

Volume 14, Issue 9
April 2023

Clark Middle School

The 2022-2023 school year is quickly moving into our final two months. It is amazing to see how much growth the students make during the school year. I am looking forward to the excitement that is always a part of the last months of the school year. We will all continue to work hard as our students prepare to transition forward. It is a pleasure to be a part of your students' development.

We are now entering the time of year where the weather gets nice, and students have a tougher time than usual staying focused on their academic responsibilities. Please continue to stress to your child the importance of taking responsibility for their academic achievement. The staff at Clark Middle School will continue to work hard to provide your student with challenging and enjoyable learning experiences through the final days of the school year.

I want to encourage you to be involved with your student and our school. With the students, families, and school staff working together at Clark Middle School, we will continue to be a positive and caring learning community.

Thank you,

Bennetta Orchitt

Clark Middle School

Principal



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Induction ceremony

THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 IN THE GYMNASIUM WITH A START TIME OF 9:50 A.M. INVITATIONS FOR THE CEREMONY WILL BE COMING HOME WITH STUDENTS SOON. PLEASE MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS.

AS OUR NUMBER CONTINUE TO INCREASE AND GROW, WE CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR SERVICE PROJECTS THAT WE CAN COORDINATE. OUR COMMITMENT TO GIVING SERVICE IS A STRONG PART OF CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL'S NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY. IF YOU HAVE IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT *ASHSHANTA SWISHER*.

EVENT: National Junior Honor Society
Induction Ceremony

DATE: Thursday, April 20, 2023

TIME: 9:50am

LOCATION: Clark Middle School Gymnasium



THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS) AND NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS) ARE THE NATION'S PREMIER ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE LEVEL STUDENTS. MORE THAN JUST AN HONOR ROLL, NHS AND NJHS SERVE TO HONOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXCELLENCE IN THE AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND CHARACTER (AND CITIZENSHIP FOR NJHS). THESE CHARACTERISTICS HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION SINCE THEIR BEGINNINGS IN 1921 AND 1929.

TODAY, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN ONE MILLION STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES OF THE NHS AND NJHS. NHS AND NJHS CHAPTERS ARE FOUND IN ALL 50 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, PUERTO RICO, MANY U.S. TERRITORIES, AND CANADA. CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP NOT ONLY RECOGNIZES STUDENTS FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT ALSO CHALLENGES THEM TO DEVELOP FURTHER THROUGH ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th Grade Recognition Ceremony



Academic Perseverance

The Pursuit of Excellence

Excellence is never an accident it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.

Monday, May 22, 2023

Marie Curie, Plato, & AKSD – 8:30AM-9:30AM

Socrates, Life Skills I & II – 12:30PM-1:30PM

Clark Students Participates in NYO (Native Youth Olympics) Events

We had NYO Athletes Raquel Mark & Nyambangeh Gatwech participate in NYO Games. Yani Morley, the coach for NYO reported that Nyambangeh Gatwech placed 2nd in the NYO Scissor Broad Jump and 5th place for the Eskimo Stick Pole events.



Polynesian Community Elders Visiting Clark

Mr. Uluao "Junior" Aumavae is a former Clark student and NFL Football player. He is a great positive community role model for our students. Thank you to all the Community Members who continue to support our Clark students.



National History Day @ Clark Middle School

"The world henceforth will be run by synthesizers, people able to put together the right information at the right time, think critically about it, and make important choices wisely."

~ E.O. Wilson, American Biologist, Pulitzer Prize Winner and Professor Emeritus Harvard

National History Day is a program that focuses on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for 6th -12th grade. Students develop skills in communication, project management and historical thinking. Each Student presents their research and evidence through papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, or websites.

This year in Social Studies classrooms students completed some form of research project. Students who completed all the required parts of a NHD project were interviewed by a group of ASD Educators. Students were eager to share information about their research. Contact: Natalie Moten moten_natalie@asdk12.org

Students who participated in Clark's Competition:

Estella Brito, Aurora Yang, Chaselin Castro, DehyChia Xiong
Selena Xiong, Medic Yang, Kristopher James, Raquel Mark, Scottie Saechao
Levi Sappa, Kinger Yang, Joeshua Xiong, Pesefea Faatilig, Micheal Meneses
Thowat Kong, Jezelle Levi, Meleanne Toumoua, and Zamilliah Tinag

Students participating in Alaska State NHD:

Aurora Yang and Zamilliah Tinag



News from The Academic Teams...

