

MARCH 2024, TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Taku Mission Statement

Taku will create a safe and welcoming learning environment to support the diverse needs of students where everyone believes they are valued and capable of success.



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Taku families,

Thank you to all the families who came to join us at Parent Teacher conferences! We absolutely loved seeing you all in the building and we love sharing what happening with your student(s). The end of the 3rd quarter is this week! Make sure to be in communication with your child's teacher regarding any late/missing work, or any other questions you might have. Report

cards will be available online after Spring Break.

Just a reminder: There is no school for students Friday, 3/8. Spring Break is 3/11 - 3/15. We will see students back at school on Monday, 3/18.

We are continuing to work hard on our attendance at Taku! Mrs. Phillips' class and Mrs. Lopez's class have maintained some great attendance and have had the Traveling Tiger Trophy on display in their classrooms for the last two weeks! Keep up the great work! And congratulations to these classes for having 90% attendance 10 times: Mr. Felton, Mrs. Bravo, Mrs. Lopez, Mrs. Wolkoff, Mrs. Ireys, Mr. Ferretti, and Mrs. Phillips! They have earned the Spin to Win Prize Wheel. Keep working hard to come to school every day on time.

Target has provided Taku with a very generous donation of clothes for our students. We want to give a huge shout out! If you child needs any gear or clothing, please don't hesitate to reach out to your teacher.

We are hosting another Family Night on Wednesday, 3/6/24, from 5:30 - 7:00. We will start off with pizza in the MPR, and then students and families will build some "Make & Take" sensory tools to utilize at home! Our Science Fair Projects will also be on display for viewing and so will our new Sensory Room! We hope to see you all there!

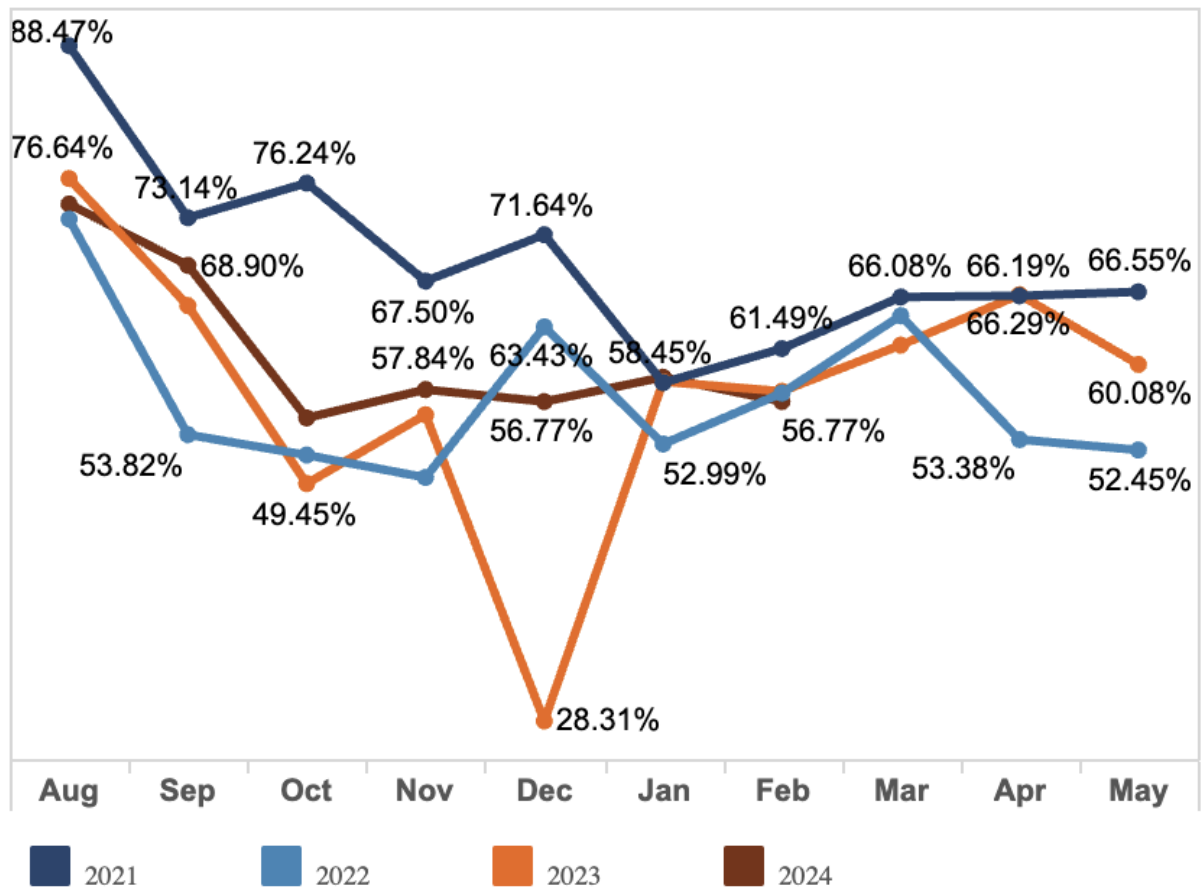
The AK STAR State Assessment is right around the corner. Taku students in 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade will be testing 3/25 - 4/5. Please send your students on time to school on your assigned testing days (more info to come!). We hope for them to be well-rested and ready to show what they know! Thanks for your teamwork with this!

If you need assistance with anything, please contact us via email (asktaku@asdk12.org) or by phone (742-5940). We are here to help you. It is an honor to serve the Taku community. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to be in contact.

Kaitlin Tallman,
Taku Principal

Taku Attendance

Attendance for the Last 7 Days	Attendance for the Last 30 Days	Year-to-date Attendance
87.57%	88.36%	89.16%



90% Attendance by school for the month of February

Taku Elementary School

56.77%



NEW

School Start Times beginning in August 2024

PLC Monday Schedule	Start Time	Release Time
Elementary	9 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
High	9:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Middle (grades 6-8)	10:30 a.m.	4 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday Schedule	Start Time	Release Time
Elementary	8 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
High	8:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Middle (grades 6-8)	9:30 a.m.	4 p.m.

In some cases, preschool, charter and alternative programs may have different schedules.

START PLANNING NOW

New start times may affect schedules outside of school. Consider how it could impact your family and start thinking through changes you may have to make.

- Before-school programs
- After-school programs
- Transportation to/from school
- Sports and activities
- Childcare
- Teen after-school jobs
- Parent/guardian work start or end times



Point your phone camera to this QR code and then click the link for more information on changing school start times.



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

asdk12.org/schoolstarttimes

Anchorage CHILD CARE

CONVERSATIONS

**** Child care & food provided! ****

Parents – are your child care costs reasonable for your family? Have you had to make difficult decisions to be able to find quality, safe, and affordable care for your kids?

Join the Anchorage Child Care and Early Education (ACCEE) Fund Implementation Team to give us your feedback about child care access in Anchorage and learn about the Fund and the ways it can help support families and businesses across the Municipality!



Tuesday, January 30

🕒 6 - 8 p.m.

📍 BP Energy Center,
1014 Energy Court, Birch Room

Sunday, February 18

🕒 7:30 - 9 p.m.

📍 Zoom. Register:
careforkidsanchorage.com/events

Tuesday, February 27

🕒 6 - 8 p.m.

📍 Eagle River Town Center
Community Room

Thursday, February 29

🕒 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

📍 Girdwood Community Room
250 Egloff Drive, Girdwood

PARENTS, WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

We want to hear from YOU about what is needed now in the child care sector and how we can use the funds to meet those needs in the short term while also looking down the line at Anchorage's child care sustainability far into the future.



www.careforkidsanchorage.com



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



TAKU'S

SCIENCE & SEL NIGHT

Make & Take



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

5:30 - 7:00PM

ENJOY PIZZA!

MAKE SENSORY TOOLS TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU!
AND CHECK OUT OUR SCIENCE FAIR!





AK Reads Act Updates - Progression vs Non-Progression

Alaska Reads Act Requirements



Part of the Alaska Reads Act is identifying students who are 'well below' and who might need additional time and support to catch up.

Students in grades K-3rd who show that are in the well below category for the assessment, will be considered for non-progression or more commonly known as retention. This conversation will be introduced to families at February conferences. The conversation will include parents/guardians, teacher and principal. The family will make the final decision on

whether or not their child will progress to the next grade level. The state is requiring districts to have families of 3rd grade students who are well below, sign a waiver with their decision around progression/non progression and agreeing to 20 hours a summer school.

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: 3/25 - 4/5

2024 ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment Testing Window

March 25-April 5

(Make-ups through April 26)

State of Alaska Window: March 25-April 26

We are Hiring!



Are you interested in working with the Taku Team? Maybe you know someone who would be a great addition to our learning community? We are hiring for several positions, including a classroom teacher, special education teacher, substitute teachers, and noon duties.

You can apply online here:

<https://www.applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp/default.aspx?>

[AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22TAKU+ELEMENTARY%22](https://www.applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp/default.aspx?AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22TAKU+ELEMENTARY%22)

Want to search all of our job openings: Follow this link: [asdk12.org](https://www.asdk12.org), click the yellow tab labeled, "I want to...", click "Apply for a Job", and then click "View External Applicant Positions."

Come and work with us!

Join our next PTA meeting!

We will be meeting in the Taku Library 2/13/23 at 5:30 pm! Please join us!

Support Your PTA!

We're calling on all parents, teachers, and supporters to join hands and support our school's initiatives. Your donation will go a long way in funding important programs, activities, and resources for our students. To make your contribution and help us reach our goals, please visit <http://takupta.memberhub.com> and donate today. Every dollar counts and helps us provide a brighter future for our students. Thank you for being a part of our dedicated PTA community!



5th & 6th Graders Moving to Middle School

All 5th and 6th grade students will be transitioning to Middle School for the 24-25 school year. Romig and Hanshew counselors met with Taku's 5th/6th grade students on 1/31/24 to provide more information about what to expect in Middle School.

Moving to Middle



Parking Lot Safety

Please remember safety is our top priority at Taku! Cellphone usage is not allowed in school drop off/pick up zones.

Thank you to all of you for helping to keep out students safe!

Nurse's Note

Hello Taku Families!

I hope you are all enjoying our Alaskan winter.

Please make sure that your students come to school with proper winter gear, students go outside for recess until it is colder than -10 degrees fahrenheit.

Please send an extra set of clothing in your students backpack, just in case of any spill, emergency, accident, or outfit change.

My office is always accepting donations. If you have any jackets, snow pants, or gloves your home no longer needs, please consider sending them to me. I also am always looking for pants donations.

I am seeing lots of sick students in my office, if you have any questions about when your student should stay home, please never hesitate to reach out to me.

Wishing you and your family warmth and health,

Nurse Karra



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 lends itself to being taught alongside the social studies curriculum.



In addition to studying science fiction, students at specific grade levels will learn the following in March:

K- Exploring books related to classroom units of study, science fiction titles, and Dr. Seuss titles in observance of Dr. Seuss's birthday anniversary; Book handling, care, selection; Library locations; Parts of book

- 1 – Exploring science fiction titles, with introduction to elements of a story (main and supporting characters); Fiction versus nonfiction; Call numbers; Dewey Decimal System
- 2 – Illustration media (collage, photos, watercolors, woodcuts, paint, pen/pencil); Caldecott Medal; Exploring science fiction title; Dewey Decimal System
- 3 – Book discussion with emphasis on comprehension, character, theme; Online catalog; Research process
- 4 – Exploring science fiction titles; Online resources, safety, and responsibility; Research Process
- 5 – Exploring science fiction titles; Online resources, safety, and responsibility; Research Process
- 6 – Exploring science fiction titles; Online resources, safety, and responsibility; Research Process

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson, Taku Librarian

Art with Liz Feucht

In art class, students have been working on clay creations! Getting clay home safely is the last (and perhaps most important) step to the process. If you have any bubble wrap or bubble mailers at home that you don't need, please bring them to school for the art room to use. We appreciate it!

I am also excited to share with you that we have 10 students featured around the city for Youth Art Month! You can go see Taku student artwork at the Anchorage Museum, the 5th Avenue Mall, the Loussac Library, the ASD Education Center, and the Muldoon Library. We are proud of you, Tigers! Thanks!

Liz



P.E. with Natalie Washington

Physical Education News:

Upcoming events:

- Healthy Futures log
 - New logs begin on March 1st.
 - Pre-K-4th will be sent home.
 - 5-6 will be kept at school.



Gym Shoes:

- Your student needs a clean, non-marking pair of gym shoes to leave at school.
- These are used for PE class to make sure they can participate safely and to keep our new gym floor clean!

Natalie Washington

Washington_natalie@asdk12.org

Important Dates



3.6.24 Family Night

Wednesday, 3/6/24 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Join us in our science & SEL family night. Enjoy some pizza and make sensory tools to take home with you and so much more!

We hope to see you there!



3/4 - 3/7 Spirit Week

Mon 3/4- March Madness Monday!

- Wear your favorite sportswear

Tues 3/5- Twin Tuesday!

- Twin with your bestie

Wed 3/6- Superhero

Wednesday!

- Dress as your fav superhero

Thurs 3/7- Go Green Thursday!

- Wear green for St. Patty's Day

Fri 3/8- No School Friday!

- Enjoy the start of spring break



3/19 - PTA Meeting

Join us at the PTA meeting at 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm!

Donor Thank You

Great Alaska Pizza Company generously donates pizzas for our Students of the Month every month! The winners get to enjoy a pizza lunch with the principal in the office. Taku greatly appreciates Great Alaska Pizza Company's generosity and their delicious pizza.



Student Handbook: https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1179/23-24_ES-Student-Handbook_Accessible.pdf

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/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQD_HMwPMg/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.



Taku Elementary

Email: takuattendance@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/>



Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

