



The Birchwood Banner

September 2020

Birchwood ABC achieves high academic standards through a structured, well-defined curriculum, based on the mastery of skills, mandated homework and consistent grading procedures. Our program emphasizes leadership, citizenship, self-discipline, and character development as its guiding principles



Dear Birchwood families,

Thank you for your support and partnership as we continue to develop the process for providing distance learning to our students. During the time that we are in high risk, full time e-learning we will provide paper pencil materials to support the Canvas online and Zoom face-to-face instruction. Please review the following schedule and procedures for picking up materials and dropping off assignments and projects. This schedule is subject to change if we move to a lesser risk level.

Birchwood Student Materials Pickup and Assignment Drop Off

Schedule:

Pick-up and drop off times will be from 9:00AM – 5:00PM

Wednesday, September 2nd and Thursday, September 3rd

Wednesday, September 16th & Thursday, September 17th

Wednesday, September 30th & Thursday, October 1st

Wednesday, October 14th & Thursday, October 15th

We encourage families with last name A-L to pick-up on Wednesdays and M-Z on Thursdays. Parents are welcome to come on either day if necessary to accommodate their schedules.

Following the need to continue strict safety precautions, families will not be allowed into the building during this pick-up and drop off process. Thank you for your understanding.

Please proceed to the parent/visitor parking lot. Do not enter the parking area. Proceed through the pickup lane. Please follow guidance sign instructions. There will be 2 signs that request that you remain in your vehicle until you get to the 3rd sign, which will include a stop sign and will provide you the following instructions:

- Please exit your vehicle
- Proceed to the table at the top of the stairs
- A staff member will ask you for the name of your student(s)
- The staff member will provide you a bag with materials
- The staff member will direct you to a bin to turn in materials if that is something that you need to do
- Return to your vehicle and the next vehicle will move up to the stop sign
- Please remain in your vehicle until it is your turn

There will be a drop box located outside for any library books that need to be returned. Library books that have been checked out through the online process will be available for pickup during specific times. Please see the library web page for that information.

Please see the included traffic map for further assistance.

If you have any questions about this process please contact us at 742-3450.

Birchwood ABC Student Materials Pickup Map



Attendance

Attendance is still the number one factor in academic growth and progress. Students who participate regularly in Zoom sessions and complete tasks through Canvas will learn at a more accelerated rate than those who do not. We understand that attendance during distance learning will be different than when students are actually in school. However, attendance will be taken each school day but will encompass some options. Students will be counted as present if they attend a daily Zoom session. Students will also be recorded as present if they are unable to attend the Zoom session but log into Canvas and work on the daily assignments. Required Zoom sessions are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Some teachers will also be offering optional Zoom sessions on Wednesday but attendance will not be taken during optional sessions. Attendance on Wednesday will be recorded based on a student logging into Canvas and working on the daily assignments. Teachers will report attendance to the office between 3:30 and 4:00PM each day. Please contact the office to inform us if your child will be absent. That is, if they will not attend their daily zoom or log into Canvas to work on daily activities. Parents will receive a robo call at 4:30PM informing them that their child was absent if the office has not received prior notification

Zoom Recordings

A portion of the Zoom lessons for math and reading for all grade levels will be recorded and available to families through a student's Canvas course. This will be available through a recording of a portion of the live Zoom sessions or through a pre-recorded activity. Students are not required to display their live image through the video function, during live recordings. Teachers will make an announcement to students prior to beginning to record if they choose to use the live zoom recording option. Students will then have the option of turning their cameras off. The teacher will notify students when they have stopped recording. Students who have turned their cameras off will be expected to turn them back on so that they can fully participate in the lesson. Please understand that cameras capture not only the student but also background content within the camera's frame.

Thank you,

Birchwood ABC Principal

Michael Thomas

Hudson Gift Card Fund Raiser:

The Birchwood PTA would like to invite you to join us in a GIFT CARD fundraiser for Hudson Wills



Hudson is a Birchwood student who was diagnosed with Leukemia in May. He has received a successful bone marrow transplant from a family member. He is currently in recovery, where he will remain for several months. During this time, he and his family will benefit from support from our school community.

The gift card fundraiser is very easy. Simply purchase a gift card, for any amount that you are able, from a vendor of your choice: Amazon, Wal-Mart, restaurants, etc. Then drop it off at the school during our 1st materials distribution. The school will then deliver the gift cards to Hudson and his family. Our 1st materials distribution will occur on September 2nd and 3rd. More information on the materials distribution will be sent to you later this week.

Thank you for supporting Hudson and his family. Supporting each other is how we stay Birchwood Strong!

Heather Calcaterra

Birchwood ABC PTA President

Michael Thomas

Birchwood ABC Principal



Curbside Pickup

Our first library curbside pick-up and return will be this Wednesday from 3:00PM-5:00PM. Book requests need to be in by noon on Wednesday.

All information is on the library website.

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/bwabclibrary/home>



Hello from the Music Room! Since we don't have the opportunity right now to sing together on the morning announcements, I thought I would make a video for you to sing along with at home! This month's song is The Star Spangled Banner, words by Francis Scott Key. I hope you have fun singing along and I can't wait to hear your voices again soon!

-Miss Hopper

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i9Y1Z-4MiWJPdhefWgQkViu-4EpaADOX/view?usp=sharing>

Notes from Nurse Beth

Welcome back to Birchwood ABC! I hope you all had a healthy and safe summer!

Please be thinking about the following needs while we are in high risk so that your student(s) is prepared when we do move to a level that allows our students to come back to the school building.

Remember if your student needs to have medications given at school, we have new forms this year. Links for those forms are below. Don't wait until the last minute to get them signed by your child's physician. Your pharmacy can make up a special bottle labeled just for school. In the case of EpiPen or inhalers, please ask the pharmacist to place the label on the EpiPen/inhaler, not on the box. Please do not send medications to school with your student. An adult does need to physically bring them to school. I will not accept pills in a baggie, only in an actual bottle from the pharmacy. Also, nurses are not allowed to administer herbal preparations to students in school that includes herbal cough drops, such as Ricola cough drops. I can give over the counter medications with parent permission. I have special forms for that, parents do need to sign for over the counter medications given at school.

[Medication_Prescription_0525](#) [Medication_OTC_0523](#) [Careplan_Allergy_Anaphylaxis_0502](#)
[Careplan_Asthma_0505](#)

If your student has had immunizations during the summer, please send an updated immunization record to school, so I can update records. Your student's physician can email or fax a copy to me. Fax is 907-742-3495. I will be calling parents to let you know: 1) if I need a record, 2) if your student needs to have some immunizations. Providence sub-specialty has an immunization clinic on the 1st Saturday of each month, it is free. Alaska Regional has an immunization clinic on the 3rd Saturday of each month, also free. Please bring identification and immunization records with you. Flu shots can be gotten at Fred Meyer, Carrs, or Walgreens. Questions regarding immunizations or flu shots, please call the business that provides those vaccines.

Please practice face mask use and hand washing at home. At this time face masks are required in order to enter the school building. If you have questions regarding your student and face masks, please discuss with your student's physician. Hand washing needs to be at least 20 sec with soap and water (sing Happy Birthday song or ABC song twice through).

That's it for now. If you have questions or would like to make an appointment to see me, feel free to email me or call my office. My office hours are 8:30am-4:00pm M-F.

Be healthy, Be safe!

Nurse Beth

thomas_beth@asdk12.org

907-742-3452



PE at Birchwood



Online Physical Education

The Anchorage School District has chosen to make PE an “asynchronous” (no live lessons with PE teacher) learning experience. ASD has created PE content for PE lessons to be done through Canvas twice per week starting the week of Sep. 8th. Please contact Birchwood ABC if these lessons are not available. Students will receive a final grade for PE based on participation in these lessons, or alternative activities at the discretion of the family (maybe Healthy Futures 😊).

PE Teacher?

So what’s the PE teacher doing? ASD has designated all “specialists” as a “generalist”. The generalists at each school will primarily function to support classroom teachers with the delivery of Math and Reading instruction. Additional duties will vary by school.

Mr. Olson, Birchwood PE Specialist, is currently assigned to Mrs. Eads 4th/ 5th combo class.



Healthy Futures
Activity Logs

PE Zoom Office Hours

If you have questions or just want to say hi, Mr. Olson’s office hours are:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 am

Click icon to access Zoom meeting

Password: **OlsonPE**



This will take you to a waiting room, and you will enter meeting when Mr. Olson is available.

The corona virus hasn’t stopped Healthy Futures. As always, the Fall Challenge kicks off in September, as students begin tracking their physical activity for the month. This log can be submitting by scanning or photo attachment, and then emailed to Mr. Olson **and** this can count for your entire PE participation for the quarter! Prizes can be distributed during school supply pick-ups, or who knows, maybe we’ll be back at school.

