



**TAKU ELEMENTARY**

Taku will foster a safe and welcoming learning environment to support the diverse needs of all students where everyone is valued and strives for success

# AUGUST, 2025 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary     Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



## **Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman**

Dear Taku Families,

Welcome to the 2025 - 2026 school year! I hope your summer was filled with a ton of special moments with your families and friends. Whether your adventures took you across the country or just to the backyard sprinkler, we're so glad to have you back.

As we get prepared to open our doors for a brand new school year, I want to express our excitement to welcome our students back. The Taku staff are getting ready to kick this year off in true Tiger fashion!

What's new this year? We're excited to have some new faces - several wonderful new teachers and staff members will be joining us & each brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm. We've gotten some curriculum enhancements as well. The staff have participated in professional development to support academic achievement at every level!

Let's make this year great - Together. To help your child start off strong, get those bedtime routines in place and begin practicing using those alarm clocks again. Continue reading every day with your child. And don't forget to check those backpacks in the evening! Sometimes info from school will come home, or you might just find some crushed up Goldfish crackers.

Back to School Reminders:

8/13 - Taku Open House and Meet & Greet 5:30 - 6:30

8/14 - First day of school for 1st - 5th graders

8/21 - First day of school for PreK / Kinder

School Supplies - if you haven't yet, check the supply lists posted on our website or in the front office. If you'd like backpacks or some supplies, just let us know!

I look forward to the start of the new school year and our continued collaboration and positive partnership to ensure your children are successful.

Warm regards,  
Kaitlin Tallman, Principal

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**TAKU  
ELEMENTARY**

# OPEN HOUSE

*Back to School*

Get ready for the new school year!  
Come meet teachers and staff, see  
classrooms, join the PTA, and learn about  
Taku's school goals!

**August 13, 2025  
5:30pm - 6:30pm**

Questions? 907-742-5940 or [AskTaku@asdk12.org](mailto:AskTaku@asdk12.org)  
All students must be accompanied by an adult.

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# Back-to-School Vaccine Clinic

**Anchorage School District** Education Center

**Wednesday, August 13th**

**12PM -6PM**

**5530 E Northern Lights Blvd**

Clinic will be held in the Atrium

Open to all ASD students.

*All state required vaccines will be offered:*

*DTaP, Tdap, Hep B, Hep A, MMR, Polio, Varicella*

Contact Healthcare Services at 742-4136 for more information.



# ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT FIRST DAY 2025

# BACK TO School

**Thursday, August 14**

**Elementary School**

Grades 1–5  
8 a.m.

**High School**

Grade 9  
8:45 a.m.

**Middle School**

Grade 6  
9:30 a.m.

**Friday,  
August 15\***

**High School**

Grades 10–12  
8:45 a.m.

**Middle School**

Grades 7–8  
9:30 a.m.

**Thursday,  
August 21**

**Preschool  
and  
Kindergarten**  
8 a.m.

\*Groups from the Aug. 14 first day cohort also attend on Aug. 15.  
Alternative and Charter programs may offer  
different school start options.

Get a back to school checklist  
[www.asdk12.org/backtoschool](http://www.asdk12.org/backtoschool)



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life*

## Ready, Set... Kindergarten!

Is your child starting kindergarten in ASD next school year?



Join us!

for an orientation for our tiny scholars + families.



Check in with your neighborhood  
school for event details.



We will be hosting an orientation for our new kinders. More information to come!





