

May 6, 2022

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 9

GIRDWOOD NEWS

GIRDWOOD K-8 SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 189 GIRDWOOD, AK 99587

(907)742-5300

Note from the Principal

Dear Girdwood PK-8 Families,

This year is quickly coming to a close! It is crazy how fast this year has gone and how much things have changed from the beginning of the year. I know it has been difficult at times, especially with changing COVID protocols, but together we did amazing things! This month is full of events, performances, and numerous class field trips that are such a joy to participate in after the pandemic. Be sure to check the calendar so you know what things are happening! We have the PTA Run for Display Technology coming up on May 6th, our school play Willy Wonka on May 12th and May 13th, Field Day on May 13th, our 4th Quarter Citizenship Award Ceremony and 8th Grade Graduation on May 18th, and our Kindergarten Celebration and End of the Year Lion's Club BBQ on the last day of school, May 19th.

We have some congratulations that are in order. First off, I would like to congratulate Robyn Wallace on being an Anchorage School District Spring Denali Award recipient! Denali is an Athabascan word meaning the "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service, and dedication. The Denali Award is the highest award offered by the District. Twice each year, supervisors submit nominations, and a panel of ASD employees select a number of co-workers and teams of colleagues that demonstrate outstanding commitment to the District's mission of educating all students for success in life. Ms. Wallace will be receiving her award at the Anchorage School District Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 17th, at 6:00 pm, in Anchorage. Feel free to join us at the meeting to celebrate Ms. Robyn! We thank Robyn for her continued dedication in supporting students at Girdwood School for many years!

I would also like to extend a big congratulations to Thalia Wilkinson, our art teacher, who will be retiring at the end of this school year after working with the Anchorage School District for 24 years! Thank you for all the work you have done with our students over the years at Girdwood School and in our community! We are also saying farewell to Courtney Spann, our Speech/Language Pathologist, and Ms. Maggie, one of our two bus drivers, who will be moving up the ranks in the Anchorage School District. Your promotions are well deserved but we will miss you greatly and appreciate all you have done for our community!

Online Registration for our returning students opened on Monday April 25th.

Who is a returning student?

Currently enrolled students who intend to return next year

Students changing divisions - Elementary to Middle, Middle to High

Students who have moved from one ASD zone to another ASD zone (you will need to provide proof of residency to your new school)

Incoming Kindergarteners who attended an Anchorage School District preschool program

Pre-Enrollment for New to District students will open again on July 15th 2022.

Who is a New-to District Student?

Students who have never been enrolled in the Anchorage School district before

Students returning after having left the Anchorage School District to attend in another district or state

Incoming kindergartners that did not attend an Anchorage School District preschool program

Parents of students that are returning to Girdwood School will need to go into Parent Connection and complete the registration process for each student. If you cannot remember your PIN and/or password, you are able to get that info directly from the Parent Connect login page @ <https://parentconnect.asdk12.org/production/parentportal>. The enrollment process for New-to-District students, including Kindergarteners, begins July 15, 2022, with the Pre-Enrollment process, by clicking on the following link: <https://www.asdk12.org/enrollonline>.

If I don't see you at one of the many events in May, I wish you a wonderful summer! Enjoy the time with your family and friends enjoying our great state or wherever your adventures take you!

Kari Anderson

Principal, Girdwood PK-8

Upcoming Events

5/3 School Store During Lunch
 5/4 School Nurse Appreciation Day
 5/4 Jumping Events w/ Long Jump Track & Field Championships @ Begich
 5/5 All Schools Field Events Championships w/ Triple Jump @ Wendler
 5/6 School Lunch Hero Day
 5/6 School Spirit Day—Wear NEON Colors
 5/6 Run for Display Technology
 5/6 Girdwood Senior Graduation Parade 6pm on Hightower Road
 5/6 Jr. High Dance 8pm
 5/10 Track and Field Championship Finals @ Romig
 5/12 6th Grade Hike to Subway
 5/12 School Play 7pm—Willy Wonka
 5/13 Run for Digital Technology DUE
 5/13 School Play 7pm—Willy Wonka
 5/13 Field Day
 5/16 NEON Bowling WOW Trip for Grades 5/6/7
 5/17 School Store During Lunch
 5/17 Teddy Bear Picnic in the Parks for Grades 1 & 6
 5/17 3rd Grade Field Trip to the Alaska Native Heritage Center
 5/18 4th Quarter Citizenship Awards 8:45am
 5/18 8th Grade Graduation 10:30am
 5/18 5/6 Grade Games in the Park
 5/19 End of the 4th Quarter
 5/19 Last Day of School
 5/19 Kindergarten Graduation 11am
 5/19 Lions Club All School BBQ
 5/20 Teacher's Last Day

