



# Wolf Weekly

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WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR PACK

**August 7, 2025**

Excitement is continuing to build as we are now only ONE WEEK away from welcoming our students and families into our school community for what will surely be another wonderful year at Polaris K-12!

Much of the information outlined below is the same as last week, as it provides all you need to know to help support a successful start of the school year for you and your students. If you do have any questions that may be missing from the information shared, please do not hesitate to give our office a call. We are here to help make this transition back to school as easy as possible.

A few quick reminders,

- **ALL STUDENTS (K-12) will start on Thursday, August 14**, and we are looking very forward to it!
- If you are in need of an early drop-off time (7:15 instead of 8:10), Early Wolves is open for enrollment! [Please see below.](#)
- If you are looking for consistent after-school care right here at Polaris, CampFire Alaska has you covered! [Please see below.](#)

See you soon 😊

Tia

***Please take a moment to carefully review the Back-to-School information outlined below to help set you and your student up for a successful school year.***

## New in This Issue:

### Change in Early Pick-Up Policy | Effective August 14, 2025

Many schools in the Anchorage School District have moved, or are now deciding to shift, to a move regulated early pick-up policy– and Polaris is following suit. To reduce the disruption to instructional learning time, no students will be called down from classes during the last 30

minutes of the school day, unless a pre-arrangement has been made with the office no less than 1 hour before the end of the school day. In addition, we request that a minimum of 1 hour notice be given to the office prior to all early pick ups (at any time during the school day) so that teachers can be notified without interrupting the classes in progress.

Parents are able to notify the office of early pick up needs by calling the attendance line or by entering a notification in [Parent Connect](#).

## ASD Immunization Clinic | August 13 12-6PM

ASD is offering free vaccines for ASD students on Wednesday, August 13 from 12-6 PM at the district office. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more information on the clinic as well as the information below in the [\[immunization\]](#) section regarding vaccine requirements for all students for the start of school.

## Reminders from Previous Issues:

### Staffing Announcements

Please help us in welcoming three new staff members to our Polaris Team:

**Carolyn (Mariah) Brasher-** will serve as our second K/1 teacher!

**Meghan Beltz-** will serve as our second K/1 Paraprofessional!

**Brittany Mallasch-** will serve as our Cafeteria Manager!

We are grateful that these wonderful individuals chose Polaris and know that they will become tremendous assets to our school community.

### School Start and Dismissal Times

**Our first day of school for all K-12 students is August 14th.** Unlike the rest of ASD, we will not be staggering our start date. Elementary students will join their family groups and become acquainted (or reacquainted) with their teacher and peers. Our secondary students will enter into their fall intensives. Family group assignments and secondary intensive placements, along with secondary fall class schedules, will be available on Parent and StudentConnect on August 8th.

As a School of Choice here in ASD, Polaris operates on a different schedule. This affects our school start/end times, our PLC days, and our Conference Days. Please take time to read the

information outlined below and [download our school calendar](#) to keep track of our unique differences.

- **School starts at 8:30 for all K-12 students. Our doors will open at 8:10.** Elementary students arriving before 8:30 will report to either the gym or the library.
- Dismissal is as follows:
  - Standard Day Schedule (beginning 8/25/25), all K-12 students are dismissed at 3:00PM.
  - **Intensive Schedule (beginning 8/14/25 - 8/22/25) all K-12 students are dismissed at 2:00PM.**
  - PLC ½ Day Schedule- all K-12 students are dismissed at 11:30AM. Please see the [Polaris School Calendar](#) for exact dates.

## School Supplies

For both elementary and secondary students– we recommend holding off on buying any/all school supplies. We understand the draw to buy that fresh box of crayons or new mechanical pencils– however, our elementary teachers take care of all that for you, and our secondary students will receive course requirements from their teachers once regular semester classes begin on August 25. Please see our [Back to School Elementary Supply List](#) for more information while awaiting communication from family group teachers, which is forthcoming.

## Class Placements & Course Schedules

Elementary Class Placements & Secondary Course Schedules, including Fall Intensive Placements, will be available on [Parent and StudentConnect](#) on August 8th.

## Secondary Master Schedule

The Secondary Master Schedule is available to view on our [website](#). A notable change from previous years is a move from a block schedule for our middle school classes. Middle School classes will now follow a 6-period day, attending each class every day. For High School, we will keep with 4th and 5th period on a block schedule, alternating the days on which those two classes meet.

## Secondary Fall Intensives | Payments Due

Secondary students will start the school year in Fall Intensives, and payment is now due! In order for our secondary teachers to have materials on hand in time, we appreciate prompt payment. If you have already registered/know which intensive you are in, payment can be made on [ParentConnect](#). All payments are due on or before August 14th.

