



The Birchwood Banner

August 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

Principal's Corner



You can't solve a problem on the same level that it was created. You have to rise to the next level.” -Albert Einstein

“Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength”
-Theodore Roosevelt

I am happy to welcome the Birchwood School community to the 2020-2021 school year. Every year that we are able to teach your children is memorable. This year will no doubt be something that we all reflect upon often as we progress into the future. We have many challenges ahead but we will all draw on each other's strength and together we will rise to the next level and continue to teach our students.

The school building is currently closed to the public. Therefore, we are organizing student instruction under the High-Risk model at this time:

Anchorage School District
School Start Risk Level Response Plan



ASD at School				
	Low Risk	Medium-Low Risk	Medium-High Risk	High Risk
How many days at school?	5 days a week	5 days a week	2 days a week	0 days a week
Who attends at school?	All students	All students	Alphabet-based cohort (50%) Cohort 1 = last name A-L Cohort 2 = last name M-Z	No students
How long is the school day?	Full student day 6.5 hours	5.5 hours a day	5.5 hours a day	N/A
How many eLearning days?	Only for a school cancellation	Only for a school cancellation	3 days a week	5 days a week
Teaching & Learning	Instruction in physical setting using ASD curriculum (Traditional model)	Instruction in physical setting and online using ASD curriculum (Blended Model)	Instruction in physical setting and online using ASD curriculum (Blended Model)	Instruction online using ASD curriculum (eLearning model)

We are busy working with families to get students enrolled and we are assigning them to classes. We will not post class lists as we have done in the past. Teachers will be contacting the families of students that have been assigned to their class through email. This will occur on August 19th. Teachers will schedule to meet with their families for a welcome zoom session. This will occur on August 20th. During that meeting, teachers will introduce you to their online class learning platform, which is Canvas. They will schedule zoom times and provide learning and participation expectations. They will also help address needs and concerns. Teachers will be available to meet with individual parents who are not able to attend the Welcome to Class zoom and families that request a personal meeting. These conferences will be available on August 21 & 24 by appointment.

Our teachers are busy creating courses in Canvas. This will be the distance learning platform for instruction. Teachers will also interact with students via Zoom. Teachers will begin to meet with students over Zoom on August 25th.

From August 25th – September 4th the teachers will be focusing on the following school start initiatives:

- Instructions for students on how to use Zoom
- Instructions for students to login and how to use Canvas to access resources and assignments
- Social Emotional Learning
- Working with families to assess students using the iReady online supplemental resource. This is a supplement to our course content. During this online assessment it is very important that parents and family members do not assist students with answers. The assessment is designed to create a learning

path for each student based on how they answer the questions. Assistance will result in a learning path that will most likely frustrate students because it will be beyond their level. Additionally, encourage them to do their best so that the learning path will also challenge them and provide an appropriate level of development. You can access more information on this resource through the following link: <https://www.curriculumassociates.com/review/anchorage>

- Provide content review and practice, but nothing will be graded during these 1st 2 weeks.
- Continue to address family needs regarding the use of Canvas and access to course materials. This will include a plan to deliver hands on course materials to families. More information on that will be forthcoming.

On September 8 teachers will begin to deliver course content. Teachers will begin to set assignment completion expectations and students will begin to earn grades based on assignment and assessment progress. This will initially include Math and English Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Spelling) instruction, assignments and assessments. Other content areas such as science and social studies, will be integrated as the quarter progresses. Students that are enrolled in ASD virtual will be hearing directly from their support teacher as well. Those teachers will also work with families to develop the instruction approach for your child.

Specials teachers; PE, Art and Music, will be joining classroom teachers to assist with the delivery of our Language Arts and Math curriculums. Specials content will all be asynchronous.

Special Education teachers are collaborating with teachers and working on plans to address each students IEP.

Our site 504 coordinator and classroom teachers will be in contact with families to plan for addressing the needs of students with 504s.

Our Ignite teacher is working on a plan to provide those services as well.

Birchwood School Wide Expectations for students when participating in Zoom sessions:

- The behavior expectations that we have established in the physical classroom transfer to the virtual classroom.
- Please have your child up and awake, ready to participate.
- Please have them dressed in clothes that they would wear to the physical school.
- Please have them fed before zooms start.
- Please provide a designated work space away from siblings, the television and other distractions.
- Please keep your audio on mute until you want to speak. This will help to limit background noise.
- Please make sure the background area is appropriate for students to view.
- Profanity or obscene gestures will be addressed as disciplinary issues
- Remember to sign out or "leave the meeting" when the session is finished.
- Please practice with your child responsible and respectful behavior during zoom sessions.
- Examples of disruptive behavior:
 - Not following any rules or expectations established by the teacher
 - Having a conversation with a family member while the microphone is on
 - Eating during zoom sessions
 - Playing a game on an electronic device
 - Playing with friends, siblings or pets
 - Showing toys or other items without the teacher's permission
 - TV playing in the back ground, even when microphone is muted

We are relying on parents as partners in teaching your child. The teaching environment that you establish for your child will have a tremendous effect on their learning!

The terms asynchronous and synchronous are being used by ASD to describe forms of teaching in a distance learning classroom:

Asynchronous – involves students working without direct instruction from the teacher. This will include but is not limited to, completing activities, assignments and tests in Canvas, and working in the iReady supplemental resource.

Synchronous – involves direct instruction from the teacher. This includes the teacher modeling and demonstrating activities during zoom sessions.

Synchronous zoom sessions will occur on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There will be no whole class zoom sessions on Wednesdays. Teachers may choose to schedule office hours and/or appointments on Wednesday.

Asynchronous activities will be provided each day of the week.

Attendance and participation in all course activities is required and will be recorded daily.

The district will continue to provide information regarding our risk level response, which will include any future change in our level.

Please contact your teacher or myself at any time with your questions and/or concerns. We appreciate your support and patience as we navigate our way back to school.

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.

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

Distribution Centers

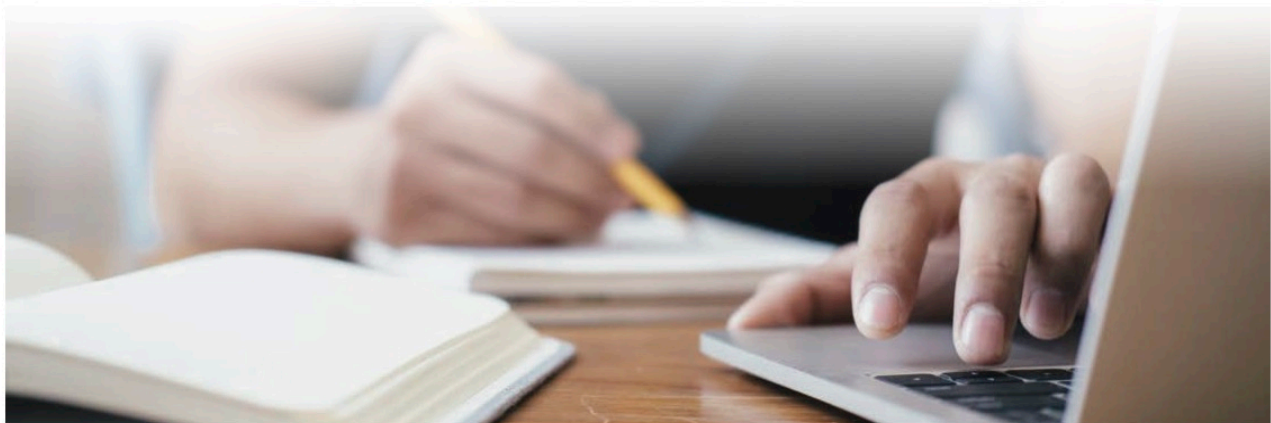
- Bartlett High School
- Central Middle School of Science
- Chugiak High School
- Dimond High School
- East High School
- Girdwood K-8
- Hanshaw Middle School
- Mears Middle School
- Romig Middle School
- South High School
- Ursa Major Elementary

*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>



ZOOM – Student Online Classroom Etiquette

- This is a virtual classroom, therefore, appropriate classroom behavior is expected.
- Log into your class or meeting from a distraction-free, quiet environment.
- Please keep your audio on mute until you want to speak. This will help to limit background noise.
- Consider using a headset with an external mic for best hearing and speaking capabilities.
- Close unneeded applications on your computer to optimize the video quality.
- If you would like to speak or answer a question, use the “Raise Hand” feature. Then unmute yourself after you are called on by your teacher.
- When you are speaking, let others know that you are finished by saying something like, “That’s all,” or “I’m done,” or “Thank you,” so that everyone knows you have finished your comments.
- If you would like to use the chatbox, remember that it is public, and a record of the chat is kept and archived.
- Keep paper and a pen or pencil handy to take notes.
- Make sure your video is on (if you have camera capabilities) so your teacher and peers can see you.
- Be mindful of your background lighting. If you are sitting with your back to a window, you may be silhouetted by the light coming through. Your overhead light might also need to be adjusted for the best image quality.
- Please take care of your personal needs (appropriate dress, basic hygiene, eating, chewing gum, talking to others in your home, etc.) prior to entering a Zoom classroom.
- Please do not use profanity or inappropriate language.
- Remember to sign out or “leave the meeting” when the session is finished.



dates to Remember

August 19th—Classroom assignment email from teachers.

August 25th- First student zoom with classroom teacher for all.

August 20th—Family welcome zooms with classroom teachers.

September 7th- Labor Day No School.



Thank you to our School Business Partner!!



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