

News From the Nest

November 25th, 2024

Eaglets to Eagles, We Soar on the Wings of Knowledge

Principal's Corner

Dear ERE Families,

I hope the Thanksgiving Break is a joyful and restful time for you and your family! We are nearly halfway done with the 2024-2025 school year. The students and teachers have been working diligently on learning and applying grade level knowledge and we are proud of what has been achieved thus far. Please feel free to discuss your student(s) progress with your teachers as your partnership is critical to student success. The first week in December our 3rd-5th grade students will be taking the MAPS assessments. Our K-2 graders will be completing various assessments as well. We will be sharing this assessment information with you along with report cards in January.

Although the winter took some time coming, it has now arrived and the temperatures are dipping low! Thank you for sending your students with weather appropriate clothing (hats, gloves, boot, and snow pants). The countdown to Winter Break can be an emotional time and students need to burn off excess energy during recess. As a reminder, students need to have their legs covered during the school day. Please no shorts or dresses without leggings or tights.

To celebrate the holiday season ERE PTO will continue the new tradition of hosting Holiday BINGO on Friday, December 13th. Food sales start and the doors open at 6:00pm. BINGO starts at 6:30. Flyers will come home soon. We hope to see everyone there!

With Gratitude,
Dawn Campbell
Principal

Reminders

- Winter Break 12/20/24 - 01/05/24

- Spirit Week 12/16 - 12/19

ERES Spirit Days

12.2 Class Color Day

12.16 Crazy/Cozy Socks

12.17 Crazy Hair OR
Holiday Headwear

12.18 Festive Wear

12.19 Party in Your Pjs

ALL OUTFITS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Class Colors Day	2 Battle of the Books 5th Gr 2:30-3:30 Homework Club 2:30-3:30 Choir 2:30-3:30	3	4 Open Optional Steering Committee Meeting 6pm	5 Battle of the Books 3/4 Gr 2:30-3:30 Student Leadership Meeting 2:30-3:30	6 Battle of the Books 3/4 Gr 2:30-3:30 Popcorn Friday!	7
8 Battle of the Books 5th Gr 2:30-3:30 Homework Club 2:30-3:30 Choir 2:30-3:30	9	10	11 Battle of the Books 5th Gr 2:30-3:30	12 Battle of the Books 3/4 Gr 2:30-3:30	13 Battle of the Books 3/4 Gr 2:30-3:30 Holiday Bingo 6pm - 7:30pm	14 Bookmark Contest Entries Due!
15 Spirit Week: 12/16: Crazy/Cozy Socks 12/17: Crazy Hair/Holiday Hat 12/18: Festive Wear 12/19: PJ Day	16 Battle of the Books 5th Gr 2:30-3:30 Homework Club 2:30-3:30	17	18 Battle of the Books 5th Gr 2:30-3:30	19 Student Leadership Meeting 2:30-3:30	20 End of 2nd Qtr No Students @ School	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>Winter Break</i>						
29	30	31				
<i>Winter Break</i>						

mClass Screening 12/2 - 12/13

2024 - 2025

As part of The Alaska Reads Act, the State of Alaska requires that districts administer an early literacy screening tool three times a year to students in grades K-3 to identify potential reading difficulties in order to improve reading outcomes for students. Families can read more about this comprehensive K-3 reading policy at The Alaska Reads Act website:

education.alaska.gov/akreads

mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition Assessments is the State of Alaska Department of Education's and ASD's Early Literacy benchmark screening and progress monitoring tool for students in grades K-3 in reading. mClass utilizes curriculum-based measures and is used by schools as part of the ASD Comprehensive Assessment System to support informed instructional decisions.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development explains the decision to adopt mClass as the statewide literacy screener here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/Statewide-Early-Literacy-Screener>

mClass screening assessments will only be administered in-person during the benchmark window listed below:

- December 2 - 13, 2024

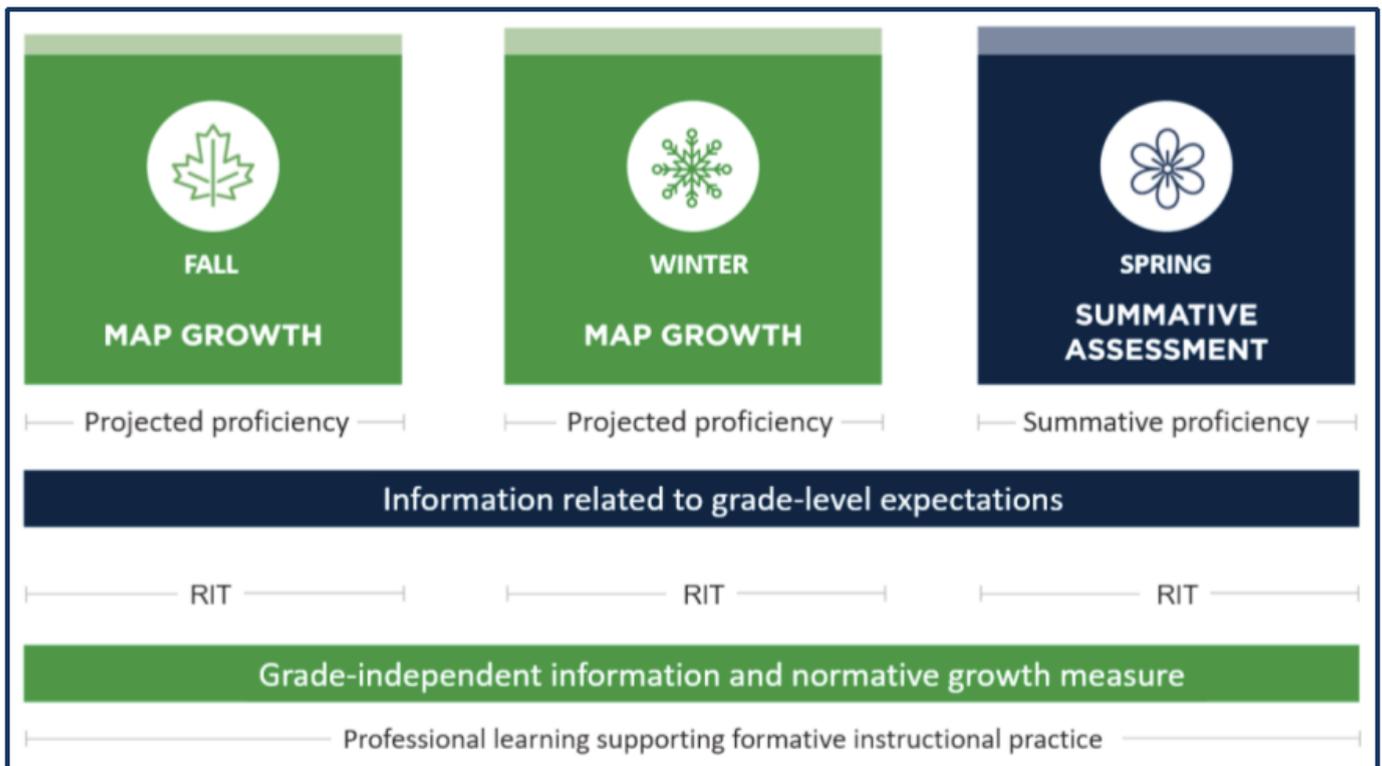
Results for K-3 students that were assessed during a benchmark window, will be available in Parent Connect by January 10, 2025: ParentConnection Login Information and Reference Guide:

parentconnect.asdk12.org

MAP Testing 12/2 - 12/13

MAP Growth is the ASD and State of Alaska required benchmark/interim reading and mathematics assessment for students in grades 3-9. Grades 10-12 students identified as needing Tier II and Tier III reading and mathematics support also take MAP Growth as part of the Anchorage School District's MTSS framework.

Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has partnered with NWEA to implement a creative approach to a balanced statewide assessment that connects fall and winter MAP Growth benchmark/interim assessments and the Alaska spring AK STAR summative assessment. AK STAR eliminates the spring benchmark/interim assessment window for grades 3-9 by combining the summative and benchmark assessment into one test that produces a spring benchmark score, which includes a growth measure. More information is available at the State of Alaska AK STAR website, education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar.



MAP Growth is an online, adaptive assessment that provides each student a personalized testing experience with data that speaks to their individual progress and growth in mathematics and reading.

The MAP Growth reading and mathematics benchmark will be administered in person during the 2024-2025 fall and winter benchmark windows. The spring benchmark will be embedded in the AK STAR summative assessment as outlined above.

