



## Community Update – November 2021

### District Calendar

**November is...**  
Alaska Native and American  
Indian Heritage Month

**Nov. 8 – 12**  
National School Psychology Week

**Nov. 15 – 19**  
American Education Week

### Upcoming ASD Events

**Thursday, Nov. 11**  
In-Service Day

**Tuesday, Nov. 16**  
School Board Meeting

**Friday, Nov. 19**  
Rock Your Mocks Day

**Nov. 25 – 26**  
Thanksgiving Break



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

### Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop to Retire June 30, 2022

The Anchorage School Board announced this month that the Anchorage School District superintendent, Dr. Deena Bishop, will officially retire as superintendent, effective June 30, 2022.

In her letter to the School Board, Dr. Bishop said it has been an honor to serve the Anchorage School District (ASD) and wants to thank the community for being present and sharing priorities for its school district in the creation of the Board's new goals and guardrails.



*"After much reflection, I've made the decision to complete my term as the Anchorage School District superintendent. From the most tragic times as evidenced by the 7.1 earthquake in 2018 to the continuing global pandemic, our community has overcome obstacles, learned, and grown," Bishop said.*

*"The spotlight I would like to shine is the heightened conversations on ASD's strong focus on students' academic achievement in literacy. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our community in the capacity of superintendent and look to work with the Anchorage School Board in transitioning to new leadership. The Anchorage School District has many talented and committed employees with whom I enjoy serving."*

### ASD COVID-19 Vaccination Sites Open This Month

The Pfizer-BIONTECH'S COVID-19 vaccine is now available at the ASD clinic for 5 years and older.

This is a walk-in clinic located at the ASD Education Center, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99504.

Pre-registration is strongly recommended. More information and the link to pre-register is available on the [ASD website](#).

The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine will also be offered for those interested in receiving their first, second, or booster shot.

**Saturday drive-through clinics will be available at the following sites:**

- Service High School, Saturday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School, Saturday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.





## Same Day Testing Expands to all ASD Schools

COVID-19 testing for symptomatic and close contact students and staff is now available in all ASD schools.

Through a partnership with Beechtree Diagnostics, RT-PCR testing may be done with parental consent. The parent/guardian [registers with Beechtree](#), then chooses how they would like to receive test results, either by text or email. The school nurse will also be alerted; test results are typically available that evening.

## Good Things:



## It's Official: East High Becomes Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School

In a ceremony that took place on Oct. 23, community members gathered to honor the late Bettye Davis and celebrate the renaming of East Anchorage High School to Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School. The celebration occurred through a partnership between the Anchorage School District and the Alaska Black Caucus.

Last fall the Anchorage School Board voted unanimously to rename the school after Davis, who began her long political

career when she was elected to the Anchorage School Board from 1982 to 1990 – serving two years as Board president. She continued her School Board service from 2013 to 2018. Davis was a champion for children, tirelessly working for equity of outcomes for all students.

Davis became the first elected African-American woman to serve in the Alaska State House of Representatives from 1990 to 1996, and in 2000, Davis became the first African-American ever to be elected to the Alaska State Senate. Davis served on many local and national councils, task forces, and boards. She received countless awards for her service and dedication to Alaska and our community.

## Community Joins Gruening Middle School Staff and Students for Grand Opening

The newly renovated Gruening Middle School in Eagle River opened to students and the community during a ribbon cutting event and open house Thursday, Oct. 14.

Gruening Middle School Principal Bobby Jeffs, Anchorage School District Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop, and Governor Mike Dunleavy spoke to the crowd gathered outside the school before the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The school was damaged during the November 2018 earthquake and students attended Chugiak High School for classes from the time following the earthquake until the start of the 2021 school year.

Gruening Middle School opened its doors to community members for a tour after the ribbon cutting. The total cost of the project was \$39.3 million and included some seismic upgrades. Gruening is home to about 600 seventh and eighth-grade students.



**Anchorage School Board:** Margo Bellamy, President

Dave Donley

Pat Higgins

Andy Holleman

Carl Jacobs

Kelly Lessens

Dora Wilson

**Superintendent:** Dr. Deena Bishop



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