

POLARIS K-12 SCHOOL

Wolf Weekly



WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR PACK

May 23, 2024

Dear Polaris Families,

HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SUMMER!

I want to extend my sincerest thank you to all of you who contributed in helping to make this year a wonderful success. It was not without its challenges, but with challenges come triumphs, and we had many of those to celebrate!

As we officially gear ourselves into summer, I have a few final thanks, congratulations, and also timely reminders for the upcoming school year outlined below. This information is largely a repeat from previous Wolf Weekly's, but I wanted to have it in this final installment of the WW, just as a convenient place to look for future planning purposes.

We wish you the most restorative, restful, and rejuvenating summer–

See you in the fall!

With kindness and immense appreciation,
Tia

Many Thanks & Congratulations:

To The Polaris Class of 2024:

You did it!! Congratulations and many many good luck wishes as you step forth into the world beyond our walls. Thank you for all you have done to contribute positively to our school environment and the legacy that you leave beyond for those of us who remain– Remember, you will always be a Polarian; go forth and do the amazing work that we all know you are capable of.

To PPTA, our Parent Volunteers, and Keana/Zada:

THANK YOU! The All School Picnic and our Elementary Field Day were large successes to end our year and that is all because of you and your hard work. To everyone who donated their valuable time and/or contributed to the all-school picnic in food/product donations, we truly couldn't have done it without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

To the Dedicated Staff of Polaris K-12:

As I said in our internal communications this morning, words can not adequately express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for helping make this school year a wonderful success. It was not without its challenges, but the amount of positives that were seen and felt throughout our building speaks volumes to the program we all are collectively contributing to. I have said it many times, but truly—thank you for the dedication and commitment you have shown this program, our students, and our community as a whole every day this school year.

Polaris Community Efforts Over the Summer:

Polaris Schoolyard Habitat Love | Summer Volunteers Wanted!

Please consider visiting the [Polaris Schoolyard Habitat webpage](#) to learn a little more about our habitat and claim a plot of land or volunteer for summer maintenance. If you have any questions or other ideas on how to contribute, please contact teacher Akara Anglin at anglin_akara@asdk12.org.

Looking Ahead to 2024/25:

Start/End Times | 8:30-3:00

Announced earlier this year and riddled throughout recent district-wide communications, ASD will be moving to new start/end times for the 2024/25 school year. As a school of choice, Polaris was able to collectively decide what our times would be— as a community, we have decided to move forward with an 8:30-3:00 standard school day for our entire K-12 community. **Doors will open at 8:10 and instruction will begin at 8:30.** All elementary students will report to either the gym or library if they arrive before 8:30 for morning supervision. Dismissal times will vary based on our school calendar. Standard school days will end at 3:00; however, dismissal will be at 2:00 for all K-12 students during intensives; even during our secondary only intensives at the start of the year. Additionally, our 1/2 day PLCs will continue next year but will be moving to a tri-weekly schedule with minor exceptions. Dismissal on 1/2 days is at 11:30 for all K-12 students. **Our [2024/25 calendar](#) is now available for viewing on our website!**

[2024/25 Calendar | Available Now on the Polaris Website](#)

To best support your planning for next school year, we wanted to make sure to announce the our Polaris Calendar is now available. Available on our website, or linked above, this calendar is your ticket to success for all your planning purposes. Please note the PLC ½ days, the intensive dates where all students will dismiss at 2, and **the date for our first day of school!** Unlike the rest of ASD who will be operating on a staggered start-date schedule, **all Polaris K-12 students will start on August 15.**

[Polaris Technology Policy Update | New Policy to Begin the 2024/25 School Year](#)

We have reviewed the feedback received from students and parents in regard to our proposed Technology Acceptable Use Policy, made what we feel were appropriate and necessary changes, and have formally voted to implement an amended version of the policy at the onset of next school year. This new Technology Policy, viewable on our website and linked above, removes the usage of Yondr, the locking-pouch technology, but upholds our mission of helping to better support and guide our students in the appropriate uses of technology here within our educational institution. Please see the Polaris Website for more information.

[The Move to Middle School | 6th Grade Information Meeting | Save The Date!](#)

The transition to middle school can be a trepdacious one (for students and parents), even when you are staying in the same building! But rest assured, we are here to help support you in this move to middle school. **All 6th graders have been automatically enrolled in the 6th grade Transition Intensive** and will start next school year with their entire team of 6th grade teachers. We also invite you to mark your calendars and join us for the ***Sixth Grade Information Night on Tuesday, August 20 from 5:30 - 6:30PM in the Polaris front lobby.*** This event will provide an opportunity to hear from our Polaris team of Sixth Grade teachers, Principal Tia, and our school counselor, Susy. The team will present information on curriculum, band and orchestra opportunities, our grading philosophy for Sixth graders, and a number of exciting elements of becoming a secondary student. There will also be plenty of time to ask questions and meet your child's team of teachers. We are all looking forward to working with Class of 2031 as they embark on their Polaris Secondary journey!

[Early Wolves | Before School Care for 2024/25!](#)

A need that is seen and felt in our building, especially with the upcoming shift in start time, is before-school care. I am happy to announce that I am opening an opportunity for families to register for before-school care that will allow families to drop off their student(s) starting at 7:30am. There is a fee associated with this registration for each semester, however, it is less than \$5 a day! If you are interested in this opportunity, please see the link above for more information and for registration details.

[New Student Orientation Event | Student & Parent Volunteers Needed](#)

In an effort to evolve our method of introducing new students and families to our Polaris community, we will be hosting an inaugural New Student Orientation event on Friday, August 2nd for all new to Polaris families. This event will provide information to them about our program, but our hope is to also offer an opportunity to meet some amazing students and parents that can help welcome them to our school. If

you are interested in supporting this initiative by volunteering your time on August 2nd from 10:30-12:30, please [RSVP using this form](#). We greatly appreciate your willingness to help support the continued evolution and success of our school community.

[Polar PreK | Interest Survey](#)

A somewhat secret 'pet project' that has been in the works this year is to establish a preschool classroom here at Polaris. This will be a private preschool, not associated with the Anchorage School District, but housed here within our building to support our continuously growing and evolving program. We are still in the early stages of development, however, I wanted to gain an understanding of the interest and need for this type of resource within our building as I am actively working to get this up and running (with the potential possibility of opening this preK class as early as next school year). The intent is to open this preschool primarily for our staff and for our sibling population. If you are a family that would benefit from this potential opportunity, please take a brief moment to fill out the survey linked above.

To view previous Wolf Weekly Announcements, please refer to the [archived issues](#) available on our website.

Dates at a Glance

May 23-August 14 SUMMER!
August 15 First Day of School for ALL K-12 Students 😊