

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #272 (2001-2002)

May 13, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: THIRD QUARTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPORT 2001-2002

PERTINENT FACTS:

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet at regular intervals to discuss student progress. Increasingly, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

The elementary schools for many years 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. The middle schools and high schools provide 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).

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers, 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 is working with principals, staffs and PTAs or parent groups to encourage parent participation. The District also attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in hopes that parents can be released from work to attend conferences. Parents are always welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year. School newsletters, handbooks, the website and monthly print advertisements concerning District news all remind parents of this opportunity.

At the secondary level, the District received permission from the State Department of Education and Early Development to return to their previous format of early dismissal for students on the day of the division's parent conferences, with another half day dismissal to compensate teachers for working an evening shift on Thursday, April 11. This allows parents to elect to attend conferences in the afternoon or evening.

Elementary

Third quarter conferences for all elementary schools were held April 10, 11, and 12, 2002. Results are shown in Attachment A. Participation is back up to an average of 96 percent.

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

	<u>1997-1998</u>	<u>1998-1999</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>
Enrollment	27,257	27,169	26,617	26,634	26,097
District Average	96	95	96	95	96

Middle School

Middle school conferences were held April 10, 2002. Report card pick up percentages for middle schools ranged from 46 percent to 70 percent with the number of parents ranging from 357 to 643. With the exception of Goldenview and Hanshew, all schools reported higher numbers this year. Romig increased from 54 per cent to 65 percent, and Wendler increased from 43 percent to 52 percent. Every middle school uses a variety of strategies to notify and encourage parents to participate in the report card distribution process.

Following are the percentages for middle schools' report card pick-up for the third quarter of the 2001-2002 school year:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>CARDS PICKED UP</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Central	780	444	57
Clark	916	420	46
Goldenview	892	626	70
Gruening	623	357	57
Hanshew	1021	492	48
Mears	1112	643	58
Mirror Lake	686	395	58
Polaris	448	448	100
Romig	817	531	65
Wendler	956	496	52

*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	1999	2000	2001	2002
Central	52	57	52	57
Clark	22	42	44	46
Goldenview	58	68	72	70
Gruening	60	62	55	57
Hanshew	55	55	53	48
Mears	56	53	58	58
Mirror Lake	56	55	57	58
Romig	37	53	54	65
Wendler	51	58	43	52

High Schools

Senior high report card pick-up was held on April 11, 2002, in all area high schools. This effort is intended to facilitate parent/teacher/student communication. Approximately 5,000 parents attended high school conferences.

Report cards are made available and teachers are on duty to meet with parents in an afternoon or an evening session. For this particular conference day, special planning was completed at each high school site to involve more students and to make the total conference experience more positive for parents and guardians.

The executive director and supervisor visited schools on conference day and were favorably impressed with the cordial, collaborative atmosphere. More students were involved in a variety of activities at the conferences. They served as greeters and guides, worked at help desks and distributed refreshments. Specific procedures were put into place to make parents feel welcome and to minimize the time spent waiting in line to visit with the next teacher. All administrators at all high schools were visiting and greeting parents. Every school reported less parent frustration. From conversations with parents, administrators, counselors and teachers, the majority of those in attendance deem the conferences valuable and informative.

As compared to the same grading period over the past two years, West and Service High Schools showed a slight increase in parent attendance, while other schools experienced varying degrees of decrease in parent attendance. Increased 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 websites, notations on the activity calendar, and numerous reminders at monthly parent meetings. This event continues to serve as a tremendous outreach to the high school parents.

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 2000, 2001 and 2002. 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>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Bartlett	38	40	36
Chugiak	51	50	43
Dimond	44	48	40
East	44	50	30
Service	61	46	47
West	33	33	37

Charter Schools

<u>School</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Conferences Completed</u>	<u>Spring 2000 Percentage</u>
Aquarian	230	225	98
*Village (March)	123	121	98
**Family Partnership	546	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/MH

Attachment

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