



Seawolf Soundbites

Issue Date: December 4, 2020/January 2021

Alaska Middle College School | 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd. | Anchorage, AK 99508

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The Den

Closing out Fall 2020

Final Exam Week

UAA final exam week is December 7-12. Please consult your course syllabi for the date and time for each of your courses. UAA allows additional time for final exams so you may need to meet at a different day and time.

ASD final exam week is December 14-17. Students enrolled in APEX courses will complete their coursework by December 14. Students not on track to complete the course on time are encouraged to contact their teacher immediately. In lieu of final exams in advisories, students are encouraged to participate in a variety of workshops, [workshop schedule](#). Students with absences in advisories this semester may make up the time by attending the workshops. Please contact your teacher for more information.

UAA Textbook Returns

Once college classes end on December 11, students will need to return their college textbooks back to UAA. Students can return their textbook(s) on December 15, 16 or 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., **BY APPOINTMENT**. All physical textbooks will need to be returned (students do not need to return workbooks or lab manuals). Click the link for more details and to schedule your appointment:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/MiddleCollege1@O365.alaska.edu/bookings/>

Fall Grades and Good Academic Standing

Fall Grades: UAA fall grades will be available December 17 via UAOnline and ASD grades can be seen in Q on January 5.

Good Academic Standing and Probation: AMCS students must be in good academic standing to enroll in University courses. Good Academic Standing means the student:

- maintains a cumulative 2.50 GPA
- completes all enrolled courses with a "C" or higher
- has a good attendance record and no disciplinary actions

A student is no longer in good standing when their university GPA falls below 2.50, fails to attend 20% of a course's meeting times or receives a failing grade (D, F, W, NB, I, or Credit/No Credit) in a course(s). The student will be placed on academic probation for the next semester. While on academic probation, the student may be required to adhere to one or more of the following:

- Reduce overall class schedule by one course (3 credits) from the previous semester
- Retake course(s) which the student earned "D," "F," or "W" before attempting new courses
- No single course enrollment
- Maintain full-time status in program
- Attend advisory one time per week

If the student improves their university GPA, the above restrictions are lifted, and the student may return to a full schedule without supervision. The student may be removed from the program to return to his/her home high school if their GPA does not improve or falls below 2.0.

Credit/No Credit: UAA offers some grading options that are not available at ASD. Students who are struggling at UAA sometimes receive an "NB" instead of a letter grade. NB stands for "no basis for grade" and is entered when a professor does not have enough information to determine a grade. Another option is taking a class for "credit/no credit". This must be requested prior to final exam week. Unfortunately, both options translate into failing grades on ASD transcripts. Therefore, it will negatively impact the student's overall high school GPA. Students wishing to explore the credit/no credit option need to speak with Ms. Andresen prior to requesting the change with UAA.

Spring 2021 Classes

Spring semester classes will begin January 4 for all high school courses (advisories and APEX) while UAA courses start January 11. Both high school and UAA classes are online.

Scheduling AMCS classes: For those of you who are planning to take an advisory and/or APEX class at AMCS, please choose your classroom times on the Advisory & Apex Course Selection, Spring 2021 google form <https://forms.gle/hUvfgyMj1j2T9d3N8> by Friday, December 11. Advisory classes are required the first semester a student takes a math and/or writing class at UAA. Students are also placed in them if they get a C or lower in a UAA class.

How does the scheduling process work at AMCS? After you meet with your UAA Advisor, your counselor, Mrs. Andresen, will review your UAA schedule and make sure you're on-track to graduate. Some students take the initiative and contact her when they want to request specific Apex classes. In other cases, Mrs. Andresen will contact the student if s/he needs to add a course. When time is tight, Mrs. Andresen typically adds the course and contacts the student later.

How do I know my schedule? Students will need to check Blackboard and Q to see their schedules. **Please note, all students who have APEX and advisories are to meet via Zoom with their teachers starting January 4. You can review your schedule in Q and look in Canvas for your meeting time and Zoom link.**

Graduation – Save the Date

Mark your calendars now, Class of 2021 Graduation is May 15 at 2 p.m. Location TBA. Order your graduation regalia and yearbooks, [Place Your Order Now.](#)

Wolf-wise Workshops (W3)

December and January

None - see you in February 2021

Pack News

AMCS Yearbook

Yearbook is up and running and off to a great start. We are currently looking for student submissions for our yearbook cover. These are Due December 7 and the winning student will receive a free yearbook. We have a staff of about 10 students who are working hard to create the best and most unique yearbook for the 2020-2021 school year. Keep an eye out for emails as the yearbook staff will soon be asking for your input and collecting photos from you.

