

# FEBRUARY, 2025 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary     Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



## Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

As we step into February, we are excited for another month filled with learning, kindness, and fun activities! Make sure to check in with teachers first and be mindful of classroom allergies when bringing in treats/snacks this month.

February can be chilly! And it seems like we're seeing some cold weather again... Make sure your child comes to school dressed warmly, including coats, hats, gloves, snow pants, and boots. Students go outside every day for 30 minutes up to -10 degrees! If you are in need of new gear, let us know!

Our Taku PTA has lots planned this month! We will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the library the week of Parent Teacher Conferences, 2/24 - 2/28. We hope you are able to swing by and enjoy a shopping spree with your student(s) before or after your conference. Each classroom is also pulling together a Classroom Silent Auction basket that will be on display during the Book Fair. More information is coming your way about this soon.

Attendance continues to be a focus for us at Taku. In December, 50.9% of students attended school 90% of the time. In January, 50.76% of students attended school 90% of the time. Our goal is for 70% of students attend school 90% of the time. We know if students are here, we can get them learning! Please send your child to school every day on time.

### Important Dates:

2/6: Family Game Night! 5:00 - 6:30

2/14: Valentine's Day

2/17: Presidents' Day - No school

2/26 - 2/27: Parent Teacher Conferences - More info to come...

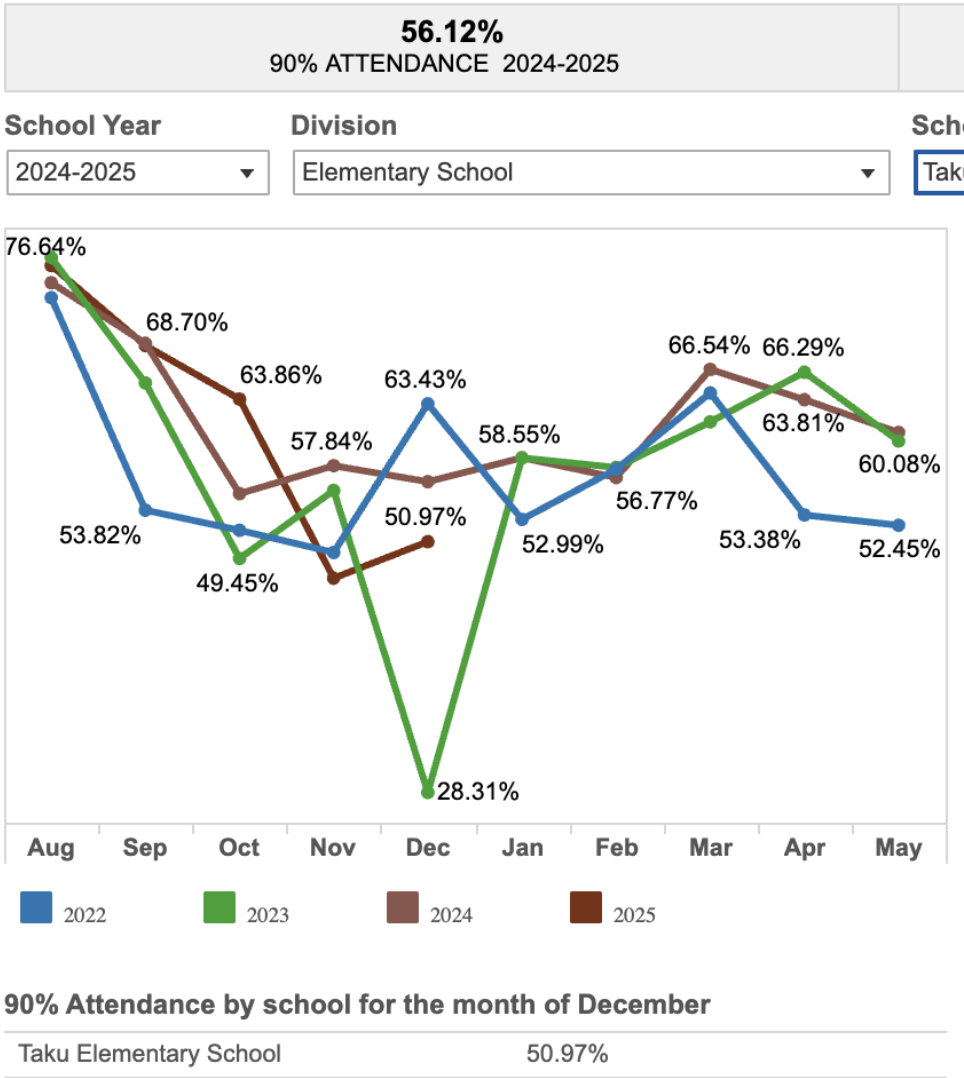
2/28: No school for students

Thank you for your continued support in making Taku Elementary a great place to learn and grow. Wishing your a fantastic February.

Go Tigers!

Warm regards,  
Kaitlin Tallman, Principal  
Sara Kriz, Assistant Principal

## Taku Attendance



## AK Reads Act

Kindergarten through third grade is the critical window to developing strong reading skills to be successful in school. In Alaska, all students in grades K-3 are administered an approved literacy screening assessment three times a year. Educators review the results of the screener to identify areas of strength and areas of need for each student. During Parent Teacher Conferences, 2/26-

2/27, teachers will meet with you to review data, share strengths, and areas of growth to focus in on.

Check out the video below to learn more about Progression vs NonProgression as we move into conference season.

Progression Vs. Non-Progression

# PROGRESSION VERSUS NON-PROGRESSION

## ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

---

### Taku Family Survey

Please take just a few minutes to complete the Taku Family Survey Here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdizQ-5vlf3s-l3JaJLrgu4uM4xxmjdyDoTbAj8IFVjNoU3kQ/viewform?usp=header>

---

### Need Snow Gear?

If your student needs snow gear, let us know! Students go outside every day for 30 minutes, and we want them to be warm and dry. [AskTaku@asdk12.org](mailto:AskTaku@asdk12.org)

---

### 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!

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!

---

## Pick-Up Change Policy

### 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.

---

## 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)

---

## Taku Family Game Night!



---

Highland Academy Charter School

# HIGHLAND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

*Educating for Leadership, Educating for Life*

[www.asdk12.org/Highlandacademy](http://www.asdk12.org/Highlandacademy)



## ABOUT US

Highland Academy is a 6th-12th grade public charter school that ~~provides~~ **provides** competency learning through individualized activities and varied assessment strategies.

- Four focus areas: Academics, Accountability, Character Development, and Career and College Readiness Technology integration, project-based assessment, and collaboration Opportunity to advance levels at
- an accelerated pace Advisory program focused on community building, parent-teacher- student connections, social/emotional learning, academic coaching, and student ownership, leadership and advocacy. Supportive and caring staff with a community emphasis on
- a Culture of Respect for Everyone (CORE)



## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE

### Alaska School Choice EXPO

- Saturday, January 25th from 11:00-2:00pm (Alaska Native Heritage Center)

### ASD Alternative Schools and Programs EXPO

- Saturday, February 8th from 12:00-4:00 (Begich Middle School)

### Ice Cream Social

- Tuesday, February 11th at Highland Academy from 5:30-6:30
- Interested students and families are invited to join us for ice cream while touring and learning more about Highland

### School Tours

- Every Tuesday in February (9:00 or 2:00) Contact the school to arrange a time



907.742.1700



[crosby\\_nicole@asdk12.org](mailto:crosby_nicole@asdk12.org)





## Highland Academy Charter School

*Educating for Leadership, Educating for Life*

### VISIT OUR SCHOOL!

During the month of February, we are providing many opportunities for interested students and families to tour Highland Academy. Please see details below and share with those who may be interested!

#### Ice Cream Social

**What:** Interested students and families are invited to join us for ice cream while touring and learning more about Highland!

**When:** Tuesday, February 11th @ 5:30–6:30pm

**Where:** Highland Academy Charter School

#### Tuesday Tours

Schedule a tour at 9:00am or 2:00pm any Tuesday in February. Please call (907) 742-1700 to confirm the desired day and time or to schedule a more convenient time.

**SCAN TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT  
HIGHLAND ACADEMY  
CHARTER SCHOOL**



---

## Kindness Week

# Kindness Week



MONDAY

## Work it Out Day!

WEAR WORK OUT GEAR:  
WE CAN PROBLEM SOLVE TOGETHER!

FEB 10

TUESDAY

## Warm & Fuzzy Day!

WEAR YOUR COMFIEST PJ'S:  
WE DREAM BIG & DREAM OF BEING KIND!

FEB 11

WEDNESDAY

## Team Day!

WEAR YOUR FAVE SPORTS OUTFIT:  
WE'RE ALL FRIENDS, NO MATTER THE TEAM!

FEB 12

THURSDAY

## Dress Your Best Day!

DRESS UP IN YOUR BEST:  
WE ALL SEE THE BEST IN OTHERS!

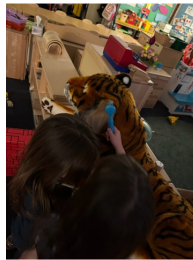
FEB 13

FRIDAY

## Crazy Hair Day!

GET THAT HAIR LOOKING WILD:  
WE DON'T JUDGE OTHERS BY THEIR LOOKS!

FEB 14



Some of our Preschool students playing doctor with our Taku Attendance Tiger!

## Nurse's Note

### Valentine's Day Treats and Snacks: A Friendly Reminder about Classroom Allergies

As we approach Valentine's Day, we are excited to celebrate with the students! Many families may wish to send in treats or snacks to share with the class, and we want to ensure that all children can safely enjoy the festivities.

Please be mindful of any allergies that may be present in the classroom when choosing snacks or treats. We ask that you avoid items that may contain common allergens, such as peanuts, tree



nuts, dairy, gluten, or any other ingredients that could pose a risk. If you're unsure about the ingredients or have questions regarding specific allergies, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all of our students. Thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to make this celebration enjoyable for everyone!

Warm regards,  
Nurse Ellie



## Specialist News

### Library with Amy Johnson

February @ Your Library

#### Curriculum

For February, the genre, or style of writing, of the month is Nonfiction. Nonfiction books are informational books containing facts. Along with learning from nonfiction books, students at various grade levels also will learn how to access information from non-print sources such as online databases.



#### Activities

I'm very excited to say that, during February's Parent Teacher Conferences, our library will host the first Scholastic Book Fair that Taku has offered for several years. Please look for announcements about this exciting event in the next couple of weeks!

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson  
Taku Librarian

---

**PE with Brian Sheffield**

Hello Taku Tiger families, it's Mr. B with P.E. We are looking forward to new and upcoming activities/lessons for 2025. Students are currently learning Volleying skills: volleyball, badminton, pickleball, and floor hockey, etc. Weather permitting, we plan to start ice skate in the near future. At this time, we do not have enough snow and ice to access our ice rink. Please remember to have students keep a pair of gym shoes in their classroom so they can have appropriate footwear for our exercises and lessons.



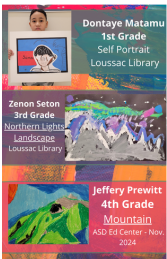
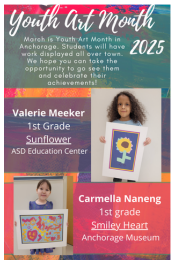
As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you and take care.  
Mr. B

## Art with Liz Feucht

Our 2nd and 3rd grade classes, as well as our Indigenous Education Groups from 2nd to 5th grade have art on display at the Dimond Center! The mural and salmon will be on display through mid-April. We hope everyone gets a chance to see it. Thank you for your hard work, students!

Mrs. Feucht



# Important Dates



## Family Game Night - 2/6

Join us for Family Game Night on **February 6th** from **5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**! Enjoy fun games, a delicious dinner, and more! It's the perfect way to spend time with family and make some great memories. We can't wait to see you there!



## PTA Meeting - 2/11

Come and join our PTA meeting from 5:30pm - 6:30pm!



## Kindness Spirit Week - 2/10-2/14

**Monday-** Work It Out Day!

Wear workout gear: We can problem-solve together!

**Tuesday-** Warm & Fuzzy Day!

Wear your comfiest PJs: We dream big & dream of being kind!

**Wednesday-** Team Day!

Wear your fav sports outfit: We're all friends, no matter the team!

**Thursday-** Dress Your Best Day!

Dress up in your best: We all see the best in others!

**Friday-** Crazy Hair Day!

Get that hair looking wild: We don't judge others by their looks!





### **No School - 2/17**

No school due to President's Day.



### **Parent-Teacher Conferences - 2/26-2/27**

More information will be sent out regarding scheduling conferences.



### **Scholastic Book Fair Week - 2/24-2/27**

More information to come.



### **No School - 2/28**

Student Release Professional Development Day.

---

## **Thank you Great Alaska Pizza Lake Otis Pkwy**



A big thank you to Great Alaska Pizza Co. for their generous donation of pizza for our Students of the Month! We're proud to celebrate these amazing students and their accomplishments.

---

### **THE BULLETIN BOARD, Office Ladies**

HI TAKU FAMILIES!

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](#)
- Our Lost and Found is filling up! If your student is missing any items, please encourage them to check there first.
- 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!
- 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.

~ Rachel **Musselman** (AA) and Rachel **Ketchum** (Secretary) ~

---

## 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.

---

## PTA Vacancies for 24-25 School Year

The following PTA positions will be vacant for the upcoming 24-25 school year:

- Teacher Representative
- Parent Volunteers
- Vice President

We would love to have you [join](#) the Taku PTA! If you are interested, please join us for the September PTA Meeting!



## 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