

November, 2023 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 families for attending our Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you still need to schedule a meeting, please reach out to your teacher. If you did not get a chance to speak to a specialist, and you have questions about instruction in health, PE, Music, or Art, please contact the teacher directly.

We would like to thank our PTA volunteers for providing lunch/dinner for staff during conferences. Our staff worked late in the evening to accommodate parents' schedules. You are all amazing!

We are beginning the second quarter with our first Family Reading Night on November 9 from 5:30 - 7:00. This will be a fun event where Taku Tigers can enjoy some awesome reading activities in the gym and art room, while parents learn a little more about ASD's online intervention program, Boost. Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:00 in the MPR, and then we will branch off into our activities from there! We will have drawings for frozen turkeys and there will be tons of prizes!

As a reminder, attendance really matters for students. Please send your child to school every day, unless they are sick!

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



Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool and Kindergarten Build the Habit of Good Attendance

DID YOU KNOW...

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward.

Missing 10% of school (1 or 2 days every few weeks) can make it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills.
- Build relationships.
- Develop good attendance habits.

High quality preschool and kindergarten has many benefits!

- The routines your child develops will continue throughout school.
- Make the most of early grades by encouraging your child to attend every day.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Work with your child and his/her teacher to develop your child's strong attendance.

Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure!

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Share ideas with other parents for getting to school on time.

Before the school year starts

- Find out what day school starts and begin a countdown!
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Attend orientation with your child to meet teachers and classmates and find out about health and safety procedures.

Ready, Set, GO!

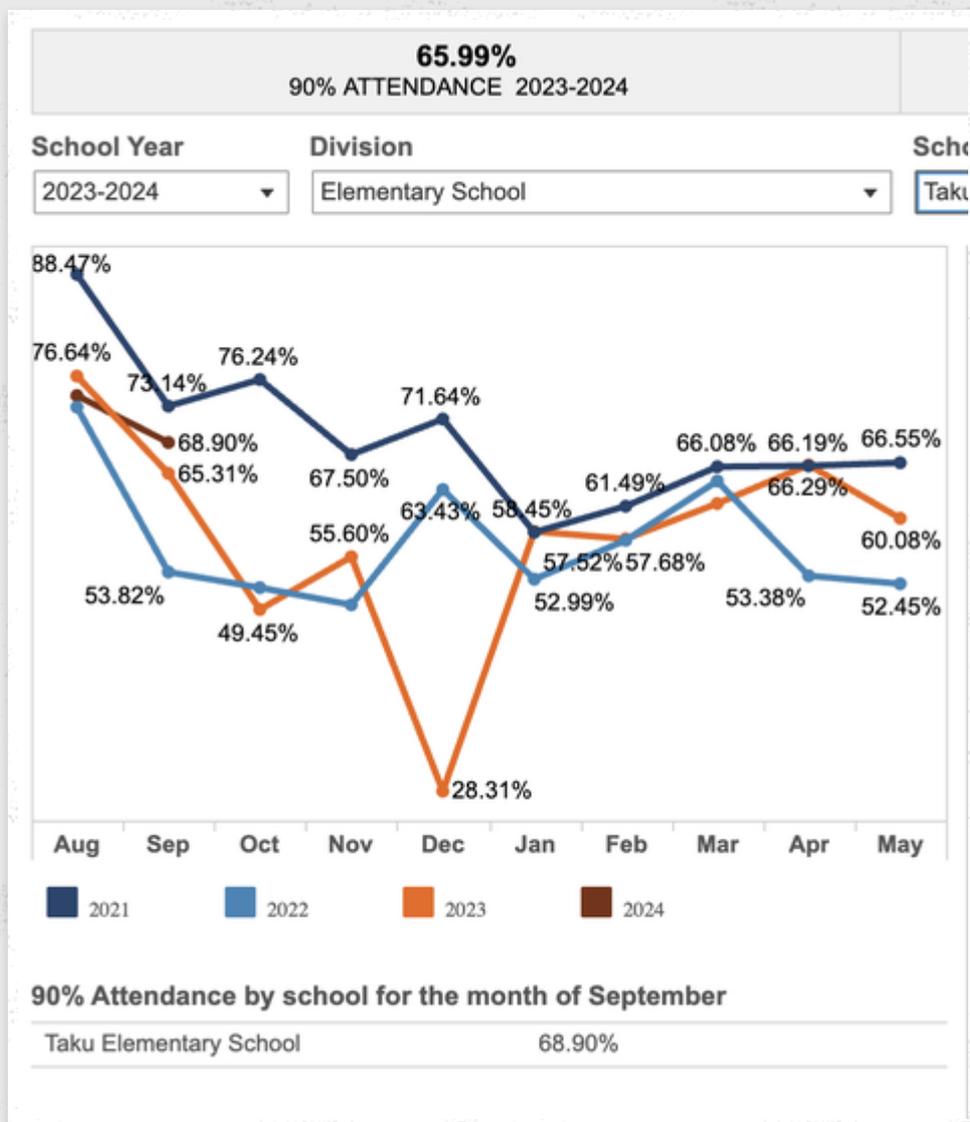
- If you are concerned your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice. Ask for resources to continue learning at home if needed.
- Ask family members or neighbors for assistance if you need help.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- If your child seems anxious about preschool or kindergarten, talk to the program director, teacher, your doctor or other parents for advice.

