Northern Lights ABC School
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Northern Light ABC (Anchorage Basic Curriculum) School is an alternative educational program established in 1978. Its founders were dedicated to a philosophy embracing a back-to-the-basic approach to education. A strong emphasis on citizenship, values, discipline, patriotism, and character education makes this program unique.

Parents who choose our school for their children should believe in the philosophy upon which the school was founded. Strong, committed parental support is essential for any program to successfully educate children for the future.

Parents, children and staff working together for a common goal characterized Northern Lights ABC School and contributes to its effectiveness in educating our children. Our commitment to maintaining the ABC philosophy and objectives is vital and ongoing. Join us in partnership to meet the needs of students.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT
Northern Lights ABC School parents and staff believe the purpose of education is to provide children with the skills necessary to live successfully, contribute to their communities and to be responsible citizens. The school is concerned with five major developmental areas: intellectual, physical, emotional, social, and ethical.

Intellectual development includes mastery of basic skills in all academic areas. Every effort will be made for students to achieve maximum learning at the appropriate level through careful and sequential teaching. We encourage students, not only in the intellectual and affective domain, but also in the area of physical fitness. Physical development includes emphasis on physical fitness, recreation, and wellness.

Opportunities for emotional and social development are afforded to all students as they participate in class and school activities and fulfill responsibilities. The school emphasizes honesty, consideration for others, good citizenship, and the ideals upon which our nation was founded.

Morality and the development of ethics are the responsibility of parents. As we strive to prepare students to be productive members of society, the school will reinforce ethical values through our character development and training.

We believe the majority of children learn best in a structured learning environment and are happiest when they can see their own growth and progress. Children need the challenge of measurable standards and being graded in a consistent manner. Our goals can be accomplished through an atmosphere of cooperation, understanding, knowledge, involvement and support on the part of parents and staff.

CHARACTER BUILDING BLOCKS
September- Friendship & Work
October- Respect & Responsibility
November- Perseverance & Patriotism
December- Generosity & Compassion
January- Tolerance & Courage
February- Honesty & Loyalty
March- Humility & Self Control
April- Self-Discipline & Independence
May- Helpfulness & Sportsmanship

STARTING WITH THE BASIC
It is essential that children learn how to use the English language and basic math early in their educational experience. Intellectual development includes mastery of basic skills in all areas- reading, Saxon math, spelling, Spalding phonics, penmanship, problem solving, and study habits. Our students achieve maximum learning through careful and sequential teaching, thereby receiving a solid academic foundation.

WHOLE GROUP INSTRUCTION
Whole group instruction is the traditional method of teaching at NLABC. This is where the teacher is at the front of the classroom teaching the entire class of students at the same time. Students are not grouped according to ability and are not provided individualized instructional materials.

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:20 AM	BREAKFAST SERVED
7:40AM	STUDENT DROP OFF BEGINS
7:50AM	STUDENTS ENTER THE BUILDING
8:00AM	TARDY BELL- SCHOOL BEGINS
2:30PM	DISMISSAL FOR ALL GRADES
2:45PM	SUPERVISION ENDS- LAST CALL FOR PICKUP
3:15PM	OFFICE CLOSES

Failure to adhere to the above stated time requirements are possible grounds for revocation of zone exceptions. Please note that this policy includes excessive tardiness and late pickups. If you do need to pick up your student early, please come before 2:30pm so they have time to get to the office before the dismissal bell rings.

LUNCH & RECESS SCHEDULE

Grade	Lunch	Recess
Kindergarten	10:45-11:15am	10:15-10:45am
1-2	10:45-11:05am	11:05-11:35am
3-4	11:45am-12:05pm	12:05-12:35pm
5-6	11:10-11:30am	11:30am-12:00pm
7-8	12:10-12:40pm	12:40-12:50pm

RECESS DRESS CODE

Per ASD policy students are expected to attend recess until -10 degrees below zero. This will include wind chills. Snow Pants are required for soccer, football and sledding hills. Students who do not have proper gear will receive detention.

	Below Freezing (32 degrees)-Required unless otherwise stated	**Snow on the Ground-Required unless otherwise stated**
Grades K-4	Warm Coat, Hat or Hood, Gloves	Warm Coat, Hat or Hood, Gloves, Snowpants, Boots
Grades 5-6	Warm Coat, Hat or Hood, Gloves	Warm Coat, Hat or Hood, Gloves, Boots. Snow Pants are encouraged.
Grades 7-8	Coat	Encouraged are a Warm Coat, Hat or Hood, Gloves, Boots and Snow Pants.

