



The Birchwood Banner

September 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



We are off to a fast and productive start! The school year will progress as fast as summer break had. Remember that the days are long but the years are short! Our children will be grown and gone before we know it so it is important to cherish this time when they are young and plan for their success. Students who attend school 95% of the time or better will achieve a full year of progress or beyond. Students who attend less than 95% of the time are more likely to fall behind. Unless a student is ill, they should be at school every day. The below rates identify the days absent to percent ratios:

- Excellent = 0-3 absences (98-100%)
- Good = 4-9 absences (95-98%)
- Average = 10-14 absences (92-95%)

- Poor = 15-19 absences (89-92%)
- Severe = more than 20 absences (>89%)

Power of Positive Students (POPS)

Birchwood ABC Elementary is a positive learning environment. This is accomplished through the dedication of our staff, parents and the community who ensure that our students receive the highest degree of education in a safe and inviting atmosphere. Recognition of positive student behavior is a necessary component in maintaining a successful learning environment. Birchwood ABC implements the POPS program. When a staff member or visitor in the building observes a student or students contributing in a positive way then they will provide them a POPS slip. The student will then bring the slip to the office and share it with the principal. They will leave a copy in the office and take a copy home to share with parents. At the end of each week one slip per grade level will be drawn and that student will be further recognized during morning announcements and will earn a reward. The more POPS slips that a student earns during a week the more they improve their chances of earning the reward.

Thank You,

Mr. Thomas

2021 PEAKS Results

PEAKS (Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools) is a computer-based assessment administered to students in Grades 3-9 (English language arts and mathematics) and grades 5, 8 and 10 (science)* each spring during the state designated testing window. This state-required assessment provides students the opportunity to show their understanding of important skills in these content areas at their grade level.

*NOTE: The science assessment is a new test based on new State of Alaska science standards. The tested grade levels have been updated to grades 5, 8 and 10. For spring 2021, science was field tested by all students in grades 5, 8 and 10, so no results will be reported for science. For more information, please review the State of Alaska Department of Education PEAKS New Science Assessment FAQs.

Reading and Math results are below. They will be reviewed and discussed by Mr. Thomas during our open house on Tuesday 8/31 @ 5:30PM



PEAKS Assessment

Alaska Department of Education
& Early Development

School Summary Report

District: Anchorage School District
School: Birchwood ABC Elementary

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Test Date: Spring 2021

Achievement Level Summary

| Group | # Tested | % in Each Level | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------|------|------|------|
| School | 122 | 21.3 | 20.5 | 44.3 | 13.9 |
| District | 15,940 | 32.0 | 24.9 | 30.1 | 13.1 |
| State | 44,444 | 36.5 | 24.0 | 27.7 | 11.9 |

Far Below Proficient Below Proficient Proficient Advanced

Achievement Level Summary | By Grade

| Grade | Group | # Tested | % in Each Level | | | |
|-------|----------|----------|-----------------|------|------|------|
| 3 | School | 33 | 21.2 | 12.1 | 48.5 | 18.2 |
| | District | 2,514 | 37.2 | 24.0 | 27.6 | 11.2 |
| | State | 6,793 | 40.9 | 23.1 | 25.2 | 10.8 |
| 4 | School | 29 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 41.4 | 17.2 |
| | District | 2,588 | 30.8 | 30.0 | 27.2 | 12.0 |
| | State | 6,797 | 35.4 | 27.5 | 25.7 | 11.4 |
| 5 | School | 40 | 20.0 | 25.0 | 47.5 | 7.5 |
| | District | 2,490 | 27.0 | 31.7 | 32.0 | 9.4 |
| | State | 6,791 | 31.6 | 30.1 | 30.4 | 7.9 |
| 6 | School | 20 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 35.0 | 15.0 |
| | District | 2,482 | 28.0 | 17.8 | 38.6 | 15.7 |
| | State | 6,697 | 34.9 | 18.2 | 34.2 | 12.7 |

Far Below Proficient Below Proficient Proficient Advanced



PEAKS Assessment

Alaska Department of Education
& Early Development

School Summary Report

District: Anchorage School District

School: Birchwood ABC Elementary

SUBJECT: MATHEMATICS

Test Date: Spring 2021

Achievement Level Summary

| Group | # Tested | % in Each Level | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------|------|------|------|
| School | 120 | 12.5 | 30.0 | 44.2 | 13.3 |
| District | 15,809 | 24.8 | 38.5 | 28.7 | 8.0 |
| State | 44,000 | 29.1 | 38.6 | 25.9 | 6.5 |

Far Below Proficient
Below Proficient
Proficient
Advanced

Achievement Level Summary | By Grade

| Grade | Group | # Tested | % in Each Level | | | |
|-------|----------|----------|-----------------|------|------|------|
| 3 | School | 33 | 9.1 | 27.3 | 45.5 | 18.2 |
| | District | 2,512 | 23.2 | 36.1 | 29.7 | 11.1 |
| | State | 6,746 | 26.8 | 35.3 | 27.9 | 9.9 |
| 4 | School | 29 | 6.9 | 27.6 | 51.7 | 13.8 |
| | District | 2,571 | 19.0 | 38.0 | 33.3 | 9.6 |
| | State | 6,730 | 24.3 | 39.1 | 29.3 | 7.3 |
| 5 | School | 38 | 13.2 | 31.6 | 44.7 | 10.5 |
| | District | 2,480 | 25.6 | 37.4 | 29.7 | 7.3 |
| | State | 6,750 | 30.3 | 36.2 | 27.6 | 5.9 |
| 6 | School | 20 | 25.0 | 35.0 | 30.0 | 10.0 |
| | District | 2,484 | 16.0 | 44.7 | 32.6 | 6.7 |
| | State | 6,666 | 20.3 | 47.3 | 27.7 | 4.7 |

Far Below Proficient
Below Proficient
Proficient
Advanced



Open House will be Tuesday August 31st from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. This will be at the school and masks are required. From 5:30 pm to 5:45 pm we will be in the gym with Mr. Thomas. From 6:00 pm- 7:00pm we will be doing teacher rotations every 15 minutes. We look forward to seeing you!



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

Be a Cafeteria Hero!

You can play a vital role to build a strong community. Join the team that serves 30,000 meals and fuels our students for success. We need your time and talent to build a strong community. School nutrition professionals have a direct impact on the health and well-being of children today. Not only do they have the opportunity to influence child nutrition daily through meal service, but they also have the opportunity to foster healthy eating habits that last a lifetime.

This is a career path to help create a healthier generation and make a difference in the lives your children, grandchildren and community members.



Hiring Bonus of up to \$2,500

Some manager and assistant manager positions are eligible for a bonus of \$2,500 and many cafeteria assistant and central kitchen positions are eligible for a \$1,000 starting bonus.

In addition to starting bonuses, ASD benefits to a career in school nutrition include:

- competitive salaries
- opportunities to advance professionally
- convenient work schedule.

VIEW CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND APPLY ONLINE

To view the most current list of vacancies, click or tap the "View Current Employment Opportunities" link. The map and table of job postings provide an easy-to-use map and table of current positions available. Click or tap on the job title in the table to be taken to the job description and to apply online. Please note, the map and table are updated 1 - 2 times per week. The View Current Employment Opportunities" link is updated daily.

View Current Employment Opportunities



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 take 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





Visit the **PE Website** for detailed information on what to expect from PE at Birchwood ABC. This includes curriculum, grading and extracurricular activities. The link below takes you directly to Mr. Olson's webpage through the school website

<https://sites.google.com/a/asdk12.net/birchwood-abc-pe/home>

Beach lake Area Trails

Cross Country

Running Jamboree...

...will take place **Wednesday, September 22nd**. All Chugiak/Eagle River area schools participate. Birchwood always has many runners, so it would be great to show some Colt pride at this event.

Registration forms will be sent home to those interested. Expect as many as 1,000 students running for fun! Good running shoes, water bottle, a healthy finish line snack, and please dress appropriate for weather. Different distances for each grade level K-6th. There will be a check in table for Birchwood at the event. Questions??? See Mr. Olson, or email at olson_kirk@asdk12.org.

GYM SHOES!

Anything clean and safe to move in works for me. Also, if your child has shoes with laces and they have yet to learn to tie, then they have PE HOMEWORK! Velcro works best if your child is still learning.

Healthy Futures

Birchwood ABC participates in the Healthy Futures program. This first week of September, students will receive activity logs during PE class and practice the "how to fill out my activity log" during all K-6th classes. They will be sent home to complete for the month of September. Logs should be returned by the end of the month to Mr. Olson.

Participating students receive a small "prize" each month (September through November). 4th – 6th grade students also receive an additional "O" towards their PE achievement grade.

For more information about Healthy Futures, visit healthyfuturesak.org.





Anchorage School District

Birchwood ABC

17010 Birchtree Street

Chugiak, AK 99567

(907) 742-3450

Fax: (907) 742-3495

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

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 quarterly grade level lessons will be taught during the Health classes. Combined, these lessons meet the full requirements for student training 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.

If you have any questions about the content of the program or if you wish to inquire about opting out, please contact our Elem. Health Specialist, Stacy Flagg at flagg_stacy@asdk12.org.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and well being of our students.



WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY!

I'm Ms. Tanya Tyson, your new school librarian. Please feel free to visit the library during open house or whenever.

This quarter our school will be participating in a "Fall" into Reading Bingo activity. This optional activity is designed to help students become excited about reading and spend time with family. Look for the Bingo sheets your child will bring home this week (extras can be picked up in the library.)

This year we will have a Maker Space in the library. Right now, I am looking for donations of cardboard for our Cardboard Challenge in October and LEGOs for various activities this year. If you are able to donate any items, you may send them with your child or bring them directly to the library.

Thanks so much!

Tanya Tyson
Birchwood ABC K-6 Librarian



Please click the link for COVID-19 Testing Locations <https://anchoragecovidtest.org/>

Please review the link below for COVID-19 Prevention Strategies for Safe In-Person Learning in K-12 Schools <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

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



PTA REGISTRATION FORM

Speak Up! Speak Out! Be Heard!

We had a great PTA last year and we anticipate a GREAT new school year.

Don't be left out, get a new PTA membership. Remember, as a member you get your voice heard when it comes to your child's school environment.

Dads, Moms and Grandparents, everyone can be a member.

Please fill out this form and check the bottom for volunteer opportunities.

I want a new PTA membership. I am enclosing \$10 per membership.

I want ____ BWABC Memberships @ \$10 each.

Make checks payable to BWABC PTA Total Enclosed ____

Name_____

Child's Name:_____Grade:_____

Address: _____Phone: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WE NEED YOU! By giving a few hours of your time, you can make a real difference in the education and well being of your child. There are areas you can help in. If any interest you please check the box below.

Book Fairs_____

Holiday Market_____

Winter Carnival_____

Jog A Thon_____

Popcorn Friday_____

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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...



Sep 6th Labor Day- No School
Sep 29th School Pictures

Oct 15th State released professional
development day
Oct 20th/21st Parent/Teacher conference days
Oct 22nd State released professional
development day

Thank you to our School Business Partner!!!



773 Logistics Readiness
JBER, AK