Anchorage School Board

Margo Bellamy, president

Dora Wilson, vice president

Kelly Lessens, treasurer

Carol Jacobs, clerk

Dave Donley

Andy Holleman

Pat Higgins

ASD Superintendent

Dr. Deena Bishop

PTA Board Members

Elizabeth Ellis, president

Emily Marengo, vice president

Andrea Anderson, secretary

Kelly Schwarz, treasurer

Julie Pierre Leclerc, member at large

Anna Russell, member representative

Jennifer Derks, teacher representative



Girdwood K-8 and the Girdwood PTA are on Facebook. Please check our pages out and “**LIKE**” us!

We will be posting frequently and our pages will have the latest school information.

Bus Note Expectations

Per the 19-20 ASD Student Handbook, students must ride their assigned bus and get off at their assigned stop unless presenting a note to the driver from their parent/guardian that has been initialed by the principal or front office.



TEXT MESSAGES

Sign Up and receive text messages from ASD regarding school closures and late busses. You must opt in. They are not automatic. Visit ASD's website to learn more about receiving text messages:

<http://www.asdk12.org/textupdates>.

ALL SCHOOL BBQ

The Turnagain Arm Lions Club will be hosting a barbecue luncheon for students, staff, and families at lunchtime on **Thursday, May 19**. Let's hope for a sunny day so we can enjoy our lunch outside. Lunch will be served at your student's regular lunchtime.

Thank you to the Lions Club for providing all the food, cooking the meal and serving our students and staff.

This is a fun and festive way to end the school year.

Volunteer help is always appreciated!



KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATION

Mrs. Donnelly's Kindergarten class will have their completion ceremony at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 19. Let's all hope for good weather so we can have the ceremony outside on the playground! If the weather doesn't cooperate, it will be in the commons.



Mrs. Wilkinson, our art teacher, will be retiring at the end of this school year after working with the Anchorage School District for 24 years! Thank you for all your work you have done with our students over the years at Girdwood School and in our

Online Registration and Pre-Enrollment

Online Registration for our returning students is now open.

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Students returning after having left the Anchorage School

Thank You to the PTA for coordinating a week full of surprises during Teacher Appreciation Week. We will all enjoy the "Supporting Local" gift cards so much! We were especially honored to be pampered with all the delicious treats.



Thank you for thinking of us!

The Girdwood Staff



Girdwood School Parents:

Glacier Valley Transit is providing an after school activities service at The Girdwood School. The GVT bus will stop at the Girdwood School Mondays through Fridays, at 4:40 pm heading toward Alyeska Resort and looping back toward the Seward Highway.

There is no charge for this service. For more information about Glacier Valley Transit and for current bus stops and schedules please visit www.glaciervalleytransit.com or contact Sam Marshall, Operations



We would like to shout out a big THANK YOU to Subway and the Ice Cream Shop, Girdwood K-8's school business partners! If you know of anyone else who would like to be our partner, please let us know.



Girdwood, Alaska theicecreamshop.com



8th Grade Graduation

Please join us on Wednesday, May 18, as we celebrate our 8th graders as they graduate and move on to High School. Graduation is at 10:30 am, outside, if weather permits, and in the commons, if not.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Below are the basic guidelines for reporting a student's absence:

If your child will not be at school, please call the school office at 742-5300, or email Bethanie and Robyn, **before** 10:30 am, to excuse their absence. Please make sure you call the office, even if you have told their teacher.

If you know in advance of a scheduled absence, please call the office and send a note to the classroom teacher ASAP. This will help the teacher to gather schoolwork, if needed. If your child will be gone for more than a couple of days, please fill out the extended absence form. You can get one in the office. Tardy students must stop in the office, sign in, and get a late pass, before going to class.

