

# Bowman Elementary September News!

Welcome back to another great year Bobcats!

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[BowmanOffice@asdk12.org](mailto:BowmanOffice@asdk12.org)



## **Bowman Elementary / Bowman Elementary Homepage**

Our academic focus includes a number of paths to success, which include students participating in an Open Optional, traditional Neighborhood, or Structured Learning environment.

[asdk12.org](https://asdk12.org)

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## **Principal Freeman's Making Tracks...**

Dear Bowman Families:

The 2023-2024 school year is off and running. Seeing new and returning families during our Back-to-School Open House, Optional Program Open Houses, the first day of school, and around the school these last few weeks was great to witness. Our current student enrollment is 569. I look forward to a great school year with your children; it will be exciting!



Bowman has a great office staff consisting of our Administrative Assistant **Bright Nygard**, and School Secretary **Doreen Joyner**. They are ready to provide the best customer service at any school. **Nurse Sean** is again attending to the kids' and staff's healthcare needs. **Jon, Sherie, and Paul** lead our custodial staff, ensuring our building looks clean and great.

Moving into the new school year, this is a friendly reminder about the **ASD Attendance Policy**. The district continues with the goal of "Every student will attend school at least 90% of the time."

Below is information on what absences and tardies are defined as in elementary.

To reach 90% attendance, the following procedures are in place:

FIVE conditions may result in an excused absence from school:

1. Illness
2. Death or severe illness in the immediate family
3. Participation in a school function
4. Extenuating circumstances approved by the principal, and
5. Attendance at religious service

Parents must call the Bowman at 742-5600 by 9:00 a.m. regarding their child's non-attendance or late arrival. By 11:00 a.m., a "robocall" will go out to the primary contact number for unexcused students. For any other information regarding your child, you would like to send to the office, please email Bright or Doreen at [bowmanoffice@asdk12.org](mailto:bowmanoffice@asdk12.org).

This is our first newsletter of the 2023-2024 school year. We will send the newsletter through email, the website, and connected to the ASD app once a month. Please ensure you have an updated email address on file in the office, as this address will be the one to which the newsletter and other information is sent. Typically, we send a text message to remind the community of added information sent in an email.

To download the ASD app and then choose Bowman Elementary, follow these steps:

☐ HYPERLINK "<https://www.asdk12.org/mobileapp>"

The Bowman website and Facebook page will have abundant information like school newsletters, special announcements, staff information, school business partnership links, PTA information, current news and much more! I am happy about this school year at Bowman. I look forward to seeing the progress of our students and the staff working daily to achieve it. The Bowman staff continues to be dedicated with new educators, fresh faces, and staff with the goal of offering students the best learning opportunities. We appreciate your continued support of the best school in ASD!

Sincerely,  
Patrick Freeman  
Principal

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## Bowman Calendar

**September:**

4th - Labor Day - No School

11th - Fall Picture Day  
29th - Bobcat-a-Thon from 3-5pm



### October:

9th - Indigenous People's Day - No School  
20th - Inservice Day - No School for Students \*End of the 1st Quarter!  
25th & 26th - 1/2 Days - Parent-Teacher Conferences - Students Out at 12:30 p.m.  
27th - Inservice Day - No School for Students  
30th - Nov. 3rd - Kindness Week! (TBA)

### November:

10th - Inservice Day - No School for Students  
23rd & 24th - Thanksgiving Break!

### December:

22nd - Inservice Day - No School for Students \*End of the 2nd Quarter!  
22nd-Jan. 7th - Winter Break!

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## Office BOBCAT BEAT

Hello Bowman Families,

Welcome back to another amazing school year at Bowman. It's been great seeing all of your smiling faces! Here are a few friendly reminders to help start your year smoothly:

- Label your student's belongings - Jackets, snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, backpacks, lunch boxes, & water bottles. Anything you do not want lost...
- Check the Lost & Found area often. It is already FULL!
- Become comfortable with your ParentConnection, it lets you have access to attendance, grades, view missing assignments, add emergency contacts, and make online payments (link below).
- Sick child? You can report your student's absence via ParentConnection (Parent reported absence), call the attendance line at 907-742-5600 Option 2, or email [BowmanOffice@asdk12.org](mailto:BowmanOffice@asdk12.org).
- Early Release - Please come in to sign your student out, then we will call them down. Allow time for this process if you have an appointment. We can not do early release after 3:15pm.
- Late Arrivals - Please make sure your student signs in with the office upon arriving, that ensures you don't get an attendance call.

### BOWMAN BOBCATS ARE FIERCE!

**F** - WE FOSTER FAMILY, FUN AND FRIENDSHIPS

**I** - WE INVITE "I CAN" ATTITUDES

**E** - WE EXPECT EXCELLENCE

**R** - WE ARE RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE

**C** - WE ARE CARING AND COURAGEOUS

**E** - WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE



Please call or email us at any time for assistance, we are here to help you. Happy Fall!

Ms. Bright & Ms. Doreen

## ASD Calendar 2023-2024.pdf

Anchorage School District 2023-24 academic calendar, including inservice and holidays. Useful for planning family trips!

