



The Birchwood Banner

August 2021

Birchwood ABC achieves high academic standards through a structured, well-defined curriculum, based on the mastery of skills, mandated homework and consistent grading procedures. Our program emphasizes leadership, citizenship, self-discipline, and character development as its guiding principles

Principal's Corner



School will soon be back in session. We are eager to see the students smiling faces and to hear all about their summer adventures. We also look forward to working collaboratively with our whole school community to make the 2021-2022 school year a positively memorable year. We will continue with some of the COVID-19 mitigation that we have utilized last spring. However, our operations will be more typical to pre COVID years. The main mitigation requires that everyone wear a mask when inside any ASD building. Masks will not be required during outside activities. More detailed information can be accessed through the ASD, “2021-2022 Return to School Operational Guidelines” @: <https://www.asdk12.org/schoolstart>.

Guidance on school specific operations, such as, Drop-off and Pick-up procedures, morning line-up, etc., can be accessed through our school website @: <https://www.asdk12.org/birchwoodabc>

Enjoy your last week of summer vacation! And we will see our 1st – 6th grade students on Tuesday August 17, 2021 and our PreK and K students on Tuesday August 24, 2021.

Mr. Thomas

Principal BWABC ES



Back to School Night and Class Posting, Monday 8/16 5:00-6:00PM:

The building will not be open to the public during this event. Class Lists will be posted on the front fence. Teachers will be available outside to meet families. Both the PTA and BAC will be available to answer questions. The PTA will be providing a welcome back treat.

The 1st day of school for 1st – 6th grades, Tuesday 8/17

- Students will line up with their class on the basketball court. Signs with the teacher's name will be visible for the first few days, see diagram below.
- Lineup begins at 8:40AM. Students enter the building at 8:50AM and classes begin at 9:00AM.
- Parents are permitted to walk with their child to class on the first day of school. We do request that parents do not remain in the classroom after morning announcements have concluded.

The 1st day of school for PreK & K grades, Tuesday 8/24

- PreK students will be met at the bus or front doors and escorted to the classroom by their teacher or TA each day. Parents are permitted to walk with their child to class on the first day of school. We do request that parents do not remain in the classroom after class begins.
- Kindergarten students will line up with their class on the basketball court. Signs with the teacher's name will be visible for the 1st week, see diagram below.
- Lineup begins at 8:40AM. Students enter the building at 8:50AM and classes begin at 9:00AM.
- Parents are permitted to walk with their child to class on the first day of school. We do request that parents do not remain in the classroom after the morning announcements have concluded.

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Kindergarten Door

Black Top

K - Banner
K - Heinz
1st - Lambert
1/2 Means

- K, 1 & 2 enter through the south front entrance door
- 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th enter through main door

5/6- Barker
5th - Jacobs
4th - Dennis
3/4 - Motton
3rd - Boothe

Main
Door

XX
"Bell" Line - Children should line up here if they are not in classroom line before the 8:50 bell rings. They will follow the last class line.
**PreK enter through the front door when their bus arrives.



Meals at school

Each class will be scheduled for a lunch period that will be eaten in the cafeteria. Lunch options include students bring a lunch from home or eating a lunch offered by ASD. This year all meals offered by ASD will be free to students. Unfortunately, the ASD Student Nutrition department has not been able to find a café manager for Birchwood ABC. Therefore, the lunch provided by ASD will be shelf stable and not a hot lunch. Additionally, we will not have a breakfast program at Birchwood ABC for K-6 students. The following letter from the Student Nutrition department further explains the situation:

The impact of not having a trained cafeteria manager is that many schools throughout ASD will not be able to serve heated meals to students until this situation is corrected. Please know schools participating in the USDA National School Lunch Program will continue to have school lunches available at no cost to all students through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. We want to assure you that your student(s) will be able to obtain shelf-stable lunches at school and that these meals will meet all USDA nutritional requirements. Additionally, due to the limited menu options and staff shortage, we will not be able to accommodate special dietary requests. Ingredients will be listed online. If your student has an allergy to any ingredients in the meal, please consider having your student bring lunch from home.

We are absolutely committed to our students' well-being. The District is making every effort to fill Student Nutrition vacancies, including offering a pay incentive up to \$2,500 for community members who hire on with our Student Nutrition Department and successfully complete a probationary period.

In closing, we'd like to make the ask to our community to sign on to be a cafeteria hero! Do you or someone you know have the availability to join our Student Nutrition staff and make a difference in the lives of your children, grandchildren and community members? We need your time and talents to build a strong community. ASD offers competitive salaries, convenient work schedules, PERS retirement, leave, holiday pay and more. Please visit our website (<https://www.asdk12.org/cafejobs>) for more information on job openings at our school. We would love to have you join our team!

Birchwood ABC and ASD Student Nutrition



Birchwood ABC Drop-off and Pick-up Plan

Please do not drop-off your children before 8:40 am. There are no adults on duty before that time.

The safety of our students is a top priority for the Anchorage School District and Birchwood ABC Elementary School. During pick up and drop off, students are exposed to traffic in our parking lot and around our school. Therefore, the following procedure must be adhered to by all parents, visitors, and staff.

Drop-off and pick-up takes place in the Parent/Visitor Parking lot, see map. Parents have the following two options:

Drop-off:

- 1) Park in the parent/visitors parking lot. Walk your child over to the sidewalk or into the school using one of the two crosswalks. Return to your vehicle using a crosswalk. Exit the parking lot following traffic pattern and in a slow and safe manner.
- 2) Remain in your vehicle. Proceed in the right-hand lane, closest to the curb. Do not exit your vehicle. Stop when you enter the drop off area. Make sure that your child exits the vehicle on the right-hand side. Other vehicles maybe passing you on the left so we will not allow children to walk out into the drop off lane while exiting a vehicle. Please do not pull into the handicap parking spaces unless you have a permit. Please do not block these spaces while proceeding through the drop off lane. Please do not stop in the crosswalks to drop off your child. These areas are marked by white lines. Please also see the map to identify these areas. Proceed through lane 1 or merge into lane 2 to exit.

Pick-up:

- 1) Park in the parent/visitors parking lot. Walk over to the sidewalk or into the school, using one of the two crosswalks. Escort your child back to your vehicle again using a crosswalk. Exit the parking lot following the traffic pattern in a slow and safe manner.
- 2) Remain in your vehicle. Proceed in the right-hand lane. Do not exit your vehicle. Stop when you approach your child. Make sure that they enter the vehicle on the right-hand side. Other vehicles maybe passing you on the left so we will not allow children to walk out into the pickup lane to enter the left side of a vehicle. Please do not pull into the handicap parking spaces unless you have a permit. Please do not block these spaces will proceeding through the drop off lane. Please do not stop in the crosswalks to drop off your child. These areas are marked by white lines. Please also see the map to identify these areas. Please make sure your child is buckled up. Proceed through lane 1 or merge into lane 2 to exit.

General Rules:

- Practice patience and being courteous.
- Our rules and procedures have been created for safety and efficiency.
- Please follow the directions of our on-duty staff. Their job is to keep the traffic flowing and monitor safety. Vehicles should pull forward as space allows before loading or dropping off students.
- Vehicles should proceed slowly and be alert in the traffic loop and parking area.
- Cell phone usage is prohibited while driving on our campus to keep drivers alert for pedestrians and traffic. Please park if you need to use your phone.
- The left lane is for proceeding through the loop. No one should stop in the left lane except to allow someone from the right lane to merge, or to allow pedestrians to cross at the crosswalk.
- Be aware of pedestrians in the crosswalk. Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Pedestrians, check carefully before entering the crosswalk.
- Children should walk, not run, while proceeding to and from their vehicles.
- Allow yourself enough time to drop off and pick up your child to alleviate stress and avoid having to rush. Your child may be late to class if you arrive later than 8:50 AM.
- Please plan on picking up your child no later than 3:45 PM. Students not picked up by this time will be brought to the office to call home to check on their transportation.
- A child must cross at the crosswalk with his/her parent accompanying him/her.
- Pay attention to the signs, stay right and take turns. It's easy!

Please Do Not:

- Drive through the parking lot and wait in your vehicle by the crosswalk. Either park in the lot or join the loop.
- Park in the parking lot and then allow your child to come or go unescorted through the lot.
- Cut through the parking lot in order to enter the loop further up.
- Parents should not drop-off or pick up within the area of the handicapped parking or in front of the cones.

Please be advised that all violations will be address by school administration and/or Anchorage Police Department!

Thank you for your assistance and support with our drop off and pick up procedures

Birchwood ABC Drop Off and Pickup Procedures Map



2021-22 Return to School Operational Guidelines

Keep ASD Symptom Free

Guidelines in Schools, Administrative Buildings, and Buses.



Academic Models

ASD will have full-length, in-person school days and virtual learning models allowing families to choose the best model for their needs. The full-length school day schedule is as follows:

High 7:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Middle 8:15 a.m.–2:45 p.m. Elementary 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.



Cleaning and Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfecting will occur on buses, in schools, and in administrative offices. Classrooms will be cleaned daily. Exceptional disinfection in schools will occur as needed.



Physical Distancing

Physical distancing of 3-6 feet should be observed in all District classrooms and buildings, to the extent possible, but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.



Face Coverings

Face coverings are required for all students, staff, and visitors while inside ASD schools and buildings. Some exceptions may apply for educational purposes and for cohorting people who are fully vaccinated. Face coverings are not required for outdoor activities.



Handwashing/Hand Sanitizing

Hand sanitizer will be available in all schools and on buses. Frequent hand washing and/or sanitizing will occur throughout the school day.



Transportation

Face coverings are required for students, bus drivers, and attendants on school buses. Some routes may have assigned seating.



Meals and Water Breaks

Meals will be served to students and consumed in cafeterias and other school settings at school discretion.*



Classrooms

Classrooms will be cleaned daily. Desk barriers or other partitions may be used at school discretion.*



HVAC

School building ventilation systems will be activated two hours before school start and kept running two hours after the school day ends to ensure air exchanges.



Student/Staff Health and Safety

Nurses and trained staff will be on site to screen students and staff showing symptoms of illness. Proper isolation protocols will be followed in the event of suspected cases in schools or administrative buildings.



Recess

Mask wearing will be optional for students during outdoor recess.

*Consistent with CDC guidance



Volunteers and Visitors

School volunteers and visitors are welcome. Volunteers and visitors will be required to follow District procedures and protocols and should not visit any ASD facility if symptomatic, COVID positive, or in quarantine.



Sports/Extracurricular Activities

Indoor and outdoor sports and extracurricular activities such as dances, assemblies, school spirit gatherings, fine arts performances, and club activities may be available to students and spectators. For indoor sports, athletes will wear masks if on the sideline. Spectators will be expected to wear masks during indoor competitions and events. Mask wearing will be optional for all outdoor sports and activities. Consistent with CDC guidance

General Guidelines to Staff and Parents



Symptomatic Students or Staff – KEEP ASD SYMPTOM FREE

Parents and guardians should conduct a symptoms screening of their student and keep their student home if exhibiting symptoms. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to have symptomatic students tested for COVID-19. The same standards apply for symptomatic staff.



Reporting and Communication

Parents are strongly encouraged to notify schools if their student is a confirmed COVID-19 positive or close contact. Schools will report confirmed cases (students and/or staff) using the District's online COVID-19 report format. The District will communicate findings and recommendations to affected staff and students' families. Communications will be specific to individuals or groups.



Testing

ASD will provide testing to symptomatic staff and students either through school nurses or a contracted provider with parent or guardian consent. Municipal sites will continue to provide testing at locations throughout the Municipality.



Vaccination

ASD will provide COVID-19 vaccines to eligible students (with parent or guardian consent), staff, and community members through a contracted provider. The District will also continue to perform vaccination clinics, to include flu and other State-required vaccinations, in schools as needed.



Check www.asdk12.org for updates



NEW FOR 2022!

**SCHOOL
PORTRAITS**

VIEW BEFORE YOU PURCHASE



Questions? Contact
Fitzgerald Photography
(907) 726-1562
alicia@fitzgeraldphotos.com
www.FitzgeraldPhotos.com

BIRCHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PICTURES WILL BE September 30th

**No more paper order forms!! View & purchase online
AFTER picture day to be sure you love your portrait!**

1. A web link will be emailed out prior to school pictures. Pre-register so you will be notified when pictures are ready to view and purchase online!
 2. Send your student to school dressed & ready on picture day. If your school has multiple school picture days, they will notify you of which day your student should come picture ready.
 3. AFTER picture day the school will send you another online order link. You will be able to view & purchase your favorite images. If for any reason you do not have the ability to view/purchase images online please call
Fitzgerald Photography at 907-726-1562
 4. Portraits are mailed directly home. No more lost or crumpled packages in the backpack!
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Buddy Bear Program

Subject to change based on COVID risk level

To apply, click the link below:

[2021-2022 Buddy Bear Application](#)

Considerations Before Applying

ASD strives to provide opportunities for preschool students with disabilities to interact and learn with typically-developing peers. The Buddy Bear model is not intended to provide early childhood education for typically-developing children; it is designed to support the development of young children who are identified as developmentally-delayed or disabled.

A maximum of three Buddy Bears are allocated per classroom. Allocations will be determined by the principal and school team and will be reviewed throughout the school year. The number of Buddy Bear students allocated to each preschool special education class is based on the enrollment and needs of the special education students in each class. Visit www.asdk12.org/preschool for more information.

Program Information

- Children 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2021 attend 9:45am-1:45pm, Monday-Friday
- Children younger than 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2021 attend either 9:45am-12:15pm **or** 1:45pm-4:15pm, Monday-Thursday
- Communication programs (Creekside, Taku, Ravenwood) operate 9:45am-12:15pm **or** 1:45pm-4:15pm, Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday
- Age Eligibility: Children must be at least 3 years old to apply
- Fee: \$200/semester; waived for families qualifying for free/reduced lunch

Transportation is not provided for the Buddy Bear Program.

Application and Selection

In consultation with the school team(s), principals select Buddy Bears based on program and classroom needs, and returning Buddy Bear status. Buddy Bear applicants must complete the *Buddy Bear Application*. The *Ages & Stages (ASQ) Screener* is completed by the family when contacted by a school for possible selection.

Buddy Bears must reapply each school year.

Each month Birchwood ABC focuses on a different character trait.

September's Character Trait

Respect: A regard for or appreciation of the worth or value of someone or something.



Birchwood ABC is on Facebook! Please be sure to follow and like our OFFICIAL Facebook page. This will be just one of many ways for Birchwood's staff, parents and students to stay connected! You can find our OFFICIAL page at www.facebook.com/BWABC123. We would love for you to share all the ways that you and your students are staying engaged, by posting pictures and videos to our page.



Birchwood ABC Elementary

@BWABC123 · Elementary School

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Liked

Message



Aug 17th 1st-6th grade classes start
Aug 20th PreK and Kinder classes start

Sep 6th Labor Day- No School
Sep 30th School Pictures

Thank you to our School Business Partner!!!



773 Logistics Readiness
JBER, AK