

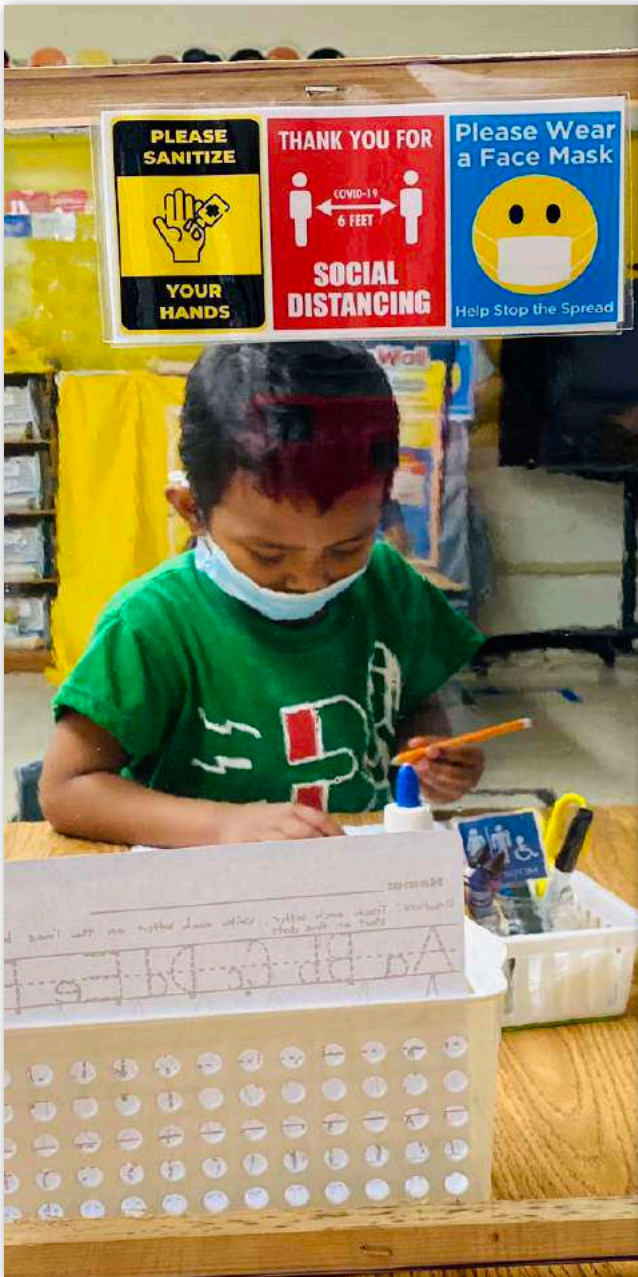
CNMI Public School System

STUDENTS FIRST

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BLENDED LEARNING WILL BEGIN FEBRUARY 2



3 Schools Pilots Blended Learning INSIDE

PSS receives \$61.7M Education Stabilization Fund
Chairman Orsini, Education Commissioner Dr. Ada thanks Cong. Kili Sablan

P7



A Fully Reconfigured Classroom Designed for Health and Safety of Everyone

Tinian's Head Start/Early Head Start and Tinian Elementary School have reconfigured their classrooms to meet the state-mandated COVID-19 health and safety requirements, ensuring the safety of all public education stakeholders: students, teachers and staff and parents. In this photo, a Head Start classroom in Tinian is a model of COVID-19 health and safety standards

- Safe, Reconfigured Classrooms
- Maximum of 15 students per classroom;
- Will return to a fully reconfigured classrooms designed for protection
- Desks with built-in glass barriers
- Meets the guidelines of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force

Public School System Launches Blended Learning

*'I assure the public we are opening slowly with the safety of our students as paramount goal,'
Education Commissioner Dr. Ada*

The CNMI Public School System will begin blended learning on February 2 on all campuses on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. This will effectively transition all public schools from remote learning to a combined in-person and online instruction. The school district implemented remote learning nearly a year ago in response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a means to protect students, and the community as a whole, from the virus' deadly threat.

Blended learning is a learning practice that uses both in-person and online instruction when teaching students. PSS has already designed instructional courses specifically designed for blended learning. All of its teachers and instructors have been trained to handle blended learning.

As an example a blended learning-designed course, students will attend a class taught by a teacher in a traditional classroom setting, while also independently completing online or paper-based learning packet (course) outside of the classroom setting.

All students will be placed on a schedule (**see related detailed schedules**). With this learning mode, attendance of in-person classes is compulsory.



Schools will be reaching out to parents to inform them of their child's school schedule.

Currently, four public schools have piloted blended learning. **See related stories.**