[Download](#)

93.9 KB

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## mClass Newsletter Information

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### 2023 - 2024

As part of The Alaska Reads Act, the State of Alaska requires that districts administer an early literacy screening tool three times a year to students in grades K-3 to identify potential reading difficulties in order to improve reading outcomes for students. Families can read more about this comprehensive K-3 reading policy at The Alaska Reads Act website:

[education.alaska.gov/akreads](https://education.alaska.gov/akreads)

mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition Assessments is the State of Alaska Department of Education's and ASD's Early Literacy benchmark screening and progress monitoring tool for students in grades K-3 in reading. mClass utilizes curriculum-based measures and is used by schools as part of the ASD Comprehensive Assessment System to support informed instructional decisions.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development explains the decision to adopt mClass as the statewide literacy screener here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/Statewide-Early-Literacy-Screener>

mClass screening assessments will only be administered in-person during the benchmark window listed below:

- Fall 2023: September 5 - 15

Results for K-3 students that were assessed during a benchmark window, will be available in Parent Connect by September 29, 2023 [ParentConnection Login Information and Reference Guide](#): [parentconnect.asdk12.org](https://parentconnect.asdk12.org)

## mClass Newsletter Information 2023\_2024.docx

[Download](#)

198.5 KB

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## COUNSELOR'S CORNER...

Hello Bowman Families,

If you have a particular concern about your child, I welcome the opportunity to speak with you to discuss the matter. I am here at



Bowman 8:30am-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as 1-4pm on Fridays. Please feel free to reach out to me via email or call me directly.

Also, if your family is experiencing a financial hardship, please reach out to me. We have an amazing community service team here at Bowman and we are able to confidentially meet a large variety of needs.

Warm Wishes,  
Ms. Faas

907-742-5603

[Faas\\_michelle@asdk12.org](mailto:Faas_michelle@asdk12.org)



### Nurse News

Hello Bowman Families & welcome back! NO shots, No school is ASD's policy. Alaska Immunization Regulations 7 AAC 57.550 and 4AAC 06.055 require that all children in Alaska public/private schools & childcare facilities be immunized unless he/she is exempted or immune.

Please have your child's immunizations updated as soon as possible. If you choose not to immunize your child, you have the option to file an exemption with the school. This form needs to be notarized and updated each school year. Personal or philosophical exemptions are not allowed per state law. You can email or fax updated records to me. State school screening will be taking place this & next month , remember to send your children with their glasses.

No medication is allowed in your child's backpack or lunch box. If your child needs medication during the school day; this includes all over-the-counter medications. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you!

Nurse Sean  
Sean Moore, BSN, RN  
Bowman School Nurse  
907-742-5601  
[Moore\\_Sean@asdk12.org](mailto:Moore_Sean@asdk12.org)

### Cold Weather Dress Policy

Please ensure your student comes to school with the appropriate outdoor gear:

- Jacket/coat, hat & gloves for Fall. 🍁🍁🍁

And when the snow flies, your child will need "5 points":



- Jacket/coat, snow pants, hat & mittens/gloves, and snow boots. ❄️❄️❄️.

**Remember to LABEL everything!!!**



**FALL**  
*is here!*



**WINTER**  
*is coming!*

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PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS  
WARM CLOTHES EVERY DAY!

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REMEMBER TO LABEL **EVERY** PIECE OF  
YOUR CHILDS WINTER GEAR  
WITH THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME

Please help make your gear last all year!  
Label every item!

## NEWS on the RUN.....

Our school year is off to a great start!



**Cross Country Running:** Starts Tues., Sept. 5th and is every Tues. & Thurs. after school until Sept. 28th when we attend the Southside Jamboree. Please reach out if your child would like to join.

**Bobcat-a-thon:** Our annual fundraiser will be on Friday, September 29th from 3-5. We have already raised about \$18,000 and our goal is \$30,000. Thanks to all who have already gotten pledges. The link is below for you to search for your child and get their on-line pledges rolling.

<https://app.99pledges.com/fund/WLBowman2023>

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Sara Paulson and Ryan Olberding

W.L. Bowman P.E. Teachers

[paulson\\_sara@asdk12.org](mailto:paulson_sara@asdk12.org)

[olberding\\_ryan@asdk12.org](mailto:olberding_ryan@asdk12.org)



## 2023 Fall Bowman Bobcat-a-thon

We are a school where student learning thrives and children feel good about the place they call their school. We believe that this is because of the incredible students that attend our school, the awesome staff who believe that relationships with students are key to optimal learning and more importantly the incredible support of our families

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## 🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵

I am excited to start another fun year at Bowman and share with the students some of the new books and musical activities that I learned at music workshops over the last year! At Bowman, my goal is to find a way for students to appreciate and find a love for music. I also work with students to help them gain music reading and ensemble skills that can be continued outside of an elementary classroom. Music provides students the opportunity to express themselves through movement, speech, and play. In our classroom at Bowman, an Orff-Schulwerk approach is used for teaching children. Through an Orff approach students learn music through what they instinctively do: play, imitation, experimentation, and personal expression. Encourage your students to share with you what we are doing in class!



### **Bowman Bobcat Choir:**

Choir rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 12th!

The choir rehearses on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 7:50 - 8:50 am in the music room.

The Bowman choir is geared for students in 3rd - 6th grade. Families who signed up for choir have already received an email about choir upcoming choir rehearsals!

### **Recorder:**

4th and 5th grade students in Davis's, Jones's, Lara's, Kari's, Cannon's, Ely's, and Syke's class are learning how to play the recorder this year! Recorder helps students prepare for more complex instruments in 6th grade band and orchestra. Recorder is also a great instrument for introducing how to read music on the treble clef staff. At Bowman we have classroom sets of recorders. Each student has one assigned to them for the school year. Each recorder is kept in their own case and stored in between classes. A letter will be sent out to classes soon about the option of purchasing their own recorder.

Ms. Knapp

[knapp\\_elizabeth@asdk12.org](mailto:knapp_elizabeth@asdk12.org)

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## Health Happenings...

Dear Families,

This letter is to let you know that your child's class will be receiving age-appropriate lessons on child sexual abuse and assault prevention education as required under the state's [Alaska Safe Children's Act \(Erin's Law\)](#). Erin's Law Education is comprised of two lessons (one lesson at the beginning of each semester) taught during the Health classes. Combined, these lessons meet the full requirements for students under the [Alaska Safe Children's Act \(Erin's Law\)](#) and are designed to help prevent childhood sexual abuse. These lessons will be presented in a non-threatening way,

along with the skills needed for self-protection and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner.

Information about the lessons can be viewed [HERE](#).

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1J4mCSGZi6GBUv14WBpiO-7gsrj7DbXtA?usp=sharing>

If you do **NOT** want your child to receive the instruction under the Alaska Safe Children's Act, you must write a letter to the school principal requesting that your child be excused from these specific lessons. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

Katrina Hill Rhodes

Health and SEL Specialist

Bowman/Taku Elementary

[Rhodes\\_katrina@asdk12.org](mailto:Rhodes_katrina@asdk12.org)



## Books with Ms. Binek

Hello Bowman Parents & Guardians,

Our **Fall Book Fair** will be held in the Bowman Library the week of October 23-26. We'd love to make this a successful event for our students, staff, and families. For the Book Fair to be open and available to students and families, we need your help. Please consider signing up (link below) to help with Book Fair sales. Questions? Email Mrs. Binek [Binek\\_Erin@asdk12.org](mailto:Binek_Erin@asdk12.org) Thanks!

[Fall Book Fair 2023](#)  
[signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com)



**Home**

Student Resources

[sites.google.com](https://sites.google.com)

## Be SMART for Kids

Our school is joining the Anchorage School District in partnering with Be SMART for Kids ([besmartforkids.org](https://besmartforkids.org)) to educate families about the importance of secure gun storage to keep kids safe and prevent youth suicide. Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in Alaska and nationwide, and the majority of gun deaths in Alaska are suicides. Together, we can protect our kids by using these "SMART" steps: Secure guns in homes and vehicles, Model



responsible behavior, Ask about firearms in other homes your child visits, Recognize the role of guns in suicide, and Tell your peers to "Be SMART." We invite you to read through the attached handouts, look for new posters in our school, and watch for more Be SMART communications within the community.



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## Bowman PTA is AMAZING!

### Bowman PTA News - Sept

Bowman PTA News, Events, and Volunteer Opportunities!

[Download](#)

183.8 KB

### Bowman PTA Back-to-School Info Flyer

[Download](#)

143.6 KB

### Bowman PTA Volunteer Recruitment Flyer

[Download](#)

51.8 KB

### BASA Leaders Needed!

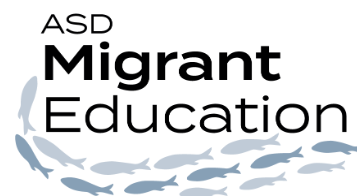
We are seeking leaders for Bowman After-School Activities (BASA), scheduled to run from Oct.2nd-Nov.13th. See attached document for more info!

[Download](#)

15.6 KB

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Does your family fish, berry pick, and/or engage in logging or fish processing for at least 8 nights out of the year (outside of the Anchorage area)? Do you engage in these activities to provide financially for your family? If you answered yes to these questions, your family may be eligible for the Migrant Education Program!



Migrant Education provides extra support to your family in the form of academic programs, family events, tutoring, academic supplies, books, and more. If you have any questions or would like to apply, please call or email me at 907-538-7558 / [wilson\\_hannah@asdk12.org](mailto:wilson_hannah@asdk12.org) or visit our website at: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/5557>.

Thank you!

**Hannah Wilson**

Student Success Coach, Migrant Education

Anchorage School District

**Phone:** (907) 538-7558

**Website:** [www.asdk12.org/migrated](http://www.asdk12.org/migrated)

Alaska Native Cultural Charter School / Bowman / Rabbit Creek



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