- Fall Benchmark 1: September 3 - September 13 (make-ups through September 20)
- Winter Benchmark 2: December 2 - December 13 (make-ups through December 19)
- Spring Benchmark 3: embedded in AK STAR administered during the summative assessment window: March 24 - April 4 (make-ups through April 25)

- MAP Growth assessment only: Grades 10-12 identified as needing Tier II and III support

MAP Growth practice tests and tutorials allow students and families the opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions and tools available on the actual MAP Growth assessments such as the highlighter and calculator. An overview of these resources with links to the practice tests are compiled on the [MAP Growth Practice Tests Quick Sheet](#).

Join Us 12/13/24 @6-7:30pm for Bingo Night!



Music With Ms. Levy

Happy December! So many fun things are happening in music.

Music Vocab Words:

Tempo- fast and slow

Dynamics- loud and soft

Forte- loud

Piano- soft

Mezzo- medium

Major- happy sound

Minor- sad or spooky sound

Beat- stays the same, like a heartbeat

Rhythm- changes between long and short-short sounds

Staccato- short and sweet

Allegro- fast

Adagio- slow

Repetition- repeat

Choir

Our first scheduled choir event will be on Friday, December 6th, for the Chugiak/Eagle River Tree Lighting Event! Here is the performance schedule:

5:30 - 5:40 Chugiak Elementary

5:45 - 5:55 Firelake Elementary

6:00 - 6:10 Alpenglow Elementary

6:15 - 6:25 Ravenwood Elementary

6:30-6:40 Eagle River Elementary

6:45 - 6:55 Birchwood ABC Elementary

7:05-7:15. Homestead Elementary

Our scheduled time to sing is at 6:30. I would like the choir members to be there by 6pm. Some of the awesome Chamber Members serving free hot cocas/drinks and goodies! There are sleigh rides, Santa and a beautiful tree lighting. Santa arrives and final tree lights illuminate at 7:00 pm. Dress for the weather!!! It will be cold!

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions! I am looking forward to continuing making music with your students!

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Reading Buddies with Mrs. Sorensen's & Mr. Hahn's Class!



Two Brothers Auto Detail & Subway: Special Deal for ERES

Here at Eagle River Elementary, our two main partners are Subway and Two Brothers Auto Detail and they have great deals to share with our families. At Subway, you can save 10% on sandwiches and other yummy items. While you enjoy your meal your car can get some much-needed care at Two Brothers where you will save \$10.00 on services. All you have to do is mention that your student goes to ERES! So, spread the news and stop by or call Subway of Eagle River and Two Brothers Auto Detail today!

Subway of ER: (907) 696-7526 || Two Brothers Auto Detail: (907) 694-2277

We have officially ended our Fall Food Drive and WOW!! We are so blown away by all the donations and support we have received to help fill our pantry. Our final count for the Fall Food Drive was...

1288!

This is an AMAZING number and we're so grateful to everyone who donated. While we didn't make our goal of 1500, we still will be doing something special for the entire school as a thank you for coming together as one community to support our families.

Thank you for helping our students SOAR!

School Psych Secrets with Mr. Brown

An emerging concept to support our children and students is making sure kids know they matter. While many children know they are unconditionally loved, their understanding of how they matter to their family and their school may be more complicated. Mattering goes beyond feeling safe or feeling loved. It includes understanding how they are important to any specific community. Part of mattering is allowing children independence with support as needed: “enough to challenge them to ward off boredom, but not so much they just give up.”

Dr. Isaac Prillientensky has written about mattering throughout his career. He explains, “the more a child feels valued, the more they feel like they have something to contribute to others; then the more they seek to add value, the more they do things that invite appreciated and build skills...” One way we can show children they matter is to allow them to help with household chores, and to notice and acknowledge how that supports the family. This builds student self-sufficiency, promotes mattering, and deepens connections. Below is a list of developmentally appropriate chores for elementary students:

CHORES BY AGE			
AGES 2-3	AGES 4-6	AGES 7-9	AGES 10+
Pick up toys	Make their bed	Get themselves up in the morning with an alarm clock	Operate the washer & dryer
Wipe up spills	Sort laundry and put away clothes	Make their own school lunch	Mow the lawn
Dust	Feed pet	Manage an allowance	Basic home repairs
Clear place at meal time	Make a small snack	Fold laundry	Family budgeting (Help plan for school clothes or family vacation)
Help put away groceries	Set the table	Cook simple foods (yes, this means using a knife)	Take an extra job for spending money
Sort recycling	Pull weeds	Load and unload dishwasher	Cook a complete meal
Put dirty clothes in the laundry	Water plants	Vacuum	Wash the car

 **sunshine & HURRICANES**
parenting • friendship • purpose • fun

When kids feel they matter, they are more likely to experience happiness, self-compassion, empathy, self-efficacy, resilience, academic success, and life satisfaction. If chores are a new routine for your family, ensuring you are clear on expectations is critical. Kids may also benefit from visual reminders of what they are expected to do (i.e., a picture of their bed being made), and a chore chart with timelines can help to ease the burden of having to constantly remind them to do

their chores. The goal is not perfection, it's about deepening bonds and letting our kids know they matter!