STUDENT ABSENCE HOMEWORK REQUEST

Parents are expected to call the office each morning when their child is ill. In the event your child is absent, if you wish to request homework assignments, please do so by 10:00am so the teacher has enough time to gather it together. All homework is to be picked up in the office at 2:30pm. For our Middle School students' homework will not be gathered upon their absence. They are expected to speak with their teachers or classmates on their return to school for missed work. *Teachers are not expected to prepare homework in advance for family vacations.*

ENTRANCE AFTER DISMISSAL

Students or parents may not enter the building to retrieve personal items or schoolwork after school has been dismissed for the day. This rule falls under Responsibility, one of our Character-Building Blocks.

GRADING

Letter Grade	Definition	Percent
A	Very High	94-100%
B	High	87-93%
C	Satisfactory	70-86%
D	Low	60-69%
F	Very Low	Below 60%

GRADE VALUES

Report card grades for Primary (1-3) will be determined by using the test averages (50%) and the daily work averages (50%).

Report card grades for Intermediate and Middle School (4-8) will be determined by using test averages (75%) and daily work averages (25%)

HOMEWORK

Each teacher in grades 1-8 will assign carefully selected homework on a regular basis. Homework will be assigned a minimum of two or three times per week. All assignments should be turned in on time unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher.

NO NAME PAPERS

It is believed that all students in grades 1-8 should remember to place their names on assignments. After the instructor issues sufficient reminders during the first week, daily papers turned in with no name thereafter will be reduced by 10% for grades 1-3 and 50% for grades 4-8. Long-term assignments of important evaluation papers (exams) having a significant impact upon a student's grade will be accepted, but with a penalty. This policy applies to all students in grades 3-8.

LATE WORK

Unless otherwise indicated by the teacher, schoolwork that is late will not be accepted. Guidelines must be established and followed for students to learn personal responsibility and punctuality. One of our eighteen Character Building Blocks is Responsibility. Students should be responsible for writing down assignments and completing them in a timely manner. It is neither the teacher's nor the parent's responsibility to keep the student's work current. Time is given daily to keep track of assignments and homework. Students learn to grow by taking responsibility.

DETENTION

Detention for all students will be held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 2:30-3:00pm. Parent notification is sent home the day of the offense giving the date and time the student needs to serve detention.

STUDENT TELEPHONE USE

Students are allowed to use the phone only for business or an emergency. Students must have permission to use the phone from their teachers. Calling to see if they can go home with a friend is not considered business or an emergency. Permission for purposes such as these will not be granted. Parents should instruct their children to leave a message for their parents if voicemail is available.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Students will be given recognition for their achievements in a variety of school-related activities. Students may be recognized for achievements in the following areas: Academic, Deportment, Art, Music, Physical Education, Penmanship, Citizenship, Special (teacher generated).

ACADEMIC CRITERIA

A pupil attaining a GPA of 3.0-4.0 will receive an Award at the end of each quarter and have his/her name placed upon the Honor Roll. Pencils for Honor Roll membership will also be given each quarter.

Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Math are averaged to obtain the GPA for primary grades 1-3. Reading, Language, Math, Spelling, Science, and Social Studies are averaged to obtain the GPA in grades 4-6.

No student will be put on the honor roll if he or she has received any grade less than a "D."

DEPORTMENT CRITERIA

Students in grades 1-6 earning all "O" s (outstanding) in the conduct segment of the report card will receive an Award.

ART CRITERIA

This student is chosen for their effort, creativity, responsibility with materials and their ability to get along well with and believe in themselves.

MUSIC CRITERIA

This student is chosen for their effort during class. This student always tries their best, follows directions, is helpful and cooperates with their classmates. This student shares materials and is willing to do extra things that help the class.

P.E. CRITERIA

This student is selected for helping others willingly, encouraging and complimenting others, unconditional acceptance, good sportsmanship and always trying their best.

PENMANSHIP CRITERIA

Penmanship Awards are given to one student per month per classroom for either the best penmanship or the most improved during the month.

CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA

This student is responsible, follows classroom and school rules, exhibits leadership by being an example to others, shows compassion for others, is thoughtful in word and deed, extends courtesy to peers and adults, respects the rights of others, works cooperatively with others, makes an outstanding contribution to the school and community, and exhibits the traits of our Character-Building Blocks.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Teachers have the option of recognizing students for a variety of reasons. Normally, teachers may recognize up to 20% of their students quarterly.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

1. Follow the flow of traffic.
2. Please use the lane next to the front of the building or along the bike trail on Laurel Street to drop off and pick up students.
3. Have children ready to exit the car. Have backpacks, lunch money and other last-minute activities done beforehand.
4. Have children exit the vehicle on the right side.
5. Leave the area as soon as possible so that others can drop off their children.
6. Park your vehicle in the designated parking areas if you are entering the school building. If possible, back into your parking space for greater visibility when leaving.
7. The red painted curb is a municipal fire lane. Vehicles that are left unattended can be ticketed.
8. Students will line up in their designated area until the bell rings at 7:50 am or it is announced that morning that we have an indoor lineup in their designated areas. This may include rain for below zero temperatures.
9. Obey all posted speed limits and stop signs. The crosswalks are necessary for the safety of the children. Please obey the directions of the crossing guard. Please do not be using your phone while driving on school grounds.
10. If picking up or dropping off on Laurel Street use the pull-out lanes. Do not block through traffic. Please do not park in the surrounding neighborhoods if possible.
11. Drive slowly, be patient and courteous and things will flow smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation.

NATURAL DISASTERS

In the event of a natural disaster or major emergency which would cause our school building to be unsafe for occupancy, Northern Lights ABC students and the majority of the staff would evacuate to the YMCA. A campus security team would remain at the school to direct parents to the YMCA and maintain communications with the District's Emergency Communications Center. Only parents/guardians or authorized emergency contacts would be allowed to sign our students from the YMCA to go home. Proper identification would be necessary. Northern Lights ABC will try their best to send out notifications by email and text to families with updates.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

All closures or changes in normal operations are reported to a selected list of AM and FM radio stations in the Anchorage area. The following radio stations will be notified of the status of school closures.

KBYR 700	KENI 550	KFQD 750	KHAR 590	KYAK 650	KASH 107.5
KNIK 105.3	KBFX 100.5	KLEF 98.1	KBRJ 104.1	KSKA 91.1	KGOT 101.3
KWHL 106.5	KKRO 102.0	KYMG 98.9			

NORTHERN LIGHTS DRESS CODE

The Northern Lights ABC School expects the students and the personnel to have high standards of conduct and appropriate dress and appearance. The purpose of our dress code is to keep everyone's focus on academics. Anything that is done or worn for shock value or to attract special attention is not acceptable.

The principal makes the final decision in these situations.

- Between the hours of 7:45am and 2:45pm all cell phones, MP-3 players and other electronic devices will be turned off and concealed. Otherwise, they will be confiscated. Parents will be responsible for retrieving them from the office.
- Students may not use unnatural hair dye or coloring (pink, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange etc.)
- No permanent tattoos or other body art.
- Nail polish and make-up is not permitted in grades K-6. Middle school students may use a minimal amount of make-up and only clear nail polish.
- Due to safety reasons, dangling earrings are not permitted for any grade level. No facial piercing of any kind, except in the ears, will be allowed during school hours for students.
- Outer garments, including coats, jackets, hats, hoods, or bandanas may not be worn in the building during class times. A fitted sweater or sweatshirt may be worn in class.
- Clothing will fit properly (not to exceed 1 size beyond correct size) without bagging, sagging, or having any modifications. Pants should be able to stay above the hip bones without a belt.
- Undergarments are not to be seen at any time. This includes a bra if a shirt gaps (check when leaning forward) and underwear seen above the top of pants, including when seated.
- T-shirts with sleeves cut off, shirts that are revealing, sheer, mesh, or skintight are not allowed. Nor are tank tops, halter-tops, crop tops, or any shirt that leaves the midriff exposed, including when seated. Sleeveless shirts that are not narrower than natural shoulder seams (about 3" wide) will be permitted.
- Clothing may not contain inappropriate messages or logos for drugs, alcohol or tobacco.
- All clothing will have finished hems, be clean and without holes.
- Skirts, skorts and shorts will be no higher than 1" above the knee.
- No flip-flops, soccer slides, slippers, platform shoes or 'Heelys.' Shoes must be weather appropriate.
- No sunglasses or non-prescription glasses will be worn in the building.