

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #300 (1999-2000)

May 8, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: THIRD QUARTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE  
REPORT

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.

The elementary schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarter for many years. The middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the first and third quarters for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and to confer briefly with the student's teacher(s) a few years ago.

These efforts have generally been well-supported by parents and teachers over the years as can be seen in the information provided by each division. In cases where there has been a decrease in participation, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor will be working with principals and their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase parent participation. The District will also attempt to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities so that parents can be released from work to attend these conferences. It is also important for parents to realize that they are always welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

Elementary

Twice each year, the elementary schools in Anchorage conduct parent/teacher conferences for the purpose of reporting student progress to parents. These conferences are held at the end of the first and third quarters of each school year.

Conference results for the third quarter for elementary parents and teachers are shown in Attachment A. The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in these conferences.

	<u>1995-1996</u>	<u>1996-1997</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Enrollment	27,619	27,404	27,257	27,169	26,617
District Average	96%	96%	96%	95%	96%

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 15<sup>th</sup> year for recording this information.

### **Middle School**

Pick-up percentages for middle schools ranged from 42 percent to 68 percent with numbers ranging from 315 to 582. Substantial increases in report card pick-up rates are noted at Central, Clark, Goldenview, Romig and Wendler. Clark's increase from 22 percent to 42 percent reflects several proactive initiatives on the part of the Clark staff to encourage parental involvement. All middle school teams utilized various strategies to notify and encourage parents to participate in the report card distribution process.

Polaris utilizes student-led parent/teacher conferences to distribute report cards. Following are the percentages for middle schools' report card pick-up for the third quarter of the 1999-2000 school year:

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>CARDS PICKED UP</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Central	715	406	57%
Clark	751	315	42%
Goldenview	868	582	68%
Gruening	602	374	62%
Hanshew	965	526	55%
Mears	1,033	548	53%
Mirror Lake	700	385	55%
Polaris	438	434	99%
Romig	755	403	53%
Wendler	952	552	58%

Following are the middle schools' report card pick-up percentages for third quarter this year as compared to the third quarter for the last three years.

<u>School</u>	<u>Spring 2000</u>	<u>Spring 99</u>	<u>Spring 98</u>	<u>Spring 97</u>
Central	57%	52%	60%	65%
Clark	42%	22%	41%	43%
Goldenview	68%	58%	59%	--
Gruening	62%	60%	59%	65%
Hanshew	55%	55%	50%	47%
Mears	53%	56%	56%	52%
Mirror Lake	55%	56%	59%	52%
Romig	53%	37%	54%	46%
Wendler	58%	51%	51%	70%

### High School

Senior high school report card pick-up was held on April 12, 2000, in all area high schools. The program is designed to facilitate parent-teacher communication. Report cards are made available to parents, and teachers are prepared for brief meetings during both an afternoon and an evening session. With typically 125-150 assigned students, teachers cannot schedule specific appointments, but will arrange more in-depth conferences at a mutually agreeable time.

The chart below shows the percentage of report cards picked up at each school, as well as the comparison of pick-up rates between third quarter of 1997-98, 1998-99, and 1999-2000. It is not unusual for our spring retrieval rates to be lower than those in the fall.

### **Report Card Pick-up Report Third Quarter**

<u>School</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>
Bartlett	27%	47%	38%
Chugiak	63%	58%	51%
Dimond	43%	45%	44%
East	46%	47%	44%
Service	46%	59%	61%
West	42%	32%	33%

**Charter Schools**

<b>School</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Conferences Completed</b>	<b>Spring 2000 Percentage</b>
Aquarian	204	204	100%
Village	33	32	97%
Walden Pond	113	90	80%
*Family Partnership	701	N/A	

\*Parents and teachers meet on an "as needed basis" due to the individualized nature of their program.

BC/CC/PM/GO/PM

Attachment

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