

MARCH, 2025 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

March is here! We're starting to see some warmer weather and brighter days. Remember to keep those morning and nighttime routines in place even with the lighter days.

Spring Break is right around the corner. It's a great time to wash winter gear! We all know some of our gear gets smooshed into backpacks and starts to smell... Let us know if you need help with any washing.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Parent Teacher Conferences last week! It was great seeing many of you and our teachers enjoyed meeting and sharing with you all. Also, thank you for checking out our Scholastic Book Fair and the Silent Auction - congrats to our winners! Students were excited to get in and check out new books.

Also, thank you to everyone who volunteered and came for our first Explorations Day today! Kids had so much fun and learned something new. Ask them about their activity and have them share their favorite part of the afternoon.

Attendance continues to be a focus for us at Taku. In February, 50.1% 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. How can we help get kids here? Let us know.

If you haven't already, please take a minute to fill out our Family Survey here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdizQ-5vlf3s-I3JaJLrgu4uM4xxmjdyDoTbAj8IFVjNoU3kQ/viewform?usp=header>

Important Dates:

3/6 - Explorations Day!

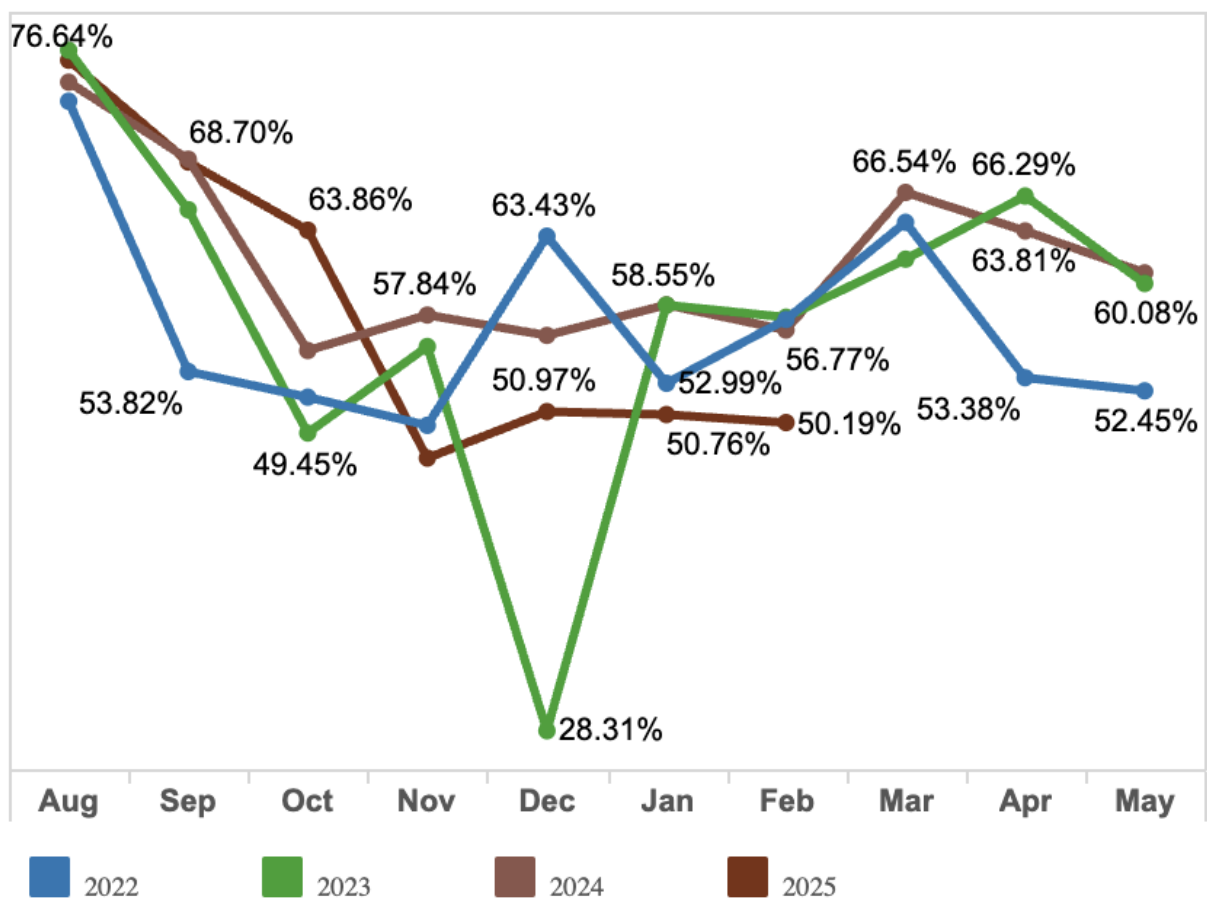
3/7 - End of 3rd Quarter - No school for students
 3/10 - 3/14 - Spring Break
 3/17 - 4th quarter begins - students back to school - St. Patrick's Day!
 3/18 - March PTA Meeting 5:30 in the library
 3/19 - 3rd Quarter Award Assembly
 3/24 - 3/28 - AK STAR Testing for 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders - more info to come soon.

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



90% Attendance by school for the month of February

Taku Elementary School

50.19%

PROGRESSION VERSUS NON-PROGRESSION

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025 AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment

Each spring, Alaskan students are provided an opportunity to show what they know. When students show what they know, teachers and parents can partner to promote student success. The State of Alaska Department of Education has partnered with NWEA to align and connect the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests with the MAP Growth benchmark assessments students take in fall and winter.

This balanced assessment system targets instruction to better support meeting students' individual learning needs. In addition, students will take only one assessment per content area (ELA and math) and be provided two scores as follows:

1. Summative assessment result at grade-level
2. MAP Growth interim benchmark result, including growth from fall to spring

AK STAR, the Alaska System of Academic Readiness, is comprised of English language arts and mathematics and is administered to students in grades 3-9. The Alaska Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 10. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide parents and schools an overall picture of a student's progress in meeting the Alaska standards at grade level.

Parents can locate resources for AK STAR and the Alaska Science Assessment, including directions for Student Readiness (Practice Tests and Tutorials), student testing times and general assessment information on the ASD website at <https://www.asdk12.org/akstar>.

Parents can also help by ensuring their children are well rested, eat a nutritious breakfast, and are at school on time for the days of testing. Please avoid scheduling appointments on your child's testing days.

The ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing window allows for school assessment scheduling flexibility. Students! Get ready to show what you know during our school's AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing dates:

2025 ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment Testing Window:
March 24-April 4

(Make-ups through April 25)

State of Alaska Window: March 24-April 25

Reminder: Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications Available Year-Round

Did you know you can apply for free and reduced-price school meals at any time during the school year? If your financial situation has changed—due to job loss, reduced work hours, or changes in household size—you may apply or reapply, even if you've already submitted an application for the 2024-2025 school year.

📄 **Apply online anytime** at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/anchorage>.

Who Should Apply?

- ✓ Families with at least one student attending a pricing school (a school that charges for meals) should list all ASD students and household members—including those receiving a Permanent Fund Dividend—along with income details and frequency.
- ✓ Households receiving **SNAP or TANF** benefits can apply using a case number and a copy of the **Free Meal/Direct Certification** document from Public Assistance.
- ✓ Foster parents should submit documentation showing the child is a **ward of the state of Alaska or a Tribal entity**.

✉ **Submit Documents & Get Help**

Email the required documents to snadmin@asdk12.org. Have questions? Contact the **Student Nutrition Programs Section** via email or call the **Free & Reduced-Price Meal Hotline** at (907) 348-5145.

✧ **Need paper applications or information in other languages?** Visit <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/19907> and click on the **Free & Reduced-Price Meal** tab.

Ensuring all students have access to nutritious meals is important—apply today if you qualify! 🍽️ 🌱

Summer Reading Skills

Summer Reading Skills

PROGRAMS



CLASSES OFFERED IN ANCHORAGE and EAGLE RIVER

Program for 4-Year-Olds and Entering Kindergartners

In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read. Children learn letter recognition, beginning phonics, and easy sight words. Your child will learn to read simple words and short sentences and get excited about books and reading.

Program for Entering 1st Graders

In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read independently. Children learn phonics and sight words and build comprehension skills. Your child will develop a love of books and reading and get off to a great start in first grade.

Program for Entering 2nd Graders

In this fun summer program, your child will become a confident, fluent reader. Children build solid phonics and word-attack skills, develop reading fluency, and improve comprehension. Your child will develop a love of reading and get off to a great start in second grade.

Program for Entering 3rd Graders

In this fun summer program, your child will become a strong, confident reader. Children improve fluency and comprehension, build long-word decoding skills, and expand vocabulary. Your child will develop a lifelong love of reading and get off to a great start in third grade.

Programs for Entering 4th and 5th Graders

In these fun single-grade programs, your child will become a skilled, confident reader with strong comprehension in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand their vocabulary and learn to read more fluently and rapidly. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and enjoy reading more.

Programs for Entering 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders

In these single-grade programs, your son or daughter will make substantial gains in comprehension and reading speed in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand vocabulary and learn the best way to take notes. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and build confidence as a reader.

Programs for Entering 9th and 10th Graders

In these single-grade programs, students learn the skills they need to succeed in high school. Your child will double reading speed and improve comprehension and focus in fiction, textbooks, and nonfiction. Students expand their academic vocabulary and learn study strategies to complete work efficiently, get better grades, and score higher on exams.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

Call 1-800-715-2808

The Anchorage School District does not endorse these materials or the viewpoints expressed in them.



UAA Learning Commons
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



**Phonics
Fluency
Comprehension
Love of Reading
Study Skills
Reading Speed**



PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASS SCHEDULE

Teachers

Programs are offered by University of Alaska Anchorage, Learning Commons. Programs are taught by instructors from the Institute of Reading Development.



"I would like to thank you for such a positive outcome with my son James. He learned skills that have translated into wonderful grades, and more importantly, have given him more confidence in his reading abilities. He has actually asked to go to the library to pick out a book!" — Parent of 4th grader

Class Schedule

All programs meet once each week. Tuition varies by grade level. Please ask about our family discount.

4-Year-Olds & Entering Kindergartners:

Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 1st Graders:

Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Entering 2nd Graders: Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am Mon. June 16-July 14, 10:00am-11:15am Mon. June 16-July 14, 10:00am-11:15am Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 3rd Graders:

Sat. June 14-July 12 9:00am-10:15am
Mon. June 16-July 14, 10:00am-11:15am
Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 4th Graders:

Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 5th Graders:

Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 6th Graders:

Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 7th Graders: Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 8th Graders: Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm
Entering 9th Graders: Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm

Entering 10th Graders:

Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. June 14-July 12, 9:00am-10:15am
Sat. July 19-August 16, 1:00pm-2:15pm



Programs available at other locations and online—call to learn more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

Call 1-800-715-2808

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INQUIRE EARLY! CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED.

Highland Academy Charter School

HIGHLAND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Educating for Leadership, Educating for Life

www.asdk12.org/Highlandacademy



ABOUT US

Highland Academy is a 6th-12th grade public charter school that ~~provides~~ **provides** ~~competency~~ **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



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**



Anchorage Freestyle Wrestling Club




ANCHORAGE FREESTYLE WRESTLING CLUB





Practice Information:

- Age 5 to 18 years
- February 3rd– May 3rd
- Practices are Monday - Thursday
(Tournaments are Fridays and Saturdays)
- Practice for K – 5th grade: 5:30pm to 7:00pm
- Practice for 6th – 12th grade: 7:00pm to 8:30pm
- Dimond High School Old Gym: 2909 W 88th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99502
- Main POC - Coach Tony Lema - 907 - 903 - 5004 or email coachtonylema@gmail.com

Register Here!



 *"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."* 

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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-I3JaJLrgu4uM4xxmjdyDoTbAj8IFVjNoU3kQ/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

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



Specialist News

Library with Amy Johnson

March @ Your Library

In March, all students will study the genre of Science Fiction. Although science fiction is similar to fantasy, the genre we studied in January, one important difference distinguishes them from each other. While fantasy involves alternate worlds filled with magical beings and supernatural powers, science fiction is rooted in currently-existing science or science that can be reasonably predicted for the future. Today's science fiction for children frequently addresses ethical concerns such as environmental issues and the fairness of governments. As such, science fiction often pairs well with topics in the social studies curriculum.



Wishing you a lovely Spring Break.

Sincerely,

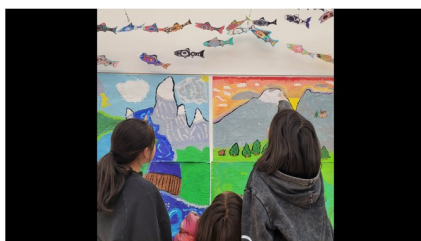
Ms. Johnson

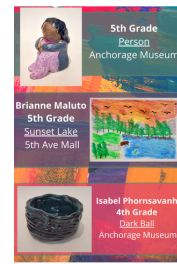
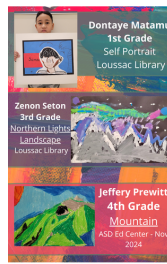
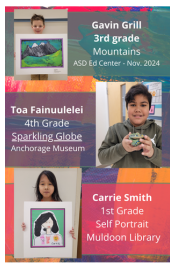
Taku Elementary School Librarian

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



Spring Break - 3/7 - 3/16
No School.



PTA Meeting - 3/18
Come and join our PTA
meeting from 5:30pm - 6:30pm!



St. Patrick's Day 3/17

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

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/



Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters