

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #289 (2005-2006)

May 8, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD: ANCHORAGE
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU SPONSORSHIP OF
LANDMARK COURSE

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier free school, promoting health and wellness, continuing to retain, recruit and train highly qualified staff with an emphasis on improving staff diversity to better reflect our student body, challenging each student academically, maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning, offering reinforcing extracurricular activities, and collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$7,500 for the Landmark course at Central Middle School of Science. The first installment of \$4,000 will be awarded in May 2006, and the second installment of \$3,500 will be awarded in August 2006.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Central Middle School of Science teacher Michael Warren has sought and received sponsorship from the Anchorage Convention and Visitor's Bureau in support of his Landmark course. Landmark will be offered as an elective course at Central beginning in fall 2006. It is an interdisciplinary, place-based study of Anchorage. Classroom studies, lab exercises, and research will allow students to combine science, social studies, language arts, history, geography, mathematics, and technology in an in-depth investigation of our city. The objective of Landmark is to cultivate in the students a deep understanding and appreciation of the social, economical, historical, political, cultural, and recreational past and present of Anchorage. Specific course elements include global positioning

technology (GPS), the US Geological survey, walking tours, museum visits, historical and scientific research, in-depth outdoor labs, and student publications. The Anchorage Convention and Visitor's Bureau has pledged sponsorship of the entire Geocaching aspect of Landmark. Funds will be used for computer, GPS and photography equipment and teaching supplies. In addition, ACVB will publish the student-produced "A Kids Geocaching Guide to Anchorage" in-kind. This project supports the Six-Year Instructional Plan in the areas of Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Math.

Budget Summary

New Equipment	\$7,000
Teaching Supplies	<u>500</u>
TOTAL	\$7,500

CC/RG/LV/JN/BT/CM

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