



## 'It Takes A Counselor to Make a Child Love Coming to School'

-BOE Chairman Andrew L. Orsini

On February 12, 2021 the school district's school counselors were honored for their contributions in the growth and development of the Public School System. In this photo are all of PSS' school counselors: Leilani Deleon Guerrero (Tanapag Middle School), Frank Rabauliman, Jr. (Chacha Oceanview Middle School), Marjorie Kintol, Jillian Pladevega, Livia Pangelinan, Ashely Roberto (Hopwood Middle School), Patty Mendoza (Dandan Middle School), Janice Muna (Francisco M. Sablan Middle School), Patricia Aguon (Tinian Jr. Sr. High School), Elvira Mesgnon (Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School), Darrah Benavente, Anna Mendiola, Jovejenn Taman (Saipan Southern High School), Celina Biado, Shirley Norita, Joaquin Kiyoshi (Kagman High School), Jericho Tobias, Kimberly Manglona, Margie Ray Santos, Mindy Castro (Marianas High School), Hope Gomez (Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School), Rowena Wesley (Oleai Ele-

mentary School), Rebecca Flores, Tambra Reyes (WSR Elementary School), Yvonnalyn Salalila (Koblerville Elementary School), Connita Camacho (San Vicente Elementary School), Trina Lyn Santos (Kagman Elementary School), Monica Sanchez (Tinian Elementary School), Glengela Guiang (Sinapalo Elementary School), and Audrey King (Da'ok Academy). The counselors are joined by Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada. On the same event, (separate photo), Board of Education Chairman Andrew L. Orsini, (inset), along with Vice Chairman Herman Atalig and Board Member Gregory Borja, signed the proclamation declaring February 15 through 19 Public School System's Counselors Week. During his remarks, Chairman Orsini said, "Teacher cans make any child love learning (and) it takes a counselor to make them love coming to school".



CNMI Public School System

# STUDENTS FIRST

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## VOICES OF BLENDED LEARNING



**R**eopening campus life: How public school students embrace blended learning, a year after the school district implemented virtual learning for everyone's safety from the pandemic.

The CNMI Public School System has had the advantage—the preparation. It was around 2009 when PSS invested in technology. When the pandemic shuttered face-to-face learning for the most part of 2020, PSS benefited from the positive outcome of technology use.

When campus life resumed on February 2, 2021, public elementary, middle and high school students seamlessly navigated back to classroom learning, through blended learning.

For new students, this is the first time for them to meet in person their teachers and classmates, and feel excited in making new friends. They spent the first few months of the new school year virtually.

For returning students, this is about reconnecting back to campus life: their learning and why friends and classmates matter to them. They spent the remaining part of the last school year virtually.



**Rainalyn Reyes, 17**

Senior  
Secretary, Youth Advisory Panel  
Student Representative to the  
CNMI Board of Education  
Saipan Southern High School

*A great way to jumpstart... normalcy*

"Personally, I really like blended learning—a mix of online and on-ground learning."

"Best option that we have for our education."

"With online learning, sometimes I've gotten lazy. This is a great way to jumpstart to be back to normalcy."

"My only concern is how (long) the school can sustain the COVID-19 protocols. As much as we follow the protocols, since it's mandated, we have to be cautious. We are around people when we are in school and we go home... and we have parents that are susceptible."

"We have a safe space."



## 'My school is safe for me to learn'

-Students

*Saipan, Tinian, Rota public elementary, middle and high school successfully implements blended learning*

Saipan, Tinian and Rota public elementary, middle and high schools have successfully transitioned on February 2 from full online learning to blended learning, a combination of in-person and online face-to-face instruction.

The school district implemented virtual learning nearly a year ago on this day to ensure that all of its more than 10,000 students and close to 1,000 staff are safe and protected from the threat from the deadly novel coronavirus COVID-19.

"I am so excited to be back to school. I miss my classmates and my teachers," says Ma'Ina Salas, a second grade pupil of GTC Elementary School.

"And I want to say: Yes my school is safe—we just have to follow the (COVID-19) rules," the eight-year-old Salas added. "Our school is a safe and healthy place for me and my classmates".

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada personally toured various Saipan public elementary, middle and high school campuses, assisting school administrators and staff in welcoming students and parents back. He was also in touch with Tinian and Rota schools' reopening.

"Our schools were on top of their game. Our teachers did an outstanding job in preparing for our blended learning implementation. And our school leadership have shown to our community that we can accomplish our goal if we work together,"

Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada said in an interview with **Students First**.

"You can feel a sense of accomplishment in our teachers, school leaders and staff. They share this success to our biggest partner: our parents," education chief Ada added.

Dr. Added expressed appreciation to all parents for supporting blended learning, by seeing how "it is very critical and necessary for every student".

### A new, healthy learning space

PSS disclosed that around "90 to 95 percent" of the entire school district's student population have returned to various campuses for blended learning. While the turnout was "very high" considering the existing COVID-19 threat, PSS' goal is to achieve "100 percent" participation rate in blended learning.

Various schools implemented and strictly imposed all recommendations of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. They include the wearing of masks at all times, sanitations stations both inside and outside the classrooms, glass barriers and other protective partitions between students, appropriate markings to and from the classrooms and all school facilities, and other warning signs and reminders.

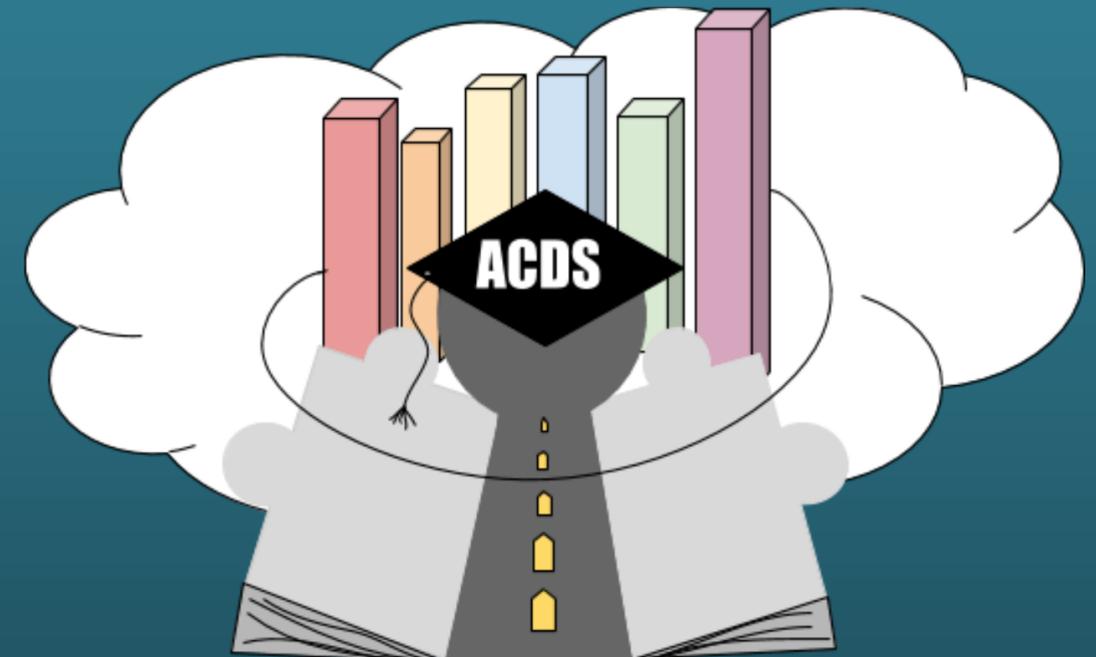
Classrooms have been reconfigured to accommodate only 15 students. Classes/students are divided in a cohort program.



WINNING LOGO BY

# HEAVEN MURPHY

FROM KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL



Advance CNMI Data System



*Logo competition was open to Public High School Students.*

*Winner of contest will receive a Bose Home Speaker 300!*

## Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School's New Battalion Commander

CSM (Ret.) Melchor Hennegan RHI's Senior Army Instructor honors C/LTC Rodney Taisacan II, the new Buck Battalion Commander during the Assumption of Command Ceremony.

The RHI JROTC performs the first flag ceremony on both Tuesday and Wednesday for the different cohort.



