

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #299 (2000-2001)

May 14, 2001

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 parents can be released from work to attend these conferences. It is also important for parents to realize they are always welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

Elementary

Elementary school parent/teacher conferences were held April 4, 5, and 6, 2001. Conference results for the third quarter for all elementary schools are shown in Attachment A.

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 16th year for recording this information.

The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in the conferences.

	<u>1996-1997</u>	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>
Enrollment	27,404	27,257	27,169	26,617	26,634
District Average	96%	96%	95%	96%	95%

Middle School

Report card pick up percentages for middle schools ranged from 43 percent to 72 percent with the number of parents ranging from 344 to 648. Most of the school percentages remained relatively the same. Some changes included the highest pick up rate of 72 percent at Goldenview and a drop in the pick up rate at Wendler to 43 percent. Every middle school uses a variety of strategies to notify and encourage parents to participate in the report card distribution process. During this year, Romig had several teams that piloted a student-led conference format.

Following are the percentages for middle schools' report card pick-up for the third quarter of the 1999-2000 school year:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>CARDS PICKED UP</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Central	767	398	52
Clark	778	344	44
Goldenview	900	648	72
Gruening	618	340	55

Hanshew	914	485	53
Mears	1,043	604	58
Mirror Lake	664	375	57
Polaris	*451	451	100
Romig	837	449	54
Wendler	960	409	43

*Polaris K-12 utilizes student-led parent/teacher conferences to distribute report cards at every level.

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.

School	1998	1999	2000	2001
Central	60	52	57	52
Clark	41	22	42	44
Goldenview	59	58	68	72
Gruening	59	60	62	55
Hanshew	50	55	55	53
Mears	56	56	53	58
Mirror Lake	59	56	55	57
Romig	54	37	53	54
Wendler	51	51	58	43

High School

Senior high school report card pick-up was held on April 12, 2001, 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 125-200 assigned students, teachers cannot schedule specific appointments, but will arrange more in-depth conferences at a mutually agreeable time.

Encouraging parental attendance continues to be both a school and division concern. 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. The High School Parent Advisory group is also asked annually for ideas to increase attendance. Since the present percentages mean that 800-1400 parents are visiting most of the high

schools, this event serves as a tremendous outreach for parent group membership drives, booster sales, etc.

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 1999, 2000, and 2001. 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>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Bartlett	47	38	40
Chugiak	58	51	50
Dimond	45	44	48
East	47	44	50
Service	59	61	46
West	32	33	33

Charter Schools

<u>School</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Conferences Completed</u>	<u>Spring 2000 Percentage</u>
Aquarian	223	223	100%
*Village (March)	77	74	96%
**Family Partnership	753	N/A	

*Village Charter School holds parent/teacher conferences five times during the school year – in August, October, December, March and May.

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

CC/PM/PM/GO/JT

Attachment

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