Join our team



## Open Positions

**Teacher Positions**

**Subs**

**Interventionst**

**Noon Duty**

**Sped Teacher**



**Teacher  
Position**



**Recourse  
Teacher**



**Teacher  
Position**



**Noon Duty**



**Sub & Interv.**

**Questions? Call us at 907-742-5940  
or email [Asktau@asdk12.org](mailto:Asktau@asdk12.org)**

Join us for the first 2025-2026

# PTA

## MEETING



### Who?

Parents + Guardians  
Teachers + Staff  
Friends + Family  
Community Members

### When?

Thursday,  
September 4th  
5:30pm

### Where?

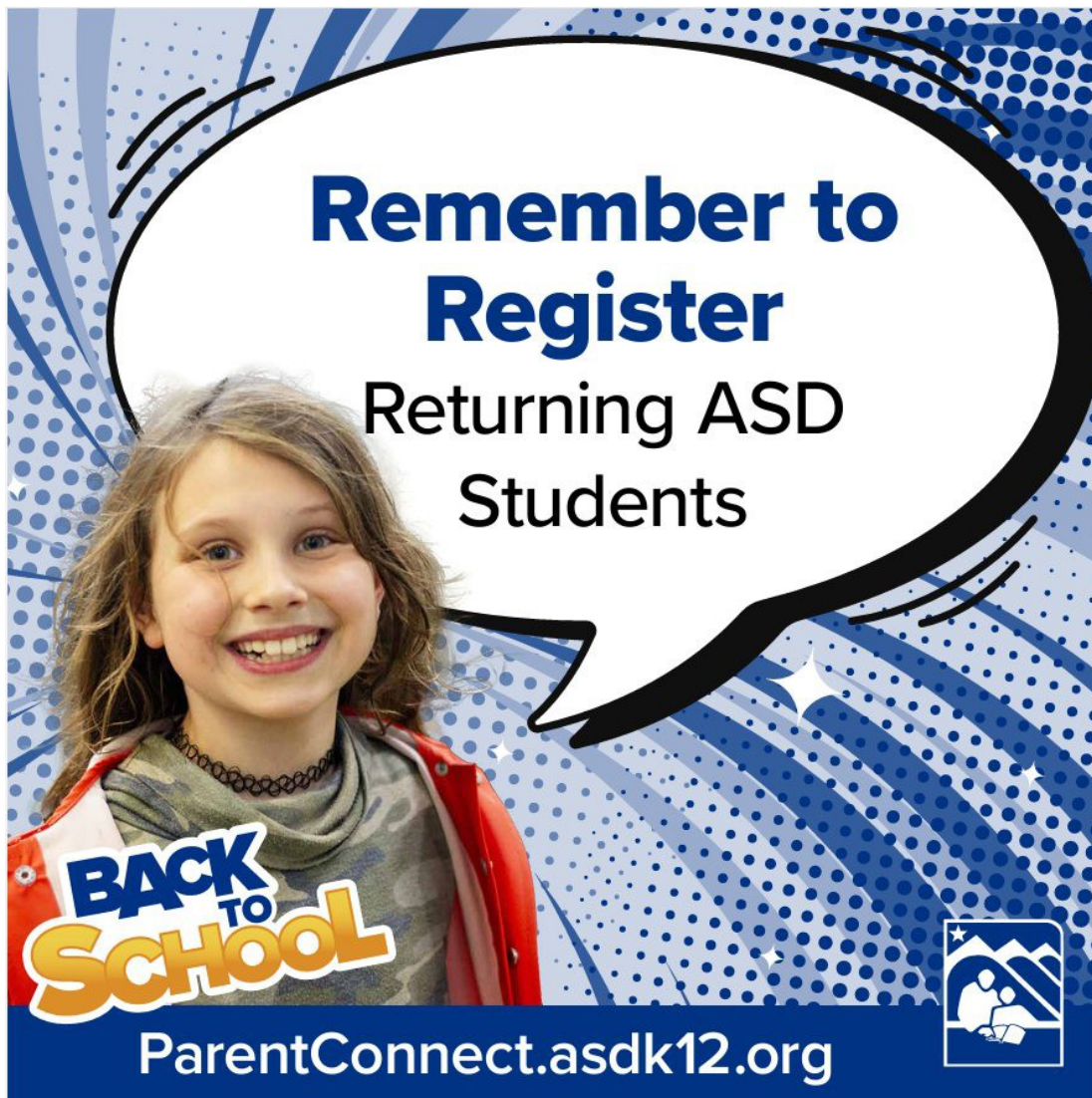
Taku  
School  
Library

### Why?

- Connect with parents + teachers
- Help build new student activities + programs
- Volunteer opportunities to benefit our kids
- Stay informed + increase school spirit



**Join Today!**



Please login to your parent connect to complete the online registration.

<https://parentconnect.asdk12.org/production/parentportal>

~Instructions for Registering Students in Parent Connect~

Once you have logged in click on the following:

- Student Name
- ASD Quick Links (top left corner)
- Online Registration Incomplete (in red)
- Complete Registration as directed

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## Taku's School-Wide Expectations

Please see the below attachments of our new school expectations.



