

# Clark Middle School

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***Establishing High  
Expectations  
Through Rigor,  
Relevance and  
Relationship  
Building***

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Clark Families,

As we conclude the second quarter of this school year, it is encouraging to recognize the success of many of our students. During this quarter, I have had the privilege to visit all the teachers several times in different classes, and I am continually impressed with the quality of teaching that takes place at Clark Middle School on a daily basis. Not only is there excellent instruction taking place, but there is also quality student engagement.



*Bennetta Orchitt  
Principal, Clark Middle  
School*

Reminder, if you student is interested in participating in winter sports, they will begin right after winter break. Sports paperwork and physicals can be turned in now to the front office.

Boys Basketball starts Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and Cross-Country Skiing starts Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>

Clark has been busy embracing the winter season with recognizing positive student behavior and finishing our second quarter strong. Dec. 21st is our students' last day before the winter break. Thank you for being involved and encouraging your students to do their best as they build a future filled with opportunity. We will be excited to see all of you on January 9th to begin a new quarter. We hope the break is restful and restorative for you all.

**Front Office Staff:**

**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Rias – 907-742-4715

**Administrative Assistant of Finances and Procurement:** Ms. Russell – 907-742-4727

**Registrar:** Ms. Lopez – 907- 742-7765

**Attendance Secretary:** Ms. Alexander – 907-742-7763

# Indigenous Education at Clark

## 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 in Athabascan Language).

## Celebrating Alaska Native Heritage Month

Students of Clark's speech class with Mrs. Shannon have been reading and sharing topics such as Land Acknowledgment and what it means and why it is important, students shared fun facts about (JNYO) Junior Native Youth Olympics and (NYO) Native Youth Olympics as part of the morning announcements and posted upcoming Indigenous events and community activities that are happening in our community!

Teachers are sharing culture in the classroom with mini lessons and activities during Alaskan Indigenous and American Indian month as well!

Sixth grade Team McClintock, counselors and parents chaperones had a successful field trip to the Anchorage Museum learning about Alaska and Alaskan Indigenous people.

## Smithsonian Institution – Learning Language

This site provides collections of information, essays, education units, webinars, and instructional videos.

Find complete distance learning resources on Alaska Native games: Inupiaq, Saint Lawrence Island Yupik, Dena'ina and Tsimshian Language and culture.

Google search: Smithsonian Learning Lab Arctic Studies Center Alaska.

## Title VI 506 enrollment form

When you enroll your child to join the Title VI Indian Education Program, they will become a member of an Indigenous learning community of over 7,000 Indigenous students with Anchorage School District. The Indigenous Education team and students serve these missions of Native Education values: Stewarding a community of Indigenous learners and leaders, passing on the knowledge and wisdom for Cultural Identity and connecting with each other with education support.

Services your child would qualify for free with ASD once enrolled includes:

Indigenous leadership opportunities, Academic tutoring support and learning connections, Transition support between schools at ASD or rural Alaska, Cultural Enrichment and Summer Enrichment programs and more!

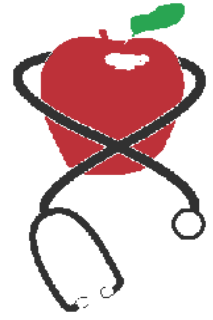
To access the Title VI 506 enrollment form online, please visit: [asdk12.org/506](https://asdk12.org/506), or call (907) 742-7765.

For more information and program description, please visit our website: [asdk12.org/Title VI](https://asdk12.org/Title%20VI) or Yani Morley [morley\\_yani@asdk12.org](mailto:morley_yani@asdk12.org)

## News from the clinic...

December is a great time to schedule a physical. If you don't have a doctor in the community, the School Based Health Clinic can help. Call 907-742-7783 or Appointment requests can be made at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHcfu5YDbzzt2KZI1MjJlEkaifADVEmoa-EEDrqTQbGqHdZA/viewform>



Also, Alaska Behavioral Health provides therapeutic counseling services at Clark. Ask your counselor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Ms. Gillespie, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Mr. Haugen, or 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Mr. Moore. You may also call AKBH at 907-561-0954 and let them know you have a Clark student who might need services. Forms are available online, if you prefer

<https://alaskabehavioralhealth.org/child-intake-packet-complete/>

### [Child Intake Packet - Complete - Alaska Behavioral Health](#)

In our September 2022 community update: World Suicide Prevention Day and Out of the Darkness Walk in Anchorage, September 10 Movie Night at the Bear Tooth, September 15 New program: Expanding supports for young adults diagnosed with psychosis Join us at the Anchorage Daily News Job Fair September 22!  
alaskabehavioralhealth.org

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## WHY SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY IS IMPORTANT

### 1. **It dispels misconceptions about disabilities**

Students with disabilities are often misunderstood. Many believe that such students have learning impediments when that is not the case. Special Education Day addresses this misconception.

### 2. **It's a chance to thank the teachers**

Special Education is not possible without the efforts of the teachers and educators who relentlessly help their students achieve their educational goals. It also highlights the need for specialized educational teachers.

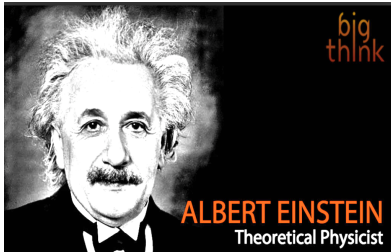
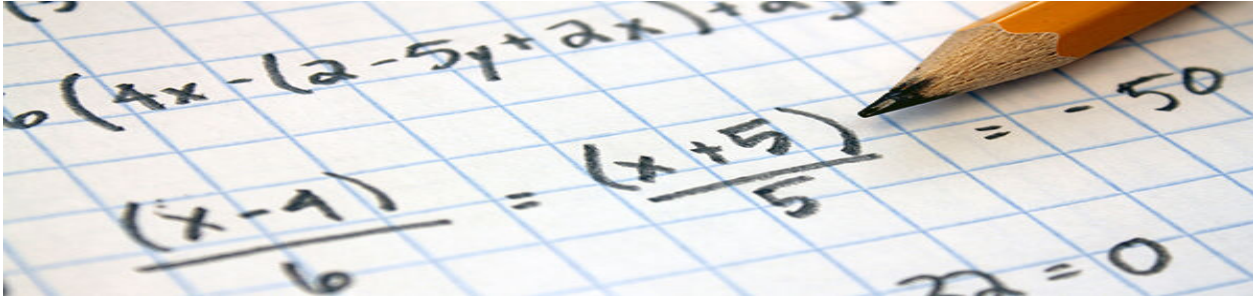
### 3. **Children are the future**

Today's youth is the future, and thanks to the combined efforts of activists, advocates, and state-level officials, they are supported in this difficult, but no doubt, most rewarding journey. It potentially inspires future students to pursue a career in specialized education.

Mrs. Misi, Mrs. Emmal, Mrs. Coleman, and Mrs. Swisher would like to recognize that Friday, December 2, is National Special Education Day, which marks the 47th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), a landmark civil rights law that ensures states and school districts provide a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities.

Special education teachers and specialists go above and beyond to ensure students are learning and growing every day. We are a great support to students, families, and staff. In addition to teachers and specialists, paraprofessionals, assessment personnel, and special education counselors all form part of the team.

# News From the Math Dept ...

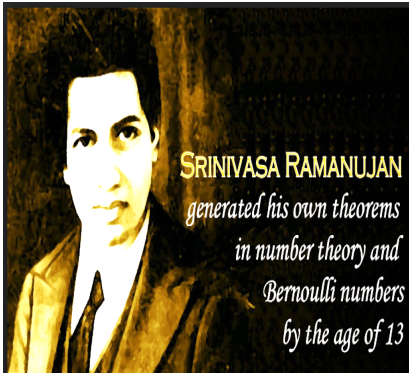


## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: Valerie Huckaby contact:

[huckaby\\_valerie@asdk12.org](mailto:huckaby_valerie@asdk12.org)

Pre-Algebra will be solving Multi-step Equations and Inequalities.

Math 6 will be doing Decimal Operations.



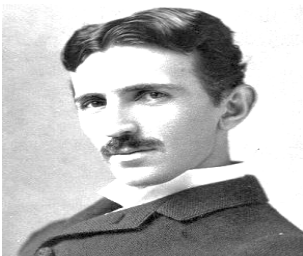
## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: Joy Madden contact:

[joy\\_madden@asdk12.org](mailto:joy_madden@asdk12.org)

Madden P1 and P3 are working on all operations with skip counting and how it relates to multiplication and division.

Madden P2 and P4 are working on Adding and Subtracting of negative numbers

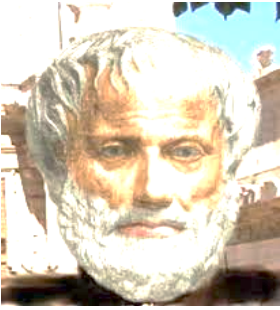
Madden P5 is starting to work on Equations.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Sarah Miller contact: [miller\\_sarah@asdk12.org](mailto:miller_sarah@asdk12.org)

The math department is excited for MAPS testing so we can see how your students have grown so far this year! We are working very hard, and your students are growing every day! Winter break is almost here, but we need to keep our heads up and keep going. 😊 We can do it!





## **TEAM 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.”*

~ ARISTOTLE

### **Language Arts**

Congratulation! Clark scholars you made it through your first semester. Students, “You can do anything when you put your mind to it”. Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE!!! This month in Language Arts, we are starting unit 2 ***Power of Change***. Students will be learning more about change in a more holistic framework while learning challenging literacy terms. In writing, students will be carrying on learning how to formulate an academic essay using the MLA format exposing students to the 11 steps of expository writing. In Science, students will be learning about energy flow and how food webs illustrate energy flow from primary producers to primary consumers. In Social Studies students are focusing on the Industrial Revolution and Immigration of our beloved country. ~Marissa Ridgley [Ridgley\\_marissa@asdk12.org](mailto:Ridgley_marissa@asdk12.org)

### **Social Studies**

In December the Social Studies department is going to move from the industrial revolution to the topic of immigration. The industrial revolution will be highlighted by our "industrial revolution slideshow" project on google slides. We will then cover the topic of immigration as we compare the push/pull factors of immigration both in the past and present. -Mr. Moran Please contact me with any questions or concerns:

[moran\\_patrick@asdk12.org](mailto:moran_patrick@asdk12.org)



## **TEAM McClintock**

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

Greetings, Team McClintock Parent/Guardian!

We hope that November has treated you well. Thank you for your help in supporting our team as we traveled to the Anchorage Museum last month with your student- we had an amazing time, and we hope that your student did too.

As we approach the end of the semester, please be checking in with your student regarding their grades on Q ParentConnection. This is the most accurate place for your student to check their grade. Any work that is missing will either have a placeholder grade of "0%" or it will be highlighted in red. The end of Quarter 2 is Thursday 12/22.

In the next few weeks, please be on the lookout for an email regarding our upcoming Cultural Potluck- we are excited to host this potluck event where your student can share a traditional meal with their classmates.

We hope that you have had a wonderful holiday season. Please feel free to reach out to your student's teachers with any questions, comments, or concerns. Science: Abigail Pfisterer [pfisterer\\_abigail@asdk12.org](mailto:pfisterer_abigail@asdk12.org), Social Studies: Tanya Nault [nault\\_tanya@asdk12.org](mailto:nault_tanya@asdk12.org), Writing: Carol Smith [smith\\_carol01@asdk12.org](mailto:smith_carol01@asdk12.org), Lang. Arts: Eleanor Cash [cash\\_ellie@asdk12.org](mailto:cash_ellie@asdk12.org),

Best,  
Team McClintock



## **TEAM Galileo**

*“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.”*

Team Galileo December Month at-a-Glance

Hello all, we are in the last month of this quarter! Time is moving really quickly, and we are proud of our students. In Social Studies, we will be moving onto South America, where we will be exploring the rainforest. In ELA, we will be finishing Unit 1 and moving onto Unit 2. In Science, we are continuing with life sciences. We will be building models of cells and investigating cellular investigation of animals and plants. Then, we will be finishing the quarter with a frog dissection. Students must have a Safety Contract on file to participate. In Writing, we are continuing the argumentative unit with debates and a formal argumentative essay. Feel free to contact your teacher with any questions or concerns you may have. Social Studies: Natalie Moten [moten\\_natalie@asdk12.org](mailto:moten_natalie@asdk12.org), Science: Nicola Snow [snow\\_nicola@asdk12.org](mailto:snow_nicola@asdk12.org), Writing: Yuan Bank [bank\\_yuan@asdk12.org](mailto:bank_yuan@asdk12.org), Language Arts: Colleen Martinson [martinson\\_colleen@asdk12.org](mailto:martinson_colleen@asdk12.org)



## **TEAM Marie Curie**

ELA/Writing contact: Tina Parchman [parchman\\_tina@asdk12.org](mailto:parchman_tina@asdk12.org)

### **Writing**

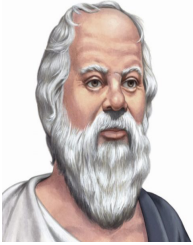
Hello, are you obsessed with comparing and contrasting things? Do you like to argue, make a claim, and defend it with solid evidence: Pathos, Ethos, and Logos? Then you would love to be in our writing classes: this quarter is argument writing, subject-verb agreement, Verbal Moods, and other great punctuation and writing techniques. Our students will be ready to take on 9th-grade writing tasks and we are going to invite you to our class to listen to their convincing argument speeches about something to do with technology.

### **ELA**

We are reading the novel by Lois Lowry, *The Giver*. A seemingly ‘Utopian’ world which actually turns out to be a dystopian society, until the 14-year-old protagonist saves the day and sacrifices all to make a difference!

Most importantly, students are preparing for the next MAP winter assessment by making sure they know all the necessary vocabulary that can help them navigate the assessment: protagonist/antagonist, conflict, theme, symbolism, and plot elements. Further, we will be reading argument/persuasive essays about driverless cars and other technology topics. Lastly, students will learn about argument writing techniques, grammar techniques, and punctuation tools. Thanks so much for allowing us to be a part of your student’s academic success! We are so proud of all their hard work this year. Contact

Have a wonderful Christmas Break~from Marie Curie Team!!



## **TEAM Socrates**

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

*~ Socrates*

### **Socrates:**

The **Socrates** team is looking forward to the successful completion of the second quarter, as well as a well-deserved winter break. To ensure a strong finish to the quarter, please check Canvas and make sure all second quarter assignments are passed in by 3:15pm, 12/21/2022 so that we have ample time to complete the second quarter grading process before winter break.

### **Writing Department:**

As we approach the end of the second quarter, the Writing department is continuing to dive deep into the middle argumentative writing. Students are learning how to create claims and back them up with evidence and logic. They will also learn how to use different types of classical rhetoric to help support their arguments and persuade their audience toward their claim. We are looking forward to the new semester when we will be starting narrative writing and considering how we tell stories and use these stories to close the distance between ourselves and others. Please contact with any questions or concerns. Scott MacDonald

[macdonalds\\_scott@asdk12.org](mailto:macdonalds_scott@asdk12.org)

### **Integrated Science 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

Science is a way of thinking, but especially critical thinking. Scientific studies show that patience, logic, detailed planning, and perseverance leads to a successful life. In a wonderful way, these exact processing skills are naturally found within each science class at Clark Middle School. Clark science teachers strive to reinforce these life-skills in our students by designing carefully planned curriculum.

That said, we will continue to use pre-AP science literacy techniques in each grade level. For Instance - mind maps, OPTIC images, QAR literacy building skills, and 4 Corners are a few learning strategies we use here in Clark Science. Each week students will be able to analyze rigorous and relevant science content, extract the evidence, and defend their claims.

Throughout December **8<sup>th</sup> grade** science will focus on these concepts: geologic time, radiometric dating, layers of the Earth, deposition and strata, evidence of ancient populations, plate tectonics, volcanism, and seismic waves.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade** science will focus on these concepts: Structure and function of living things, computer science, and waves of digitized signals.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade** science will focus on these concepts: ecology and the complex interdependent relationships among living and nonliving components of ecosystems. Please contact with any questions or concerns. Jason Patterson

[Patterson\\_jason@asdk12.org](mailto:Patterson_jason@asdk12.org)

# Highlights of Clark Middle School Former Students

Sayvia Sellers, a 5'8" rising senior guard at Anchorage Christian HS, and former student at Clark Middle School has committed to the University of Washington Huskies Women's Basketball program. Sayvia Sellers is receiving both an Academic and Athletic Scholarship from The University of Washington. With her senior season looming, there is still one barrier she's looking to break: becoming a McDonald's All-American.

Jadez Sellers, the brother of Sayvia Sellers, and a former student at Clark Middle School is attending Junior college where he is playing basketball and doing great things as well. Jabez is standing 6'3".

Clark Middle School would like to Congratulate both Sayvia Sellers and Jabez Sellers for doing an outstanding job in Academics and Athletics.





# Diversity Festival

**Bettye Davis East High**

**Saturday, December 3rd**

**12pm-5pm**

**Food**

**Community Resources**

**Prizes**

**Silent Auction**

**Family Engagement**

**Job Opportunity**

**Cultural Performance & Display**



*Scan me*

For more info please email [janetemmsley@gmail.com](mailto:janetemmsley@gmail.com)

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

## December

- ▶ 12/1 Safety Committee Mtg.
- ▶ 12/2 Discipline Committee Mtg.
- ▶ 12/3 Diversity Festival – 12-5pm @ East HS
- ▶ 12/6 Honor Band
- ▶ 12/8 Music Evening Festival 6pm-7pm
- ▶ 12/16 Locker Cleanout
- ▶ 12/18 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ANCSA
- ▶ 12/21 Classes Ends
- ▶ 12/22 State Release Grade Reporting  
Day/End of Quarter 2/ **NO SCHOOL**  
for students
- ▶ 12/23 Winter Break Starts **NO SCHOOL**

## January

- ▶ 1/2-1/6 Winter Break (Continues)
- ▶ 1/9 Classes Begins
- ▶ 1/12 Safety Committee Mtg.
- ▶ 1/13 Discipline Committee Mtg.
- ▶ 1/16 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Holiday
- ▶ 1/24 Family Literacy Night/  
Transition Night 5pm-7pm