If parents want their child to ride a different bus home or get off at a different bus stop, they must send a note for the bus driver and have it signed by the office.

Parents picking up students before the end of the school day must come to the office to sign them out. We will call them down from their classroom when the parent gets here.

Please refer to the ASD Student Handbook for complete District policy.

ASD's Mobile App

Downloading our ASD app is a great way to get the information you need in the palm of your hand. Our free app is available to anyone in our community who wants to stay connected. ASD families and students have access to additional features within the app found at <https://www.asdk12.org/mobileapp>

A Letter From Our 4th Graders

Dear School Community,

The 4th grade class wishes to extend a THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our fundraisers and supported us in our endeavor to go to the Challenger Learning Center in Kenai. We appreciate everyone who bought crafts, dog treats, lollipops, and baked goods from us. We want to thank all the parents who helped their students bake, make things, and show up for events. We are grateful to everyone who bought a raffle ticket for the stain glass that was donated by Jim Kaiser. We wish to congratulate Ms. Robyn Kenny, aka Robyn in the office, on winning that beautiful stain glass!

The field trip itself was a success. The students enjoyed the fancy bus ride as much as the mission itself. Our mission, Lunar Quest, was challenging and fun. Please check out the student highlights below.

I learned that things might be a challenge, but you can fix them a lot of times with teamwork! - Ariana

I was surprised how my classmates were calm and that we worked together and finished the mission. - Annie

As MED/doctor, I enjoyed using all the equipment for testing everyone to make sure they were healthy while in space. -Reed

I liked seeing all the stuff about space. -Anja

I enjoyed my job as BOT/mechanical engineer because I used a claw machine to pick up rocks and figure out how much radiation each one had. - Ezra

I learned, as Astro-biologist, that trying to find life on other planets involves looking for gases. -Julien

One thing I enjoyed as ROV/aerospace engineer, was building the rover's mind and sending to the moon to collect rocks. -Paxson

I learned that the COM/Audio engineer job was harder than it seemed because I had to fix sound filters on the satellites. - Arthur

One thing I loved was that my job as Geologist was hard and fun. - Joselin

I enjoyed the Challenger Learning Center and being the astro-biologist. I found an exoplanet too. - Isaac

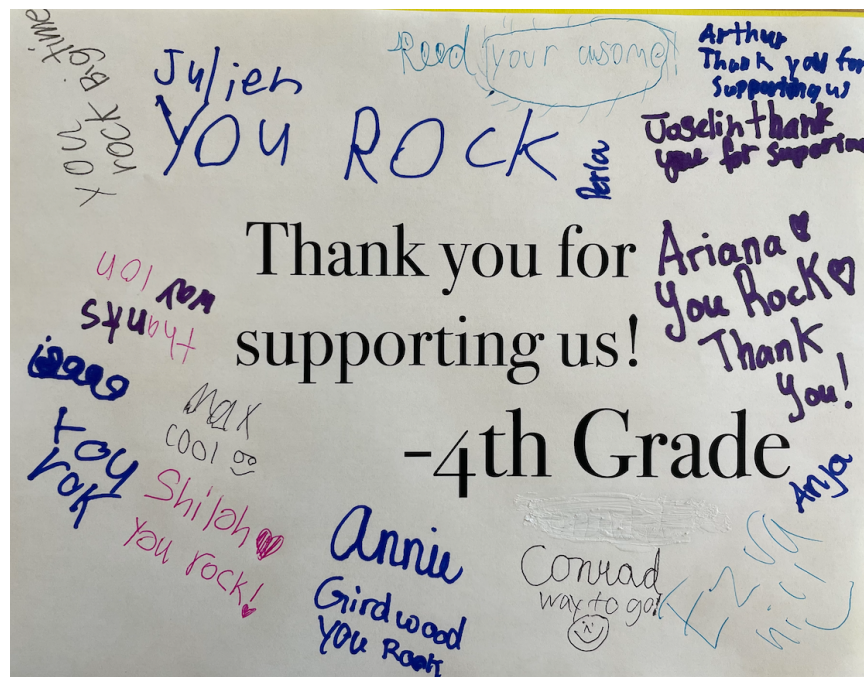
I enjoyed as ROV/aerospace engineer ,working with my hands on building a lunar rover. - Conrad