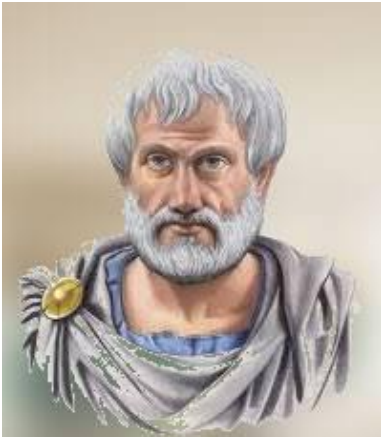


6th Grade TEAM McClintock

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." ~Oliver Goldsmith

Thank you for helping us start Quarter 4 on a strong note. We are excited to be hosting another Cultural Potluck at the end of the year, so keep an eye out for an invitation soon. We have a few field trips in the works as well and are always looking for chaperones :) We look forward to working with you to ensure positive student success for the rest of the semester. Please reach out with any questions!

Science: Abigail Pfisterer pfisterer_abigail@asdk12.org, Social Studies: Tanya Nault nault_tanya@asdk12.org, Writing: Carol Smith smith_carol01@asdk12.org, Lang. Arts: Eleanor Cash cash_ellie@asdk12.org



6th Grade TEAM Aristotle

ARISTOTLE *"Doing the right thing, in relation to the right person, at the right time, to the right extent, in the right manner, and the right purpose."*

Writing:

The title of the quarter 4 unit is "20th Century Conflicts. Understanding the impacts of conflicts within a global, local and personal perspective. Analyzing the impacts on communities and people. A focus on WWI, WWII, Cold War, and Terrorism. My goal is to relay the following enduring understandings to the students:

- Global conflicts and their outcomes change the balance of power.
- Industrialization and technology change the scale and nature of warfare.
- In times of war, propaganda is used to unite a country and sway public opinion.
- Motivations and actions of individuals and nations contribute to conflict or cooperation.

7th Grade TEAM SIR ISAAC NEWTON



A special thank you to our families who support our scholars on the home front!

The Newton team is extremely proud to have wrapped up the 3rd quarter strong. As a whole 7th grade, we piloted a Live school program which allowed our scholars to earn points through positive actions both academic and socially. Students were then able to spend their points on various prizes and treats. **Language Arts** read the novel, *Tangerine*. **Science** featured a frog dissection with a lot of excitement.

World Geography focused on Central and South America. **Math** celebrated Pie Day at the end of March with several different math activities after school. **Writing** class honored student authors who wrote fables that were published and professionally bound in a book that is available for purchase.

Looking forward, the Newton team is primarily concerned with equipping our scholars with the necessary tools to be successful in their future. Alaska Star Testing is coming up this spring, so make sure scholars are on time, well rested, and prepared to test (stay tuned to our Week-at-a-Glance). **Language Arts** will be reading Shakespeare and preparing monologues of their own. In **Writing** class, scholars will be preparing for their Poetry Speak competition where they will memorize a poem, perform it for the class, and possibly even join the school-wide competition. **Science** is anticipating several mini labs. Lastly, **World Geography** is heading into a focus on Pacific Islands, which will be very exciting for our Pacific Island scholars.

7TH Grade TEAM GALILEO

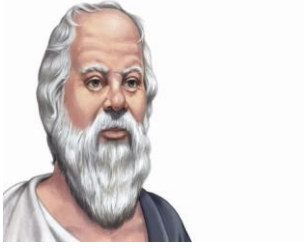


Writing Yuan Bank bank_yuan@asdk12.org

Hello everybody and welcome to Quarter 4! In Social Studies we will be working collaboratively covering East Asia, Africa, and Australia. In ELA, students will be analyzing poetry and monologues while creating an original monologue or poem. In Writing, we will also be learning about poetry. We will have a poetry competition in classes for students. Each student will select a poem to recite to classmates. In Science, students are starting to learn about energy. They will be

building paper roller coasters. If you have any large pieces of cardboard, please send them in. At least 24 inches x 12 inches. Let's finish out the school year strong!

8th Grade TEAM Socrates



“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.”

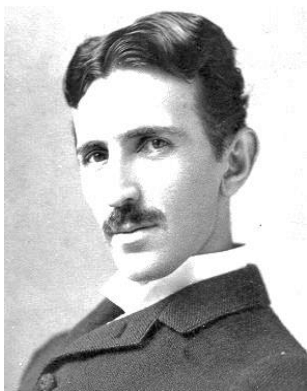
~ Socrates

To Parents/Guardians:

It is April and Socrates is really excited to prepare for the end of the year. These last few weeks are focused on preparing students for high school next year. Encouraging independence and responsibility within students will be a focus throughout all classes and throughout advisories to aid in preparing students to be successful as they transition into the next saga of their education.

Writing is starting poetry now, and we are really looking forward to the Poetry Speak competition. Students will be selecting a poem that has either already been written or one that they have written themselves and will practice memorizing and reciting it. The schoolwide competition will occur on Friday, April 21st, and the classroom competitions to determine who will participate in the schoolwide will take place a week earlier. Check in with your student and encourage them to practice their poem; ask them to recite it for you!

News From the Math Dept ...



8th Grade Math

Sarah Miller contact: miller_sarah@asdk12.org

The Math department had a great time at Math Night, and I hope you learned some new skills or knowledge about mathematics if you came! We are all hoping our students do well during the AK Star testing, showing you, themselves, and us what they learned this year. Keep up the hard work!



Special Education Team Ashshanta Swisher

swisher_ashshanta@asdk12.org

Focus on HLP #16-Explicit Instruction
By Dr. Damita JamesT

The Council for Exceptional Children in conjunction with the CEEDAR Center developed 22 High-Leverage Practices in Special Education. One of the practices is the Use of Explicit Instruction. Explicit Instruction has been identified as the use

of explicitly showing and telling students what to do or think while solving problems, enacting strategies, completing tasks, and classifying concepts while making sure the content, skills and concepts are presented to students in a systematic and strategic manner.

For example, to explicitly teach students vocabulary, teachers can use visuals and pair them with written words to help model and scaffold the understanding of new words. This explicit method helps to eliminate misconceptions and helps to highlight the essential concepts needed for the content. When explicit instruction is provided, students are introduced to the new word, provided review of the new word, given guided practice for the new word, given corrective feedback and independent practice for the new word.

Our goal as special educators is to work on closing the gap for our students with disabilities. The use of explicit instruction is a great way to start, and we can do this by making it plain and providing opportunities for practice so our students can go far.

For more information, check out these resources:

<https://highleveragepractices.org/>

<https://explicitinstruction.org/video-elementary/elementary-video-4/>

Boys Basketball Season

The 2022-2023 Boys Basketball season has ended with both JV and Varsity winning the ASD Middle School Championship. It was an incredible season with over 80 students coming out to participate, the largest number post-covid participation. Participating in sports can help your student develop stronger friendships while also learning valuable life skills such as leadership, integrity, and dedication. These skills are not only important for the court, but also for the classroom. As we believe that athletes are scholars first and athletes second. We thank those students that were dedicated to their teams through to their last game.





Title VI Indian Education

Contact: Yani Morley morley_yani@asdk12.org

Land Acknowledgement

Clark Middle School students and staff would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Dena'ina People, past and present, who have lived on these lands since long before Anchorage was here. May we all be good stewards of these lands.

Chin'an! (*thank you!*)

2023 Title VI Indigenous Education SUMMER Enrichment Program

This year we will learn about our connection to mammals on Alaskan lands and waters!

Session I JUNE 5th-15th

Session II JUNE 19th-29th

Both sessions will be Monday -Thursday 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Tentative location is WENDLER Middle School

SPOTS FILL UP QUICK!!

TO SIGN UP AND APPLY visit: <https://forms.gle/5nismCo5tPP76L4d9>

ASD Indigenous Education Program

Indigenous Education Program provides cultural enrichment and school engagement support for Alaskan Indigenous families that are enrolled in our program.

For more information, please visit: www.asd12.org/TitleVI

To access the online 506 form that is required for enrollment please go to: asdk12.org/506

Or please feel free to call (907) 742-4872 with any questions or assistance.



2023 AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment

Each spring, Alaskan students are provided an opportunity to show what they know. When students show what they know, teachers and parents can partner to promote student success. The State of Alaska Department of Education has partnered with NWEA to align and connect the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests with the MAP Growth benchmark assessments students take in fall and winter.

This balanced assessment system targets instruction to better support meeting students' individual learning needs. In addition, students will take only one assessment per content area (ELA and math) and be provided two scores as follows:

1. Summative assessment result at grade-level
2. MAP Growth interim benchmark result , including growth from fall to spring

AK STAR, the Alaska System of Academic Readiness, is comprised of English language arts and mathematics and is administered to students in grades 3-9. The Alaska Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 10. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide parents and schools an overall picture of a student's progress in meeting the Alaska standards at grade level.

Parents can locate resources for AK STAR test and the Alaska Science Assessment, including directions for Student Readiness (Practice Tests and Tutorials), student testing times and general assessment information on the ASD website at <https://www.asdk12.org/akstar>.

Parents can also help by ensuring their children are well rested, eat a nutritious breakfast, and are at school on time for the days of testing. Please avoid scheduling appointments on your child's testing days.

The ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing window allows for school assessment scheduling flexibility. Students! Get ready to show what you know during our school's AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing dates:

Tuesday, March 28th; Thursday, March 30th; Tuesday, April 4th; Thursday, April 6th.

2023 AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment Testing Window

March 27-April 14

(Make-ups through April 28)

PLAY SOFTBALL!



ABOUT ASD MIDDLE SCHOOL FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Interested in playing a safe and fun team sport while making new friends and representing your school? Anchorage Sports Association is partnering with the Anchorage School District to offer Middle School Fastpitch Softball for girls attending middle school.

All practices held after school from 3:00-4:30pm (days subject to availability).

Who:

Girls: 6th, 7th & 8th Graders in Middle School

When:

Practices: At least 2x practices per week beginning March 27, 2023

Games: Saturdays beginning May 6

Where:

Practices: Local Middle Schools

Games: Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex

*For more information and to register, please visit
<https://www.anchoragesports.com/msfastpitch>*

Or call the ASA Office at 907-562-1513

"The Anchorage School District does not endorse these materials or the viewpoints expressed in them."

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MEETING

Elizabeth Hermanson, Assistant Principal, Contact: 907-742-4724

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 7:30am each month in the Clark Library during the school year. The meetings last thirty minutes and is a great way to provide input to the Administrative Team.

Friday, September 2, 2022

Friday, October 7, 2022

Friday November 4, 2022

Friday December 2, 2022

Friday, January 13, 2023

Friday, February 3, 2023

Friday, March 3, 2023

Friday, April 7, 2023

Friday, May 5, 2023



SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Carl Snider, Assistant Principal, Contact: 907-742-7724

If you are interested in serving on the school **Safety Committee** Team or attending any of the discipline meetings, please let me know. The committee meets at 7:30am each month during the school year. The meetings last thirty minutes and is a great way to provide input to the Administrative Team.

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Thursday, October 6, 2022

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Thursday, May 4, 2023










Dates to Remember

April

- ▶ 4/4 AK Star & Science Assessment Window
- ▶ 4/6 AK Star & Science Assessment Window
- ▶ 4/6 Safety Committee Meeting
- ▶ 4/7 Discipline Committee Meeting
- ▶ 4/18 NJHS Rehearsal
- ▶ 4/20 NJHS Ceremony @ 9:50 AM
- ▶ 4/20 NYO Competition @ Alaska Airline Center
- ▶ 4/21 Poetry Speak Competition

May

- ▶ 5/4 Safety Committee Meeting
- ▶ 5/4 Family Science Night @ 5:30 PM
- ▶ 5/5 Discipline Committee Meeting
- ▶ 5/22 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony
8:30-9:30/Marie Curie, Plato, & AKSD
12:30-1:30/Socrates, Life Skills I & II

April 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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