If you need to register, have questions, or would like to see the Fall Intensive Catalog, please see our [Secondary Fall Intensive page](#) on our website and reach out to [gullickson\\_susan@asdk12.org](mailto:gullickson_susan@asdk12.org) for support.

## **Early Wolves | A Before-School Care Option**

Need to drop off students before 8:10? Early Wolves has you covered! This morning camp-style program will provide an opportunity for families to drop off their students starting at 7:15 AM 5-days a week, every day school is in session! Students will engage in a variety of morning activities, including journaling, crafts, board games, academic enrichment lessons, and have access to a small snack. There is a fee associated with this club, which covers the supervision fee as well as the snack provided each day. If you are interested in signing up, please see the [PPTA Storefront](#) to register.

## **Campfire Returns! | After-School Care Option**

We are excited to announce the return of a beloved after-school option, right here at Polaris—Campfire is coming back! This program provides after-school care for any student in Kindergarten through sixth grade from dismissal to 6 PM. Campfire even worked closely with us and adjusted their service hours to meet the uniqueness of our school calendar, adjusting to our 2 PM dismissals and providing options for ½ days! For more information and the link to register, please follow this [link](#).

## **MS Cross Country Interest Survey**

Akara Anglin is excited for the possibility to coach a Middle School Cross Country Team here at Polaris for the Fall of 2025! We are looking to gain interest in joining this team as we will need at least 30 committed members in order to make it happen. Please use this [Cross Country Intent Form](#) and see our [Cross Country Flyer](#) for more information. Please reach out to Akara Anglin if you have any questions. Please note, this is not registration for the team, before we can commit to offering this opportunity to students, we need to ensure we have enough participants, so please let us know of your interest via the Intent form above so we can make the determination whether we will be able to offer this opportunity or not.

## **Hot Lunch Returns! | Free & Reduced Lunch Application**

We are excited to announce that Hot Lunch Service will return to us this school year thanks to a dedicated parent within our program! Brittany Mallasch has graciously taken up the call to serve as our cafeteria manager, which will allow us to serve hot meals to students beginning in September! We encourage families to pack lunch until our hot lunch service is available as we

will only have access to those shelf-stable meals for the first few weeks. We would also like to encourage all our families to look into their eligibility for the [Free & Reduced Lunch Program](#) that ASD offers— you may be entitled to free or reduced lunch prices! See the [ASD website](#) for more information.

## **Bear's Tooth Fundraiser | September 28 @ 1:00 PM!**

The PPTA is hosting a fundraiser at Bear's Tooth on September 28th at 1:00 PM! Bear's Tooth will be showing the featured film *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and all proceeds will go to support our PPTA and their continued efforts to support our students, staff, and community. For more information, and to purchase tickets, please see the [Bear's Tooth Website](#). Ticket sales are limited— so secure your tickets today!

## **New Merch | 2025/26 Fundraiser to Support Students & Staff**

Ready to rally our school spirit and support our students and staff at the same time? [New 2025/26 Merch is available for purchase!](#) Featuring our beloved Wolf Logo and the addition of the Wolf Mentality Creed, this new line of items is sure to be a hit. Secure your new items today! All items purchased from now to August 22nd will be delivered and distributed by September 12th.

## **A Last Few Important Need-to-Knows:**

### **ASD Registration**

Online registration is now open for returning students. All students need to register before the start of every school year. Please log in to [ParentConnect](#) to complete your child's registration. You can also complete student registration in-person by coming into the front office.

As a lottery school, Polaris relies on early registration of all our students to ensure that we are only offering lottery seats when available. With a waitlist surpassing 1,000 students, we appreciate your assistance with this process. **If you know you will not be returning to Polaris this school year, please contact the front office as soon as possible.**

### **Attendance Policy**

In accordance with Alaska State Statute, the Anchorage School District and the schools within it are required to adhere to specific attendance policies and procedures. At Polaris, we stick closely to this policy as attendance is of paramount importance to student success, especially here in a

program that offers unique opportunities for accelerated and rigorous learning. [Please see our website for more information.](#)

## Technology Policy

At Polaris, we believe that technology can, and should, be used to enhance students' education without distracting or limiting their access to academic engagement and social interaction.