One thing I enjoyed was the door to the spacecraft was so incredibly cool. - Waylon

I was inspired by the magnetic jelly center at the CLC. -Shiloh

I like my job as Geologist. It was fun. - Perla

I learned as BOT/Mechanical engineer you have a lot of jobs to do, like the claw machine, where I had to pick up rocks and test them for radiation. - Max



Mrs. Robyn Kenny, Girdwood PK-8 School's own Administrative Assistant, is the winner of the beautiful stained glass raffled off by Ms. Straley's fourth grade class. Mr. Jim Kaiser, who made the art piece, donated it to her class when they were fundraising to go to the Challenger Space Center in Kenai last month. Ms. Straley's class fundraised for the last few months and were able to raise all of the money for their class to take this wonderful fieldtrip.



A Message from Mrs. Murphy Health Class 2021-2022

**I wish you all a Healthy Summer!
Remember to take care of your bodies, minds,
and each other!! 😊**

This year in Health, we focused on taking care of our bodies, minds, and each other. I enjoyed our many stories at the carpet with the younger elementary students, the creative journal entries from our upper elementary students, and the connections and conversations with our intermediate and Jr. High students. I think one of my favorite memories of the year was seeing the sparkly-eyed smiles of wonder and awe when I was able to teach for the first time without a mask. That moment with those genuine expressions of delight and surprise from our youngest learners will be etched on my heart and in my memory forever. Here are a few photos from some of my favorite health lessons with you. I wish you all a happy and healthy summer. Take care of yourselves & each other.



These pictures show just a few of the lessons from our year together: Puzzle People, Cold Water Survival Relay, 5 Senses Challenge, PFD Safety, Working Together, & the Power of those Hurtful 'Toothpaste Words'.





Seeing your kindness and
watching you work together as a
team while you learn is the
BEST!! 😊



TEAMWORK Makes the **DREAMWORK!**



Farewell 8th Grade Class!!

I truly enjoyed laughing and learning together with you over the years, watching you grow and mature, coaching you in sports, working with you in Student Government, and most of all, these moments pictured where you practiced healthy communication and shared your genuine thoughts & ideas with one another. I wish you the best as you move on to High School! Take Care of yourselves and each other!



Touring a power plant

By: Harper landry

All year long the 6th graders participated in REAP Power Pledge Challenges. We earned points as we completed the different Power Pledge challenges. We won a couple of the challenges and got close to winning a couple. But we completed all of the challenges. We ended up winning the district competition but also the state wide Power Pledge competition! The 6th graders won a trip to the Chugach Electric power plant on the south side of anchorage and a pizza party. If that wasn't enough, we also won \$1,500 for science kits at our school. We worked very hard all year and had a lot of fun competing in these competitions! We are so excited to tour the power plant on April 29, 2022. We are also excited to learn so many new things about their power plant and clean energy.



Please click on the link below to sign up to help with our summer garden. Thanks!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b4eafa82ea4ff2-girdwood>



Girdwood Volunteer Gardening/Watering

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up.
Thank you!

www.signupgenius.com

Sign up for FVCS Classes!

Four Valleys Community Schools has classes going on now for community members of all ages and they are constantly rolling out new ones. Be sure and check out what they have going on this summer! Go to our website, fourvalleys.org, to see what's available. If you feel unable to take any of our classes due to class costs, please contact Catherine at awade@fourvalleys.org or by phone at 907.742.5317. We have financial aid, scholarships, and payment plans available.



Here at Girdwood PK-8 School, we would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Dena'ina people, past and present, who have lived on these lands since long before Anchorage and Girdwood were here. May we all be good stewards of these lands. Chin'an. (/CHIN-nan/ {Meaning - Thank you!})

**GIRDWOOD STUDENT GOVERNMENT
UPCOMING EVENTS & Announcements**

Next Spirit Day:

NEON DAY

Friday, May 6, 2022



Junior High Dance
"Red Carpet"



Friday, May 6, 8:00-9:30pm



Run for Digital Technology

By now you all have seen the pledge sheets that have come home with your student(s) who are running on Friday, May 6, to raise money for Digital Technology. We would like to remind all parents that the pledge sheets and money are due back to school no later than Friday, May 13. They can turn them in to their teacher or the front office. Please make checks payable to Girdwood PTA. Thank you!



Dogs on the Playground

Just a reminder to keep your dogs leashed while on the playground here at school for the safety of our students and to ensure our playground remains free of dog poop.

GIRDWOOD STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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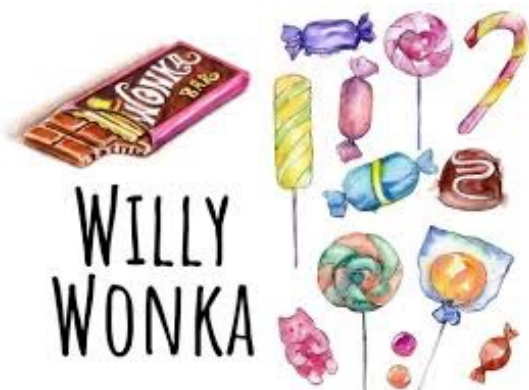


A Message of Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Robyn & Bethanie,

Over the years, we have appreciated so many things that you have done for our school. You are always here before and after school and are welcoming and cheerful. Thank you for looking out for each and every one of us. We love that you always dress up for our spirit days and help us organize activities and field trips. You are compassionate, funny, respectful, supportive, patient, committed, and helpful. You know every student and teacher by name and keep track of all of us! Thank you for making our money matters smooth and being the best office ladies ever! Thank you for being the voices that start and end our school days. You both are the heart of our school.

Sincerely,
Girdwood Student Government



Please join us on Thursday, May 12, and Friday, May 13 for Girdwood School rendition of Roald Dahl's **Willy Wonka**. Our students from grades 4-8 will be sure to entertain you as they make the play their own with their acting, singing, and dancing. We promise a fabulous time to be had by all!

THANK YOU
Volunteers



Harmoni Blaine, Geoff Gross, Angela Hilgers, Nate Haines, Stephanie Wuthrich, Dyann Hardy, Amber Truex, Holly Hill, Krystal Hoke, Kat Hurst, Jessica Fitzwater, Carmen Romerdahl, Alex Fletcher, Serena Vanderhoek, Ari & Mel Stiassny, Julie Pierre-Leclerc and Aaron Stiassny, Barbara Hunt, Clint Kyffin, Hayden and Bruce Ranke, Catherine and Kevin McDermott, Stacy and Kyle Kelley, Matt Green, Liz Dow, Tara Parker-Wells & Mark Wells, Cary Lukes, Kathy Trautner, Selita Rios, Vicky Rasmussen, Christi Elliott, Scott Swift, Liz & Nate Ellis, Cadence Maddox, Alpine Air, Becca Parisen, Ariel Bain and Sean Jones, Emily Conway and Rory Marengo, Andrea Anderson, Barbara Baker, Sally & Aaron Gates, Rachel Barber, Beverly Peterson, Carol Makar, Wade Quigley, Emily Pearson, Toby Englert, Cody Burns, Vesna Young, Lucy Swygman, Lauren & Cody Rice, Kyle and Stacy Kelley, Jewel Falter, Gunnar Nix, Clay Bridges, Ashley Conley, Philip & Tiffany Peterson, Matt Martyn, Hillary & Chris Fell, Kelly Rink, Sioux Blackledge, Barbara Lydon, Sebastian Landry & Shannon Dierks, Ellen Ferrante, Malia & Daniel Skriloff, Beks Rumley, Chris Stinson, Bob Mucha, Abbie Baugh, Jim Kaiser, Kate Chandler, Ally Goens, Melissa Randich, Alice Simmons, Katra Wedeking, Karen & Mike Loso, Shawn Vainio, Rebecca Cole, Donna Knutson, Terry Sherwood, Jessica & Duffy Daniels, Jessica & Kristian Sieling, Lynn Macnamara, Andi Peterson, Lynn Whitcomb, Casey Miller, Margaret Tyler, Kosette Isakson, Olivia Drown, Mauri Parks, Bre & Ryan Donovan, Brigid & Dan Kuber, Kelly & Hart Schwarz, Francis & Liam Connor, Joan Lower, Jen McCombs, Rory Hammel, Brian McGorry, Shyla Pilon, Mandy Hawes, Melissa Black, Anna Russell, Andrea Anderson, Danell Isaacs, Colleen Miller, Chelsea Ayars, Jennifer Wellner, Dagmara Daibes

PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS!

