarter (this is no change from prior policy)
    - Immediate behavioral probation will commence the first Sunday following the violation that caused the citizenship grade.
    - Behavioral probation means that:
      - A senior may not leave campus for lunch or senior independent period;
      - A student may not participate as a camp counselor;
      - A student may not go on off-island trips such as senior trip and East Coast trip;
      - A student may not be a member of the President's Aloha Council;
      - A student may not participate in athletics, drama, NHS, NJHS, clubs, class council, student council, Project Grad, Winter Banquet, Junior-Senior Banquet, Film Festival, class socials, Junior and Senior Independent periods, and other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
  - (d) Student violations will be reported to parents as they occur.
- (4) Change in absence policy:
  - (a) Absences for reasons such as student sickness, death in the family, and medical/dental/legal appointments are excused (no change in policy).
  - (b) Absences for vacations, non-school athletic trips, college trips, driving tests, job interviews, staying at home to work on projects, papers, etc. are unexcused and students will not be allowed to make-up any work, quizzes or tests (no change in policy). *See exception below (c).*
  - (c) Each student will be allowed to miss no more than four (4) school days of each academic year for any of the reasons stated above (b). However, in order for an

absence to be excused at the discretion of the High School Vice Principal or Middle School Principal, it must be requested in writing or sent via email to the respective campus administrator at least two weeks in advance. The first four days of absences that are reported, whether they be single days or multiple days, must be taken at least a full day at a time and cannot be scheduled during semester and final exam weeks.

## From the Desk of Michael Tanigawa, Registrar

The new school year will be starting on August 4<sup>th</sup> - how time flies! Included in your mail-out packet is a letter from the Registrar's Office, subject: Information from the Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA) Registrar. This letter discusses the Registrar's blog (short for weblog), the titles of information articles available for review, and how you can communicate with the Registrar's Office via the blog.

**Please take a few moments** to read the letter and I encourage you to take a look at the website.

**Data Verification Forms:** These forms are included in your packet with a return envelope. Please take some time to review the cover letter and the form, make necessary corrections (**in a color other than black**), and return it no later than Friday, **July 11<sup>th</sup>**. When entering changes to ethnic background and religious denomination, remember to use only the listed entries since our database will not accept anything other than these. We depend on your assistance to keep our student information database current and up to date.

Please remember to notify the Registrar's Office **once the school year begins** whenever you have a change in your mailing address, phone numbers (home, work, cellular), and e-mail address. Thank you in advance for your assistance in ensuring that HBA can communicate with you.

**Draft Class Schedule:** Enclosed is a draft schedule for your child(ren) for your review. The schedules are still being worked on to ensure all students have full schedules and that the course enrollments are balanced. The final schedule will be provided in homeroom on the first day of school, August 4, 2008.

**Please read the last paragraph of the cover letter which explains the process for any proposed schedule changes once your child(ren) receive(s) the final class schedule.**

**Course schedule changes:** Every effort was made to provide students the courses they requested on their registration forms. Due to a full enrollment this year, most of the classes are filled and it will be very difficult to accommodate course schedule changes.

**Three days have been set aside this summer to work out scheduling concerns:**

July 3	Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Seniors
July 7	Monday	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Underclassmen
July 8	Tuesday	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Underclassmen

If the course schedule has an "open" period or "duplicate" course, students are to call the counseling department at 595-6304 to schedule an appointment. Other changes, if warranted, may be allowed **only** if a course that needs to be added is open and if no other changes in the student's schedule are required. No schedule changes will be made for teacher preference or student convenience. All requests for change, other than "open" periods or "duplicate" courses, will require

a letter by a parent acknowledging the request for change and will incur a \$50.00 "change of course" fee.

**Student Social Security Number:** Enclosed is a letter explaining why HBA does not maintain student social security numbers in the database.

## **From the Desk of Kathy Lee, Admissions Director**

**To Parents of 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders who are new to HBA:** Please turn in your child's release card (signed by you) and 4th quarter report card by July 15<sup>th</sup>. We encourage our new students to attend the various orientations/activities for their classes scheduled prior to the start of school.

**Roberts Hawaii:** For information on transportation services, please call Roberts Hawaii, 832-4886, and ask for Kim or Pauline.

## **From The Desk Of Sharyn Smith, Director Of Counseling**

We look forward to another school year partnering with teachers, parents, and administrators to work with our students in their educational journeys. This year, Miss Nikki Okazaki will continue to be counselor for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, Mr. Todd Sasaki will be counselor for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, and Mrs. Carolene Neely will be counselor for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Mrs. Susan Goya, college counselor, will be able to focus on a college advisement process and will be working with Mr. Nolan Namba to revamp this process.

The junior guidance course has been replaced with the Life Skills and Service Learning course taught by Miss Kirsten Chong. The college preparation units will be part of this course and will be taught by Mrs. Goya.

The key concept we would like to promote is partnership: partnership in order to encourage students to take ownership of their daily learning and their educational goals and partnership among counselors, teachers, parents, and administrators to optimize the educational experiences of our students. We invite you to another level of involvement with us in our students' education.

## **From the Desk of Joanne Kealoha, School Nurse**

We are pleased to announce that HBA's middle school students will again be offered free influenza vaccinations on our HBA campuses for the 2008-2009 school year. This program is a collaborative effort with the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Hawaii Catholic Schools, and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools. We will be disseminating written consent materials later in August.

There are many other practices we can follow to reduce the incidence of illness and stop the spread of germs at school. Some good health habits to keep in mind are:

- Students should not attend school with a fever, if they are vomiting, have diarrhea, or have an infectious skin rash.
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands frequently.

- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink lots of fluids, and eat nutritious foods, e.g., whole grains, fresh fruits, and a variety of vegetables.

Lastly, if your child becomes ill or is injured at school, please make it a priority to come and pick up your child right away. Thank you for your continued consideration of our HBA ohana.

## **From the Desk of Deren Oshiro, Athletic Director**

Congratulations to all of our returning athletes for their contributions to the school community this past year! They represented HBA extremely well. We again had a record number of athletes and teams recognized by the Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH), state, and media in 2007-2008 (see "ILH, State, and Community Recognition" in the HBA Athletic Handbook). On June 14, 2008, HBA also was recognized for the third consecutive year as an HMSA Kaimana Award winner for ILH division II! This program recognizes schools for overall excellence in athletics, sportsmanship, academics and community service. HBA, which won the first place award in 2006 and second place award in 2007, is the only ILH division I or II school to be recognized all three years of the program. The school was awarded a beautiful rock and crystal trophy along with a check for \$1,500 at the awards luncheon at the Kahala Hotel.

As we approach another school year, we are looking forward to another season of competition and achievement, but more importantly, fellowship, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

**HBA Athletic Handbook 2008-2009:** The updated handbook will once again be available online at the school website: [www.hba.net](http://www.hba.net). From the school homepage, click on "student life", then scroll down to "athletics." The link to the athletic handbook will be in the right margin. Please take time to review it and refer to it as necessary. All revisions or additions are so noted in italics. You may also download it to keep on file for future reference.

**REQUIREMENT #1: The Athletic Handbook Agreement Form (included in this mailout) must be completed, signed, and returned in order for your child to be eligible to participate in HBA athletics. This is due July 21, 2008.** If your child plans to try out for a fall sport (see "Sport Offerings" in the HBA Athletic Handbook), please take care of this as soon as possible!

**REQUIREMENT #2: ALL students intending to try out for sports must take a physical exam and submit a completed HBA Student Health Record form (yellow cardstock). This is due prior to or on the first day of their respective sport tryouts.** This is an annual requirement. Forms are issued from the school nurse, but are also available at the athletic office. Please turn in your completed forms to the athletic office or to the front office. If the anniversary of the prior physical exam falls during the athlete's season, an updated athletic participation form must be submitted prior to or on that specific date. The athlete will be ineligible for athletic participation for any period of time the school is without a valid Student Health Record form on file. Please contact me in the athletic office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support of our athletic program. At HBA we do compete to win (1 Corinthians 9:24-27), but try to keep wins and losses in perspective. God wants us to give our best efforts ALL of the time (Colossians 3:23-24), no matter what we are doing. He also wants us to work together with a Christ-like attitude (Philippians 2:2-5) knowing that every person is valuable and plays an equally important role on the TEAM (1 Corinthians 12:14-27). And all of us at HBA - administrators, faculty, staff, coaches, students and parents - are on the same team...together!

It is both a privilege and an honor to serve as your athletic director and I welcome your feedback. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions, comments, suggestions or opinions you may have regarding our athletic program. ***"HBA Athletics...Winning with Integrity"***

\*\*\*\*\*

BacktoSchoolInfo.WEB.063008