BLENDDED LEARNING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

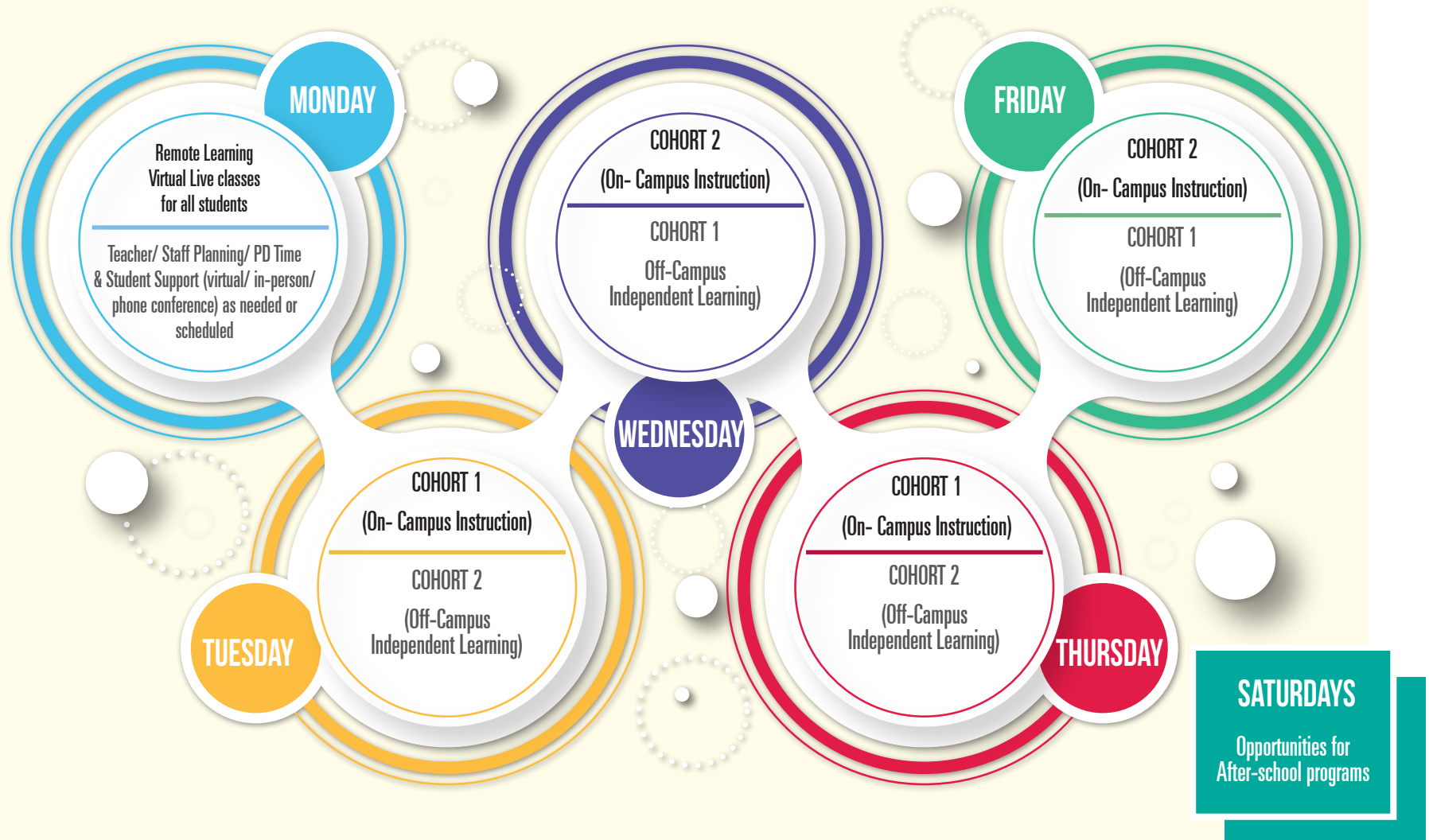
On-Campus (In-person) Class Start & End Time

(Tuesdays-Wednesdays-Thursdays-Fridays): 7:30 a.m.- 1:15 p.m.

Remote Learning (Virtual Live) Class Start & End Time: (Mondays): 8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.

Student Weekly Schedule:

- Students attend classes on campus twice a week and work on assignments independently on days they are not scheduled on campus. Students will attend classes virtual on BBU on Mondays in the same way we are currently implementing remote learning.
- A maximum of 15 students are allowed in each classroom, depending on classroom size.
- Some schools may conduct back-to-back classes within the week (Tu/Wed and Th/Fri on-campus cohort schedules).
- The schools will notify parents regarding their child/ren's schedule before the beginning of 2nd Semester.
- After-school remedial or wellness programs may be available depending on the school offerings from Tuesday through Friday and/or Saturdays.



Office Hour for Student Support:

- Time will be afforded to students and parents through scheduled meetings with the teacher.
- Meeting time is available between 1:30-2:30 p.m from Tuesday through Friday.
- Parents and students will need to make arrangements to meet with the teacher, especially for those working independently off-campus and are in need of guidance with assignments provided by the teacher.
- Meetings may be arranged either virtually, in-person or through phone conferencing.

Student Meals:

- Breakfast will be served on campus to students scheduled on site.
- Lunch will be provided to students during their dismissal. Students who are not scheduled on campus may pick up meals from the "Grab-n-Go" sites.
- Please note that each student is eligible for only one meal set per day. Parents are not allowed to pick up meals at Grab and Go sites on the same days their children are attending face to face classes.

BLENDDED LEARNING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

On-Campus (In-Person) Class Start & End Time (TWThF):

COVMS, DMS, FMS, TMS: 8:25 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

HMS: 8:20 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

TJSHS (Tinian)- 7:40 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

RHIJSHS (Rota)- 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Remote Learning (Virtual Live) Class Start & End Time (M): 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Student Weekly Schedule:

- Students attend classes on campus twice a week and work on assignments independently on days they are not scheduled on campus. However, HMS has four cohorts and therefore each cohort will attend classes on campus once a week.
- All Students will attend classes virtually on BBU on Mondays.
- A maximum of up to 15 students are allowed in each classroom, depending on classroom size.
- Some schools may conduct back-to-back classes within the week (Tu/Wed and Th/Fri on-campus cohort schedules).
- The schools will notify parents regarding their child/ren's schedule before the beginning of 2nd Semester.
- After-school remedial or wellness programs may be available depending on the school offerings from Tuesday through Friday and/or Saturdays.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
REMOTE LEARNING VIRTUAL LIVE CLASSES FOR ALL STUDENTS	COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)
	COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)
TEACHER/ STAFF PLANNING/ PD TIME & STUDENT SUPPORT (VIRTUAL/ IN-PERSON/ PHONE CONFERENCE) AS NEEDED OR SCHEDULED	COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 3 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 4 (On-campus instruction)
	COHORT 2 COHORT 3 COHORT 4 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 1 COHORT 3 COHORT 4 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 1 COHORT 2 COHORT 4 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 1 COHORT 2 COHORT 3 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)

BLENDDED LEARNING FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Remote Learning (Virtual Live) Class Start & End Time (Monday):

KHS, MHS, SSHS: 8:30 a.m.-10:55 a.m.

