

Volume 14, Issue 6  
**January 2023**

# Clark Middle School

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoy the winter break and are now eager to settle in for the second semester. Students have worked hard and have made significant progress since the beginning of the school year. We are proud of them, and they should be proud of their success!

The start of the second semester is an opportunity for students to assess what worked well and what did not, and to make changes for the days ahead. While sometimes greater effort may be needed, it is always beneficial to work “smarter,” i.e., more efficiently. Teachers are here to help, and one-on-one time can provide individualized support. Counselors are also an excellent resource and can help students learn to advocate for their learning. As we begin this new year, we look forward to getting back to work and embarking on new adventures together.

The start of school after a significant time away, like winter break, provides a good opportunity to re-establish a focus on school expectations and learning. We support our students daily in continuing to make positive choices. Parents, please continue to check Parent Portal with your child. This routine helps build responsibility and accountability for our middle school students.



*Bennetta Orchitt*

*Principal, Clark Middle School*





**Anchorage School District**

*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

## Teachers and Administrators Input Opportunities...

Staff, students, parents, and community members have the opportunity to provide input on teacher and administrator performance. The input forms are shared with the person's immediate supervisor. Forms are available now until April 28.

Please share the following ways to provide input with school families, students, and staff:

- Parents, members of the public, and employees can access the web-based input forms anonymously by going to the on the [District Overview evaluations page](#) on the District's website.
- For those who wish to complete a hard copy, go to the electronic form and click the link "Printable version of this form" or schools can print from the links below. Completed forms can be submitted directly to Human Resources.
  - [Public Input Form-Administrator\\_Accessible.pdf](#)
  - [Public Input Form-Teacher\\_Accessible.pdf](#)

The web-based input forms are confidential and will be transmitted electronically by Human Resources to the appropriate supervisor. Printed copies are also confidential and routed to Human Resources and then to the immediate supervisor. Schools will also keep the forms confidential and route them to Human Resources.

# National Junior Honor Society



## **What is the National Junior Honor Society?**

NJHS is a middle school student organization with the purpose of promoting the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship within a school.

## **How do I become a member of NJHS?**

Each Quarter 3 an application will be given to those that meet the academic requirements. The candidate will complete the application, essay, and teacher's recommendation form and turn them into Mrs. Swisher.

### **Membership**

Selection for membership is by a faculty review of applicants and is based on outstanding scholarship, citizenship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities. Members who resign or are dismissed are no longer eligible for membership or its benefits and they may not reapply for membership. Once selected, members will be expected to attend meetings and participate in NJHS service projects, activities, and fundraisers.

### **Selection of Members:**

1. To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a sixth-grader OR a seventh-grader at Clark Middle School.
2. The selection of members to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council.
3. All faculty members will review the applicants' names. Students who do not promote service, leadership, citizenship, and character in the classroom will not be considered for membership.

### **Scholarship Requirements:**

All applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better as their overall score for each core class on the report card from the first two quarters.

### **Service Requirements:**

All applicants are required to have documented and verified community service hours.

### **Leadership and Character Requirements:**

Students will be asked to detail their leadership experiences while attending Clark Middle School or any other middle school they have attended.

### **Essay:**

All applicants will be required to submit one essay, discussing how they meet the pillars of NJHS.

### **Letter of Recommendation:**

Students are required to include a letter of recommendation from 2-3 adults who can speak to the pillars of character, leadership, citizenship, and service.

# Parenting the Love and Logic Way

**Hosted by:** Anchorage School District, Title I  
Led by Love and Logic Facilitator Meg'n Gall

**Dates:** Every Monday (1/23,1/30,2/6,2/13,2/27,3/6)  
no class on 2/20 Presidents day  
*This is a class series.* Registration is for all six weeks.

**Time:** 6:00-8:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom link will be provided weekly

**Register:** email [gall\\_megn@asdk12.org](mailto:gall_megn@asdk12.org)

## *Topics to be covered:*

- ★ *how to decrease arguing*
- ★ *increasing accountability while providing empathy*
- ★ *setting limits*
- ★ *avoiding power struggles*
- ★ *increasing their problem solving skills*
- ★ *increasing compliance with chores*



# Contacting Teachers

If you have a question for a teacher, or have a concern that you would like to discuss, call the school and leave a message on his/her voice mail. The teacher will return your call.

**Step 1** Discuss concerns with your son or daughter. Get a clear picture of the full situation.

Encourage the student to speak to the teacher(s) and or see the counselor for assistance.

**Step 2** Call your son/daughter's counselor to clarify concerns.

**Step 3** Request a progress report if appropriate

**Step 4** Request a conference with teachers to include counselor and student.

**Step 5** Keep your son/daughter involved throughout the conference

**Step 6** Follow up with recommendations to assist student and monitor progress at school

## Counselors and Support Services

<b>Counselor Dept. Chair</b>	Ghislaine Gillespie	<b>742-7770</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Gage Moore	<b>742-7772</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Brent Haugen	<b>742-7771</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Ghislaine Gillespie	<b>742-7770</b>
<b>Indian Education</b>	Yani Morley	<b>742-9691</b>
<b>Special Education</b>	Christie Westmann	<b>742-7779</b>
<b>Migrant Ed</b>	Tamara Rothman	<b>742-7773</b>

## Visitors In The Classroom

Classroom visits by parents and guardians are welcomed. To create the least interruption of the teaching process, request for the classroom visit shall be arranged through the school. Teachers shall receive prior notice of any visit and will collaborate to ensure that visits are productive, appropriate, and timely.

Spontaneous visits by the public shall be kept to a minimum. All visitors to the school (parents/guardians, etc.) must sign in at the main office and collect a visitors ID badge to wear while visiting the building. Parents wishing to attend their student's class(es) should consult the principal to make arrangements prior to the visits.

**Please Join Us**

# **TRANSITION NIGHT**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23,  
2023**

**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**For incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders and families**

**@ Clark Middle School**

**150 Bragaw St.**

**CHILI DINNER**

**Clark MPR**

**5:00 - 5:30**

**AT-A-GLANCE**

 **Academic  
Departments**  
 **Elective Courses**  
 **Sports**  
 **After School  
Programs**





Every school | Every Tuesday

- **February 7**
- **February 14**
- **February 21**
- **February 28**

## Clark Middle School

# Cell Phone Policy

Cell phone use during the school day has become a serious classroom distraction and has increased tardies during passing periods. To keep the focus on learning, and distractions to a minimum, cell phones must be turned off as soon as you enter the school until the end of the school day. Cell phones may **not be used during passing periods**.



We understand that families enjoy the convenience of communicating important family news by cell phones. However, because conversations infringe on the teacher and other students in the class, we ask families to leave emergency messages with our front office staff, at 742-4700.

- Cell phones must be out of sight and sound upon entering the building. This includes all passing periods.
- A student must politely turn the cell phone off and relinquish it when asked by a staff member.
- Camera phones are **not** to be used on campus as they threaten privacy (locker rooms and bathrooms), and can promote cheating (pictures of exam).
- Phones that have been confiscated by an administrator, due to misuse or inappropriate actions can be picked up by a parent/guardian.

## From p. III-2 Middle School Student Handbook:

### 7. Cell Phones/Electronic Communication Devices

#### Conditions of Use:

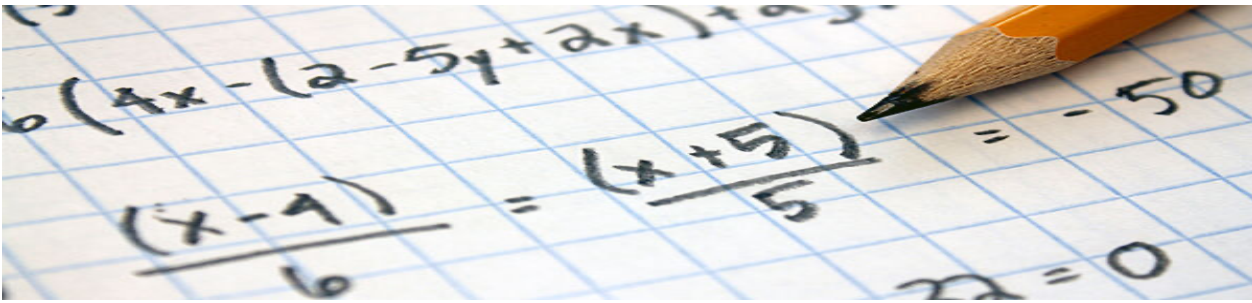
A student may possess a cellular telephone or other electronic communication device (ECD) (e.g. paging device/beepers, personal digital assistants, and other devices designed to receive and send electronic signal) in school.... as long as such activity does not interfere with the educational processes or safety/security. As a condition of this permission, **the student assumes all risk of loss, damage or theft** of the cellular phone or other ECD.



