

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #134 (2008-2009)

December 1, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FIRST QUARTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPORT
2008-2009

ASD Goal: *Ensure public accountability through... effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

For many years, Anchorage School District schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow for individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarters.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers, as can be seen in the information provided by each division. Through work with the communications staff, the web site, and our school/business partners, the district will continue attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in the hope that parents can be released from work to attend. At any time of the school year, parents are welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress.

Elementary Schools

Elementary parent/teacher conference results for the first quarter are shown in Attachment A. The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in these conferences.

	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
Fall Enrollment	25,000	24,713	24,346	23,578	23,783
District Average	95%	95%	93.45%	94.65%	94.34%

Currently, the teacher schedules individual conferences for the parents of each student in the class. The current ASD/AEA negotiated agreement has a provision to allow telephone conferences in lieu of personal conferences if the principal gives prior approval. This is the 24th year this information has been recorded.

Middle Schools

Following are the percentages for completed student-led conferences for the first quarter of the 2008-2009 school year for middle schools:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>COMPLETED CONFERENCES</u>	<u>PERCENT COMPLETE</u>
Begich	1,158	934	81%
Central	675	624	92%
Clark	000	000	00%
Goldenview	754	616	82%
Gruening	608	488	80%
Hanshew	774	665	86%
Mears	872	728	83%
Mirror Lake	663	563	85%
*Polaris K-12	478	478	100%
Romig	777	606	78%
Wendler	725	565	78%

The following is a four-year comparison of completed first quarter conference percentages:

<u>School</u>	<u>% Fall 2005</u>	<u>% Fall 2006</u>	<u>% Fall 2007</u>	<u>% Fall 2008</u>
Begich	NA	NA	70	81
Central	75	78	71	92
Clark	48	68	NA	NA
Goldenview	75	71	83	82
Gruening	91	84	84	80
Hanshew	86	82	78	86
Mears	70	82	86	83
Mirror Lake	74	70	86	85
*Polaris K-12	100	100	100	100
Romig	78	90	78	78
Wendler	78	82	84	78

The four-year comparison of first quarter conferences shows that the Middle School Division has made gains in the total percentage of completed conferences each year, increasing from 77.5 percent in 2005 to 84.5 percent in 2008.

Polaris distributes report cards through individual appointments. They had 100 percent participation again this year.

Clark remains closed for construction during the 2008/2009 school year.

The schools with the highest conference rates were Central with 92 percent and Hanshew with 86 percent followed closely by Mirror Lake with 85 percent and Mears with 84 percent.

Noteworthy is the 19 percent increase at Central, the 11 percent increase at Begich, and the 8 percent increase in participation at Hanshew.

High Schools

Senior high school report card pick-up was held on October 30, 2008, in all area high schools. This effort is intended to facilitate parent/teacher/student communication. All of a school's teachers are available in a contiguous area, such as the library or the cafeteria, and parents and staff meet as time permits. Appointments for more extensive dialogue can be made at that time.

As reported by principals, parents were actively engaged in discussion with nearly every teacher. The vast majority of those in attendance deem the conferences valuable and informative. Appropriately, many high school students accompany their parents during these visits.

Encouraging parental attendance continues to be both a school and division goal. All sites publicize this opportunity through parent newsletter announcements which start several months in advance, invitations issued at fall open houses, items on school web sites, notations on the activity calendar, and numerous reminders at monthly parent meetings.

Report Card Distribution Report November 2006, 2007 & 2008

School	% Fall 2006	% Fall 2007	% Fall 2008
Bartlett	32	19	31
Chugiak	55	46	55
Dimond	30	52	52
Eagle River	50	55	50
East	42	43	39
Service	51	42	44
South	61	69	57
West	36	48	51

Division Avg. 45% 47 % 47%
Charter Schools

School	Enrollment	# of Conferences	% 1st Qtr 2007
Alaska Native	164	164	100%
Aquarian	361	355	98.3%
Eagle Academy	164	164	100%
Family Partnership	582	*N/A	
Frontier	322	*N/A	
Highland Tech High	238	**126	53%
Rilke Schule	208	208	100%
Winterberry	183	179	98%

*Parents and teachers meet on an as needed basis due to the individualized nature of these programs. FPCS has an on-line progress report (submitted by parents and sponsor teachers) due January 20, and another due in April.

**All Highland Tech teachers maintain a web site or blog to communicate with parents, and regularly email parents and students about successes, academic review, or other school issues. Student Led Conferences are held in October and March.

CC/RG/EG/LV/MH/mlh

Attachment

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