



Seawolf Soundbites

Issue Date: November 2, 2020

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

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The Den

UAA Credit – No Credit Option

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 entered when a professor does not have enough information to determine a grade. Another option is taking a class for “credit/no credit”. This is an option that a student must request 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.

RPNOW (locks browser)

University of Alaska Anchorage is using RPNOW in some college courses which 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 currently experiencing difficulties with RPNOW in your fall courses, please contact your UAA advisor immediately.

UAA will most likely use this program again next semester and you may need to use RPNOW in one of 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 in your 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 know you need to make other arrangements to take your spring tests.

Spring 2021 Class

AMCS is accepting applications for the 2021 Spring Class. Students who are a Junior or Senior may apply. The AMCS Team is looking for students who are planning to graduate this December or who are needing different format for spring. We invite these students to apply to the program and join the Pack for a semester. Help us expand our Pack, please share this information with students who might want to join our program.

Spring 2021 courses will be delivered online.

Wolf-wise Workshops (W3)

November

6 No workshop

13 **AMCS Yearbook Team Meeting** [Register Now](#)
Friday at 11:30 am via Zoom

Do you have an eye for design? Do you like taking photos? Do you like writing? Do you like proofreading? The AMCS Yearbook staff is looking for motivated, creative students who possess the drive to be on the team for this year's official yearbook.

20 **Paying for College** [Register Now](#)
Friday at 11:30 am via Zoom

College is affordable, come find out how. In this session you will learn about: all the ways to pay for college, which money is free, and which must be paid back, and scholarship strategies. Come learn how to make college affordable for you.

27 No workshop – Thanksgiving break, no classes

Pack News

AMCS Yearbook

Do you have an eye for design? Do you like taking photos? Do you like writing? Do you like proofreading? The AMCS Yearbook staff is looking for motivated, creative students who possess the drive to be on the team for this year's official yearbook. [Sign Up Now](#) by November 6th and receive a Zoom link to the first team meeting.

APEX Courses

The fall semester is quickly coming to an end and some students have not started their APEX courses. These courses require dedicated time to complete and should be started this week to

ensure enough time to complete the course. If you need assistance getting started, please contact your teacher.

Counselor's Corner

Stay Connected: In order to receive information on upcoming activities and special announcements, sign up for the AMCS Student Services Remind by sending a text to 81010 and texting the message “@amcsst”.

2nd Semester Scheduling: The UAA advisors have started meeting with their students to discuss second semester classes. After you meet with your advisor, please e-mail Mrs. Andresen to let her know if you discussed signing up for online classes through AMCS. These are typically APEX, ASD Virtual, eDynamics, and/or single course enrollment forms.

Feel free to contact Mrs. Andresen if you have questions about your graduation requirements and/or need a copy of your transcript in order to plan for your meeting. All of the students assigned to Ms. Sherwood should've received one in their email in preparation for the Jr./Sr. Presentations that were held the first two weeks of October.

PSAT Sign-Up Info: The PSAT was postponed until January 26th. Juniors who are planning to take the test need to do so at their affiliate high school. Below is the information provided by the larger high schools. If your affiliate school is not listed, please contact them to get more information.

Please note that the affiliate high schools will not communicate testing updates or changes through AMCS. Ask your affiliate school how to keep up to date on any potential changes. Also, please note that seats are limited due to social distancing. Sign-up as soon as the sign-up window opens.

School	Contact	Sign-Up Opens
Bartlett	Tad Wellman	TBD
Chugiak	Robin Moffitt	TBD
Dimond	TBD	TBD
East	Scott Henry	Sign-up before Thanksgiving. For updates, follow him Twitter: @EastHighCRC Remind: @EastCRC20
Eagle River	Tom Rollman 742-2712 or Sally Laret 742-2740	Beginning of January
Service	Dan Ruffner	Beginning of January
South	Tor Christopherson	Jan. 11 th -15 th
West	Goldie Russell	Beginning of January

SAT Testing Dates:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

Dec. 5th (Register by Nov. 5th)

March 13, 2021

May 8, 2021

ACT Testing Dates:

<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/pdfs/2020-BTSM-Flyer.pdf>

December 12, 2020 (Register by Nov. 6th)
April 17, 2021
July 17, 2021

February 6, 2021
June 12, 2021

Senior Information: While many high school counselors meet 1:1 with their seniors, my caseload of seniors is larger than most counselors. Therefore, the focus has been on providing workshops and meetings to share important information in small groups. With that being said, do not hesitate to contact me if you need to meet in person.

If you need a letter of recommendation, please fill out the attached [AMCS Request for a Letter of Recommendation](#) and return it to Andresen_Shelly@asdk12.org. Allow for at least two weeks (14 business days) to process.

Important Grade Information: 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”. Another option is taking a class for “credit/no credit”. Unfortunately, both options translate into failing grades on ASD transcripts. Therefore, it will negatively impact the student’s high school GPA.

When students are failing and there is no hope for recovering the grade, sometimes their best option (from the ASD lens) is to withdraw from the class. When that happens, the class is dropped from the high school transcript and there is not an impact on the student’s high school GPA. The downside is that the student may end up on academic probation and be limited to the number of classes they can take at UAA the following semester. They will also be unable to sign up for single course enrollment classes at their affiliate school. There are also some ramifications on the UAA side that should be discussed with your UAA advisor. One of which is having a “W” on your UAA transcript. The deadline to withdraw from a class this semester is this Friday (10/30). Please contact your UAA advisor or Mrs. Andresen before Thursday (10/29) if this is an option you are considering.

Alaska Performance Scholarship: Alaska high school students who take a more rigorous curriculum, get good grades, and score well on college placement or work ready exams, can earn an Alaska Performance Scholarship to qualified Alaska colleges, universities, or vocational/technical programs. For more information go to <https://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL-AID/AK-Performance-Scholarship>.

Currently, the criteria require taking the ACT and/or SAT. There is talk that the requirement might be waived this year as it was for last year’s seniors. At this point, students have been advised to plan on taking one of the tests until an official announcement is made.

FAFSA: The window for Seniors to apply for financial aid is open. This is a crucial step in qualifying for financial aid and many scholarships. Unless you are planning to pay for your child’s education, you need to consider applying for it. For more information go to <https://studentaid.gov/>.

Letters of Recommendation: If you need a letter of recommendation, please fill out the AMCS Request for a Letter of Recommendation available on the AMCS website on the counseling tab and return it to Andresen_Shelly@asdk12.org. Allow for at least two weeks (14 business days) to process them.

Transcript Requests: Order your official transcripts at <https://anchorageak.scribborder.com/>. Mrs. Andresen can only provide unofficial transcripts. Many application websites such as CommonApp and Send EDU will accept transcripts uploaded by your counselor. If, however, the requesting program wants an official transcript sent to them, you will need to order it at the above link.

Monday Lunch Meeting: 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 meeting. Zoom link info. is available on the Student Services Remind or contact Andresen_Shelly@asdk12.org.

AMCS Event for November:

Virtual Visit with Alaska Pacific University Admissions Counselor, Nov. 4, 1:15 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81555515747?pwd=UStVcTNsdzINS0pXQUVHTE1QeXNRQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 5551 5747

Passcode: 127190

Senior Seminar Series: The College Prep Workshop, Nov. 18, 1:00 PM. or Nov. 19, 6 PM Presented by Sean Schubert, KTHS Teacher. Juniors are welcome to attend.

Taking those first steps out of high school can be intimidating and expensive. The College Prep Workshop is an hour-long introduction to tools that can help you sort through career options to find the right one for you, conduct a school search to help identify a list of schools that are a good fit for you personally, and develop a personalized list of scholarships and grants to help fund your next steps. Knowing what you want to do, where to go to get trained to do it, and then finding a way to pay for it while not accruing a mountain of debt is the intent of the workshop.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/93427157808?pwd=cUxLeW92bkdEMERRQ0x6cXRrL0hYZz09>

Meeting ID: 934 2715 7808

Passcode: 743774

U Howls

Technology Survey, [complete survey now.](#)

UAA is seeking your input regarding technology issues you may be facing this fall semester. We want to check in to see how you are doing, what is working well for you this semester, and where we need to improve for the spring 2021 semester. We hope you will take the time to complete an important survey to let UAA faculty, advisors, and leaders know what you need to succeed going forward.

Spring Advising Appointments

Spring semester is just right around the corner and advising starts soon. Appointment with your advisor is scheduled based on the following priority.

Middle College Senior Priority Advising October 26th – November 6th

Middle College Junior Priority Advising November 9th – 20th

New student advising appointments begin November 30th – December 17th

In order to get an appointment, you must complete:

1. UAA Title IX Training
2. Fall 2020 mid-term grades are on file with your advisor /*

Prior to your appointment you must complete:

1. Know the remaining courses you need to complete high school diploma requirements
2. Research college courses you need for the degree you are pursuing

**Spring registration for Spring 2021 classes begins
Monday, November 23rd.**

Upcoming Important Dates

November

- 3 No ASD classes; UAA still in session
- 4 Virtual Visit with Alaska Pacific University Admissions Counselor
- 6 No workshop
- 11 No ASD classes; UAA still in session
- 13 AMCS Yearbook Team meeting, 11:30 am via Zoom
- 18 The College Prep Workshop, 1 pm via Zoom
- 20 Paying for College Workshop, 11:30 am via Zoom
- 26 Thanksgiving Break; no ASD or UAA classes
- 27 Thanksgiving Break; no ASD or UAA classes

Wanted: Pack Leaders



About me...

I am Heather Brekke. :-)



I have been working at UAA for 13 years, starting as a Career & Technical Education (CTE) liaison with ASD programs at King Career Center. My dream job came open and I was given the opportunity to be the Community & Technical College Advisor for three years, then I joined the Alaska Middle College after the Anchorage School District took over the Chugiak-Eagle River Campus in 2017. I hope to be in this position until I retire!



FUN FACTS: I worked at Alaska Airlines for 15 years before I came back to college as an adult. I love photography and we have a calico cat named Lucky. My son Hunter is a Health Science major at UAA and my husband and I love Alaska and all of the adventures it has to offer.



Pack Leaders

Administration

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

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Program

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Beth Sherwood, AMCS Writing Teacher
Ariel Harbison, AMCS Math Teacher

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