Temperature checks are conducted on all students, before getting on the school buses and upon entering the school campus. The same for all of PSS staff and personnel and parents.

Students and school leaders have acknowledged that it was an orderly, smooth and seamless transition back to face-to-face learning.

"Overall, we have a very smooth first day of blended learning. Our parents have been very supportive and comfortable in sending their children back to school. Our teachers and staff did very well in organizing and planning for an orderly return to campus," GTC Principal Raena Bermudes said in an interview with *Students First*.

Tanapag Middle School Principal Hilda Rios said there was enthusiasm in her school community.

"Honestly, despite the challenges we have all faced with the COVID-19 situation, I am really impressed of our Tanapag Middle School teachers, staff and parents. They were able to pull it together," Principal Rios said.

"They did it seamlessly—and with smile on their faces," she added.

Eight grade Tanapag Middle School student Adrienne Sakisat said: "Face-to-face is a lot easier than online learning. With blended learning, we are able to get the needed assistance and interactions from our teachers and classmates".

When asked about their protection and safety in school, Sakisat added, "Our school (leaders) made it safe for me and my classmates."

Da'ok Academy Principal Christine Tudela said blended learning is about "accepting that social distancing is the new norm in classroom learning".

Blended learning may not be new for some, but it has to be "further emphasized and highlighted and that is what our PSS is doing with the support of our parents and the community," Principal Tudela pointed out.

San Vicente Elementary School Principal Paulette Sablan said the transition was orderly given the overwhelming support of parents.

"We are thankful for everyone's support in seeing the importance of blended learning," adds Principal Sablan.

Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School Principal Daisy Quitugua said the "longer in-school time" generated excitement among her students. Sinapalo Elementary School is home to over 200 students.

"When we began implementing blended learning today I could sense that our students are really excited because it is



longer school time," Principal Quitugua shares.

Last October, Sinapalo Elementary School, together with GTC Elementary School, Da'ok Academy, Kagman Elementary School, among others, implemented "intervention classes". Said classes allows for a 2-hour in-person instruction at a limited number of student participation while following strict COVID-19 guidelines.

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School implemented on January 12 blended learning for middle school and on January 20 for high schools.

"It's been a good transition for our students. They are all very excited to be back, from getting to see their peers and by having a different space for learning is something that the students have been looking forward," Principal Santos said.

She added, "Just like anything that is new, it was a challenge at first but I think now that our students have transitioned, the students have settled in well."

Kagman Elementary, WSR Elementary and Tinian Elementary have been successful in piloting blended learning last January 12.



## Integration of Entrepreneurship

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School's Chamorro, Carolinian and Heritage Studies (CCLHS) class' integration of entrepreneurship. This is aimed at building students knowledge in creating/making/producing products for profit, and with the use of natural/locally-sourced materials. The activity ran from Feb. 16-26 and will be initiated again in the near future.





## Tamjeed Ullah

6 years old, 1st Grade  
Gregorio T. Camacho  
Elementary School

*Yes, my school is safe for me to learn.*

"I am excited because I am back to school."



## Raiana Ferdous

12 years old, 6th Grade  
Tanapag Middle School

*My teacher is there (in person) to help me understand*

"I am excited that I am back to my school. **In my online learning last year, we were nervous because I would mess up a lot since it's online.** I wouldn't understand the protocols (of using my online learning) and the instructions of my teacher. Now, (with face-to-face learning through blended learning) it is more fun. I get to see my friends and classmates."



## Jian Yu Rong

12 years old, 6th Grade  
Francisco M. Sablan  
Middle School

*This may be the best option... for us to be back on track*

"**What I feel since March (last year) with the spread of COVID-19 virus is may be this is the best that now we are back on track.** It's good that the school has replaced (virtual learning) with face-to-face. I feel relieved to see each other. **This is a good option.**"

"**I feel our school is safe, healthy and secure.** It's really (assuring the community) that we are safe at school. It's just that some students like to bend some rules: kids are kids they are like to be curious. **We just to follow the rules and as long as we follow the rule, we won't risk of getting the virus.**"

"**I would like to say that the school is completely safe.** Classroom is limited to few students (everyday through cohort system), social distancing and safety rules must be followed."

"Basically, we have to be obedient to the rules."



## Josephine Shoking

20 years old, Senior  
Da'ok Academy

*Our school understands our needs:  
We need (support) with online learning*

"I am actually looking forward in coming to school because I heard that (our school leaders and teachers) took their time to prepare the school (including) in preparing our lessons. **Our school understands us (students): We need (support) with online learning.**"

"**Some schools... they don't understand the situation of students like us (their) academic needs.** They just throw you things to work and study. **Here, at Da'ok Academy they try to understand our learning needs.**"

"They really made it safe for us because of threat of COVID-19."

"**To the parents and the community, I would like to tell our parents to encourage the students that it is a safe environment—it will help our students reach our goals academically.**"



*Online is more safe for me to learn*

## Mayanna H. Aguon

10 years old, 4th Grade  
Garapan  
Elementary School

"I say online is better because it's more safe. I'm here at school to learn because I choose to come here."

"**But when I am at my P.E. (Physical Education) Class, I can hardly breathe with my mask. At home, we don't need mask. The mask is for my safety here at school, so I don't ran around anymore. I just stay under the shade.**"

"My school is safe for me when it comes to protecting me."



## Merari Aniga

17 years old, Senior  
STUCO President  
Saipan Southern High  
School

*It's a big change for us; the change on the routine*

"I prefer online learning than on-ground learning. Blended learning is slowly getting us back to the classroom. **But it's really a big change for us.**"

"It's not difficult but having to wake up early is hard. It is the challenge on the change of the routine that is difficult for me."

"**It is safe to learn for us with the protocols in place.**"



*I'm excited dressing up for school*

## Hanna Bechayda

9 years old, 4th Grade  
William S. Reyes  
Elementary School

"I am excited dressing up for school and I am most excited to see my teachers and classmates. I only see them online (in the past) but face-to-face is better because with online learning, we don't see each others faces."

"With (blended learning) we also get to play and talk (in person). And I often talk about (classroom) work."

"I think it is good because it makes me and everyone safe."



*We are fine learning from home*

## Hunter Dela Cruz

11 years old, 5th Grade  
Former STUCO  
Vice-President  
William S. Reyes  
Elementary School

"**I prefer face-to-face because online learning is kind of harder.** Face-to-face is better because our teacher is there."

"Online learning is kind of harder. Sometimes its lagging... and cannot hear...cannot see each other. Online learning is easier for me to learn because (I am with my teacher) in person, my classmates and friends."

"**I want it (blended learning) everyday...it is easy to learn.**"

"**It is safe (for me to go to school). They take my temperature when I get out of my, (I am reminded) there is no hugging. (And) I tell my parents that my school is safe.**"



*I feel more productive*

## Jana Angela Agudo

10 years old, 5th Grade  
Secretary, STUCO  
Garapan Elementary School



*I want it (blended learning) everyday...it is easy to learn*

## Richard Waldo II

17 years old, Senior  
National Honor Society  
Parliamentarian

Vice-President, Senior Class  
Saipan Southern High School

"**For me, I feel it was unnecessary to go back to school. I feel it was rushed. We are fine doing it at home.**"

"**Others may have issues (and advantages) about on-line learning. They provide us with tools like laptops, iPads and MiFis. We are doing fine with online. There is safety; there are no risks of getting COVID-19. Some students (are scared) of going back to campus because of the new mutation (variant).**"

"**At the same time, it is good for students. They learn better with face-to-face because they can't focus online.**"

"**I am scared that my dad will get it (coronavirus) but I know it is safe for us because there is no community transmission. Yes, definitely, my school is safe. My school has done a good job in making sure the protocols and safety nets are there for us not to get COVID-19.**"

"**I like blended learning. It's more easier because you can see it physically and not virtually.**"

"**I just like it better because I feel more productive.**"

"Yes, my school is safe. We don't get intruders. I never heard any cases (of COVID-19) here."