**All Books Due by Monday
May 16th!**

Currently, we are missing around 100 books from our school library. At an average of \$15.00 per book that is \$1,500 dollars worth of books not available to students. If you think you have a lost or damaged book, you can pay for it or you can donate another copy! And no judgment, lost books happen! Please reach out if you have questions.

Thank you!

nedwick_meghaneasdk12.org



2021-2022

Girdwood PK-8 PTA



Become a Girdwood PTA Member Today!
Your annual membership of \$10 will help fund enrichment throughout the school year. Did you know that each year, Girdwood PTA funds over \$10,000 worth of activities? Here's a quick overview of how our PTA makes an impact:

Teacher Grants, School-Wide Technology Upgrades, Intensives, Battle of the Books, Math Derby, Science Fair/Science Night, School Plays, 8th Grade Celebration, Spelling Bee, Kindy-Round-up, Field Trip Fees and Buses, Teacher Appreciation Week, Speakers, Student Directory, Halloween Carnival, Christmas Bazaar, School Dances, Movie Nights

Sign up on our website @ www.girdwoodpta.org



Get involved and join our monthly meetings! You will receive an email of our meeting dates. We understand if you can't make all of them but we would love more people to join in on the fun and to give a voice to more families in the events we sponsor.

Membership applications are now online!

If you are unable to make our monthly meetings, no problem, we still appreciate your \$10 donation to help support future PTA events.



YOU CAN HELP Girdwood 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 Girdwood PTA at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number GP641.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Girdwood 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.

ASD Statement of Nondiscrimination

Board policy 114 Nondiscrimination & Harassment

The Board is committed to an environment of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, economic status, union affiliation, disability and other human differences. No person shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, any academic or extracurricular program or educational opportunity or service offered by the District. The District will comply with the applicable statutes, regulations, and executive orders adopted by Federal, State, and Municipal agencies.

All students and employees of the Anchorage School District have a right to pursue their education or occupation in compliance with applicable law and policy with dignity in a safe environment. Neither discrimination nor harassment of employees, students or volunteers is permitted in the District. This policy applies with regard to District facilities, premises, vehicles, computers, servers, and electronics located both on and off school property; and conduct on non-school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved, or school-related activity or is otherwise subject to the authority of the District.

Board policy 114.1 Inappropriate Behavior

The Anchorage School District supports respectful learning and working environments and believes strongly this environment must be structured to reflect diverse cultural traditions and contributions. The District values diversity among students and staff and believes that all students and staff have the right to participate in school activities free from harassment. Behavior by Board members, administrators, employees, parents, volunteers, students, vendors, or others doing business with the District, that ridicules, harasses, intimidates, or threatens students, staff or community members, or otherwise undermines a respectful safe, and effective school environment, is prohibited. Individuals or groups are in violation of this policy if they engage in any of the above behaviors in a way that is disruptive to the work or education environment, such as:

- Making demeaning remarks directly or indirectly such as name-calling, racial slurs or “jokes”; or
- Physically threatening or harming an individual; or
- Displaying demeaning visual or written materials; or
- Defacing, damaging, or destroying property or materials; or
- Performing any other act that is clearly harassing in nature.

Any student, staff, or community member who believes that he or she has been the subject of harassment and/or discriminatory behavior should report the incident immediately to the principal or department supervisor.

Complaints regarding harassment/discriminatory behavior will be investigated immediately.

Any student, staff, or community member who violates this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Inquiries or complaints regarding any rights protected by law or policy may be addressed to the School District Equal Employment Opportunity Director, who serves as the Title IX Coordinator, ASD Education Center, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99504-3135, (907) 742-4132 or to any of the following external agencies: Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services.