For more information about the Healthy Futures program, visit <https://healthyfuturesak.org/>

Download an activity log [HERE](#)

See video below for brief tutorial:

For more information about Physical Education at Birchwood ABC, please visit the school website. Under staff, find Mr. Olson, and you will see a link to his website! (Or just click the link below)

[PE Website](#)



Grades for Specials

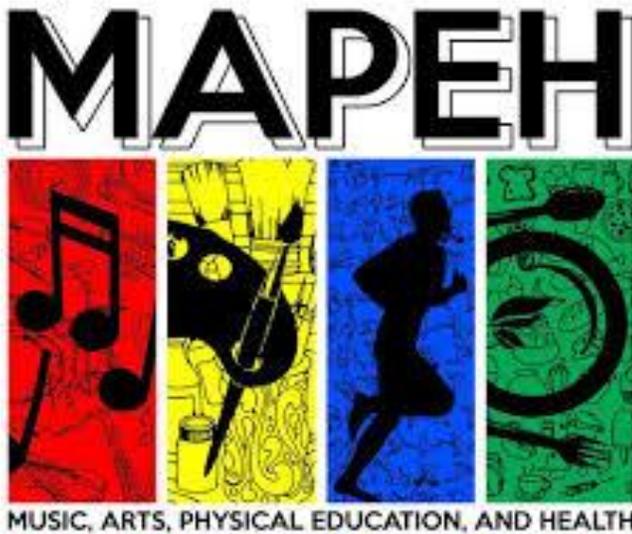
Sep 8th should kickoff the inclusion of specials on your weekly tasks on Canvas. Specials (**Art, Health, Music, and PE**) will all have new content available each week. These will be graded for participation this quarter. Each week, there will be a Google Form posted in Canvas to be completed, which will be a simple check-off that acknowledges your child made an effort to “participate” in specials. These check-offs will be forwarded to classroom teachers.

The expectation is that students will receive a minimum of 4 grades for each special, which will be used to create a final grade for the quarter. We understand that many families may have difficulties in completing some of the tasks provided. Please make an honest effort in opening all the links for specials each week and see what is doable. **Students will receive “O’s”** as a grade for this effort as long as the Specials Form has been checked off and submitted.

If you feel your child is participating in a special in a different way, please count this as participation and submit the form. *Example*, if your child participates in flag football, this would count towards participating in PE each week, as the child would be practicing skills like chasing, fleeing, dodging, throwing...

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your teachers.

The link below is for your first week
Of specials.



Specials Weekly Checklist- Sep. 8-11

Here we go! Use this form to check off what you did this week!

* Required

First and Last Name *

Your answer

Who is your teacher? *

- K Ms. Banner
- K Mrs. Crum
- K/1st Mrs. Summer
- 1st Mrs. Lambert
- 2nd Mrs.Means
- 2nd Mrs. Boothe
- 2/3rd Mrs. Motton
- 3rd Ms. Tyson



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**YOU CAN HELP BIRCHWOOD ABC PTA EARN
DONATIONS JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED
MEYER REWARDS CARD!**

Fred Meyer donates over \$2 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

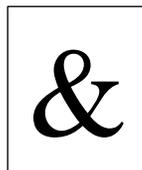
- Sign up for the Community Rewards Program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card to Birchwood ABC at <http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityreward>. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number BX482.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Birchwood ABC PTA earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
 - For more information, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

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2. Choose “**Birchwood ABC School PTA**” from the search menu.
3. Bookmark smile.amazon.com so that Birchwood ABC benefits every time you shop!



Meal Pick-up and Delivery Options

The Anchorage School District will continue to provide meal service to students enrolled in National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participating schools.

- o Parents or Guardians may elect to pick up meals at one of the below listed distribution centers.
- o Bus Delivery is available via STUber Eats at select locations.

Distribution Centers

- o Bartlett High School
- o Central Middle School of Science
- o Chugiak High School
- o Dimond High School
- o East High School
- o Girdwood K-8
- o Hanshew Middle School
- o Mears Middle School
- o Romig Middle School
- o South High School
- o Ursa Major Elementary

*Parents or Guardians eligible for delivery may elect either STUber Eats or to pick up meals from a distribution center. More information on the meal plan can be accessed at:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15786>



Birchwood Advisory Committee (BAC) News:

Next Meeting: The next BAC meeting is scheduled for September 17th at 6:00 PM via zoom. Please email bacbirchwood@gmail.com with any questions or curriculum matters you'd like to discuss or address.

Did you know: You do not need to be a BAC member to attend monthly meetings. Anyone interested in curriculum proposals, philosophy matters, or school academic policies are welcome and encouraged to attend. We want to hear from the parent/guardian body so that we may better represent you and our students.

The BAC is a committee of parents or guardians of BWABC students organized to advise, consult, and assist the school's administrative staff on matters relating to the curriculum.

Each month Birchwood ABC focuses on a different character trait.

September's Character Trait

Respect: A regard for or appreciation of the worth or value of someone or something.

Thank you to our School Business Partner!!



773 Logistics Readiness
JBER, AK