Adopted in the Fall of 2024, Polaris has moved to a Cell Phone Free Campus. Students, families, and staff will be asked to enter the building technology-free. All cell phones, smart watches, and personal laptops should be silenced and stored out of sight. Only with direct permissions from a teacher or staff member can students access their personal devices for educational purposes throughout the school day. We request that families help support us in this initiative that proved extremely beneficial last school year by following the same guidelines while on campus that we ask of our students. [More information can be found on our website.](#)

## The Polaris Parking Lot

Polaris is a pick-up/drop-off-only school. No district bus transportation is available at any time. During peak drop-off and pick-up times, the parking lot is a busy place with many students and families with small children. **Extreme care, caution, and courtesy are expected to be exercised by everyone at all times.** Safety is always the highest priority. Please take time to review our parking safety rules and etiquette outlined on our [website](#), but a few essential components are listed below:

- The speed limit while on Ashwood and within the parking lot is 5 m.p.h.
- The use of cell phones or other distracting devices while driving is prohibited.
- The crosswalks are designated for pedestrians; They have the right-of-way!
- When dropping off, please pull all the way around the side of the building before allowing your child to exit the car.
- When picking up, K-3 families are encouraged to park in the parking lot and enter the building to pick up their child from their classroom at dismissal time. This is mandatory for Kindergarten students.
- No queuing at the front doors– pull all the way around the side of the building, or park in a designated parking space.
- When exiting our parking lot, please make a right turn towards Brayton Drive. This helps the flow of traffic in and out of our parking lot.
- Respect the handicap spaces. If you do not have a handicap sticker or plate, you can not park there, even to wait for your child.
- Be patient and use common courtesy, and give yourself extra time in the morning and afternoon.

## Volunteers in our School

We want YOU to help in classrooms, on field trips, and during community events. Please ensure you have your ASD volunteer application completed. Additionally, if you are able and willing to drive on field trips, a driver application form needs to be submitted each school year. Please see the [ASD website](#) for more information.

## Immunizations

Alaska State Law requires that all students are up-to-date on their vaccinations in order to attend public school. Over the next few days, Nurse Patty will be reviewing records to ensure compliance and reminders will be sent to families if records are missing. Please be sure all required immunizations are completed and turned in to Nurse Patty by 8:30AM on August 14. If we do not have your child's vaccination records on file, they will be sent home. For religious exemption, you must complete the [Religious Exemption Form](#) and turn it into Nurse Patty no later than the first day of school. This form must be dated July 1 or later. For more information, as well as for notes relating to health screenings, illness, and medications, please see our new [Notes from the Nurse page](#) on our website!

## Health Screening

Health screens will begin right away, and this includes hearing, vision, height and weight for students in K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 10. You will be notified if there are any concerns. If you have concerns regarding hearing and vision for your child and they are in a grade not mentioned, please contact the nurse.

## Illness

Per ASD Policy, students becoming ill during the school day **must report to the nurse**. If it is necessary to go home or to a doctor, the nurse will inform the parent/guardian and the student will be released from school. Students leaving due to illness without properly checking out will be counted as truant from those classes missed.

## Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day, or if they have emergency medications, the appropriate medication forms and/or care plans must be on file. This includes over-the-counter medications.

## Dates at a Glance

<b>August 14</b>	<b>First day of School!</b>
<b>August 14-22</b>	<b>Secondary Fall Intensives; Dismissal at 2:00 PM for all K-12 Students</b>

August 22	<a href="#">Merch Fundraiser Ends!</a>
August 27	PLC ½ Day; Dismissal at 11:30 AM for all K-12 Students
September 1	No School - Labor Day Holiday
September 10	<a href="#">Picture Day!</a>
September 11-12	MAP Testing (2nd-9th)
September 17	PLC ½ Day; Dismissal at 11:30 AM for all K-12 Students
September 28	<a href="#">PPTA Fundraiser at Bear's Tooth! 1:00 PM</a>
October 8	PLC ½ Day; Dismissal at 11:30 AM for all K-12 Students
October 13	No School - Indigenous People's Day
October 17	No School - Grading Day
October 17	PPTA Fall Festival <i>More information to come!</i>
October 24	No School - ASD Professional Development Day
October 29	PLC ½ Day; Dismissal at 11:30 AM for all K-12 Students

## Family Feedback

Feedback is important to us at Polaris. We would love to hear what we are doing well to serve your student(s) and family and also how we might continue to evolve and grow. Please consider submitting feedback using the [Family Feedback Survey](#). If you need immediate assistance, however, please contact the front office at (907) 742-8700.

*"Our continued drive for excellence will never truly cease, it will merely open new doors of opportunity to strengthen who we are, what we do, and what we continue to become."*

*-Dr. Tia Clay*



**The Wolf Weekly is brought to you by the dedicated staff at Polaris  
K-12.**

Not receiving the communication? The Wolf Weekly is sent every Thursday at 5PM to contacts currently listed in ParentConnect. Please make sure your contact information is current on the ParentConnect Portal. If you need assistance, please contact the front office at (907) 742-8700.