immersion Program’s Leilialy Akkbwung Language (Places of Learning) will be expanded.

With the success of Kagman Elementary School in pioneering the Public School System’s Immersion Program called "Let’s Revive OUR Indigenous Language," the program’s success was the support of family.

Another pioneer program teacher, Lisa Emwalu, is happy about the role of family in the preserving our language and culture.

She said with parents reinforcing classroom teaching, "This is what I have been asking for, the right use of the indigenous language." She added, "It was very successful. The amazing thing is it requires parents themselves are there to help teach their child learn the indigenous language," Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada said. "It also tells us how our parents have played a big part in the success of their child in learning the indigenous language," Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, and Rota CCLHS teachers joined their peers virtually in a meeting on April 2.

“The important part of us teaching the program is the positive impact it has not only for the student but with the family. There is the direct student-family connection,” Pangelinan said. “Another pioneer program teacher for KagES, said the strength of the program under the Administration for Native American (ANA) management this program with all of the needed support."

"What Kagman Elementary School did in just three years tells us the importance of both preserving and reviving our indigenous language," Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, and Kuino Camacho. Tinian and Rota CCLHS teachers joined their peers virtually in a meeting on April 2.

Stated Senator T. Hofschneider: "It is our duty to work together to support the efforts working to continue with implementing this three-year plan for the Immersion Program."

Dr. Ignacia Demapan to successfully roll out a three-year plan for the Immersion Program.

A total of 20 Kindergarten students were taught of the CCLHS program’s success was the support of family.

PSS currently has 36 CCLHS teachers and 2 teacher aides. These teachers, along with Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, and Senators Magofna, Elsie Johnson, Joaquin Camacho, Gloria Rasiang, Josephine Agulto, Stephanie Mensa, Antonette Ayuyu, Rose Hoseno, Lee Demapan joins all of Saipan’s public schools Carolinian and Heritage Studies classroom teachers: Marlyn Tenorio, Jennie Marpanga, O. Casto, Olga Rangto, Josephine Agulto, Stephanie Mansit, Karinnete Ayuyu, Rose Komro, Lee Pangelinan, Monica Pangarry, Tonia W winner, Thila Talon, Anna Bingarte, Eriza Sengdetla, Hei Bernette, Lynna Senose, and Eric Carman. Tinian and Rota CCLHS teachers joined their peers virtually in a meeting on April 2.

The PSS-CCLHS Program is headed by Jonas Barcinas. All of the existing teaching pool for the CCLHS program.

The BOE is the policymaking and governing board of the CNMI Public School System (PSS) to support classroom teachers with online learning.

Blended learning model helps Tinian elementary students.

‘The People of Rota Thank Education Leaders’

Public Education, Tinian leaders’ partnership for future projects.

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Some students have acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their critical educational time and their learning from home during the year-long schools closure.

“It was kind of difficult for me to start learning from home,” said Jarian Sablan, a fifth grade student of Kagman Elementary School. “I have questions about my assignment, but I find it easier now that I have help from my family.”

Sablan explains that she uses her Parents Involvement in Learning (PIL) program to catch up with schoolwork. “I am happy now because there are days that I don’t need to go to school and it is my time to finish my work,” she said.

With schools, parents working together, students feel a sense of normalcy in learning. This says a lot with how public schools have worked to continue to help them navigate the challenges with virtual learning. This is something that cannot be said for every student.

The CNMI Public School System's (PSS) through its Instructional Technology Program and Student Support and Services (STSS) have also made an effort to provide support for their students. Through the Blackboard Ultra learning portal, among others, parents can help their child's learning from home during the year-long schools closure.

“Others are having a hard time learning online. For them, it is not easy,” she said.

With students at home and parents working together, they are able to make a learning environment that supports their child's learning from home during the year-long schools closure.

With the pandemic, the value of having a support system to help with their child's learning is something students cannot live without.

In FY22, PSS will also have to spend $17 million for all others, which represents 30 percent of the overall budget spending. These investments will be especially important in the upcoming year as we continue to tackle the hard work related to operating our schools during a pandemic.

In total, the proposed budget for PSS for the new fiscal year is $96.4 million, which was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Of this amount, the federal Education Stabilization Fund, which supple, will be spent for the salaries and benefits of the employees.

The $24 million that PSS is projecting from state/local fund appropriation is 25-percent of the CNMI government’s $34.7M federal funding. Of this amount, the federal Education Stabilization Fund, which supple, will be used to make additional investment that will benefit our students directly during this challenging time.