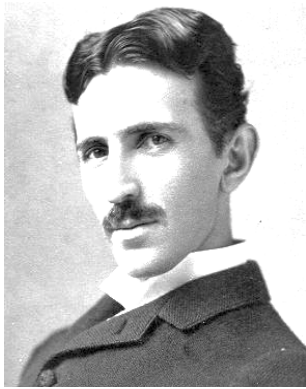
.... Elementary and middle school students (grades K-8) are permitted to use cellular phones and other ECDs **only before and after school**. **Cellular telephones and other ECDs must remain off and put away at all other times during the school day.**

## News From the Math Dept ...





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



January is the start of a new quarter and a new year! We will be doing iReady diagnostics with Math 6, 7 and 8, and ALEKS diagnostics in Algebra 1 and Geometry to see what students have learned and what they need to learn the second half of the year. Due to the snow days, we are behind, so look out for faster and more condensed learning. We want your students to learn as much of the required curriculums as possible, and that might mean moving a little faster than normal.

## Boys Basketball

There is great anticipation for the start of the Boy's Basketball season. The season will begin Tuesday, **January** 10, 2023 the week after returning from winter break.

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.



In order to play, you must sign up, pay the sports fee (if applicable), and have a current physical on file at CMS. The goal of basketball is to develop fundamental basketball skills, practice sportsmanship, and develop a sense of fair play and teamwork. To this end, the players will be divided into heterogeneous (mixed-ability) teams for the season.

***Head Coach Ashshanta Swisher***

## SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.....

Our Special education department would like to make sure parents and students are aware of the great resource of Text-to-Speech

### *Type with your voice!*

Dictation turns your Google Chrome into a speech recognition app designed to assist with written expression. You can use Google Chrome as a voice recognition app and type long documents, emails, and school essays without touching the keyboard. Dictation uses Chrome's local storage to automatically save the transcriptions, so you will never lose your work. There is no need to continuously press the "Save" button. Internally, it uses the Web Speech API of Chrome that is supported in all the newer releases of Chrome browser including Google Chrome on Android. The app is integrated with Dropbox and Google Drive to help you easily export the transcribed text to your various online accounts. Alternatively, you can send the dictated text to any email address.



We wrapped up the fall semester with a crazy amount of snow and some enjoyable snow days! Our students said they missed school but also shared the adventures of shoveling for many days in a row. During December at school, our students continued to develop their skills in supporting their answers with text evidence, writing informative and persuasive pieces, as well as learning a variety of strategies for multiplication.

As we have moved into Quarter 3, we will be working on reinforcing these skills we learned in the beginning of the school year and developing these more throughout math and language arts. In science, we will be focusing on the human body so be on the lookout for some projects we will be doing! In social studies, we are continuing our trip around the world for our geography unit. We have completed North America and we will be moving on to South America!

Our doors are always open and welcome to our families! If you would like to stop by and see what we are doing, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

AKSDHH gear are available to order! We have hoodies, vests, t-shirts, hats and more! If you would like to order anything or see the inventory list, please contact Clara Baldwin (Assistant Director of AKSDHH) via email at [baldwin\\_clara@asdk12.org](mailto:baldwin_clara@asdk12.org).

Upcoming events for AKSDHH:

- Next Pizza Night – January 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Round Table
- Annual Ski Trip (February) – more information to come
- AKSD Annual Retreat (April) – more information to come



## 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

**Happy New Year Clark scholars!** Let's bring in the New Year with excellence! This month in Language Arts, we are continuing Unit 2 **Power of Change**. Students will be learning more about change in a more holistic framework while learning challenging literacy terms. To assess students' performance, students are expected to write an informative literacy response to the story Walk Two Moons. In writing, students will be formulating Argumentative Essays justifying claims with evidence and logical arguments while incorporating the following terms (*logos*, *pathos*, and *ethos*) in their writing. They also will be developing an educated claim and argument as well as connecting arguments to real-life matters. In Science, students will be moving from energy flow in the ecosystem to energy in general. Students will be exploring the differences between kinetic and potential energy, then move into renewable and non-renewable energy sources. In Social Studies students will be focusing on human rights and responsibilities, civil liberties, government policies and their impact on our individual rights, how people and groups respond to governmental policies, the Bill of Rights, African American Civil Rights, Women's Suffrage, Native American Civil Rights, Latino, and Citizen Responsibilities. ~Marissa Ridgley [Ridgley\\_marissa@asdk12.org](mailto:Ridgley_marissa@asdk12.org)

### Social Studies

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter students will make connections between the historical past and the present as it relates to human rights and responsibilities, civil liberties, government policies and their impact on our individual rights, how people and groups respond to governmental policies, Bill of Rights, African American Civil Rights, Women's Suffrage, Native American Civil Rights, Latino and Citizen Responsibilities

~[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 you had a wonderful and rejuvenating winter break. Team McClintock is excited to get back in the swing of things this semester as we start Quarter 3 on a strong note. We are hoping to plan several field trips for your student to participate in this semester, so be on the lookout for chaperone sign-ups and other upcoming events in our Week-at-a-Glance emails (sent out every Monday). As always, please be checking QParentConnection with your student, as this is the most accurate platform to check grades. Let us know with any questions you may have!

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 and welcome to the New Year!

**Writing** we will continue working on argumentative essays in Writing class. This will consist of a full 5 paragraph essay.

**Social Studies** will work on National History day. The theme is Frontiers in History: people, places or events. Students are working on their own individual project. Students research should be completed early January,

**Science** we will be starting frog dissections before moving on to the Motion and Physics unit. Please watch for a consent letter for our Sphero Robotics activity.

**Language Arts** students will be learning about advertising and smart consumers. They will be writing an informational essay.: 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

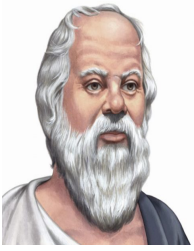
ELA/Writing contact: Tina Parchman [parchman\\_tina@asdk12.org](mailto:parchman_tina@asdk12.org)

### ELA/Writing

Ms. Parchman ELA/Writing:

Students have been exploring how to create/write a great argumentative essay: using rhetorical techniques like Logo, Pathos, and Ethos. They have also been utilizing grammar and writing techniques to help make their sentences grammatically correct. Lastly, students will create a 3-4 minute speech (using their argument essays) and present this to the class. We have explored how to address the 'counterclaim' and add this to our essays with the best evidence to 'knock out,' the counterclaim.

We will start Unit 3 for Springboard in February. Unit three is the "Challenge to Make a Difference." Students will be completing a multimedia campaign on a topic of their choosing (that effects all of us) and then present a presentation regarding this topic and offer solutions to combat some of these important issues.



## TEAM Socrates

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

### Socrates:

The Socrates team is excited for the second semester after a refreshing winter break. We are looking forward to a new quarter with a variety of new activities.

### Social Studies:

In Social Studies, students will pick a historical or culturally significant topic of their choice to research and present using Canva. ~Larry Moberly [moberly\\_larry@asdk12.org](mailto:moberly_larry@asdk12.org)

### Writing Department:

The Writing Department is really excited for the new semester. In January, we are finishing up our argumentative units and preparing to start our units on narrative writing. Narrative writing is a way that we share our stories, and stories are the way we connect to each other and to our world. Students will work on personal narratives, narrative structure, and creating strong setting and dialogue to push the narrative forward. We will be finishing up our Genetic Modification project and presenting a solution to an issue in our community. ~Scott Macdonalds [macdonalds\\_scott@asdk12.org](mailto:macdonalds_scott@asdk12.org)

### Language Arts:

In Language Arts, students will begin reading *The Giver* upon returning in January. Students will focus on recognizing dystopian societies and the parallels between various forms of government that are case studies of dystopian worlds. ~Edward Kelkis [kelkis\\_edward@asdk12.org](mailto:kelkis_edward@asdk12.org)

### Science 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

In Science 8, students will know about Doppler effect, red/blue shift, energy in different frequencies of light, diffraction, emission and absorption spectra, and how this all relates to Earth's Place in the Solar System. ~Jason Patterson [patterson\\_jason@asdk12.org](mailto:patterson_jason@asdk12.org)

### Math:

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## 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

## 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
-  1/23 Choir Concert
-  1/25 XC Ski meet
-  1/31 Boys BB – JV/V

## February

-  2/1 X-C Ski
-  2/2 Boys BB – JV/V
-  2/3 MS Solo Ensemble
-  2/7 Boys Bb – JV/V
-  2/7 Visit Our School Day
-  2/8 X-C Ski
-  2/9 Boys BB – JV/V
-  2/13 Sports Pics.
-  2/14 Boys BB – C-Team
-  2/14 Visit Our School Day
-  2/15 X-C Ski
-  2/16 Boys BB C-Team
-  2/20 Presidents Day Holiday
-  2/21 Visit Our School Day
-  2/22 X-C Ski
-  2/23 Family Night
-  2/25 Boys BB - Jamboree
-  2/28 X-C Ski
-  2/28 Visit Our School Day