Da'ok Academy: 8:25 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

On-Campus (In-Person) Class Start & End Time (TWThF):

KHS, MHS, SSHS: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

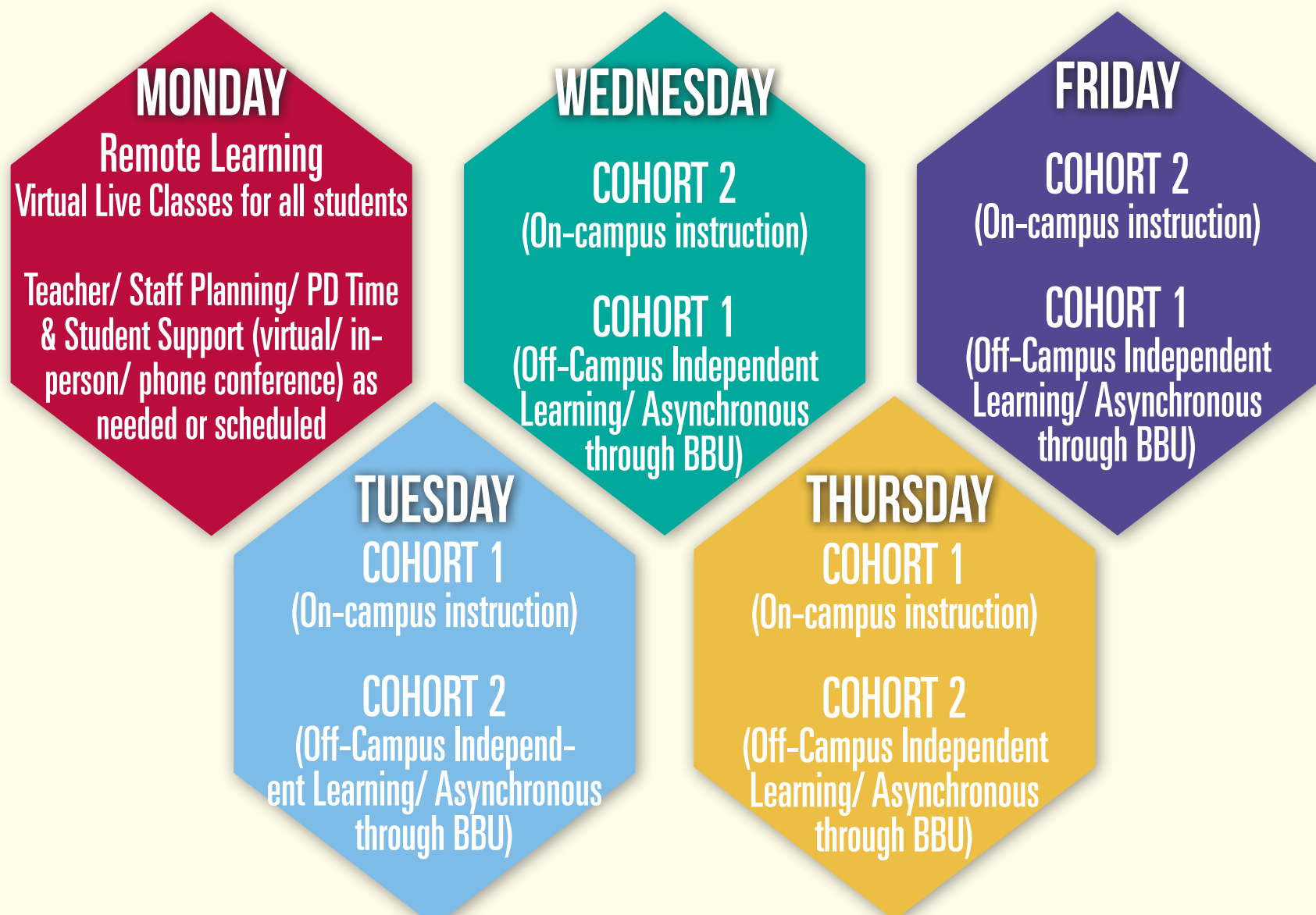
Da'ok Academy: 8:25 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

TJSHS (Tinian): 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

RHIJSHS (Rota): 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Student Weekly Schedule:

- Students attend classes on campus twice a week and work on assignments independently on days they are not scheduled on campus. All Students will attend classes virtually on BBU on Mondays.
- The schools will notify parents regarding their child(ren)'s schedule before the beginning of 2nd Semester



BUS SCHEDULES

SAIPAN SCHOOLS	
6:55AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level Elementary schools
7:15AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level Middle schools
7:30AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level High schools
TINIAN SCHOOLS	
7:15AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level Elementary schools
7:15AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level Middle schools
7:45AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level High schools
ROTA SCHOOLS	
6:55AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level Elementary schools
7:30AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level Middle schools
7:30AM BEFORE SCHOOL PICK-UP	School Level High schools

PSS ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

Present: A student is “present” or “attending” if they are attending an instructional program approved by the state, district, and/or school.

Absent - Excused: An Excused absence is absence necessitated because of illness or death in the family, or absence with the written approval of parent/guardian when such approval is not inconsistent with the academic needs of the student as determined by the principal (§ 60-20-420(a)).

Absent - Unexcused: Unexcused absences are those which are not excused. They may generally be categorized as being of such a nature that prudence would have avoided or precluded the absence. Suspensions and expulsions are considered unexcused absences (§ 60-20-420(b)).

Tardy - Excused: The term tardy is defined as being late to school, class or an activity with or without permission of parent/guardian. A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives after the designated time of the class or activity, regardless of how late the student is (§ 60-20-420 (f)(1)).

INFORMATION FOR ALL SCHOOLS

Office Hour for Student Support:

- Time will be afforded to students and parents through scheduled meetings with the teacher on Mondays after the virtual live classes. Parents and students will need to make arrangements to meet with the teacher for those who are in need of guidance with assignments.
- Students and parents may reach out to the teachers for inquiries throughout the week.
- Meetings may be arranged either virtually, in-person or through phone conferencing.

Student Meals for All Schools:

- Please note that each public school student is eligible for only one meal set per day.
- Breakfast and lunch meals will be served on campus to students scheduled on site.
- Students who are not scheduled on campus may pick up meals from the “Grab-n-Go” sites and must have their school ID for meals served. .
- Parents are not allowed to pick up meals at Grab and Go sites on the same days their children are attending in classes.