*Blended learning is a tool for learning collaboration*

**Erica Reyes**

17 years old  
Senior  
President Interactive Club  
Saipan Southern High School

"Personally, I prefer blended learning like what we have now compared to virtual learning. We are able to focus in our studies whereas virtual learning is hard because the environment is hard and has its challenges. We have different situations."  
"For middle school students or the younger students, interaction is necessary in their development."  
"With blended learning we can collaborate. I feel more encouraged to do my school work. If you fall behind for some reason, it's hard to catch up when it is virtual learning."  
"Sometimes I get paranoid because I fail to catch up because of some challenges caused by virtual learning."  
"I'm kind of 50-50 on that (safety of our school from COVID-19 threat). There is always the risk. While there is no community (transmission of) cases, but we have to sustain the school's COVID-19 protocols."



*I like both blended learning and online learning*

**Walter Josh Clave**

10 years old  
5th Grade  
President, STUCO  
Garapan Elementary School

"I like both because in blended learning I get to see my classmates and online learning I also see all of my classmates."  
"I feel safe. Everything here in school doesn't make me catch the virus."



*I feel safe here at school*

**Bolei Mendez**

6 years old  
1st Grade  
Garapan Elementary School

"I'm happy that I am back in school because I get to meet my friends and I can learn."  
"I also like online because I get to see my friends online."  
"And I feel safe here at school."



*I like it better because you learn a little better*

**Drae Hosono**

9 years old  
4th Grade  
Former PIO, STUCO  
Garapan Elementary School

"I like back to school much better because when you're online, you don't get to talk to your friends face-to-face, or move around and play with them."  
"I also get to know my teacher better. I like it better because you learn a little better."  
"Online is a little lagging whenever the teacher put up something on the board."  
"Yes, it is safe for me."



*I like blended learning; with online learning my grades suffer*

**Shiela Feng**

12 years old, 5th Grade  
William S. Reyes Elementary School

"I like it really with blended learning because with online learning my grades are not really good. My mom took away my iPad and my phone. Sometimes (this is) because WiFi is bad and it crashes (online work). I cannot get my work turned in on time."  
"It is easier for me to learn in class because I can talk and ask my teacher when I need help for my lesson."  
"My mom doesn't want me to go back to school because COVID-19 is still here. But (I am told that) as long as I follow all COVID-19 (safety rules), she is okay with me coming back to school. And I do follow (the rules)."



*I am so excited to be back to school*

**Ma'Ina Salas**

8 years old  
2nd Grade  
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

"I am so excited to be back to school – I miss my classmates and my teachers."  
"My school is safe—we just have to follow the rules."



*Blended learning gives me needed learning support*

**Katlyn Aguon, 13**

13 years old  
8th Grade  
Dandan Middle school

"It's okay since online learning is a bit stressful because there are online issues; a lot of network issues, and communication is not that great."  
"With blended learning, I get to see my teachers and much easier for me to do work and I am able to communicate with my teachers."  
"Yes, I do find my school safe since we're taking safety precautions by wearing masks, although it gets suffocating, but it is for me and my classmates safety, my teachers and everyone in the school."



*I like coming to school...*

**Farrel Huan Dela Santa**

6 years old  
Kindergarten  
William S. Reyes Elementary School

"I just like coming back to school now because I like school and I like kindergarten classmates."  
"Everyday, I sanitize my hands and my teacher tells me to do that..."



*I like blended learning...we can work together in school*

**Zhi Jian**

10 years old  
4th Grade  
San Vicente Elementary School

"I like blended learning because it is boring for me in my house (with virtual learning). Now we can see each other and come to school and do our work together. I want it this way."  
"I am happy we have a safe school and we have rules to follow."



*“We feel depressed last year; we felt our friends were cut from our lives”*

### Soarin Oh

12 years old  
7th Grade  
Dandan Middle School

“I was really nervous because social communication were cut off (immediately when virtual learning was implemented due to the threat of COVID-19) and now we are put together at once with blended learning.”

“I could speak with most of the students that we feel depressed last year because we felt that our friends were cut from our lives.”

“Now that I am back, it feels as if our lives are getting back to normal again.”

“But I am still a bit scared of the virus but knowing that we have... sanitation stands, temperature measurement...it makes me a little bit more at ease.”



*“Understand lesson better with teachers around”*

### Damian Pua

8 years old  
3rd Grade  
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

“It’s great to be back to my school because they (my teachers and my school) helps me understand my (school) work better. I am happy to get to meet my classmates and teacher.”

“I feel safe because my school (has made my learning environment) safe for me.”



*“Focusing only with online learning is very hard. Blended learning is easier—way lot better.”*

### Adrienne Sakisat

14 years old  
8th Grade  
Tanapag Middle School

“I am excited (now that I am back in campus). I’m excited of face-to-face (learning): it is a lot more easier than online. Focusing only (solely) with online learning is very hard. I just stay in my bedroom and when I need to sleep, I can just sleep. But I am now back in the classroom—and this is good. This is for the sake of my grade and my future. Going back to the classroom is way lot better.”

“They made it safe as they are good (for us). (To the community), yes, I think it safe to go back to school.”



*“We enjoy physical learning connection with blended learning”*

### Aleeza Castro

13 years old  
8th Grade  
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

“It makes me very happy to be back in school. From my opinion, my classmates enjoy to have physical learning connection. It assists us in learning; it’s easier for our teachers to teach us; the physical interaction is easier because its assist us students.”

“There is a good time to spend in class and we practice social distancing and other COVID-19 rules; and the other half of our time is we spend online learning.”

“Yes it is safe for me. As I walked into the classroom majority of my classmates take it seriously – to be as safe – by following the rules. I am very happy our school is doing extra and more just for us students to comeback to a safe school.”

“Everything will be okay. It is okay to worry because I have family at home as well. But we should be motivated as well to learn online. There are other problems with online learning. With blended learning, parents should try to understand that students need physical teaching (and interaction).”



*“Blended learning is fun!”*

### Fahmida Hossain

10 years old, 5th Grade  
San Vicente Elementary School

“I am excited. I’m happy to see my classmates (after not seeing them for one year). My teachers are nice.”

“Online learning is different. It is boring. Blended learning is fun.”

“Yeah, my school is safe and I will tell my parents that my school is safe.”



*“I wish school is every day”*

### Marq Reinier Hernandez

9 years old, 3rd Grade  
William S. Reyes Elementary School

“I’m happy because I can play with my friends. I play 6 feet apart. We just spread out in playing. I am getting used to it.”

“I wish school is every day (and not twice a week).”

“When I go into my classroom, they check my temperature, sanitize my hands and wear mask at all time. And this is good for me.”



*“I miss my school”*

### Dulyнна Miah

8 years old, 2nd  
Oleai Elementary School

“I like going back to school because I can learn from my teacher in front of me. I can also learn with my friends (by my) side.”

“I miss my school.”

“They tell me to wear mask and hand sanitize so we can be safe. Yes, I feel safe at school.”



*“Blended learning is a best form learning engagement”*

### Roma Malazarte

17 years old, Senior President, National honor Society President, Youth Advisory Panel Vice President, STUCO Saipan Southern High School

“I agree with (our CNMI Student Rep.) Rainalyn Reyes: I enjoy blended learning because as a student we are able to get engage in our learning with our teachers and classmates more than online learning or on-ground learning.”

“With on-going (face-to-face) learning, it’s more flexible for us. There is (greater) leeway for students to learn: the interaction now much better. It’s a great for learning engagement between students and teachers which is important for learning.”

“It would really depend on our learning preference. It has its pros and cons for others.”

“I trust my school on upholding the COVID-19 protocols. It is within us students to be responsible in following these rules.”



*“I’d like to come to school everyday”*

### Natsuki Kenjah Tilipao

5 years old,  
STUCO Kindergarten Representative  
William S. Reyes Elementary School

“I’m excited because I learn something new. I like counting 1 to 100.”

“My mom tells me to wear mask. It keeps me safe. I sanitize my hands also. I’m getting used to it.”

“I’d like to come to school everyday.”



*I like coming back to school because I like to learn*

## Ryan Ichihara

6 years old  
1st Grade  
William S. Reyes Elementary School

"I like coming back to school because I like school; I like to learn."  
"I miss my teachers; I miss my classmates."  
"I miss eating meals with my classmate inside the classroom."  
"My mom and dad said that I have to wear mask all the time. And I am not having a hard time wearing mask."



*I can get more education at school...and we have to follow our school's COVID-19 rules*

## Reese Zamora

11 years old  
5th Grade  
San Vicente Elementary School

"I'm quite happy about it because I can see my classmates more often, at least half of them. I can get more education... because we really don't communicate that much with virtual learning. Normally, we stay quite and sometimes it gets more boring with virtual learning."  
"I feel more safe because I am following the rules. It is really good that we have COVID-19 rules to follow."



*Classroom teachers drive me to work and learn with blended learning*

## Jordan Encabo

18 years old  
Senior/ P.I.O STUCO  
Da'ok Academy

"I feel better than virtual learning. For me, I get to interact, the experience of (in-person) learning again. I learned that in virtual learning, some students experience technical problems like being logged out, microphones muted and not even paying attention."  
"This better because there is monitoring. Classroom teachers are actually driving you to work and learn. And I prefer face-to-face. I like it."  
"To be honest, we need motivation for online learning. It wasn't just for me either."  
"Over the last four months (when we began face-to-face learning), I feel it was safe. The school made it a habit for us to practice social distancing and sanitize our hands. "Social distancing is problem some-time because we sit too close but we do keep our masks on."  
"My parents actually tells me to go to school everyday because they know COVID-19 is not locally transmitted."



*I prefer online because it's short. In school, I can sit still. I have focus...*

## Dyonn Mabry Rivera

7 years old  
2nd Grade  
William S. Reyes Elementary School

"I am happy I'm back in school because I (get to) learn. I prefer online because it's short. My friends online they talk random things."  
"In-school you can sit still in class and see your classmates. I have to focus (with my studies)."  
"My school tells me to wear mask and it makes me safe."



*Virtual learning was a struggle...a lot different. I spent at least 6 hours on the screen every day*

## Klin Deleon Guerrero

13 years old  
8th Grade  
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

"Thank you for asking us to share our thoughts and feelings about Blended Learning"  
Yes, I am very much happy to be back. It feels good to be in the classroom and communicate in-person with my friends. Virtual learning was okay. I prefer face-to-face. It is a challenge that we can learn. Virtual was a little struggle because it is something new, a lot different—spending at least 6 hours on the screen every day. Staying up online everyday (is something) we are not used to."  
"We need physical interactions with our teachers and students and it is much easier to learn."  
"Yes, the second we got here, the teacher made sure we are safe. There are a lot of precautions in place here. Trust in the school system because from my point of view they know what they are doing and they are making sure that we are safe. No exceptions."



*Virtual learning is very hard. With blended learning, we are in the classroom with teachers being there for us*

## Ryan Villagomez-Teregeyo

13 years old  
5th Grade  
San Vicente Elementary School

"I like it because I get to meet new people and meet new friends."  
"Virtual learning for me is very hard. Sometimes, I get disconnected. Blended learning is different: we got to be in classroom and our teachers are their for us."  
"I feel safe. I think they are great (that we have COVID-19 rules because it is) safe for us."



*Blackboard Ultra helped us online but we also need face-to-face teacher support*

## Aliyah Manalo

19 years old  
Senior  
Da'ok Academy

"I feel it is great for students to be back, so we can be (communicating) face-to-face with our teachers."  
"It is still safe. It has always been safe despite the pandemic because our school has (put in place) safety precautions. They provide us hand sanitizers and cleaning materials to clean our tables and chairs every time we finish using them."  
"My parents are really supportive. They say it's better to be back to school. "(But) don't get me wrong Blackboard Ultra helped us online; with our online learning but we also need teacher support (which) we can only truly get if we are (face-to-face) in classroom."



*I will learn in front of my teachers... and my school is safe*

## Riku Takahashi

11 years old  
6th Grade  
Tanapag Middle School

"I am excited because...I will learn in front of my teachers. I am happy to see my classmate."  
"Yes, it is safe for me to come to school every day."



## Roman Teregeyo

14 years old  
8th grade  
Tanapag Middle School

*(Blended learning) helps me balance my difficulty with virtual learning*

"Virtual learning is kind of difficult for me. Blended learning is much easier for me; its makes my grades go up... It's easier for me now.  
"It helps me (balance) the difficulty (I face all the time when I only learn through) virtual learning."  
"Yes, the school made it safe me. It made the 6 ft. (social distancing) strict for the class. The class is (evenly) divided. It is safe for me (and for the students) if we are not going to go against the (COVID-19) rules."



## Ryota Castro

17 years old  
Senior  
Da'ok Academy

*Virtual learning is hard because (we) have to teach ourselves. Blended learning is easier.*

"It's really nice that I am back (to my school). It helps me. I (also) asked a lot of my classmates (about blended learning) – they told me how they like it; it is easier than taking classes online. **Because online, you don't have the one-to-one support and help that will really make you understand what you need to know.**"  
"Virtual learning is hard for people because they have to teach themselves."  
"Yes, it is safe (to go back to school now) as long as we follow the rules. **My parents are supportive because they find it easier because I (get to receive) one-to-one support from my teachers and understand deeper with my learning.**"



## Iriena Camacho

8 years old  
3rd Grade  
San Vicente Elementary School

*It's fun to see everyone and do work together*

"...Because it is fun to see everyone and it's fun to do work at class. Yes, my classmates and teachers are helpful."  
"Yes, I feel safe in school."



## Roeve Batac

13 years old  
7th Grade  
Dandan Middle School

*It's less disruption for me here at school than at home. I cannot focus at home.*

"After one year (of being physically away from school), I feel it will be better for me to learn. **It's less disruption for me here at school than at home.** I cannot focus at home because my phone is right (next to me), there is TV, as well. I try to limit and control that, too."  
"I get to meet my classmates and teachers in person. **During online, I don't have the chance to talk to them because teachers usually do the talking.**"  
"Yes, and my school (is safe) because **they take every precaution to help keep us safe.**"



## Lailey Teregeyo

9 years old  
4th Grade  
William S. Reyes Elementary School

*It's easier to learn and I don't miss a lesson*

"I think to go back to school is better for me because it's easier to learn and I don't miss a lesson."  
"Online is harder. Sometimes, we tried to talk and the microphone (on the laptop) is not (working), (or) we're logged out and tried logging, (and sometimes only) to be kicked out (due to connectivity issue)."  
"Because I have to sanitized my hand and wear mask because I have to be safe and keep the germs away (that's why my school is safe from COVID-19). (As an example) when we are done eating, we always wipe our tables and keep it clean."



## Sath Sablan

11 years old  
6th Grade  
Dandan Middle School

*My first time doing face-to-face classes*

"It's a little bit different: **this is my first time doing face-to-face classes.** I started middle school (last September) with online classes. But I'm good with this blended learning."  
"This is first time for me to try different teachers in one day."  
"I think it is more safe because we have rules to follow."



## Angel Demapan

9 years old  
4th Grade  
San Vicente Elementary School

*My school is safe and it is good for me*

"It is good because I get to see my classmate in real life. **It was the same but just the screen and doing assignments (with virtual learning). He or she (my teachers) just tells us what to do.**"  
"Yes my school is safe. I follow the rules (about COVID-19 protocols) and it is good for me."



## Rodney Jonas

16 years old  
7th Grade  
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

*Blended learning motivates me to come to school*

"I feel more comfortable back in school...and I meet my friends and teachers."  
"With online, I feel it is a bit hard. I do not even attend my (online) classes. **But with blended learning it motivates me to come to school.**"  
"The school made it safe for us that we don't get sick."  
"**(To all parents and the community) it is more better for their kids to come to school, much better than to be online all the time. You don't have a reason to be late coming to class.**"



## Marlaina Benjamin

11 years old  
5th Grade and STUCO President  
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

*I like doing English Language Arts in my classroom*

"I am excited to be back to school. I can do my (classroom) learning and to be with my friends. **I like doing ELA (English Language Arts).**"  
"There is still COVID-19 going around but I am always careful. **Yes, my school is making it safe for me to learn.**"



## Robert Billy

10 years old, 5th Grade  
Youth Advisory Panel Member  
Oleai Elementary School

*I wish there were more classes*

"I feel it is good to see my friends and my teachers. **It seems easier to learn.** My teachers instructions are clear not line online it is sometimes hard to understand."  
"I wish there were more classes (every week)...like maybe 3 classes."  
"I get bored sometime with online classes because I cannot follow (my lessons). Sometimes I can hear my brother playing and my sister (on her) online classes (as well)."  
"I am wearing mask because my school wants to keep us safe from the virus."