Josh Brown, Psy.S. (he/him)
School Psychologist

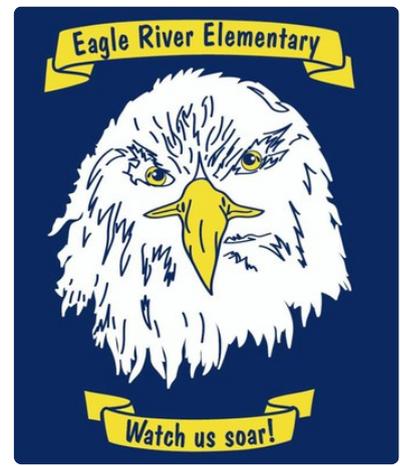
If families need gloves, coats, hats, or other snow gear, please reach out to Nurse Jen! She is here to help our students stay safe, healthy, and warm.

brusehaber_jennife@asdk12.org (R left off intentionally) or via phone (907) 742-3000.



The information below will remain on the newsletter for your reference

We have been working hard during our PLC time! It has been incredibly valuable to have this time each week to have collegial conversations and to collaborate to develop our mission and vision as well as our collective commitments for our students here at ERE! I am proud of the work our staff is doing and an excited for where we are headed.



Mission Statement: At ERE we will provide a safe and positive learning environment for the success of all our students, accomplished through engagement, motivation and perseverance.

Vision Statement: ERE will strive to create successful, happy, lifelong learners.

Our Collective Commitments:

- ERE is committed to strong core academic skills focused on math literacy and reading comprehension.
- ERE is committed to ensuring students learn conflict resolution, emotional regulation skills, and to take personal responsibility.
- ERE is committed to helping students develop a growth mindset, to focus, persevere, and problem solve.

School Colors: Blue and gold

Motto: "From eaglets to eagles, we soar on the wings of knowledge!"



EAGLE RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL-WIDE BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

	Arrival & Dismissal	Hallway	Lunchroom	Recess	Restroom	Success Strategies
S Safety First <i>I will...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk directly to my destination • Stay put • Talk softly • Keep my hands, feet, and belongings to myself • Arrive after 7:45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk directly to my destination • Have permission and a hall pass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throw away my trash • Clean up my space • Stay in my seat • Eat only my food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress appropriately • Follow recess expectations • Report problems to staff on duty • Follow adult directions • Line up quickly and quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get permission and a pass • Walk directly to destination • Allow for the privacy of others • Wash my hands • Report problems to my teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Stop and Think" • Talk to an adult • Ask for help immediately
O One Community <i>We will...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect others' space • Set technology for learning (personal tech turned off and in backpack before entering the building) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk • Keep quiet • Keep to the right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be patient • Stay in line • Pitch in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include others • Share • Care for our playground and equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep restroom clean • Conserve resources • 2/2 Rule: 2 pumps / 2 towels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move away from conflict or distractions • Use CHAMPS
A Accountability <i>I will...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate conversation and/or language • Secure items and leave them in my backpack • Know my dismissal plan • Know my bus/car number 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk directly to my destination • Stay in line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a clean space • Use appropriate conversation and language • Keep food on tray and in my mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return equipment • Use appropriate conversation and language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get permission and a pass • Use the sign out system • Manage my time • Go, Flush, Wash, Leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for help when needed • Calm body <p>Remember to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be positive • Be responsible • Be safe • Be respectful
R Represent <i>Staff will...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise students at all times • Know locations of students • Set technology for learning (e-mail, lessons, Class Dojo, Remind) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce safety • Monitor students by being at their doors and in the hallway • Provide passes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop off/pick up students on time • Walk students directly into cafeteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop off/pick up students on time • Actively monitor students in their station • Set technology for safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and monitor sign out system • Provide passes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice expectations • Be consistent • Be engaged with students • Communicate • Be positive!