**Taku School-wide Expectations Matrix.pdf**

**Download**  
184.2 KB



**Playground.pdf**

[Download](#)

184.2 KB



**Hallway.pdf**

[Download](#)

177.7 KB



**Classroom.pdf**

[Download](#)

184.0 KB



**Cafeteria.pdf**

[Download](#)

177.6 KB



**Bus.pdf**

[Download](#)

184.4 KB



**Bathroom.pdf**

[Download](#)

184.5 KB

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## Transportation Expectations

### Bus Transportation:

Riding the bus is a privilege. If a student's conduct is such that the health, safety, comfort, or well being of other students/staff is jeopardized, the privilege of riding the bus may be denied.

### Bus Rules:

- Follow all the school rules while waiting at the bus stop and riding on the bus.
- Wait in line quietly and board when it is your turn.
- Fighting, yelling, & foul language are not allowed.
- Everyone must be seated when the bus is in motion and stay seated until reaching the bus stop.
- When walking on the sidewalks, stay clear of the curb area.
- Always be respectful of the bus driver and follow the driver's directions.



The consequences for the above rules are:

1st Referral: Warning letter from bus driver given to Principal for conference with student.

2nd Referral: Probationary status. May lose bus privileges.

3rd Referral: Bus suspension for 1-3 days.

4th Referral: Suspension for 5-7 days; possibly until end of the quarter

\*Fighting on the bus moves a student to step 3.

Bicycles:

If students have parent permission, they are welcome to ride their bicycles to school as long as they observe bicycle safety rules. Students who ride bicycles should be aware of the following:

- Before riding their bicycle to school, the student must have a signed bicycle permission form on file in the office.
- Helmets are required. No Exceptions!
- Bicycles will remain locked throughout the day to the bike rack.
- Upon entering the school grounds, bikes are to be walked directly to racks.
- If bicycle safety rules are not followed, permission to ride will be revoked.

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## Walk-Home Consent Form

If you would like your student to walk home after school, we will need a **Walk-Home Consent Form** on file.

Please complete the attached form and return it to the front office. You are welcome to print and fill it out at home, or stop by the office to pick up a printed copy.

This form helps us ensure your child's safety and that we have your permission on record.

Thank you for your cooperation and support!

[Walk Home Consent Form](#)

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## Late Start Mondays and Drop OFF Times/Procedures

Mondays- Drop off begins at 8:40am and the first bell rings at 8:50am. Instruction begins at 9:00am. Student release time will be at 2:30pm.

Tuesdays - Fridays, Drop off begins at 7:40am and the first bell rings at 7:50am. Students enter their classrooms to eat breakfast and get organized. Students are considered tardy after 8:00am. Student release time will remain the same at 2:30pm.

Plan your pick up and drop off routine in advance so students know how they are getting home.

If you have any questions about school start and ending times, feel free to contact the office. 907-742-5940.

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## SAFE ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

### Arrival

School Drop off and supervision begins at 7:40am (8:40 on Mondays). Please do not drop off students before 7:40 (8:40 on Mondays). Thank you. Students who are not in their classroom by 8am will be marked late.

Thank you for having your students in school on time.

As always, the beginning of the year can be a little hectic during drop off and pick up. Please be patient, flexible, and safe.

- Please do NOT let your students out among the parked cars.
- **Wait until you are at the "Drop off and Pick Up Begins Here" sign.**
- Please stay in your vehicle and use the drop off and pick up lines.
- Pull all the way forward for drop off and pick up.
- Please do NOT park during drop off and pick up. This is the key to keeping our vehicle line moving.
- The lot is busy and we want to keep all kids safe. Thank you for your help.
- Strive for 7:45 drop off. This is a good rule of thumb.

### Dismissal

School dismissal is at 2:30pm. It is a busy and hectic time, especially for a couple of weeks until we get our flow down.

**PRO TIP:** Feel free to come at 2:25 and avoid the initial traffic jam. :-) Staff will supervise students outside until 2:45pm. At 2:45, students and staff will enter the building and you will need to park and come to the office to pick up your student.

**PRO TIP #2:** If you have kindergarten or first grade students, PRACTICE getting in and out of your car and seats and belts.

Please be patient, flexible, and safe.

- Please use the pickup line and stay in your vehicle.
- Pull all the way forward to the drop off and pick up sign.
- Staff will help kids get in and out of vehicles
- Staff will supervise and waive you forward so we can load as many vehicles at a time as possible.
- NEVER waive your student into traffic or between parked cars.
- If at all possible, have your student enter and exit your vehicle on the right side out of the way of passing traffic.
- Do NOT block the bus lanes - both the entry and the exit

- If you are meeting your student, please wait by the main crosswalk near the road. We will send students to you.

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## Parking Lot Safety

Safety for our students is our number one priority.

If you are picking up or dropping students off, please stay in your vehicle when going through the car line. If you need to get out of your car, please park, and walk up to our parent waiting zone to pick up your child(ren).

For everyone's safety, please use the crosswalk when crossing the street if you are parked down the block. **Avoid** walking in the bus zone, as it can be dangerous and drivers may not be able to see you around the buses. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe!

For the safety and smooth operation of our school, please note that students should **not** be dropped off or parked at the ice rink side of the school. All students must be dropped off and picked up at the **front pick-up/drop-off zone**. This policy helps ensure the safety of all students and prevents disruption to the flow of buses departing the school.

A quick reminder: for safety reasons, students **cannot** be dropped off **before 8:40am on Mondays** and **before 7:40am on Tuesday-Friday** due to low staffing. We ask that you **not have your child wait outside until those times**, as staff are not yet available to supervise students. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

Also, please **stay off phones** while driving in the parking lot at Taku during pick up and drop off.

Thank you for your assistance with this!

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## Important Update: New Pick-Up Change Policy

We will no longer be able to accommodate pick-up changes after 2:15pm, except in the case of an emergency. Late changes create unnecessary confusion in the office, as we need to locate students, verify bus routes, and ensure timely dismissals. We also want to avoid delays for students on the buses. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth end-of-day routine.

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## Lunch Information

[Visit our page for more information about our free breakfast and lunch!](#)

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## Back to School Supply Lists

[Please visit our website for school supply lists!](#)

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## Taku's Amazon Wishlist

We've created an Amazon Wishlist with items that would greatly benefit our students. If you're able, please take a moment to look through it and consider purchasing a few items. If you know someone who may be willing to contribute, feel free to share the link with them. Any support is appreciated, and it would mean a lot to all of us!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QGLMK40TPPSK/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QGLMK40TPPSK/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

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## Note from Nurse Ellie

### Meet Your School Nurse!

Hello and welcome to a brand-new school year! My name is Nurse Ellie, and I'm so excited to be your school nurse for the 2025–2026 school year. I'm here to support the health and well-being of all our students, from Pre-K through 5th grade, and to help make this a safe, healthy, and successful year for everyone.



Whether it's caring for bumps and bruises, managing chronic conditions, or simply offering a comforting space, my goal is to ensure that each child feels cared for and safe while they learn and grow.

As we begin the year, please remember that all student immunizations must be up to date by the first day of school. Per Anchorage School District policy, students will not be allowed to attend school until their immunization records are current, or an exemption is on file. If you have questions or need assistance, I'm happy to help guide you through the process.

You're always welcome to reach out with questions or concerns, whether it's about medication, allergies, illness policies, or just to say hello. I look forward to working together with you this year!

GO TIGERS!

Ellie Smith, RN  
907-742-5948



## Note from Counselor Bauer

Welcome back to school Taku Tigers! August marks the start of a new academic year, and I'm thrilled to be working with our students and families once again. This month is all about getting back into the school routine, setting expectations, and starting the year off on a positive note.



### Easing Back into the Routine

The start of the school year is a big transition, and it's important to ease into it with care. Help your child adjust by setting a consistent bedtime, organizing school supplies, and discussing their hopes and concerns for the year ahead.

