



# STELLER SECONDARY SCHOOL

MARIA HERNANDEZ, PRINCIPAL

**247**

**STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 - 12**

**43**

**STUDENTS IN CLASS  
OF 2023**

**96%**

**GRADUATION RATE**

**52%**

**OF STUDENTS IN THE CLASS  
OF 2022 RECEIVED THE  
SEAL OF BILITERACY**

## ABOUT

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Established in 1974, Steller Secondary School is a small school of choice offering a humane approach to education and serving grades 7 through 12. Steller welcomes students from across the Anchorage School District, which is one of the most diverse districts in the nation. Students apply to Steller and are accepted via lottery system.

## STELLER PHILOSOPHY

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Steller is devoted to the creation of independent, courageous people capable of dealing with the shifting complexities of the modern world. Steller runs on the energy and excitement of people who have committed themselves to self-directed learning. With the support of parents and staff, Steller provides students with a humane education experience based upon freedom and responsibility. Students are responsible for defining their own educational goals, selecting or devising a course of study to achieve those goals, and working toward fulfilling them. Additionally, they are responsible for assisting in the continuous evaluation of their performance in relation to those same goals.

## OUTSTANDING FEATURES

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Multi-age classes and advisory groups.

Student-led school governance.

Peer-taught electives developed by students, including recently: Digital Music Production, Computer Programming, Music Appreciation, Creative Writing, and Culture & Identity.

Self-directed learning and independent study courses developed by students to meet their personal needs and interests.

Small classes, capped at 25 students.

2-week single-topic intensive courses offered each semester.

Individuality and uniqueness of each student is highly valued.

Passage courses designed by students.





## STUDENT CLUBS:

CLUBS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF STUDENT LIFE AT STELLER. CLUBS ARE PROPOSED, DESIGNED, AND LED ENTIRELY BY STUDENTS.

CHESS CLUB  
BOOK CLUB  
HIKING CLUB  
DRAMA CLUB  
GAMING CLUB  
TECHNOCRATS  
YEARBOOK  
HOMEWORK CLUB  
MAGIC: THE GATHERING  
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS  
GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

**COUNSELOR:**  
**JOHANNA UTTERBACK**

## CONTACT

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[www.asdk12.org/steller](http://www.asdk12.org/steller)  
CEEB: 020007

## INTENSIVES

Two-week intensive courses are held at the end of each semester earning .25 credit in elective or core areas. Domestic and international travel opportunities are often available. Recent intensives include: Creative Writing, Science of Baking, Rock Climbing, Winter Sports, Chess, Ancient Greece, Cryptozoology, Digital Painting, Magic: The Gathering, Cooking, Stop Motion Video, Civil Wars, Keyboarding & Piano, Catapults, Native Arts of Alaska, First Aid, and travel to Hawaii, Southwest Alaska, England, Iceland, and Italy and Greece.

## PASSAGES

All students are required to complete three Passages to meet Steller graduation requirements, except the class of 2023, which was reduced to two due to COVID-related school closures. Passages are elective courses designed by students to expand their understanding of an area of personal academic interest, emphasize the application of academic knowledge, and develop sound student traits. Passages may be completed in the areas of: Adventure, Creativity, Career Exploration, Logic & Inquiry, Practical Skills, or Community Involvement. All student must complete a Community Involvement Passage with the exception of the Class of 2023.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Steller students are deeply involved in the day-to-day planning and implementation of the school. Students can start clubs, put on dances, run activity days, and develop peer-taught courses. All students are involved in the governance of the school, starting in their Advisory Group, where issues surrounding Steller are discussed and voted on. Each Advisory group has two representative which meet weekly in Op-Group to oversee the running of student events and funds. Students are involved in the Anchorage Community through volunteering at our neighborhood elementary school, working on political campaigns in Field Studies Government, and completing a required Community Involvement Passage.

## GRADING AND WEIGHTING

Steller does not offer AP, IB, or any weighted courses and does not designate a Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Many courses are taught on an honors level and academic standards are high. At least eighty percent of Steller graduates attend a college or university. Several classes are taught seminar style, with an emphasis on close analysis and discussion. Students design contracts with teachers for independent study or self-directed learning courses not offered in the curriculum. Students may also elect to teach a class to their peers. Students have the option to take courses at any school in the district, local university courses, or through the district's virtual program, which allows them a broad selection of additional high-level academic options as desired.