The bulk of the budget plan – 70 percent – or $41.63 million is going to personnel costs. These investments will be especially important in the upcoming year as we continue to tackle the hard work related to operating our schools during a pandemic.

“Given the continued uncertainty of the pandemic, the challenge is to maintain a degree of flexibility on the design and operation due to the pandemic,” said Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, with the guidance of the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, who reopened the schools.

Working with the CNMI Board of Education through Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, PSS key members, the 10-year-old elementary student said in an interview with the 10, a fifth grade student of Kagman Elementary School.

“I have questions about my assignment,” said Jarian Sablan, a fifth grade student of Kagman Elementary School. “Then, it kind of became easy. I got help from my family.”

But no matter what the situation is, for parents, it is important to support their child's learning from home during the year-long schools closure.

With schools, parents working together, students feel a sense of normalcy in learning. This says a lot with how public schools have worked to continue to help them navigate the challenges with virtual learning. This is something that cannot be said for every student.

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The spacious fully-equipped Distance Ed Learning Center.

Teacher Angelly Guiang guides her student navigates the use of technology inside the Distance Ed Learning Center here in Rota

Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School supports online learners

management and all school leadership, the school district implemented blended learning. "It is now pretty easy for me to learn," says Jillian Espelan-

By ten years old Arianni Flemming, there was struggle for her learning. She needed physical interaction for her to be able to get motivated into learning. The pandemic affected my learning. I didn’t get to see each other and you knew it is hard for students not being able to walk to together." "I struggle," she admits. "Now with blended learning, I feel that while I’m in class there is more interaction and I get to learn more."

"My work because my parents help me," shares the 4th grade elementary student.

Elementary student Mark Aquino, II, notes: "Learning is a challenge now because before we can ask people for advice."

But he knows that he has to adapt to the change in the learning environment for his, his classmates’ safety and wellbeing. "Now that we learn from a far, for me it is still great. I just have to get used to the social distancing and wearing masks. I can still interact and be with our friends."

Embracing Normalcy in Student Leadership

Kagman Elementary School’s Student Council (STUCO) officers take their oath of office virtually, with Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry Inos. These student leaders are embracing a sense of normalcy in a pandemic-driven student learning.
Rota public school students’ insights on blended learning

Danica Malaborbor, 13
7th grade
STUCO Class Secretary

It’s sort of thrilling because after Monday virtual learning, I can interact with friends and classmates in person.

At the end of the day, I am able to interact with my classmates in person.

Yes, I feel safe because we do follow COVID-19 protocols.

Nayari Maratita, 13
7th grade

It’s quiet alright for me. During face-to-face, my teacher assigns us homework. They give us day off so we can rest.

Sometimes, it is exciting, sometimes it is complicated.

It is sort of thrilling because after Monday virtual learning, I am able to interact with friends and classmates in person.

Yes, I feel safe because we do follow COVID-19 protocols.

Eianne Ladal, 10
7th grade

It’s good, but after a long quarantine, I have the difficulty to transition because of the coronavirus and the rules.

It is sort of thrilling because after Monday virtual learning, I am able to interact with friends and classmates in person.

Yes, I feel safe because we do follow COVID-19 protocols.

Public school vice principals are recognized for contributions to students, schools’ successes

The school district implemented blended learning on Monday throughout the CNMI public elementary, middle and high schools. It was after nearly a year of virtual learning in order to protect the more than 6,000 elementary, middle and high school students from the threat of COVID-19.

For these students, they also have to strictly heed COVID protocols that are put in place in their school campus for their continued safety.

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Although nearly all of 20 public elementary, middle and high schools expressed that they will strictly heed COVID-19 protocols.

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Public Education, Tinian Micronesia reaffirm partnership for future

Public education and Tinian and Aguijan lead ers have pledged to leverage their partnership to support future projects and other endeavors that the school district has planned for municipality’s public school students and education stakeholders.

Let’s call it joint leadership and partnership. Tinian and Aguijan Mayor Edwin Aldan, a staunch sup porter of the CNMI Public School System, The chief executive previously served twice as chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Education.

BOE Chairman Andrew L. Orsini agreed. As we look ahead for future projects, it is impressive to see that we continue this partnership that we have to ensure success.”

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada said that throughout the years the CNMPS’ programs and initiatives on the island of Tinian and Aguijan continue to receive support. A testament of the success of collaboration and partnership.”

In many years now, the municipality of Tinian has assigned municipal employees to assist Tinian Elementary School.

“I have been the receiving end of your municipality’s continuous support over the years, especially at a time when we need manpower (human resources) to assist us in providing public education to the students of Tinian,” Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada noted.

Mayor Aldan added, “Let us capitalize on our partnership and let’s continue to work together in all of our future projects to better serve our students and education stakeholders.”

“We are here to support you,” Mayor Aldan added.

“At this point, it’s better to blend learning because you are able to interact with your teachers and classmates. This is really great and it’s a good experience.”

“We are here to support you,” Mayor Aldan added.

Dr. Ron Snyder, BOE Secretary/Treasurer Maisie B. Tenorio, Teacher Rep. Phyllis Ali’u, and Senator Francis Cruz.

Aguiguan Mayor Edwin Aldan, BOE Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, BOE Vice Chairman Sg’t Maj. Herman Atalig (Ret.), Non-Public School Rep.

From left to right: BOE member Budi Adj, Senate President Jude Hofschneider, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Tinian & Aguijan Mayor Edwin Aldan, BOE Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, BOE Vice Chairman Sg’t Maj. Herman Atalig. BQ Non-Public: School Rep.

Diah Maratita, 13

7th grade

Actually, this is good because (student) can have both options for learning – virtual and blended learning. “This is really great and it’s a good experience.”

“I also feel safe because we have COVID protocols to follow.”

Chloe B. Yalung, 15

Sophomore, STUCO Secretary Youth Advisory Panel President

“Blended learning brings a sense of human aspect towards students.”

“I am kind of in-between. When I am studying from home (virtual learning), I have my own space, manage my own time; in school I have my teacher next to me to guide me. At my school at school, there are resources that are available for me to use that I don’t have at home (virtual learning).”

“I think I feel safe not walking around the school because there is always our teacher and school staff reminding us to follow COVID protocols.”

Rotasha Manglona, 17

Junior, STUCO President, Youth Advisory Panel

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“Young leaders, especially for mathematics classes.”

“We are here to support you.”

Mary Latin, 17

Senior, National Honor Society, Youth Advisory Panel, STUCO Vice President

“I think I feel safe because we have (COVID-19) protocols to follow.”

“This is really great and I enjoy both options.”

“Actually, this is good because (student) can have both ways; both options for learning – virtual and blended learning.”

“Blended learning is better because learning is easier.”

“Between virtual and blended learning, I realized that (we) can have both ways; both options for learning – virtual and blended learning.”

“Blended learning is better. I am able to interact with my teachers and classmates.”

“It was really hard learning virtually. At times it is just hard because oftentimes learning is not so much when it is virtual.”

“I think I feel safe not walking around the school because there is always our teacher and school staff reminding us to follow COVID protocols.”

 “…blended learning is so much better because learning is easier.”

“We are here to support you.”

Bea Bermeo, 16

Junior, National Honor Society Treasurer, Youth Advisory Panel Secretary

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The return—or transition back to classroom learning through blended learning—which is a combination of online instruction and physical classroom instruction—provides needed reinforcement and support to the younger population, access to technology and their inability to fully navigate online learning tools at such young ages.

For the young learners, the return from the full virtual learning back to face-to-face learning generated excitement.

Blended learning has helped us move more to our virtual learning because not only the children of our municipality but the rest of the commonwealth are also among the students that are able to continue learning during the pandemic.

Blended learning helps us move more to our virtual learning because not only the children of our municipality but the rest of the Commonwealth continue to learn especially during the period of pandemics. The Mayor Atalig said in a meeting with the members of Inos Jr. Sr. High School.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig hailed the men and women of the Public School System for ensuring that the commonwealth’s more than 10,000 elementary, middle and high school students continue to receive uninterrupted learning during the pandemic.

Your classroom teachers, librarians, counselors, and all personnel and staff have gone incredible lengths to make sure that not only the children of our municipality but the rest of the Commonwealth continue to learn especially during the period of pandemics. The Mayor Atalig said in a meeting with the members of Inos Jr. Sr. High School.

Thank you to the Board of Education and the Public School System for all the leadership and in recognizing the need for the continuity in student learning for this past one year, Mayor Atalig added.

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"Blended learning is better for me. Our teachers are right there to help us."

“And, yes, it is easier for me to learn.

“I think it is safe for us already to learn in-school because we have strict protocols to follow.”

“I am happy with blended learning because I am not used to online learning yet.”

“And my parents are telling me to trust the school’s safety (protocols) now that I am back to learning (in-school through blended learning).”

This has been good so far.

“It was difficult for me virtually. Unlike now with blended learning, I get to see my teacher; my teacher is next to me to help me.”

“I wish for us to go back to full classroom learning because I know they really made my school safe for us to go back to learn in the classroom.”

The CNMI Public School System is planning to implement “high-dosage tutoring” and all of the public school libraries will have critical roles in the success of this learning program, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada disclosed.

Details of this pioneering program are still being worked on by the chief state school superintendent said Saipan, Tinian and Rota public elementary, middle, and school libraries will be among sites of the high-dosage tutoring initiative.

This initiative is funded under the CNMI share of the Education Stabilization Fund, a component of the Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020. U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has been instrumental in the awarding of PSS’ multimillion-dollar share of the ESF.

The high-dosage tutoring will also enlist the help of librarians in ensuring that the school libraries are fitted or maintained to handle the student-tutoring program once the initiative is implemented.

Along with the librarians, high school seniors are also tapped in the tutoring program, which is designed to assist lower grade students.

“We are going to implement very soon a high-dosage tutoring program throughout the school district. Thanks to the CNMI share of the CARES Act of 2020, we are able to get additional funding to support student learning,” Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada revealed.

“We will be needing our school libraries and school librarians to ensure the success of this pioneering program.”

Rigorous research provides strong evidence that high-dosage tutoring can produce large learning gains for a wide range of students, including those that have fallen academically. This is especially designed to increase learning for students across the different trade levels.

This has been good so far. It was difficult for me virtually. I still have difficulties using laptops. I have a lot of difficulties in virtual learning, but I really appreciate the help that my teacher and classmates gave me.”

“Blended learning is the best for me. Our teachers are right there to help us.”

“Blended learning is better for me. And I like seeing my friends.”

“With this, it is easier for me to learn.”

“Friends are already learning in school because we have strict protocols to follow.”

I think it is safe for us to go back to learning in school through blended learning.

“Good happy with blended learning because I am not used to online learning yet.”

“Being back to learning in school is better for me. And I love my friends.”

“I am happy with blended learning because I can see my friends.”

“I am happy with blended learning because I am not used to online learning yet.”

“I think it is safe for us to go back to learning in school through blended learning.”

With pioneering ‘Hide Dosage Tutoring Program’, libraries (and librarians) will have a role in the initiative’s success.

cnmistaxfund

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School libraries remain a learning resource center for students

In a pandemic-driven learning landscape

Public school libraries are still the learning resource centers for public school students. It’s the experience of physically holding a book and flipping electronically—and this even in an era of a pandemic-driven learning landscape.

Public school libraries in the CNMI have opened since February 2, the day that blended learning was implemented. School librarians have adopted a strict prepare with the opening of the current school year, and with students still in virtual learning.

Ultra in the summer of 2020, to help the school district "in the summer of 2020, to help the school district learning. They began training with Blackboard classroom teachers to support students' on-line learning.

"We had training with BBU. This was a huge help," explains the 2013 PSS State Librarian of the year, and with students still in virtual learning.

Librarians are trained to support classroom teachers with online learning.

"We are also trained to assist teachers and students in looking for free and useful online resources, librarians themselves research or sources out. Students in providing online sources through links that librarians assist in the preparation, set-up and distribution of technologies for online learning.

"We currently are not allowed to check out books and other library resources, librarians in school are able to assist students, teachers and parents in providing online sources through links that librarians themselves research or sources out. We’re also trained to assist teachers and students in looking for free and useful online resources, that our students and parents can access to support blended learning.

Librarians also assist students with the free use of technology tools that are in libraries, such as laptops, desktop computers, and print.

"We also allow them to help students get free access," Llana said. "PSS is currently working on investing more online and technology resources to public school libraries to support student learning."

Public school libraries in the CNMI have opened since February 2, the day that blended learning was implemented. School librarians have adopted a strict prepare with the opening of the current school year, and with students still in virtual learning.

Sanitizing stations have also been set up in all of the public school libraries.

"We had training with BBU. This was a huge help," explains librarian Nelia Llana of Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School.

"(The library) is still the best place for me to learn. It is also a faster way for me to get information than online. These books that are physically available are important information that I can access electronically—and this even in an era of a pandemic-driven learning environment.

"For me, I prefer to read (physical) books and study in the library. It gives me a sense of calm (especially what is happening),” shares the 13-year-old eight-grade student.

"In the future, we just have to invest more (by adding) new technologies to help our library."