### Back to School Success

This month, we'll focus on strategies for getting back into the school routine, setting goals, and staying organized. I'll be visiting classrooms to talk about what it takes to have a successful school year and how students can support themselves and each other.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how to support your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at [bauer\\_abby@asdk12.org](mailto:bauer_abby@asdk12.org) or call 907-742-9179. I'm here to help! Attached is my consent form with a description of my role at the school. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

*Abby Bauer*

*School Counselor*

*E-mail: [bauer\\_abby@asdk12.org](mailto:bauer_abby@asdk12.org)*



**Consent for Counseling -- Parent Taku.pdf**

**Download**

105.8 KB

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## Title 1 and Taku's Leadership Meetings

### When does the Title I committee meet?

Thursday, September 11, 2025 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, September 25, 2025 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, October 9, 2025 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, November 13, 2025 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, December 11, 2025 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

Thursday, January 8, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM  
Thursday, January 22, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM  
Thursday, February 12, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM  
Thursday, March 26, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM  
Thursday, April 9, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM  
Thursday, April 23, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM  
Thursday, May 14, 2026 Title 1 Meeting Conference Room 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM

#### **When does the Taku Leadership committee meet?**

Thursday, September 4, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, September 18, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, October 2, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, October 16, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, November 6, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, November 20, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, December 4, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, December 18, 2025 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, January 15, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, January 29, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, February 5, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, February 19, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, March 5, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, March 19, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, April 2, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, April 16, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM  
Thursday, May 7, 2026 Meeting Conference Room 2:45 PM to 3:30 PM

For more information please visit our page below!

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/19928>

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## **Become a Taku School Business Partner!**

Are you a local business looking to make a big difference in your community? Taku Elementary is seeking School Business Partners (SBPs) to join us in supporting our students and staff. Whether it's a small donation or a larger contribution, **every bit counts**—and every act of generosity helps us provide more for our amazing kids and dedicated team.

If you or someone you know is interested in partnering with us, please reach out at **907-742-5940** or **asktaku@asdk12.org**. We'd love to connect!

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## Taku's Open House

August 13th, 2025 from 5:30pm  
- 6:30pm



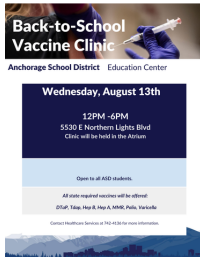
## First Day of School for 1st-5th Grade

August 14th, 2025



## First Day of School for Pre-K & 1st

August 21st, 2025



## Back-to-School Vaccine Clinic - 8/13

Wednesday, August 13th from  
12pm - 6pm  
Free! No Insurance Required!



## PTA Meeting - 9/4

Thursday, September 4th from  
5:30pm - 6:30pm



## Labor day 9/1 - No School

## THE BULLETIN BOARD, Office Ladies

HI TAKU FAMILIES!

Welcome back! We're so excited to kick off another amazing school year. Whether you're returning or brand new to our school, we're here to help and happy to see you! Don't hesitate to reach out or stop by the office if you need anything – we're always here for you!



Just some friendly reminders:

- Absences can be reported in parent connect. If you are planning a vacation please let the office know so we can enter a pre-arranged absence.
- Students who arrive to school at or after 8am need to come through the front office to get marked tardy. We have breakfast in the office for late students.
- We are striving to achieve an attendance rate of 90% or higher. Please take a moment to review the procedure, and let's keep attendance on point—because every day counts!  
[Attendance Procedures](#)
- If you're coming into the office at dismissal, please park in a designated spot and avoid stopping in the pick-up lane. This helps keep traffic moving smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Volunteering at Taku

If you are interested in volunteering at Taku this upcoming year, please fill out the volunteer form ASAP. This must be done every school year. Parents who filled out the form last year will need to reapply.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQDHMwPMg/viewform>

We encourage families to do this now, that way, as events, field trips and other volunteer opportunities arise you won't have to scramble last minute. The volunteer process includes a background check and can take up to 5 business days before ASD's Office of Equity approves or denies your application. Once we have received the approval/denial we will email you to let you know.

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### Taku Elementary

Email: [asktaku@asdk12.org](mailto:asktaku@asdk12.org)

Website: <https://www.asdk12.org/taku>

Location: [701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK, USA](#)

Phone: [907-742-5940](tel:907-742-5940)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/taku365/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/taku\\_elementary365/](https://www.instagram.com/taku_elementary365/)



**Taku Elementary**

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters