



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
PACIFIC DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
UNIT 35007
APO AP 96376-5007

October 15, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR DODEA PACIFIC KOREA DISTRICT EMPLOYEES,
STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND ALUMNI

SUBJECT: School Names

During a recent visit to the Korea District by area and headquarters leadership, the issue of school naming convention was raised as a concern and discussed. The general consensus was that more consistency in DoDEA Pacific school names for the large percentage of students and their families moving into and out of our schools each year would reduce confusion. Some DoDEA Pacific school names include "American", but most do not.

Overseas schools for military dependents were established during the post WWII reconstruction era and have since evolved and changed alongside the military units and communities they serve. DoD schools have opened, closed, moved and changed management, policy and organizational structure many times since they were first established and therefore, naming conventions varied.

Consistent with DoD installation names, the vast majority of DoDEA Pacific school names do not include "American". However, several Korea District schools have used "American" in their names for many decades and we now fully recognize the enduring emotional connection—shared by proud employees, students and alumni—to those names. Sometimes difficult decisions must be made, however, this is a case where feedback from those we have served and those we continue to serve helped shape a better solution for everyone.

Existing DoDEA Pacific schools with "American" in their name will remain unchanged. If you have any further questions, please contact the DoDEA Pacific Director's Office at DSN 644-5878.

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