If you would like to purchase a yearbook or a senior ad you can visit www.jostensyearbooks.com and buy now. The price is currently \$50 and will increase to \$60 after Spring Break. If you have any questions about yearbook, please reach out to one of the advisors: harbison_ariel@asdk12.org or sherwood_beth@asdk12.org.

Spirit Wear

Get your AMCS spirit wear now, order directly from the company and have it delivered to your door step, [place your order.](#)

Teacher's Terrain

Students will meet with their APEX instructor via Zoom, during their scheduled time for the first 4-weeks of the spring semester. During this time, teachers will cover important tutorials and expectations for the course. **Please note**, it is imperative students join these sessions, there are changes to how APEX was run in the fall semester.

- After the initial 4-week period, students who are earning a “C” or higher, will not be required to attend their scheduled Zoom meeting time.
- If a student drops below a “C” at any point in the semester, the student is required to attend Zoom meetings until he or she is showing adequate progress in the course.

Registrar's Range

Transcript Requests: If you are under the age of 18, a parent/guardian must be the one to submit the request for transcripts. Be sure to have a parent legibly sign the request. We can send e-documents to most post-secondary institutions, so please enter this information in your

request. Sending e-documents gets your transcripts to the schools much sooner than mailing, and it saves everybody time!

Counselor's Corner

Greetings from the Counseling Office. Typically, the busiest times in the counseling office are at the end and the beginning of the semester. As we are all racing to get everything done before the holiday break, here's some information so that you can plan ahead.

Monday Lunch Meeting:

Starting December 14, join Mrs. Andresen for lunch on Mondays from 11:15 a.m.- 11:45 a.m. until the end of the semester. Students are welcome to join in and meet their classmates or pop-in to ask a quick question. She can also stay later for 1:1 meetings.

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/97627768068?pwd=RGsxcUJGYjJISW1KT0Z3UjhPUIFRQT09>

Meeting ID: 976 2776 8068

Passcode: 386840

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,97627768068# US

Dial by your location: +1 253 215 8782 US 833 548 0276 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 976 2776 8068

Find your local number: <https://asdk12.zoom.us/u/agJdZiotT>

College Applications, Transcripts, & Letters of Recommendation: Letters of Recommendation can take up to two weeks to process (not including holidays). **If you need a letter of recommendation before Jan. 15, you need to turn in your request to Mrs. Andresen by Dec. 7.** (Part of the reason for the extra time is because the first and the last week of the semester are already booked with scheduling.) The request forms are available under the counseling tab on AMCS's website <https://www.asdk12.org/amcs>.

Even if you do not need a letter of recommendation, it's helpful for Ms. Andresen to have the form from students who are using web-based applications such as SENDedu, Common App, and Coalition. Many of these websites ask your counselor to rate your academic rigor and extra-curricular activities.

If you need a transcript, Ms. Andresen is able to upload transcripts on the college application websites, but if the school you're applying to asks for an official transcript, they must be ordered at <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1230>. Remember, if you are under 18, a parent/guardian must be the one to submit the request. Be sure to have them legibly sign.

Single Course Enrollment Forms are due to Mrs. Andresen by Monday, Dec. 14. These include requests for 3rd and 4th quarter. If you requested a year-long single course enrollment class earlier in the year, you do not need to fill out a form for the second semester of the class. Feel free to email Mrs. Andresen if you would like her to double check your enrollment for second semester. The forms are available at <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5399>.

Single course enrollment forms are filled out when AMCS students request to take a class at King Tech High School or their affiliate school. If you're interested in exploring the course offerings at KTHS, go to <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1882>. Several of our students are finding ways to combine the hands-on instruction of King Tech with their college and career goals.

AKCIS Login Information: Sean Schubert from KTHS showed AMCS students how to use AKCIS to search for scholarships. It also helps students search for careers and colleges. Students are welcome to login and create their own portfolio. That way they can save the results of their searches. Go to AKCIS.org and use the following info.

Username: **ancmidcol** Password: **4Student**

Senior Survey: This went out earlier in the year, but we'd like all of the seniors to take some time to complete the survey <https://forms.gle/rEQ2LaoCopHwrroz5>.

If you already filled out the survey, you don't need to do it again. There were, however, some additional work-related questions recently added that students who've already taken the survey are welcome to update.

Scholarships & Educational Opportunities:

The Coolidge Scholarship, application deadline January 20, 2021 <https://coolidgescholars.org/>

University of Northern Colorado's Future Teacher Conference Feb. 19, 2021
<https://www.unco.edu/cebs/future-teacher-conference/>

STEP-UP Short-Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons Program:
Summer Research Experience. Application deadline Feb. 15, 2021

<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/research-programs/diversity-programs/research-training-opportunities-students/short-term-research-experience-underrepresented-persons-step-up/eligibility-requirements>

U Howls

New WolfCards

New WolfCards are being sent this week to mailing addresses on file for all current students who are existing cardholders. If you have not received your new card by December 11, 2020, and need it for the start of the spring semester, please contact the UAA Technical Support Center at 907-786-4646.

What do I need to know?

- ITS staff will begin the system update on Friday, December 18, at 7 p.m. and access may be intermittent until Saturday, December 19, at 7 a.m.
- Old WolfCards will cease to function on December 18 at 7 p.m.
- New cards will be functional after December 18.
- Visit [Register My WolfCard](#). *Registration is required prior to use. Instructions are available on the website.*
- New cards will work on both existing magnetic strip and new contactless door hardware. *The swipe capability will continue to be used for some readers while hardware is being updated and for other campus services such as swipe-managed print stations.*

- **Please note:** If you do not currently have a WolfCard, you can request a new one compatible with the updated system at the Consortium Library Circulation Desk after December 18.

Please continue using your old WolfCard until Dec. 18. Since many students and employees are not on campus in late December, **it is critical you register your new WolfCard prior to the university reopening on January 4, 2021**, and in advance of spring semester classes beginning on January 11, 2021. Visit UAA's [FAQ page](#) for more specific information about the process.

RPNow (locks browser)

University of Alaska Anchorage is using RPNow in some college courses and it is not compatible with Chromebooks. The program does not run on tablets, hybrid devices (Chromebooks) and mobile devices. UAA and the vendor are working to resolve this issue. However, the solution is not expected for a while. If you are experiencing difficulties with RPNow in your fall courses, please contact your UAA advisor immediately.

UAA will most likely use this program again next semester in your spring courses. If you are using your own computer, please note the program requires:

- Camera
- Microphone
- Windows 8 or higher operating system
- 300kb upload speed (satellite and dial up connections are not supported)

You will learn about RPNow during the first day of your spring college courses. If the course requires the program and your computer does not meet these requirements, please contact your UAA advisor immediately so they will know you need to make other arrangements to take your spring tests.

The Lone Seawolf

This is a new section to celebrate our senior's plans to leave The Pack. Seniors, as you prepare to graduate this spring, share with us where you are going to college next year, the new job you are starting, the professional certification exam you are taking, or if you're joining the armed forces, etc. What are your plans? Submit your information in an email to Kim Griffis at griffis_kimberly@asdk12.org and we will publish it in the next Soundbites Newsletter!

**Happy
New Year**



Upcoming Important Dates

December

- 7 UAA Final Exam Week Begins
- 14 ASD Final Exam Week Begins; No UAA classes
- 15-17 UAA Textbook Return
- 17 Last Day of ASD semester
- 18 No ASD or UAA classes
- 21 ASD Beginning of Winter Break – ASD closed
- 24 UAA Beginning of Winter Break – UAA closed

January 2021

- 4 ASD spring APEX classes and advisories begin
- 8 AMCS Picture Day ****Tentative****
- 11 UAA spring classes begin
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No UAA or ASD classes
- 22 UAA class add/drop deadline

February

- 9 AMCS Retake Picture Day ****Tentative****
- 15 President's Day – No ASD classes, UAA classes are in session

Wanted: Pack Leaders



Kim Griffis

AMCS Program Coordinator

Kim joined ASD this past summer and comes from UAA where she worked with Middle Colleges for the last six years. She strives to create access opportunities for students in higher education. Outside of work, Kim enjoys spending her time with her husband and her three dogs. You can also find her snorkeling off the shores of the Island of Hawaii.

Pack Leaders

Administration

Kern McGinley, Principal
Denise Edwards, Assistant Principal
Gabriele Beltz, Administrative Assistant
Jane Todd, Registrar

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Program

Kim Griffis, AMCS Coordinator
Shelly Andresen, AMCS Counselor
Beth Sherwood, AMCS Writing Teacher
Ariel Harbison, AMCS Math Teacher

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University of Alaska Anchorage

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Heather Brekke, Advisor for AMCS

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