

Rogers Park Elementary School
1400 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508-4281
(907) 742-4800

2020

Video Conference Panelist Presentations

Dear Community Member:

You have been recommended to us as someone who is interested in helping make connections between the Anchorage School District and the community. We are in our twelfth year of a program called Rite of Passage Experiences (ROPES). This year ROPES includes 39 of our sixth-grade students at Rogers Park Elementary. The involvement of community members in this project as panelists and coaches is essential for its success.

The ROPES program provides an opportunity for sixth graders to select an area of strong interest and plan a project to complete independently with a coach or mentor. In May, each student has an individual appointment with a panel of three community members to share the results of his/her project. The purpose is to connect academic skills to real life experiences and to help nurture students to become self-directed, life-long learners. We also believe this project brings the community and the schools closer together as real partners in the job of educating future citizens.

We are looking for volunteers to donate their time as panelists to listen to and provide feedback on student projects. Examples of proposed student projects include: animating cartoons, computer coding, wood carving, graphic novel writing, crocheting, building a go-cart, baking, photography, 3-D printing, woodwork, pottery, painting nesting dolls, creating board games, piano music composition, dance, cardiovascular model, cheerleading competitions, publish a novel, comic book creation, Pokémon Card club, inventions, wildlife tracking, writing and directing a skit, visual art explorations, build and race remote control cars, beekeeping, biathlon, and business operations. Your commitment involves spending one to four hours serving on a panel for ROPES presentations. Student requirements, expectations, and feedback systems will be shared through a short video training session online prior to the event to make this a successful experience for all.

This year, due to the need to social distance, student presentations will take place on video conferencing (Zoom). Presentations will be held on Thursday, May 14th and Friday, May 15th. Please be sure to watch the panelist training video at this web link: <https://youtu.be/eGatonZZhfs> **Substitute “virtual room” for references to the First Christian Church location.**

I will be available to train you on the use of the Zoom software prior to student presentations as needed. I will send you a packet of paperwork that will help you understand the learning process of our students and an evaluation form to complete for each participant so they can learn from their presentation experience. Please sign in to your first Zoom meeting at least 10 minutes before your first panelist session so you can resolve any technical issue before student presentations begin.

If you are interested in being a part of the ROPES program, please complete the attached form and email it to caves_traci@asdk12.org detailing the times you are willing to participate.

On behalf of Rachel McNeil and Caty McNeil, the sixth-grade ROPES teachers, and the sixth graders, I thank you for your time. We hope to meet with you on May 14 and / or May 15 to support our students' efforts.

Sincerely,
Traci Caves
Liaison, Highly Gifted Program
Rogers Park Elementary
907.742.4818

