

# Clark Middle School

Welcome to a great year of learning.

## Establishing High Expectations

Through Rigor, Relevance  
and Relationship Building  
Expanding to **Per AP** Across the  
School



**Edition 10 Issue 7, February 2019-2020**

### Mark Your Calendar:



**Wed. February 12, 2020**

**Parent Teacher Conferences**

Student Dismissal - 11:45am

**Conferences - 12:15-3pm**

Teacher Break - 3pm (Closed)

**Conferences – 4pm – 7pm**

**Teacher Dismissal: 7pm**  
(closed)

**Thurs. February 13, 2020**

Student Dismissal 11:45am

**Conferences 12:15-3pm**

**Teacher Dismissal 3pm**



**Fri. February 14, 2020**

**Teacher In-Service Training**

**Professional Dev. 7:45am-11:30am**

## Student-Led Teacher-Supported Conferences

*Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>*

Timing of these conferences will allow students, families, and teachers an opportunity to review third quarter progress before the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter instead of focusing on the traditional end of quarter grades.

These conferences are designed to highlight students' progress and growth. Portfolios will be updated allowing students to discuss and display their current work as evidence of their learning. Another feature will give parents Transition recommendation forms indicating placement for next year.

For 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, you will receive recommendation information for High School

For 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, you will receive recommendation information for 8<sup>th</sup> grade

For 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, you will receive recommendation information for 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Please remember to plan 20 minutes before or after your scheduled conference time to meet with elective and PE teachers. For your planning purposes, **SEE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE ON page 2 of this newsletter.**

We are excited about this upcoming opportunity for students to showcase their education growth, demonstrate their goals for the rest of the year, and begin planning for the next school year. Please feel free to contact me at Clark Middle School if you have any questions or concerns.

I also want to give you another reminder that the **Anchorage School District's Climate and Connectedness Survey** will be available to students, staff members, and parents/guardians. We use the data from this survey to help us determine areas to focus on for the upcoming school year. Please consider completing this survey at your earliest convenience. The parent/guardian survey is currently available to you. Again, the results of this survey are very important and valuable to me, as the principal of Clark Middle School.

I would also like to remind students and families; it is time to pre-order your very own Clark Middle School **Memory Book** for this year. The price of our memory book is \$20. Order forms are available in the office.

*Sincerely,*

*Cessilye Williams, Principal*



# STUDENT LED CONFERENCES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The following schedule is for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Student Led Conferences. Students will be dismissed at 11:45am on Wednesday and Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. One evening of parent teacher conference is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The additional time is provided for schools to utilize the Student-Led Conference model. Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> is an in-service day with the morning dedicated to an in-service to meet professional development needs of your school.

DATES:     Wednesday, February 12, 2020 – Middle School Conferences  
                  Thursday, February 13, 2020 – Middle School Conferences  
                  Friday, February 14, 2020 – No School for Students – In-Service Day

<b>Middle School Schedule – Wednesday, February 12, 2020</b>	
Student Dismissal	11:45am
Conferences	12:15-3:00pm
Teacher Break <b>(Closed)</b>	3:00pm
Conferences <b>(Reopen)</b>	4:00-7:00pm
Teacher Dismissal	7:00pm
<b>Middle School Schedule – Thursday, February 13, 2020</b>	
Student Dismissal	11:45am
Conferences	12:15-3:00pm
Teacher Dismissal	3:00pm
<b>In-Service Day – Friday, February 14, 2020</b>	
<b>In-Service Day (No School for Students)</b>	
<b>Teacher Dismissal 11:30am</b>	

# **5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Evening of Excellence**

## **Literacy Enrichment Family Night**

### **5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Orientation**

**February 25, 2020**

**5:30-6:30pm Dinner for Families/Students**

**6:30-8:00pm Transition Activities**



- Visit Core Classroom Math / Language Arts / Social Studies / Science / Writing
- Elective Classrooms
- Counselors Available to share with families – Bell Schedule / Lunch/
- Conduct/ Assistant Principals
- School Store
- Tour the Building
- Meet our Dynamic Staff
- Ask Questions
- Find out about our Distinguished Saturday Academy's
- Enrichment Programs

## **Family Literacy Evening of Excellence**

- Free Book Give Away
- Engage with staff to learn Fun Literacy Activities for the Family
- Literacy Baskets give away
- Fun, Learning and More Fun! Please Join Us!



# WIDA Testing for English

---

*WIDA*

*Testing*

---

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning February 1st our school will be conducting a state required assessment for English Language Learners. This assessment is called ACCESS 2.0 and provides important feedback about the progress of our English Language Learners in Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing. Students will take the test using our school's computers. Only students who are currently identified as members of the English Language Learners Program will be assessed. Most of the assessments will be completed during the first two weeks of February but some may continue into March. More information about the ACCESS 2.0 assessment is found on the ASD ACCESS 2.0 page,

<http://www.asdk12.org/ae/elpa/>.

If you have any questions about this test, you are encouraged to contact us here at school (742-4700) and ask for your child's counselor. You may also contact the District's English Language Learners Department at 742-4452. Information about the English Language Learners Program in the Anchorage School District can be found on ASD's website.

As always, with testing, we ask that families plan so that their students are in school and are well rested for testing. Your patience and support for this process is very much appreciated as this assessment does provide useful information that helps our district and school improve programs for English Language Learners.

Sincerely,

Cessilye Williams

## **What is ACCESS 2.0?**

ACCESS is the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) used to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English in the domains of speaking, listening, reading and writing. ACCESS 2.0 is online but features the same tasks and measures as the original ACCESS test.

## **Which students will take ACCESS 2.0?**

The State of Alaska requires that students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) in Grades K-12 are tested annually on an ELPA to monitor progress in acquiring English skills. Alaska's ELPA is provided by the WIDA Consortium.

## **When will students take ACCESS 2.0?**

The ACCESS 2.0 testing window is February 1 - March 9. The District and schools will collaborate on creating testing schedules for each building to best support a positive testing experience for students.

## **Why online?**

As an online assessment, ACCESS 2.0 has replaced the previous paper-based version of ACCESS. The online testing experience provides students with a consistent and dynamic test administration, access to built-in test features and accessibility tools and efficient delivery of the test with minimal impact to instructional services. Please note: ACCESS will continue to be administered in paper/pencil format for Kindergarten and for Alternate ACCESS. The Writing section of the test is also paper/pencil for grades 1-3.

## **What is on the test?**

The test contains tasks that attempt to replicate communications that might be encountered by students in school contexts. Each assessment item and task will target components of the English Language Development Standards: social and instructional language, language of language arts, language of mathematics, language of science and language of social studies.

## **How long is the test?**

ACCESS 2.0 is a self-paced test where students can work at their own speed. Approximate testing time is estimated to be 3-4 hours over 4 testing sessions.

## **Are accommodations allowed on ACCESS 2.0 for students with disabilities?**

Yes. Information regarding accommodations for ACCESS can be found in the Participation Guidelines for Alaska Students in State Assessments, dated December 2015. In addition, many of what were previously considered accommodations are embedded in the online test.

## **Are there practice tests?**

Yes. Practice Tests are available at <https://wbte.drcdirect.com/WIDA/portals/wida/>. For more information, please visit the WIDA website: <https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS20.aspx>



# SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The School Leadership (SLT) is the primary school based vehicle for parents to work with teachers and the Principals to establish school priorities, discuss budget alignment to educational priorities, and evaluate your school's progress.

Administrators, parents and teachers comprise the School Leadership Team. Through active participation on the School Leadership Team have the opportunity to directly influence higher expectations, collaborative planning and a joint planning community.

The School Leadership Team is instrumental in providing input into the development of our Title I School-wide Plan that sets annual goals for the school in Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Attendance and School-wide Discipline. As goals are set, systems will be put in place to measure achievement of those goals.

Clark Middle School's Leadership Team is scheduled to meet monthly. The meeting schedule is listed below:

Thurs. September 12<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Breakfast 8-9am Library

Thurs. October 10<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Luncheon 12-1pm Library

Thurs. November 14<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Breakfast 8-9am Library

Thurs. December 12<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Luncheon 12-1pm Library

Thurs. January 16<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Breakfast 8-9am Library

**Tues. February 25<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Dinner 5:30pm-6:30pm**

Dinner 6:30-8:00pm *Visit Classrooms*

*Enjoy Learning Activities from*

*our Learning Community*

Thurs. March 19<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Breakfast 8-9am Library

Thurs. April 9<sup>th</sup> Parent/Student Luncheon 12-1pm Library



All parents and teachers are welcome to attend. Parents who have questions, ideas or suggestions for the School Parent Leadership Team but cannot attend a meeting may leave a message in the main office or contact the Principal, Cessilye Williams @ 742-4730.

## I am Interested:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*First Name*

*Last Name*

Phone Number: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

List your student(s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Dates can be found on Clark Middle Schools Facebook Page  
as well as our Clark Middle Schools ASD Website

# SCHOOL DANCES



## **February Dance**

Date: February 21, 2020

Time: 3-4:30PM

Location: Clark Middle School

Cost: \$5



- **February 4**
- **February 11**
- **February 18**
- **February 25**

# TEACHING

Teaching is student engagement. Jerome Brunner (psychologist) said, "Any person can learn anything that can be put in the simple language of the student".

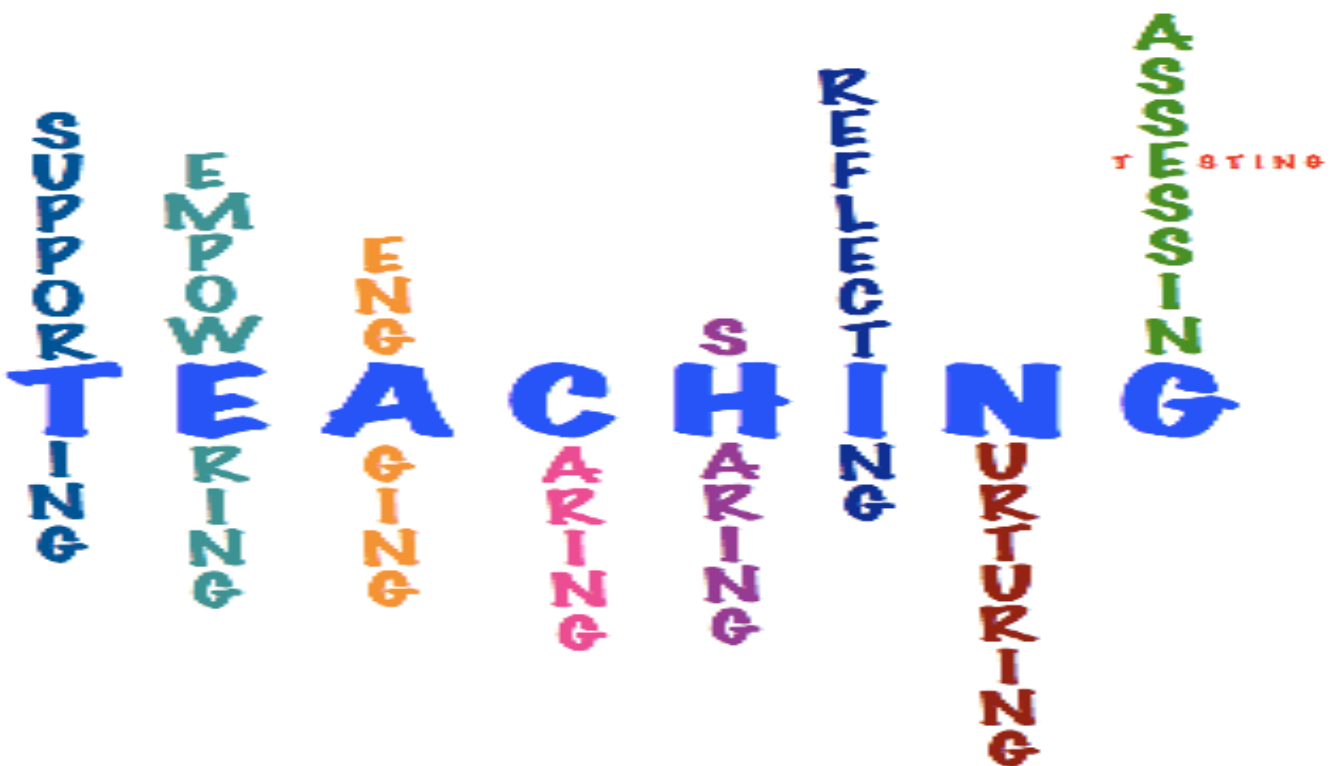
You need to teach with fervor, zeal and energy. **Do not sit behind your desk.** You cannot teach effectively while you are sitting down. What your students learn is in direct proportion to the amount of interaction with the teacher and the number of hands-on activities, not worksheets. Little learning takes place when the teacher sits behind his/her desk. The quote goes, "Teach on your feet and plan on your can."

Avoid re-teaching by making sure learning occurs while you are teaching. Independent work should be monitored. Work from bell-to-bell. DEMAND EXCELLENCE!

Make wise use of time. We only have students for 165+ days a year and we have so much in the curriculum to cover. Utilize as much of the day as possible for instructional purpose. Even five minutes a day unscheduled totals 835 minutes or almost 14 hours. Have beneficial activities for those children who complete work quickly.

The average students in your class have the best potential for the most growth.

Paraprofessionals should be used to work with students needing remediation. Teachers should have activities planned daily for the Paraprofessionals.



# Clark Middle Schools

## Attendance Guide

### For Students and Families



Daily attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of school success and on-time graduation. Our goal is to have every student at school on time every day. We are asking for your help and partnership in getting your student to school every day. Whether you need to maintain your student's excellent attendance or improve future attendance, it will not only help your student be more successful this school year, but will prepare your student to do well in the future at college and at work.



Our **GOAL** is for students to miss nine (9) or fewer days during the school year.

#### 9 or/ FEWER DAYS of ABSENCE

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
No more than 2 days	No more than 2 days	No more than 2 days	No more than 2 days

We understand students may miss some school; however, those times should be limited. Attendance is so important that each student's attendance data is transferred to his/her permanent records at the end of the school year. Attendance is also recorded on all students' transcripts. We hope the information below will help you understand our attendance policies and procedures.

Please feel welcome to contact our student's school or one of the Administrators [742-4700] if you have any questions related to attendance.

### Valid Excuses for Absences

- ❖ Participation in a district or school approved activity or instructional program;
- ❖ Illness, health condition or medical appointment (including, but not limited to, medical counseling, dental or optometry) for the student or person for whom the student is legally responsible;
- ❖ Family emergency including, but not limited to, a death or illness in the family;
- ❖ Religious or cultural purpose including observance of a religious or cultural holiday or participation in religious or cultural instruction;
- ❖ Court, judicial proceeding, or serving on a jury;
- ❖ Post-secondary, technical school or apprenticeship program visitation, or scholarship interview;
- ❖ Absence directly related to the student's homeless status;
- ❖ Absences related to deployment activities of a parent or legal guardian who is an active duty member.
- ❖ Absence resulting from a disciplinary/corrective action (e.g., short-term or long-term suspension, emergency expulsion); and
- ❖ Principal (or designee) and parent, guardian, or emancipated youth mutually agreed upon approved activity. The school principal (or designee) has the authority to determine if an absence meets the above criteria for an excused absence.



# Attendance Guide For Students and Families

~ Continued ~

## Notifying the School to Excuse Absences

We miss your student when they are absent, and we value their contributions to our school. We ask you to help ensure that your student attends school regularly. If your student is going to be absent, please contact our Attendance Secretary at 742-4700. The attendance voice mail system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If prior notice is not possible, you may call, send an e-mail, or written note upon the student's return to school.



### Notification shall include:

1. Name of student
2. Name and contact information of person providing the excuse and his/her relationship to the student
3. Dates of absence
4. Reason for absence (see above for list of excusable absences)

## Unexcused Absences

Any absence from school is unexcused unless it meets one of the criteria above for an excused absence.

- ❖ Parent notification – The School will notify the student's parent or guardian in writing or by telephone whenever the student has failed to attend school.
- ❖ As a means of instilling values of responsibility and personal accountability, a student whose absence is not excused will experience the consequences of his/her absence including progressive discipline. A student's grade may be affected if a graded activity or assignment occurs during the period of time when the student is absent.
- ❖ Three unexcused absences in a month - When a student has three unexcused absences in one month, our dedicated team of educators will communicate with parents to schedule a conference with the parent/guardian and student to identify the barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance. We will then, develop a plan which may require an assessment to determine how to best meet the needs of the student and reduce absenteeism. As always, we appreciate the help and support from our families.

## Early Dismissal

An early dismissal will be excused or unexcused using the same rules applied to absences.

## Request for Planned Excused Absences

- ❖ Extended vacations during the school year or leaving school prior to the end of the school year are highly discouraged because students missing class lose essential instruction.
- ❖ Families must request prior approval for an excused planned absence. An "Excused Absence From" form can be picked up at the Front Desk/Attendance Secretary to request prior approval. Your student will need to take the form to all teachers to indicate the current grade and share assignments. The form must be returned to the Front Desk/or Security for signatures.

## Clark Middle School

## Clark Scholar Dress Code

Dress for success is the acceptable dress code for Clark Middle School Scholars. These dress requirements are similar to minimums required for most work places. The Clark scholar is to wear appropriate clothing for a climate of quality academic work. More detailed information can be found in the Middle School Student Handbook under Dress.

- Outer garments and items, including coats, jackets, hats, and sunglasses are not to be worn
- in the building during school hours. These are to be placed in the locker until dismissal.
- Walking shorts, skirts must be longer than four inches above the knee. Pants or solid leggings must be worn with skirts, dresses or shorts shorter than four inches above the knee.
- Footwear is to be suitable for evacuations and outdoor wear at all times. (Safety)
- Jewelry, if worn, must easily break away for the safety of the wearer. Chains may not be worn.
- Clothing must fit and be worn appropriately so that student can walk without holding clothing up or in place. If needed, belts should be worn to have pants fit between waist and hips. Security has zip ties that can be secured to belt loops so that the pants stay up and in place. (Safety)



Parents will be contacted to provide proper attire for their son or daughter if the student is at school and not be in compliance with the school's dress code.

The administration makes the final determination of acceptable dress and grooming.

I have read and discussed this policy with my child \_\_\_\_\_  
Clark Scholar

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Student Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

*White copy: Parent*

*Yellow copy: Student file*

*Clark Middle School*

# Tardy Sweeps

## *Striving for academic success*



Clark Middle School has established high expectations for all students. To ensure quality-learning experiences, we expect students to be on time to school and to class. Being on time is required and valued in our community and society. Students are to be in their classroom **WHEN THE BELL RINGS**. Teachers will be at their doors during passing period, greeting their students to encourage punctuality. Students who loiter in the hallways are encouraged to move to their classes in a timely manner.

The purpose of tardy sweeps is to target students who are consistently tardy to class. Our intention is to reduce the number of students tardy to class. The sweeps will be used throughout the school year. Students not in class will contact parents to gain support of students being punctual in class. Consequences will be given for students who choose to disregard the tardy policy and expectations. Our ultimate goal is to be proactive and maximize each student's learning experience while attending Clark Middle School.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Please add \$2 for each 2X, \$3 for each 3X and \$4 for each 4X sizes.

	x\$2	x\$3	x\$4
--	------	------	------

**Please turn in completed  
order forms by:**

TOTAL

11

**Thank you for your order!**

**Thank you for your order!**

## ***2020 PEAKS State Assessment***

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 4, 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.

In the spring of 2020, PEAKS will be administered to Anchorage students during the weeks of March 30-April 10. Schools have flexibility in providing the test to students to minimize the impact on instructional time. Make-ups are allowed any time between April 1-May 1. Students are not allowed to complete more than one full content area in a day. Parents and Guardians should connect with their child's school for specific PEAKS test dates and testing plans. Please see the [ASD Assessment and Survey Calendar](#) for the complete schedule of the ASD comprehensive system of assessments.

The PEAKS testing window below provides a framework for which weeks are used for testing at each grade level. **Our school will be testing**

**2018 State PEAKS Testing Window: March 30-April 10**

<b>Grades</b>	<b>State of Alaska Designated Testing Weeks</b>
3 and 7	March 26-30
4 and 8	April 2-6
5 and 9	April 9-13
6 and 10	April 16-20



## DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Allen Wardlaw, Assistant Principal

If you are interested in serving on the school **Discipline Committee** team or attending any of the discipline meetings please let me know. The Committee meets at **7:30a.m. in the Library** each month during the school year. The meetings last thirty minutes and is a great way to provide input to the administrative team.

Friday, September 6, 2019

Friday, October 4, 2019

Friday, November 1, 2019

Friday, December 6, 2019

Friday, January 10, 2020

**Friday, February 7, 2020**

Friday, March 20, 2020

Friday, April 3, 2020

Friday, May 1, 2020



## SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Principal

Diane Maples, Assistant

Safety is a priority for our learning community. With a safe environment, students, staff, and parents are able to focus on academic success. The Clark staff has developed an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that is available to parents in the main office for review. The Clark Safety and Emergency Committee meet at **7:30a.m. in the Library** each month during the school year. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the committee.

Thursday, September 5, 2019

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Thursday, January 9, 2020

**Thursday, February 6, 2020**

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Thursday, May 7, 2020



# Dates To Remember

## February

2/3 Wonder Park Elementary Visit  
2/4 Visit Your School Day  
2/4 Boys Basketball JV/V @ Mears, C1/C2/C3 @ Clark  
2/5 X-C Ski Meet  
2/6 Boys Basketball JV/V @ Clark, C1/C2/C3 @ Mears  
2/6 Safety Committee Meeting Library  
2/6 East/Bartlett HS Visit to Clark  
2/7 Discipline Committee Meeting Library  
2/7 Mt. View Ele. Visit to Clark  
2/7 Tyson Ele. Visit Clark  
2/7 6th to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition  
2/11 Visit Your School Day  
2/11 X-C Ski Meet @ Service HS  
2/11 Boys Basketball C1/C2/C3 @ Clark  
2/12 Parent Teacher Conferences  
2/13 Parent Teacher Conferences  
2/14 State Release Professional Day (**No School for Students**)  
2/17 President Day Holiday – **No School**  
2/18 Visit Your School Day  
2/18 Boys Basketball **C1/C2/C3 ONLY @ Hanshew**  
2/18 Elizabeth Petratrovich Week  
2/18-28 STAMP Window for student taking Spanish  
2/19 X-C Ski Meet @ Chugiak HS  
2/20 Boys Basketball JV/V @ Begich, C1/C2/C3 @ Clark  
2/21 Dance  
2/22 ZAP the Zero's 9am-1pm  
2/25 Family Transition Night/Dinner 5:30-6:30pm  
2/25 Visit Your School Day  
2/25 Boys Basketball Tournament Day 1  
2/25 X-C Ski Championship @ Kincaid  
2/27 Boys Basketball Tournament Day 2

## March

3/2 X-C Skiing End of Season Celebration  
3/5 Locker Clean-Out  
3/5 Safety Committee Mtg. Library  
3/6 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter/State Release Grade  
3/9 Spring Break Begins  
3/13 Spring Break Ends  
3/18 Track and Field Begins  
3/19 Parent Breakfast 8-9am  
3/20 Discipline Committee Mtg.  
3/28 ZAP the Zero's 9am-1pm

# School Business Partners

## We Appreciate Your Service

Thanks to Clark Middle School's business partners. Their support enhances the education of our students!



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**