Revised October 2021

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!



Taku's First Quarter Attendance



Taku's attendance data shows that about 66% of students attended school 90% of the time.

Please send your child(ren) to school every day on time, unless they're sick!

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



64%

of kids with good attendance in K and 1st
(missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%

of kids with at-risk attendance
(missed more than 9 days both years)



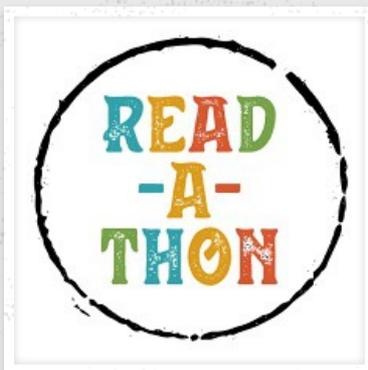
41%

of kids chronically absent in K or 1st
(missed 18 or more days one year)



17%

of kids chronically absent in K and 1st
(missed 18 or more days both years)



*Taku's Read - A - Thon has Begun!!
10/24 - 11/12*

Our Read-A-Thon has started!

Taku has read 1934 minutes so far! Our school goal is 100,000 minutes! So we need your help! We're counting on you to make it a success.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to activate your child's personal reader page by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.read-a-thon.com/readers/r/3538333433>

It only takes a minute or two, and your support will greatly assist us in meeting our financial goals.

Join our next PTA meeting!

We will be meeting in the Taku Library 11/14/23 at 5:30! 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!



We are Hiring!

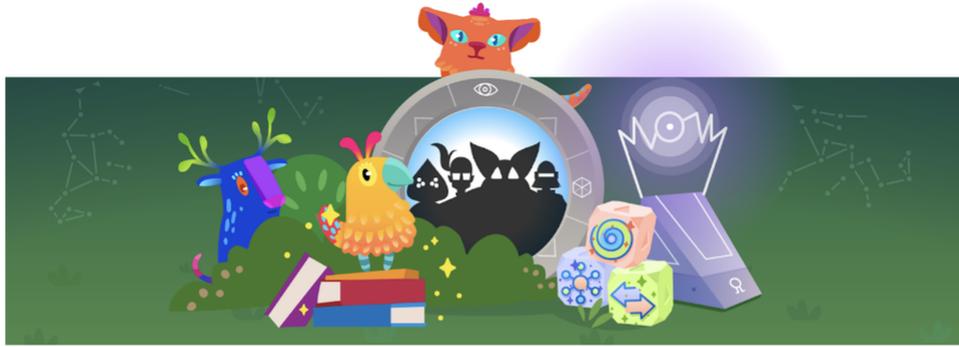
Are you interested in working with the Taku Team?? Or maybe you know someone who would be a great fit?! We are hiring for Admin Assistant! Apply online here:

<https://www.applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp/default.aspx?AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22TAKU+ELEMENTARY%22>

Or go to asdk12.org, click the yellow tab labeled I want to..., click Apply for a Job, then click View External Applicant Positions. You can search by location or by job category.

BOOST Reading!

Boost Reading provides your child with the opportunity to learn and practice literacy skills within an engaging story world that adapts to each student as they move through the program. This means that you do not need to assist students with their learning. Once your child can log in, they're ready to start using the program. Your child can learn with Boost Reading during school hours and also independently at home. See below with more information on how to log in at home!



Dear Caregivers,

Boost Reading provides your child with the opportunity to learn and practice literacy skills within an engaging story world that adapts to each student as they move through the program. This means that you do not need to assist students with their learning. Once your child can log in, they're ready to start using the program.

Your child can learn with Boost Reading during school hours and independently at home.

- Log in to clever.asdk12.org
- Log in with the credentials from your teacher

Tips and Tricks

- Practice logging in with your child consistently until they can log in independently.
- Keep your child's login information in a single place so they know where to go if they forget it.
- Provide your child with headphones or a quiet place to play.
- *Website:*

Parking Lot Safety

Please remember safety is our top priority at Taku!

Some reminders in the parking lot during pick up and drop off:

- Students and families should use the cross walk when appropriate.
- Students should stay in vehicles until you reach the drop off zone in the drop off loop.
- No running through the parking lot during drop off.
- Families should not drop off or pick up in the Bus Loop.

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

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 families!

It is getting colder outside. Please make sure your student has snow pants, a jacket, gloves, and hat at school. I have a limited supply at school and want to prevent any cold injuries.

I am taking donations in my office for pants and shirts. If you have extras of either, I promise I will put them to good use.



Also, It's flu season! I encourage all students and their families to get a flu vaccine! Attached is a hand out that includes places that are doing free flu vaccines!

[https://asdk12ak-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/personal/ketchum_rachel_asdk12_org/Documents/\(Immunizations%20-%20Handout\)%20Community%20Immunization%20Clinics%20%20\(2\)%20\(1\)%203.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=b7mTF9](https://asdk12ak-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/personal/ketchum_rachel_asdk12_org/Documents/(Immunizations%20-%20Handout)%20Community%20Immunization%20Clinics%20%20(2)%20(1)%203.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=b7mTF9)

Specialist News

Library with Amy Johnson

For November, we'll be exploring the genre, or style of writing, called Historical Fiction. In historical fiction, a story is made up about something that happened in the past. Some events are based on fact, but most characters and other events are fictional. To write historical fiction, the author does research into the time period and includes accurate details about everyday life. Historical fiction can be a more difficult genre for students to understand because they don't yet have enough life experience to help them relate to events from the past. Families who share stories from their own past with their children can help students develop an understanding of the past. Have fun sharing family stories!



All of us at Taku wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson, Taku Librarian

PE. with Natalie Washington

Physical Education News:

Coming events:

- Healthy Futures log
- November logs began on the 1st and are due on December 1st
- The next log will be in February.

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

Important Dates



11/8 - Picture re-take day

Picture re-take will be on 11/8.



11/9 - Family Reading Night

Join us on 11/9 at 5:30 for our Family reading Night! More information to come soon.



10/24 - 11/12 Read-A-Thon

Our Read-A-Thon has started!

We're thrilled to announce that our Read-A-Thon has started! We're counting on you to make it a success. If you haven't already, please take a moment to activate your child's personal reader page by clicking on the following link:

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It only takes a minute or two, and your support will greatly assist us in meeting our financial goals.

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.



Special Shout-Out to Mr. Prime Beef!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Prime Beef for their generous donation of ten 20lb turkeys! Their support means a lot to us. With these delicious turkeys, we can now provide even more families with a warm and hearty meal this holiday season. Mr. Prime Beef, your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated. Thank you for being a shining example of community spirit!



We are thrilled to acknowledge the generous contribution from Toyota, who has donated \$500 to our cause. Their support will go a long way in helping us achieve our goals and make a positive impact on our community. Toyota's commitment to giving back is truly inspiring, and we are immensely grateful for their generosity. Thank you, Toyota, for being a valuable partner in our mission to make a difference!"



Geico recently donated delicious pizza to our hardworking staff, and we can't thank them enough for brightening our day with this thoughtful gesture. Their kindness has brought smiles to our faces and energized us to keep up the good work. Geico, you're not just about insurance savings; you're also about spreading positivity and goodwill. We're truly grateful for your support!

The Bulletin Board, Office Ladies

Joy's Joke of the Month:

What did the foot say to the shoe?

Nice tie!



Please join us in welcoming our wonderful new Secretary, Rachel

Ketchum! She is doing a fantastic job in the office, getting to know the students and families

We are so glad she is here!

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/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 23-24 School Year

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

- Vice President
- **Treasurer**
- Parent Volunteers

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

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01	02	03 5th grade Basketball Field Trip	04
05	06	07	08 Fall Picture Re-takes	09 Family Night 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	10 In-service day No school	11
12	13	14 PTA Meeting 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Holiday	24 Thanksgiving Holiday	25
26	27	28	29	30 November Students of the Month		



Taku Elementary

 Facebook

 701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchor...

 takuattendance@asdk12.org

 907-742-5940

 asdk12.org/taku