

Guuwaa'dzi HCA Community,

I am pleased to report that it's been a successful year at Haak'u Community Academy.

Despite the enormous challenges posed by the Pandemic and Virtual Learning, HCA students and staff have proved themselves to be resilient, creative, flexible, and inspired. Together as a community we have weathered the storm with a renewed commitment to HCA's mission.

Virtual Learning was our reality through the first part of the school year. Students and teachers continued the difficult task of learning and teaching remotely. All of us at HCA believe that education needs to be an interactive, hands-on, and organic experience. Virtual Learning temporarily changed the model, obligating us to think about the educational experience in an entirely new way. Students and teachers adapted and did their very best to make those months meaningful and productive. We also earned some long-lasting benefits: the school community gained an appreciation for how technology can enhance the classroom, students and teachers broadened their experiences with reading, and students became more independent in their learning.

With students and staff now back in the building, we've seen a return to normalcy, though masks and testing are reminders that the Pandemic is still with us. Our talented teachers have created warm and caring environments in which students can develop academically, socially, and emotionally. We are all happy to be back.

In the last few months, HCA has restarted traditional school practices and initiated new ones. Students of the Month assemblies have resumed, rewarding students who are exemplary in demonstrating character traits such as Respect and Responsibility. Many students participated in Battle of the Books at Santa Fe Indian School. All students developed their own portfolios of work based on growth and self-reflection and led their own conferences, taking ownership of their own learning and charting goals for the future. The Awards Ceremony in the last week of school will honor student achievement in academics, attendance, and behavior. 8th Grade and Kindergarten promotions will celebrate students who are moving on to the next stage of their education. Kindercamp and Summer School will take place in June. As you can see, there's a lot happening at HCA.

Lastly, HCA would like to thank the community for your support. As always, your calls, texts, emails, and visits to the school are not only welcomed but encouraged. We are a true community school - we need the involvement of the whole community in order to continue growing and getting better at what we do.

May your summer months be peaceful and bring you joy.

Dawaa'e,

Principal Michael Rudd