

SEPTEMBER 2023 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Taku Families,

I hope this finds you well! We are still settling into the new school year, and we are getting adjusted to our schedules and new curriculum.

It is starting to feel more and more like Fall! And we've been getting a lot of rain... So please remember to dress your students

for the weather. All students will go outside for 30 minutes every day recess. Make sure to label their gear so it doesn't go missing!

We want to give you all a shout out for adjusting so well to our new drop off times on Mondays! Thank you!

It's an honor to serve the Taku community. If you have any questions and/or concerns, don't hesitate to be in contact.

Kaitlin Tallman
Taku Principal

Arrival / Drop Off / Attendance

Just a reminder that our school start times for the 23 - 24 school year is a bit different.

Mondays will now start later than usual. Drop off begins at 9:40am and the first bell rings at 9:50am. Instruction begins at 10:00am.

Tuesdays - Fridays are normal drop off and pick up times. Drop off begins at 8:40am and the first bell rings at 8:50am.

Drop off: Students should not be on school grounds or released from cars until you see the staff come outside. When released, students need to enter the school through their grade level doors on the side and back of the building. Parents are welcome to walk students, as needed, to their outside door and say goodbye before students enter the building. If you wish to visit the classroom, contact the teacher ahead of time to schedule it with them. If ever unsure, come see the front office!

Tardy students will need to enter through the front office doors. Parents do not need to check tardy students in, that is the job of the front office and they can be dropped off at the front doors.

Dismissal: Plan your pick up and drop off routine in advance and communicate that with teachers so they know how your students are getting home. If you are picking up students please pull through the car rider line or meet your student at the crosswalk.

Early pick up: The cut-off time for early pick up is 3:15pm. If you arrive after 3:15pm, you will be asked to wait until the bell rings at 3:30pm. We understand emergencies happen and we will release your child to you if that type of situation arises. Parents picking up students early do not need to call ahead of time. Please plan accordingly to come in the front office and sign out your student for early release.

Absences: For pre-arranged (vacations) absences please call the office. To excuse your student please log into parent connect to report the absence. If you are unable to log in, please call the office at 907-742-5940 or email takuattendance@asdk12.org

Nurse's Note

Hello- Welcome back to school!

I hope you and your student are doing well. The nurse's office has been busy! I have received a number of questions regarding when a student can come to school, so I have attached a form to help you navigate these situation. Never hesitate to call me! It is my goal to keep our school healthy and provide a safe place for your student



This is also a good time to start thinking about rain and snow gear. Please send you student in layers and have an extra change of clothes. I only have so much in my office and want to make sure each student is protected from the elements.

**SCHOOL
COUNSELOR**
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

The Buzz with Bauer

Hello Taku families,

I introduced myself and my role to the students. I have explained how they can seek support from me while at school. I let them know that I will not be here every day and the importance of any safety related issues needing to be conveyed to an adult immediately.

Parents/guardians or school staff may refer students for counseling, or students may request

counseling. Some services I offer are individual counseling, group counseling, and social groups. For counseling that extends beyond two sessions in a school year or that is planned on a regular basis, parent/guardian permission is to be obtained. Please ask the front office for the form or e-mail me and I can send you one.

Parents, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I will be highly visible within the school on days that I am at Taku and available for you and your child. You or your child can schedule a time to see me or stop by as needed when I'm in my office.

Thank you!

-Abby Bauer

Specialist News

Library with Amy Johnson

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year in our Library!

For the month of September, we'll be getting started borrowing books and developing routines to get books back and forth from home responsibly. Please talk to your students about what books they borrow, and enjoy them together.



We'll also be talking about examples of realistic fiction, which is a genre, or style of writing, that's so much like real life, sometimes we think it is. Students can relate to realistic fiction for that reason. Finally, we'll be exploring different sections of the fiction and nonfiction areas of our library.

Wishing all of our Taku families a lovely start to autumn.

Amy Johnson

Taku Elementary School Librarian



Art with Liz Feucht

My name is Ms. Feucht (say it like "foyt") and I'm excited to begin my 10th year as the Art Teacher here at Taku.

I look forward to exploring new materials, thinking creatively, and seeing the art your children will make.

P.E. with Natalie Washington

Welcome back to a new school year! I am looking forward to seeing all your students in Physical Education classes this year!

Coming events:

Healthy Futures log

- We will once again be participating in Healthy Futures beginning in September. Please look for information and the first log at the end of August.



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!

I am looking for to a great year in PE!

Natalie Washington

Washington_natalie@asdk12.org



Health with Katrina Rhodes

Dear Families,

This letter is to let you know that your child's class will be receiving age-appropriate lessons on child sexual abuse and assault prevention education as required under the state's [Alaska Safe Children's Act \(Erin's Law\)](#).

Erin's Law Education is comprised of two lessons (one lesson at the beginning of each semester) taught during the Health classes. Combined, these lessons meet the full requirements for students

under the [Alaska Safe Children's Act \(Erin's Law\)](#) and are designed to help prevent childhood sexual abuse. These lessons will be presented in a non-threatening way, along with the skills needed for self-protection and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner.

Information about the lessons can be viewed [HERE](#).

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1J4mCSGZi6GBUv14WBpiO-7gsrj7DbXtA?usp=sharing>

If you do **NOT** want your child to receive the instruction under the Alaska Safe Children's Act, you must write a letter to the school principal requesting that your child be excused from these specific lessons.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

Katrina Hill Rhodes

Health and SEL Specialist

Bowman/Taku Elementary

Rhodes_katrina@asdk12.org

Music with Autumn Levy

Hey there!

If we haven't met yet, I am the new music teacher here at Taku! I am at Taku every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. I am at my other school, Northwood, every Monday and Tuesday.

My name is Autumn Levy. I just recently graduated with my Bachelor's in Music Education, along with my Master's in the Art of Teaching. I run a private piano and voice studio with my mother, Hav-N-Fun Music Studio. I am very passionate about music and children. I am excited for this wonderful school year ahead. Email is the best way to contact me: levy_autumn@asdk12.org



We are starting to learn about "beat" and how it is the foundation for music. We have also learned a Welcome Song. Ask you student to sing it for you!

Important Dates



**9/4 Monday - No School -
Enjoy the Holiday
Weekend!**



**9/12 - 5:30pm to 6:30pm
in the Library**



**9/29 - Student of the
Month Lunch**

Students who are nominated by their teachers will get a pizza lunch with Principal Tallman

Donor Thank You



"Reviving the Art of Craftsmanship"

Willow Ridge generously donated \$250 to provide a "Welcome Back Breakfast" for our hardworking teachers and staff on their first day back to work last month.

Community support of our teachers and staff is imperative to the functioning of our school. We appreciate your support!

The Bulletin Board, Office Ladies

Joy's Joke of the Month:

How do speeding tigers slow down?
They PAWS.

Student Handbook:

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

MAP Growth Newsletter Information:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vIA1WydL0GKR-dt8Odo6LRTtZx-HoAaQcgOUkOiKBw/edit>



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.

PTA Vacancies for 23-24 School Year

The following PTA positions will be vacant for the upcoming 23-24 school year:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Teacher Representative
- Parent Volunteers

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: 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