SOARING TO SUCCESS AS A TEAM!

Daily Schedule

Below is Eagle River Elementary's usual schedule. Our schedule is subject to change without warning, but we will do our best to communicate any unanticipated, sudden schedule changes.

Monday:

- School doors open at 8:45 for students and school begins at 9:00. Students arriving before 8:45 will be directed to the MPR aka lunch room where they will wait until 9:45 with the option of sitting quietly or reading a book.
- Breakfast begins at 8:50 and is eaten in the classroom.

Tuesday through Friday:

- School doors open at 7:45 for students and school begins at 8:00. Students may not be dropped off early to wait.
- Breakfast begins at 7:50 and is eaten in the classroom
- 11:00-11:50 Recess then lunch for Dyches, Jones, Cano, & Dente
- 11:00-11:50 Lunch then recess for Sorensen, Reynolds, Hatmaker, & King
- 12:00-12:50 Lunch then recess for Hahn, Spain, Long, & Seebold
- Dismissal is at 2:30 each day

School grounds are closed from 7:30 to 3:00. After dismissal, students must go home first and then are welcome to return after 3:00 to play on the playground.

ERE Family Dashboard

We have created a dashboard of quick links (shortcuts) to help our families find what they are looking for quickly and easily! More links will be added as different events happen throughout the school year. If there is a link you think would be helpful, please let us know! We want this to be a user-friendly tool. Please bookmark the Family Dashboard. It can also be found in the parent resources folder and on our school website.

ERE Family Dashboard - Quick Links

Fred Meyer Rewards

It only takes a few minutes to sign up and choose Eagle River Elementary. This is a great way to earn funds to support student activities!



Fred Meyer Community Rewards - Fred Meyer

Learn more about how you can help raise funds for community schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations. Our community rewards program makes it easy. Learn more about Fred Meyer Community Rewards.

fredmeyer.com

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

-Arrival:

- **On Monday, school begins at 9:00am instead of 8:00am.** If your student arrives before 8:45am on PLC Mondays, they will be brought into the building and students will sit in the MPR/lunchroom and sit quietly until 8:45am when the bell rings. Our breakfast service will start at 8:45 am.
- **On Tuesday through Friday, students will be let in at 7:45am.** There will be no supervision until then. **Students will not be allowed to wait before 7:45am. Please time your child's arrival so they're here no earlier than 7:45am.** We appreciate your help with this so we can make sure students are supervised and safe!
- **Student Drop-off will be at the stop sign at the front corner of the building and students will enter the front door. Students will not be allowed to be dropped off until 7:45am.** All students enter through the front door. Students will enter the building and sit on the floor outside their classrooms where they will be supervised by staff until the 7:50am bell (Kindergarten students will sit in the front hallway.)

Eagle River Elementary's policy for late drop-off is that families must come in and sign late students in. Students who arrive after the final bell are considered tardy and must be signed in by their adult before going to class.

-Dismissal (please see farther down for preschool): **To help students understand how/where they will leave the building at the end of the day, Eagle River Elementary uses three groupings to differentiate dismissal routines: parent pick-up, walkers, and bus riders.**

- If your student will be picked up in a car, then they are considered parent pick-up. ERES uses a car tag number system and each family is assigned a specific number. Please hang your car tag on your rear-view mirror so staff in the parent pick-up area know what students go to each car. Pick-up will take place in our main parking lot. There will be two lines- if you turn left out of the parking lot after picking up your student(s), then you will need to join the left lane and join the right lane if you turn right.
- If your student walks home or you will meet them in front of the building, they are considered walkers.
- Students that ride a school bus or go to Taekwondo are considered bus riders. Bus information is available on ParentConnect for stop location and pick-up/drop-off time.

If families are picking a student up before the end of the day, then they must come to the front office to sign students out. The office staff will not call students down before an authorized pick-up person is physically in the front office. Please be sure to bring valid identification to pick up your student. **After 2:15 pm, we will not call students down from the classroom for early pick-up.**

It is incredibly important that any changes to how your student is getting home are communicated to the office before 2:00 pm. The end of the day is one of the busiest times in the office. Please be sure to communicate same-day dismissal changes directly to the office and not your student's teacher.

Thank you for helping us to get your student home safely!

Any long-term or permanent changes to how your student will be going home need to be communicated to their teacher as well as the office.

Preschool: Dismissal for preschool is 12pm each day. At the end of the day, preschool families will park in the bus lane for pick-up. Please pull all the way forward to the end of the bus loop (not around the turn), park, turn off your vehicle, and stay seated inside your car until you see the preschool students exit through the middle doors. Once the preschool students have exited the building, families may then come to pick up and sign out their student. Families are required to sign their student out with the preschool staff each day.

Breakfast & Lunch

Eagle River Elementary serves breakfast and lunch each school day for students that would like to purchase meals at school. Breakfast is served starting at 8:50am Monday/7:50am Tuesday-Friday, and is eaten in the classroom. Families may view the breakfast/lunch menu by going to schoolcafe.com/anchorage, clicking "Guest Account", and using the drop-down menu to select our school. For any food allergy concerns,, please contact our school nurse Jennifer Brusehaber by calling (907) 742-3000.

For students who bring their lunch to school, please be sure your student is able to open their lunch. There are lunch supervisors to assist and monitor students, but assistance is limited when there are over a hundred students in the lunchroom. It is important, especially for the younger students, to practice opening their lunch boxes, containers, and food packaging to be independent and successful during their lunch time. Eagle River Elementary does not offer microwaves for student use.

Did you know you may qualify for free or greatly reduced lunch prices? To apply for the free/reduced lunch program, families will need to go online to schoolcafe.com/anchorage and click "Apply for Benefits" after creating an account if you do not already have one. Paper applications may be mailed in to ASD Student Nutrition department or dropped off at the school/Student Nutrition Center. For more direct instructions please visit <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/13246>.

Families may add funds to a student's account by logging into ParentConnect/Q, clicking on their student's name, clicking "ASD Quick Links" and then "Online Payments". For direct instructions, please visit <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/13241>

Breakfast Cost: \$4.00, \$0.30 reduced; Lunch Cost: \$5.75, \$0.40 reduced

Menus via SchoolCafe

Volunteer at Eagle River Elementary

We LOVE our volunteers! To volunteer with any school in the Anchorage School District, each interested person **must complete an online application every year**. Volunteer applications may be submitted online by going to asdk12.org/volunteer and clicking "Online Application and Waiver" or by clicking the link below. Applications take on average approximately 7-10 business days to process and must be approved before participating in any school-sponsored activities.

For more information about the volunteer process, please visit <https://www.asdk12.org/volunteer> . To figure out what volunteer opportunities there are at Eagle River Elementary, please reach out to your student's teacher to let them know you are interested in volunteering. Otherwise, look for communication from the school and/or your teacher for open volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Sign Up

Attendance/Arrival Policy Reminders

Students who arrive after the 8AM bell are considered tardy and will need to stop in the office to get a tardy pass before being admitted to class.

Please call the main line and press "1" for the attendance line if your child will be absent. Absences must be reported by 9:00am to ensure your student's attendance is entered. Families may also submit attendance requests through Q/Parent Connect. Automatic attendance calls alerting for unexcused absences go out at 9:45.

When leaving an attendance message for your student please leave these important details:

- 1) Student Name
- 2) Date(s) of absence
- 3) Reason for absence
- 4) Teachers Name
- 5) Grade Level

Many messages are left saying the student will be out but do not leave a reason. Without a reason, the student is automatically marked unexcused. When you know you will be on an extended absence like a family vacation, we can put a prearranged unexcused absence in the system so you do not get a daily phone call.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 742-3000.

ASD Attendance Guidelines

Here are the District Guidelines for Attendance:

AM (starts at 8:00 am)

- Tardy - up to 60 minutes after school starts
- Absent (.5 day) – If a student misses more than 60 minutes.

PM (starts at 12:15 pm)

- Tardy – arrives at or before 12:15pm
- Absent (.5 day) – student misses more than 60 minutes

Birthday Treats

Please reach out to your child's teacher before sending/bringing in treats and they can fill you in on any classroom requirements including food allergies or sensitivities. Some teachers may prefer

individually packaged items. In general, birthday treats must be store bought and pre-packaged (sealed store cupcakes for example).

School Business Partners



2 Brothers Auto Detail



Subway



ASD PBIS Family Guide .pdf

[Download](#)
2.5 MB



Healthy Futures-Activity-Log.pdf

[Download](#)
1.1 MB



Dawn Campbell

Dawn is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters