



OCTOBER ~ 2020/2021 PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Hello Ptarmigan Families,

The 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start. I am extremely excited that we started the year with in-person learning just like we ended last year. I truly enjoyed welcoming our students back.

Our three main school goals this year are: attendance, social emotional learning, and academics. When a student attends school on a regular basis their academics will soar. Even missing a day, means your student could miss the introduction of a reading or math skill and that will negatively impact their academic progress. **Parents we need your help!** I am already noticing that several students are missing more than 1 day of school and we have not finished the month of September. Medical appointments are important, but ensure your students attend school before or after that appointment. Again, this year, parents should be calling the attendance line when your student will not be at school. If you have COVID questions, please call our school nurse and she can answer those for you.

Social Emotional Learning is another key to student success. When students feel safe at school it positively impacts their academics. Ptarmigan is using a curriculum called Second Steps to help teach students to regulate their behavior and be advocates for themselves.

Our last goal is increased academic rigor. Both our Reach for Reading curriculum and our new Ready Math curriculum is age appropriate, but also challenging. Along with on grade level academics, we are also implementing time within the student day to teach missing skills due to COVID.

Our first Family Night is October 7th, 2021. This will be via zoom so please watch for additional information

Let's make this a great school year!

Mrs. Kelly Ramey
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

OCTOBER

- **VIRTUAL ZOOM FAMILY NIGHT (6pm-7pm):** 10/7/2021
- **FALL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY:** 10/12/2021
- **LAST DAY OF QUARTER 1 NO SCHOOL:** 10/15/2021
- **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:** 10/20/2021-10/21/2021
- **TEACHER IN-SERVICE NO SCHOOL:** 10/22/2021



SAEBRS

Parent Notification

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year, our school will be again using a screener to look at school-wide systems of support for social emotional learning and behavior. This screener, much like our academic Universal Screeners (FastBridge and MAP Growth), will be completed with all students in the Fall (September), Winter (December) and Spring (April). Teachers will rate students relative to various behavioral risk factors. The assessment is called the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS). The tool will help teachers identify what additional structures they might place in their classrooms and as well as identifying students who may need additional supports to increase their academic and social emotional success. This screening is completed by teachers and will not take away from instructional time nor require input/answers from students. Should you have any questions about the use of this universal screener, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Ramey or Mrs. Cyr.





"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room.



Happy Dance! What a treat to welcome students back into the music room at Ptarmigan Elementary! I am Mrs. Benton your student's music teacher. I want to welcome all the new Ptarmigan students and also my returning musicians. My hope is that all students will develop excellent ears and learn all about the musical elements. There are so many things to do in the music room.

First, students are learning how to be safe and respectful with each other. Then, we will move on to treating the instruments and space in the music room safely. Each class is dedicating themselves to making the music room a safe and caring place to learn. We are following these rules in the music room:

- Being Respectful
- Active Listening
- Cooperating
- Participating

Using our singing voices is the first step. We sing in the music room. Your voice is the one instrument you always have with you. I believe if you can sing it, you can play it. We also learn to listen and listen to learn.

Choir starts on September 16th at 8:00 am. All third, fourth and fifth graders who enjoy singing and performing are welcome to attend. Make sure to have a signed permission slip. We will be performing a concert in December so let the singing begin!

Students at Ptarmigan get a once or twice weekly effort grade in music. Students also work on self-assessment based on the following criteria:

- 5= Leader in the class, pushing yourself to do your personal best. Respectful, Actively Listening, Cooperating and Participating
- 4= Without Reminders you are Respectful, Actively Listening, Cooperating and Participating
- 3= Few Reminders about being Respectful, Actively Listening, Cooperating and Participating
- 2= Several Reminders
- 1= Removed from the activity for most of the lesson

Fourth and Fifth graders also get an academic grade in music. This academic grade is based on instrument playing technique, musical terminology, music history, creating music and performing music along with music notation and singing.

In the music room we are keeping our distance and keeping our masks on! Let's work to keep us all safe so we can continue to learn and love music.

In Harmony, Mrs. Benton Classroom Music Specialist

It looks like winter might be coming earlier than expected since we have already seen snowfall. Please make sure that your child is prepared with cold weather gear such as a coat, snow-pants, snow-boots, hat, and gloves. Students may go outside for recess when the temp drops to -10 degrees. Students will also be going outside for PE as well as the Afterschool Program throughout the winter months.

It's time to press play.



Fun with friends. New adventures. Making a difference.
You're ready to go and Girl Scouts is ready for you.

Join Girl Scouts by September 30th and receive a FREE membership! Our hope is that you'll allow Girl Scouts of Alaska to make the purchase on your behalf this year. Just select the financial aid box on the registration form. Questions? Email customer care@girlscoutsalaska.org or call 907-248-2250.

Join us today at www.girlscoutsalaska.org/join

~ NEWS FROM NURSE BRITTANY ~

Hello Families!

The school nurse would like to let you know about an exciting new resource for our school district families. Your students now have access to a medical provider from the school nurse's office via telemedicine. This is a great option for our families who do not have a regular provider and have a basic healthcare concern. Attached is the flier for more information and instructions on use.



Pediatric experts available **at your school.**

PM Pediatrics, the nation's largest provider of specialized Pediatric Urgent Care, now offers Virtual Pediatric Care from your School Nurse's Office

Quality, convenient care for your child

PM Pediatrics Anywhere is available at all schools in the Anchorage School District. Our new telemedicine service allows a pediatric expert to diagnose most common health conditions directly from the office of the school nurse.

It's simple to request an exam.

- 1 Your child visits the school nurse.**
The nurse determines if a virtual exam is needed.
- 2 The school nurse calls you.**
The parent/guardian must provide verbal consent to the exam.
- 3 You request a PMP Anywhere exam.**
Visit pmpatschool.com or download the PMP Anywhere app to create or access your account.
- 4 A pediatric expert examines your child on video.**
- 5 You receive the exam results.**
We'll give you a detailed explanation. A full summary will also be available via your PMP Anywhere account.
- 6 We contact your pharmacy.**
If a prescription is needed, we will send it electronically to your pharmacy for your convenience



Please contact
**Anchorage School
District's Health Services**
for more information.



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE TEAM TO PTARMIGAN



My name is Delaila D. Samson, I am a Filipina from the Philippines and I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses. I'm already 12 years in the craft that I choose. I am a choir member since elementary and I love singing, coaching my kids in Math and in Rubik's cube category makes me happy and love teaching even more. I am looking forward and very positive in learning new things, skills in the new environment that I am in now. (Intermediate Resource Teacher Shown on left)

Delaila D. Samson



Jusel Andrea Tajale

Hi! My name is Jusel Andrea Tajale, also known as Ms. Ray T. I am a Filipino and I come from the Philippines. I have been teaching for 10 years and I am new to America! Before coming to Anchorage, I was working as a teacher in Muscat, Oman. Adventure and challenge are two things that I love. With this, I would like to share some of my adventures and the fun things I did back in the days. When I was in high school and college, I was in the soccer varsity team (I was a midfielder). I traveled places to play and compete with other teams from different places. Then, on my first year of teaching, I joined a beauty pageant (it was scary and challenging but fun at the same time!) After that, I went to work and travel in different countries. I had such great fun knowing and experiencing different cultures. The search for exploration, challenge, and adventure, finally led me here in Anchorage, Alaska. I am excited to share to you all, my culture, and other cultures which I have experienced! (Primary Resource Teacher Shown on left)

BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



Hi Ptarmigan Students & Families,

Open Library:

Open library is Monday & Wednesday mornings during breakfast from 8:50-9:10. This is a great time for your student to come down to return library books, check out new books or ask for help in finding a specific book.

Battle of the Books for 3rd & 4th Grade:

Battle of the Books has begun for 3rd & 4th grade. Our first meeting was September 15th. We are meeting every Wednesday morning at 8:00 A.M. in the library. If you are a third or fourth grader interested in participating, make sure to turn in your permission slip. We look forward to seeing you!

Book Care:

Students have been learning about book care and how to be responsible with library resources. We have discussed safe places to keep our library books like our backpacks, desks or on a high shelf. We have also learned more about why it's important to return books on time and in good shape so other students can enjoy them. Your child may bring home a library book. Throughout the year, I encourage families to take time to read some of the library books together that your student is bringing home.

Mrs. Alyson Giammalva
Teacher-Librarian
Ptarmigan Elementary School
[\(907\) 742-0416](tel:9077420416)

Ptarmigan Elementary School's Front Foyer and Front Office is still under construction. The construction is going to last in to October, so we thank you for your patience with us during this process. We are excited and look forward to sharing the final remodel with our families.





Anchorage School District

Risk Management

5530 E Northern Lights Blvd • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4371

Student Injuries and Insurance 2021-2022 School Year

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

The safety of our students is of critical importance to all of us and we want to protect them from injury. Even so, accidents do happen (at school and elsewhere) and required medical care can be expensive. Please know that your school **does not** assume responsibility for such costs but does offer you access to several student accident insurance plans for voluntary purchase. Details can be found at www.myers-stevens.com.

Options are available to cover your child 24/7, anywhere in the world or you can limit coverage to school-related injuries only. The plans **do not** restrict your choice of doctors or hospitals. However, you'll also have access to an extensive network of providers with discounted fees. Seeking care through contracted providers may further reduce your out-of-pocket costs, particularly if your child needs surgery or hospitalization.

Also offered is the pay-as-you-go **Student Accident & Sickness Plan** which covers sickness as well as injury, in and out of school. The **Dental Accident** plan can be of particular value with younger students as final treatment to injured teeth often needs to be deferred until after they mature.

Common emergency benefits – Regardless of the benefit level selected, all of the accident medical plans and the **Student Accident & Sickness Plan** will cover eligible charges for *Ambulance, Emergency Room and Emergency Room Physician* at 100% of Usual, Customary and Reasonable charges (UCR) up to plan limits.

Enhanced benefits for qualified concussions – If an insured student suffers a concussion while participating in any covered activity and is consequently removed from play from his/her interscholastic sport per the school's formal concussion protocols, then any deductible or inside limit features of the plan are waived and eligible charges for the evaluation and treatment of the concussion are paid at 100% of UCR subject to remaining policy terms and conditions.

Interscholastic Sports – Please know that all plans offered (other than the Dental Accident Plan) may be used to comply with applicable state and local insurance requirements for participation in interscholastic sports (coverage for tackle football is offered on a stand-alone basis).

COVID-19 – After schools were physically closed in March of 2020, the administrator of this program - Myers-Stevens & Toohey (MST) worked with the underwriting insurance company to make several adjustments to the insurance program. In brief, they included: 1) qualified extension of coverage to distance learning at home; 2) qualified coverage for COVID-19 testing costs; 3) the addition of Telemedicine as a covered service; 4) qualified extension of coverage for school activities pushed beyond the last day of instruction; 5) related extension of coverage to graduated students participating in such postponed activities and 6) modified claims forms and procedures. **Details can be found on the MST website www.myers-stevens.com.** At this time, these adjustments continue

Educating All Students for Success in Life

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Dora Wilson

Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop

to apply to the 2021-2022 School Year insurance program. As matters concerning COVID continue to evolve, updates will be posted on the MST website

You are strongly encouraged to carefully review the information provided. If your child already has health coverage, the student insurance plans offered can also be used to expand choice of providers and help cover the high deductibles and 30% to 40% cost sharing obligations imposed by many health plans today.

To enroll, please follow the instructions in the attached brochure. Enrollment is also available by going to www.myers-stevens.com. While your child is eligible to enroll at any time, one-time-pay rates for the accident medical plans and Dental Accident Plan are the same regardless of enrollment date. As such, you are encouraged to consider enrollment now in order to include coverage for this summer and the full 2021-2022 School Year. Once processing is completed, an ID card verifying coverage will be mailed home to you.

If you have any questions concerning the coverages available, COVID 19 adjustments or need help with enrollment, please call Myers-Stevens & Toohey at (800) 827-4695. Bilingual representatives are available for parents who need assistance in Spanish.



**WE'RE ON
FACEBOOK!!**

CLICK HERE:
[Ptarmigan Facebook](#)



**VIEW PICTURES
FROM SCHOOL
EVENTS AND HAVE
ACCESS TO
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTERS!**

**RECEIVE UP-TO-
DATE
NOTIFICATIONS!**



Anchorage School Board:

Margo Bellamy (President), Andy Holleman (Vice President), Carl Jabobs (Clerk), Kelly Lessens (Treasurer), and Members Dave Donley, Pat Higgins and Dora Wilson.
ASD Superintendent, Dr. Deena Bishop.