Bus Schedule:

- Parents must be present at the bus stop for the student pick-up in the event that a student's temperature is measured at higher than 100° or 38°. Students with an elevated temperature must be taken home.
- Students must wear a mask while on the school bus at all times.
- Parents should contact their child's school to inform them that their child must remain home due to elevated temperatures.

Student Attendance:

- Student attendance will be recorded for the in-person and asynchronous (independent learning) days.
- Asynchronous attendance will be recorded based on the submission of completed tasks/assignments assigned on days students are off-campus.
- It is imperative that students use their off-campus days to complete assignments given as it will determine their daily attendance.

Tardy - Unexcused § 60-20-420 (f) Tardiness

- (1) The term tardy is defined as being late to school, class or an activity with or without permission of parent/guardian. A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives after the designated time of the class or activity, regardless of how late the student is.
- (2) A student who misses more than half of a class or activity shall be considered absent for the entire class or activity.
- (3) For secondary school students, every third unexcused tardy shall be considered one unexcused absence within the term/semester the tardies occurred.
- (4) For elementary school students, every third unexcused tardy of 10 minutes or greater shall be considered one unexcused absence within the term/semester the tardies occurred.

PSS Assurances:

- Schools will ensure daily sanitizing of classrooms.
- Schools will enforce social distancing indoor and outdoor.
- Temperature checks will be conducted and documented
- Face masks or face shields will be required at all times for students, staff and visitors.
- Classrooms will be retrofitted to meet safety measures.

PSS receives \$61.7M Education Stabilization Fund

Chairman Orsini, Education Commissioner Dr. Ada thanks Cong. Kilili Sablan



The PSS central office personnel are the backbone of the school district, directly working hand-in-hand with all of the 20 public schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, including Early Head Start/Head Start, Early Intervention and Special Education Programs.

CNMI Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini and Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada expressed optimism that the \$61.7 million Education Stabilization Fund grant from the United States Department of Education is a much-needed lifeline for the Public School System.

Chairman Orsini said that the Education Stabilization Fund is coming just in time that will greatly benefit the more than 10,000 public students, teachers and parents of all public school students on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Education chief Dr. Ada said that the Education Stabilization Fund is the second phase of the grant that United States Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan has helped in securing for PSS. The first part – the \$23.3 million ESF was awarded in May 2020 – was tapped to provide much needed relief for the school district's local funding shortfall to cover for personnel and operation cost.

PSS is a none-revenue generating autonomous instrumentality that relies on state funds. It is constitutionally mandated to provide free quality education, from kindergarten, elementary, middle and high schools.

Dr. Ada said the two Education Stabilization Fund guarantees that all the teachers and support staff of the school district will not experience a payless payday.

"On behalf of all educators, I want to congratulate Congressman Sablan for his tireless efforts in securing the much needed federal funds to fill a big hole in the local budget," Commissioner Dr. Ada said.



The school district continues to invest in the professional growth of its critical and essential staff.

The Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) is a component of the Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020.

Federal Program Officer Tim Thornburgh noted that this second Education Stabilization Fund grant further said that this will not only pay for salaries but can also supplement's PSS need to to fund all school-based health and safety initiatives and programs. These include for the purchase of sanitation supplies needed in all schools to clean every classroom every school day.

Thornburgh also added that the federal Education Stabilization Fund will pay for the HVAC services needed for school air conditioners, technology such as laptops, iPads and mifs, pay for mental health services, and a whole range of education services that directly benefit student learning and classroom teaching.

Congressman Sablan's work as the Chair of the Education Subcommittee on early education, K-12 education and postsecondary education, according to Thornburgh, enabled Congressman Sablan to make amendments to the Education Stabilization Fund that directly benefit our schools both public and private schools.



Newly-recognifigured classrooms show how WSR Elementary School strictly adheres to the COVID-19 guidelines primarily to ensure the protection and wellbeing of students and staff.

Fast Facts

- Is the largest elementary school in the CNMI
- Classes are in 2 cohorts
- Tuesday/Thursday Morning Sessions for 300-plus students
- Wednesday/Friday Morning Sessions for 300-plus students

William S. Reyes Elementary School Successfully Pilots Blended Learning

*‘Over 90 percent supports blended learning’
Principal Lynn O. Mendiola*

William S. Reyes Elementary School has successfully piloted blended learning on January 12 — and thanks to all of its stakeholders: students, parents, and school staff whose can-do attitude was key to the seamless transition from online learning.

WSR Elementary School is one of the three public elementary schools in the CNMI to pilot blended learning ahead of the February 2 launch of the school district and a year after the school district implemented online learning to protect its more than 10,000 students from the deadly coronavirus COVID-19. The other two are Kagman Elementary School and Tinian Elementary School.

Principal Lynn O. Mendiola said over 95 percent of her school's student population are in support of blended learning. They showed up on-campus to attend the face-to-face instruction on January 12 start of blended learning. It has implemented a strict COVID-19 guidelines for all, to protect both students and staff. Desk barriers and protection were built in every classroom, among others.

WSR Elementary School is the largest public elementary school in the CNMI.

“I am just truly thankful for the support of our parents in sending their children back to the classroom, our teachers and school staff for being innovative. Their can-do attitude helped our WSR family managed to successfully implement blended learning,” Principal Mendiola told **Students First** in an interview.

With over 630 student population, WSR Elementary School has implemented a cohort system in blended learning: Cohort 1, with 628 students, attends the Tuesday-Thursday morning schedule, and Cohort 2, with 317 students, attends the Wednesday-Friday schedule.

“Our students are really excited because finally they are able to be back in the classrooms,” Vice Principal Jocelyn M. Tudela said separately.

For parents, according to WSR Elementary School survey on blended learning, more than 90 percent responded in support of blended learning.



A safe learning space

WSR Elementary School students returned to the classroom for a face-to-face instruction with a newly reconfigured classrooms and other health safety nets that were put in place ensuring their protection. The school is fully compliant of all COVID-19 regulations of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.



A socially-distanced seating arrangement for the reading class of Mrs. Babauta at Kagman Elementary School. It can also be seen that her classroom has the appropriate markings that meets the COVID-19 guidelines.

Kagman Elementary School: A Model for Blended Learning

*‘We Know We Can Do This’
Principal Dr. Ignacia Demapan*

Fast Facts

- Home to 465 students
- Classes are in 2 cohorts
 - Tuesdays/Thursdays from 7:30 am to 11:30 am
 - Wednesdays/Friday from 7:30 am to 11:30 am
- Afternoons, from 1 pm to 2 pm asynchronous learning (online)
- Only school in CNMI to successfully implement summer program

Kagman Elementary School is one of only three elementary schools in the CNMI that has implemented the blended learning model. The school's successful transition is credited mainly with the right tools and the readiness to take the lead.

"I am really excited to come back to school," said a 4th grade student in an interview with **Students First**.

"I am not scared to (comeback to school) because I know it is safe (because they made it safe) for us," another student said.

On January 12, Kagman Elementary School reopened its campus to its students, successfully piloting the school district's blended learning. The rest of the district's public schools are expected to "reopen" or transition to blended learning on February 2.

"Very, very successful," Principal Dr. Ignacia Demapan told **Students First** in an interview.

She added, "We have to take the lead. If nobody takes that big step, how can we determine if it works or not? We just have to do it."

Kagman Elementary School is home to 465 students. With blended learning, the school has implemented the cohort system, to ensure that learning and safety and wellbeing of the students remain paramount.

Cohort 1 will be Tuesdays-Thursdays, from 7:30 am to 11:30 am, and Cohort 2 are on Wednesdays-Fridays

Afternoon sessions from 1 pm to 2 pm is the time dedicated to online/

virtual learning, with students receiving their asynchronous learning from their respective home.

Kagman Elementary School is the only public school in the CNMI that has also implemented summer school program – which was the reason why it has taken the lead in implementing seamlessly and smoothly the transition from online learning to blended learning ahead of the February 2 full-implementation.

"The secret of our success is because we, as one team, saw the need for our students to comeback to our campus as a result of overwhelming support from both our school teachers and staff and our parents," Dr. Demapan said.

"We have seen our students' online learning needing supplemental support and as such, we have we ahead to with blended learning. The outcome is very positive because everyone are on board."

"Overall, our team wanted to have our students comeback to school campus. And having that kind of reponse from our teachers wanting to provide face-to-face instruction to the young one was our needed push," Dr. Demapan said.

"We believe that our students needed supplemental from their online classes," she added.

Dr. Demapan added, "It is an experience. And we know we can do this."



Creating A Safe and Supportive Learning Space for Every Child

Kagman Elementary School is a pioneer in many ways.

Following its successful implementation of the summer program – as the only public school in the CNMI to do so – to provide supplemental learning program for its students with all necessary safety nets in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Kagman Elementary School has once again implemented another first: seamless and orderly transition from online learning to blended learning. As seen in these photos, from the classroom to the hallway, the school mirrors what a safe, supportive learning space should look like for every child in this pandemic-driven learning environment.



Tinian Head Start students enjoy their daily activities free from the threat of the COVID-19 virus with a fully-reconfigured classroom, and with PSS staff and personnel implementing the necessary healthy and safety protocols. In this photo, Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, accompanied by Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada and Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, back, personally visited Tinian to witness its COVID-19 safety protocols implementation.

Tinian Elementary School Pilots Blended Learning: A Needed Intervention for Students

Fast Facts

- Blended Learning Piloted on December
- 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm is blended learning time
- Classrooms are fully reconfigured to meet COVID-19 requirements

"I have never seen our kids that excited coming back to school," says Tinian Elementary School Principal Lou Connie Manglona, as she revealed how blended learning provides the needed intervention to elementary students online learning.

Tinian Elementary School launched blended learning last December, becoming one of the only three public elementary schools that piloted the program ahead of the school district's full implementation on February 2.

With blended learning, Tinian Elementary School has implemented half day online learning and half-day for face-to-face.

Principal Manglona said Tinian Elementary School students spend on-line/virtual learning from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

Blended learning or face-to-face learning begins from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, she said.

Principal Manglona said the entire school campus has followed the COVID-19 safety protocols and requirements to ensure students protection.

Classrooms are fully sanitized regularly.

Individual students desk have built-in transparent plexiglass.

Wearing of mask is required.

"Our students are very engaged in learning ever since we have implemented blended learning and at the same time they are cognizant of the new (COVID-19) protocols," Principal Manglona said in an interview with **Students First**.

She added, "We all know that it is a challenge for our young elementary kids with online learning and with blended learning, we are providing them the needed support and interventions. And we have been successful in doing that."



A Safe, Healthy Learning Space

Tinian Elementary School, Tinian's Early Head Start and Head Start Program and Tinian Junior Senior High School have overhauled their respective classrooms and other learning facilities since last year, providing the needed support for the island community whose students began their face-to-face instructions last December. From a fully reconfigured and fully sanitized classrooms to COVID19-designed protective scrubs, face shields and masks, Tinian's public schools and its personnel have been models of a safe and healthy learning space.



Dandan Middle School has 2 new classrooms

Fast Facts

- 2 new classrooms funded by FEMA
- Can accommodate 25 students maximum capacity

The federal government's support to build new classrooms for Dandan Middle School is the first fully constructed Public School System structure that were built from ground up following the twin super typhoons, Soudelor and Yutu, that damaged nearly 80 percent of Saipan's public schools.

This is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-funded project. The total project cost was estimated at \$750,000.

The two new classrooms can accommodate a maximum of 25 students – or 15 at the most given the current coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

Dandan Middle School Principal James Sablan said the new classrooms be designated for physical education and leadership core classes.

"The Dandan school community is truly excited to unveil these classrooms. This shows our investment and commitment to promote quality public education," Principal Sablan said.

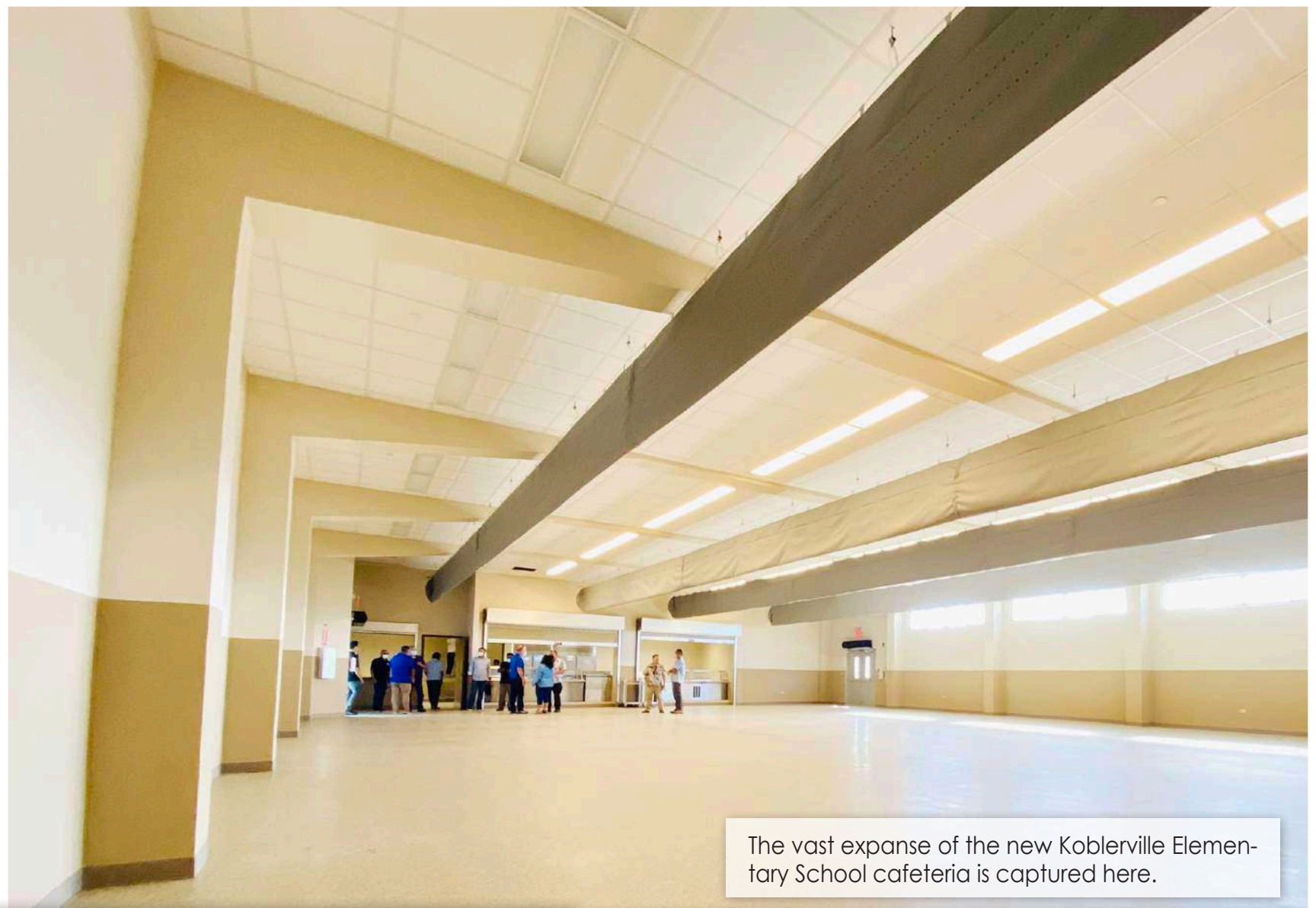
The new Dandan Middle School classrooms are the first new structures that were built after the destruction of supertyphoon Soudelor and Yutu on Saipan.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada made the completion of the 2 new classrooms among his priority projects along with several others.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 8, Commissioner Ada said the new structures will last a generation, with future students benefiting from this investment of the school district.

"I'm very proud and very happy that everybody put all of their energy together, their great minds together, and envisioned a lasting place for our students. These buildings will last 40 years, maybe 50 years, and to know that we made it for them, it's really quite an accomplishment," Commissioner Ada said in his remarks.

He also thanked both the school leadership, the community and the CNMI Board of Education, led by its then-chairperson Janice Marie A. Tenorio for their support.



The vast expanse of the new Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria is captured here.



Koblerville Elementary School unveils new, federally-funded cafeteria

Fast Facts
 Funded by Child Nutrition Program, a federal grant under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total project cost is \$2.1 million. This is the newest cafeteria that is the same size of the spacious Marianas High School cafeteria.

The federal Child Nutrition Program continues to benefit the CNMI Public School System's nutrition program.

With the unveiling of the new, spacious and modern Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria, the federal CNP has further supported the district's investment in ensuring a healthier, and hunger-free public school community.

"We are proud of the partnership that we have with the Child Nutrition Program. Over the years, they have supported our work towards promoting a healthy, hunger-free community," Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada said.

Dr. Ada particularly extended his appreciation to Federal Programs

Officer Tim Thornburgh and PSS-CNP Program Director Dale Roberts for ensuring the funding for the new cafeteria.

Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna said the project construction cost – or the grant award – for the new cafeteria was \$2.1 million.

Then-Board of Education Chairwoman Janice Tenorio said the completion of the new cafeteria was a "product of inter-agency collaboration, both local and federal".

Principal Naomi Nishimura said the new cafeteria will encourage students to practice healthy eating habits.

THE 17TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRPERSON AND ASSIGNMENTS

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Committee

Chairman: **Antonio L. Borja**
Vice Chairman: **Herman M. Atalig**
Members: **Gregory P. Borja**
Phyllis Ain

Fiscal, Personnel & Administration (FPA) Committee

Chairman: **Herman M. Atalig**
Vice Chairman: **Antonio L. Borja**
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Phyllis Ain

Instructional Services & Assessment (ISA) Committee

Chairman: **Gregory P. Borja**
Vice Chairman: **Maisie B. Tenorio**
Members: **Phyllis Ain**
Ronald Snyder
Rainalyn Reyes

Legislatives & Intergovernmental Affairs (LIA) Committee

Chairman: **Herman M. Atalig**
Vice Chairman: **Gregory P. Borja**
Members: **Antonio L. Borja**

Student Issues & Community & Parent Programs (SICPP) Committee

Chairman: **Maisie B. Tenorio**
Vice Chairman: **Gregory P. Borja**
Members: **Antonio L. Borja**
Phyllis Ain
Ronald Snyder
Rainalyn Reyes

Head Start Policy Council (HPC)

Representative: **Andrew L. Orsini**
Alternate: **Maisie B. Tenorio**

School Attendance Review Committee (SARC)

Coordinator: **Robert L. Coldeen III**
Chairman: **Patricia A. Mendoza**
Vice Chairman: **Slyvio Ada**
Members: **Julian R. Camacho**
Therese K. Manglona
John Blanco
Anthony Tomokane
Frances C. Ulloa
Nora Fujihira



Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry Inos, 3rd right, and the 17th CNMI Board of Education led by Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, 5th, left. The other members are: Vice Chairman Herman Atalig, 3rd left, Tinian Board Member Antonio Borja, back; Secretary/Treasurer Maisie B. Tenorio, 2nd right, Saipan Board Member Gregory Borja, 2nd left; Teacher Rep. Phyllis Ain, right; Student Rep. Rainalyn Reyes, left, and Non-Public School Rep. Dr. Ronald Snyder, 4th, right.

17th Board of Education Takes Office

*Andrew Orsini is elected chairman
Herman Atalig, Maisie Tenorio, Gregory Borja sworn in*

Saipan Board of Education member Andrew L. Orsini, a staunch public education advocate, will lead the CNMI State Board of Education following his unanimous election on January 11 to take the helm of the constitutionally independent policymaking and governing body of the Public School System.

Reelected Rota Board Member Herman Atalig and two new members: Maisie B. Tenorio and Gregory Borja, both representing Saipan, were also sworn into office on the same day by Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos.

Following the flurry of official activities, the 17th CNMI State Board of Education was officially organized.

Board Member Atalig was reelected vice chairman. He is now the longest serving elected member to the State BOE.

Tenorio was elected secretary-treasurer on her first term.

The other members are: Antonio L. Borja of Tinian, Gregory Borja of Saipan, Teacher Rep. Phyllis Ain, Non-Public School Rep. Dr. Ronald Snyder, and Student Rep. Rainalyn Reyes.

Three-point agenda

In his remarks, Chairman Orsini has spelled out his three-point agenda during his incumbency.

The first is to resume face-to-face classroom instruction. He said that school children must be supported with their online



Inos administers the oath of office to the three board members: Atalig, Tenorio and Borja, as Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, left, looks on. MHS Principal Jonathan Aguon, who emceed the ceremony, holds the microphone.

learning through social interaction, especially at the elementary level.

The second priority is to restore the 80-hour work schedule for classroom teachers and other essential school staff.

Chairman Orsini's third priority: "Green" initiative or projects, an undertaking that will be beneficial to both the island community and all of the CNMI's public schools.

Collective responsibility

In her inaugural address, Board Member Tenorio particularly pointed out that her office is about "(o)ur collective responsibility to do the best we can for our children."

"When I decided to run, the first thing I did was to look at what the Constitution said about education. I was so moved by the beauty and power of what I've read," she said.

"It's been hard, yes," she said, referring to the economic downturn and budget cuts, "but everything is going to work out — we are going to be okay."

It is now time to shift focus from trauma to healing, she notes.

17th CNMI State Board of Education Inaugural Meeting



Public School System honors education advocates

**Former Chairwoman Janice Marie A. Tenorio
Former Chairwoman MaryLou S. Ada
Former Board Member and Non-Public School Rep. Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero
Former Teacher Rep. Paul Miura**

Janice Marie A. Tenorio, who served for two consecutive terms as chairwoman of the CNMI Board of Education and elected to serve for six years representing Saipan to the policymaking and governing body of the Public School System was honored for her "dedicated service to public education".

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada said the success achieved by the school district exemplified Tenorio's "personal and professional achievement".

"Today, it is with great pride that we present this service award to you. This reflects our appreciation for your dedicated years of service," Dr. Ada said. "What you have done for the children of our commonwealth and to this community reflects what it is 'Students First' is all about."

Former Chairwoman MaryLou S. Ada was also honored. She also served for two terms as chairperson of the CNMI BOE preceding Tenorio.

Non-Public School Representative and former elected Saipan Board of Education member Galvin

Deleon Guerrero was also honored for his long years of service and commitment for the betterment of the school district, and in his capacity as non-public school representative, by fostering collaboration between public and private schools.

His successor, Paul T. Miura, was also honored as the outgoing Teacher Representative to the BOE.

"I am honored to have served you, our PSS family, as your teacher representative. Let us continue the work that we do to help our children succeed," Miura said.



Community Hotspot Location



WiFi: **StudentsFirst** Password: **education670**

Community Hotspot Initiative

Free Access & Support to Student Learning

For the past two months that the Public School System has partnered with the private sector with its "Community Hotspot Initiative", public school students continue to receive unprecedented and uninterrupted online learning.

"Our goal is to maintain current location with community WiFi access to support continued learning as school transition to a hybrid model of learning in the upcoming semester," says Dr. Bobby Cruz, who is the PSS Director for Instructional Technology.

PSS data showed that the most frequent usage of the community hotspot is between 9 am and 2 pm.

Last December, PSS has launched the Community Hotspot Initiative which provide free WiFi service at key locations in the CNMI. The effort offers additional

support to ensure equity and access for all members of the community. This is in partnership with IT&E, Office of the Governor, Office of youth Affairs, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Joeten Kiyu Public Library and the Carolinian Affairs Office.

This is an expansion of the PSS WiFi-on-Wheels Initiative during the last summer.

They are available at key location on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: Sinapalo Youth Center, Tinian Public Library, Kagman Community Center, Garapan Community Center, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Chalan Kanoa Youth Center, Koblerville Youth Center and San Vicente Youth Center.

They are free and accessible 7 days a week from 7 am to 7 pm.

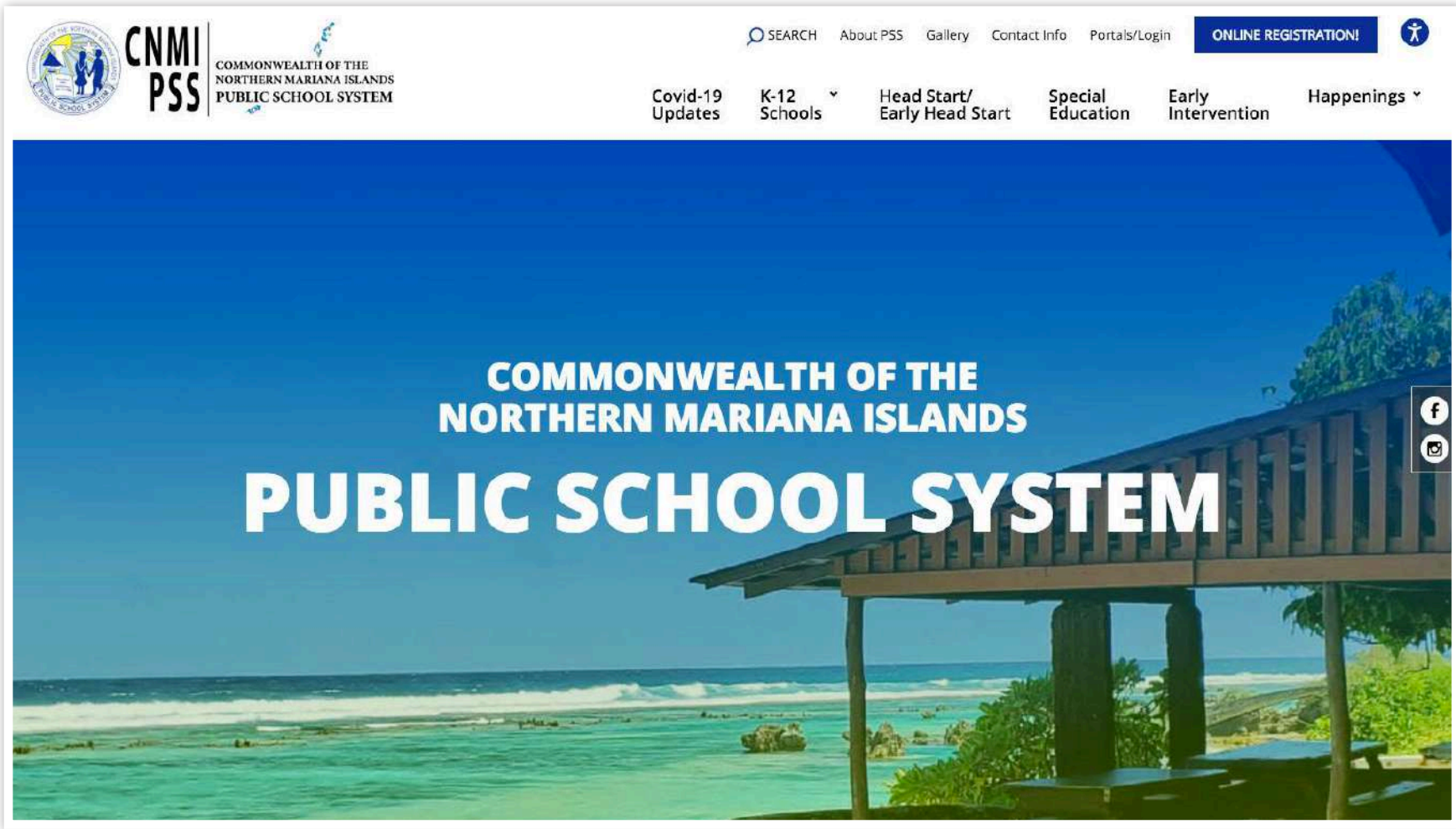
Fast Facts:

Free WiFi 7 days a week, 7 am to 7 pm
Wifi Name: StudentsFirst
Password: education670
Tinian: Tinian Public Library
Rota: Sinapalo Youth Center

Available for free on the following locations:

Saipan Kagman Community Center
Garapan Community Center
Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Chalan Kanoa Youth Center
Koblerville Youth Center
San Vicente Youth Center

The poster features logos for IT&E, IT&DE, PSS, Division of Youth Services, and the Official Seal at the top. Below the title "Community Hotspot Guidelines", it lists the WiFi name and password. A section on social distancing includes a "FACE MASKS REQUIRED" icon and text about staying in vehicles and wearing masks. A "PLEASE KEEP SAFE DISTANCE! 6 FT" graphic shows two people with a 6-foot gap. Contact information for the Office of the Commissioner of Education is provided, along with a technical support number. Logos for partner organizations are at the bottom.



www.cnmipss.org website is back—and it's live!

Fast Facts:
One-stop, central repository of information of everything about PSS and all of its programs and services
American Disabilities Act Compliant

The Public School System is proud to announce that its official website www.cnmipss.org is back online and it is live—a specialized customized domain that is hosted (controlled) by the school district through a team of web administrators.

The CNMI-PSS website is interactive and user-friendly domain that is updated in real-time.

It is American Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant, which is one of the principal requirement of the school district's federal grantors. ADA compliant website means it has to have components – or everything about it – must be accessible to persons with disabilities.

"After about 2 years of being offline, I am proud to share the excitement of our Commissioner of Education (Dr. Alfred B. Ada) that our PSS website is now online and it is accessible to everyone," State Information Technology Director Jesse Tenorio said in an interview with *Students First*.

The website is still a work in progress.

It serves as a central hub of information. As a one-stop website, it is designed to be a central repository of information: everything about school district – information about the CNMI Board of Education, the Office of the Commissioner of Education, the central office and vari-

ous programs and activities, and all of the 20 elementary, middle and high schools, Head Start/Early Head Start, Special Education and Early Intervention Programs are all available.

All of the schools' website are directly linked as well, allowing every parents and students and all stakeholders easy access.

It has a real-time count of the school district's student population, personnel and staff.

The website went live or online this month.

The team of web administrators are comprised of Tenorio, Ruth Calvo, Principals Jonathan Aguon, Christine Tudela and Naomi Nishimura.