

SEPTEMBER ~ 2019/2020

PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Dear Ptarmigan Families,

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start. I am extremely excited to be starting my second year at Ptarmigan with you. I really enjoyed welcoming our students back and hearing all the wonderful things they did this summer.

The three main goals of our school are attendance, behavior, and academics. When a student attends school on a regular basis their academics will soar. Even missing a day, means your student could be missing the introduction of a reading or math skill and that will negatively impact their academic progress. **Parents we need your help!** I am already noticing that several students are missing more than 1 day of school and we are just starting the month of September. Medical appointments are important, but ensure your students attends school before or after that appointment. Again this year, parents should be calling the attendance line when your student will not be at school.

The second school-wide goal is safety and student behavior. Ptarmigan Elementary will closely follow the behavior guidelines outlined in the Elementary Student Handbook that can be found on the ASD website. This year we will be implementing quarterly assemblies to celebrate positive student behavior. Our first assembly will be on Friday, November 1, 2019.

Our last goal is increased academic rigor. Both our Reach for Reading curriculum and our Go Math curriculum is age appropriate, but also challenging, especially to our students that are missing days of school.

On a separate note, Ptarmigan is also looking to re-establish our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) this school year. An informational meeting will be held on September 17, 2019 at 4:30pm in our Library. If you are interested, please attend this meeting.

As this year progresses, I look forward to getting to know more Ptarmigan families. Please contact your child's teacher to see how you can help. I encourage you to come to our Open House on September 13th 2019, Multi-Cultural Family Night on October 17th, 2019 and attend Parent/Teacher conferences on October 23rd and 24th, 2019.

Let's make this a great school year!

Kelly Ramey,
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!!

CLICK HERE:
[Ptarmigan Facebook](#)



VIEW PICTURES
FROM SCHOOL
EVENTS AND HAVE
ACCESS TO
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTERS!

RECEIVE UP-TO-
DATE
NOTIFICATIONS!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

SEPTEMBER

- **OPEN HOUSE:** 6pm-7:30pm 9/13/2019
- **PTA INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** 9/17/2019
In Library @ 4:30pm

OCTOBER

- **FALL PICTURES:** 10/7/2019
- **MULTICULTURAL
FAMILY NIGHT:** 6pm-7:30pm 10/17/2019
- **NO SCHOOL:** 10/18/2019 & 10/25/2019
- **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
& BOOK FAIR:** 10/23/2019 & 10/24/2019
EARLY RELEASE @ 12:30pm

Meet Our New Librarian, Alyson Tucker



Hello families. I am delighted to be part of the Ptarmigan family. This is my fifth year working for ASD and I have had the pleasure of working in many elementary schools throughout the district including Airport Heights, Taku and Ursa Minor. For the last four years, I have been teaching first grade. I am excited as I transition into my new role as a teacher librarian.

When not in school, I am outside with my family camping, fishing, hiking and exploring. I often bring my dog Moose along on the adventures. I am looking forward to working with your children and helping them find books they enjoy. I encourage all families to prioritize reading and to make a goal to schedule a time, within your routine, to enjoy a piece of literature together as a family. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!



Health / Social Emotional Learning (2019-2020)

I am looking forward to teaching your children **Health**, as well as, **Social Emotional Learning** this school year. During the month of September, we will be learning about "Safety." Our safety units focus on being safe at school, at home, and in our community. **According to the National Safety Council, accidents are the leading cause of death for children.**

Preventative safety measures can help keep our children from harm. Below are the units for the various grade levels:

K- How to Stay Safe

1st- Look Out

2nd- Let's stay Safe

3rd- Safe At Home, Safe Away

4th- Community Safety

5th- First Aid Facts

I will be teaching the **1st Quarter Personal Safety lessons** between September 30, and October 18, 2019. This Personal Safety lesson will be taught during your child's Health class. Each quarter a Personal Safety lesson will be taught. The age-appropriate lessons will be presented in a non-threatening way, along with the skills needed for self-protection. The mandated lesson content is part of the Anchorage School District's plan to enact the **Alaska Safe Children's Act** and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner. For more information on the topic, please visit our website:

<http://www.asdk12.org/healthpe/safechildrensact/>

If you have any questions about the content, please feel free to contact me through email. If you wish to inquire about opting out, please contact the school office for an opt out form to be signed by a parent.

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

My grading policy is as follows: Students receive an **effort/participation** grade each time they have Health (2 times per month for an hour).

O = Outstanding, S+ = Very Satisfactory, S = Satisfactory, S- = Unsatisfactory, N = Needs to improve

Thank you for your support in keeping Alaska's children safe,

Ms Anny Hunsucker. Health/SEL Specialist

hunsucker_anny@asdk12.org



"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room

Instruments, Movement and Songs, Oh My. Yes, we do all of that in the Ptarmigan Music Room. Hello, and welcome to another year of joyful music. I am Mrs. Benton your student's music teacher. I want to welcome all the new Ptarmigan students and also my returning musicians. My hope is that all students will develop excellent ears and learn all about the musical elements. There are so many things to do in the music room.

First students are learning how to be safe and respectful with each other. Then we will move on to, how to treat the instruments and space in the music room safely. Each class is dedicating themselves to making the music room and safe and caring place to learn.

Using our singing voices is the first step. We sing in the music room. Your voice is the one instrument you always have with you. I believe if you can sing it you can play it. We also learn to listen and listen to learn. Please feel free to stop by the music room and see what your child is learning. This winter I hope to have an open house for parents to join in a music class. Look for more information on that.

Choir will be starting on October 1st so third grader – fifth grader students who enjoy trying new things and singing are encouraged to join. We meet 8:00am-8:45am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Choir Contract will be outside the music room soon.

Boxtops have changed the format and in order for Ptarmigan to benefit from all your purchases you need to download the Boxtop App. Then just scan your receipt and notate Ptarmigan as the school to get credit. No more clipping. Hope you sign up soon so Ptarmigan can start collecting credit.

In Harmony,
Mrs. Benton Classroom Music Specialist



CREATIVE CORNER



Hello Ptarmigan families!
My name is Katie Winkelman, and I am the returning art teacher at Ptarmigan. When students are in art, I challenge them to try their best work. Students receive an effort grade every week. I look for outstanding respect, engagement, attention to task, and a willingness to persevere despite difficulty. In addition to drawing, painting, collage, and sculpture, we will also have a fiber art lesson this year with a focus on weaving or stitchery.

Elementary Art Grade Level Themes:

- Kindergarten - Art and Me
- 1st Grade - Art in My World
- 2nd Grade - Creating from Inside Myself
- 3rd Grade - Art from Many Cultures
- 4th Grade - Art and Environment
- 5th Grade - Art as Communication

Thank you,
Katie Winkelman, Art Teacher

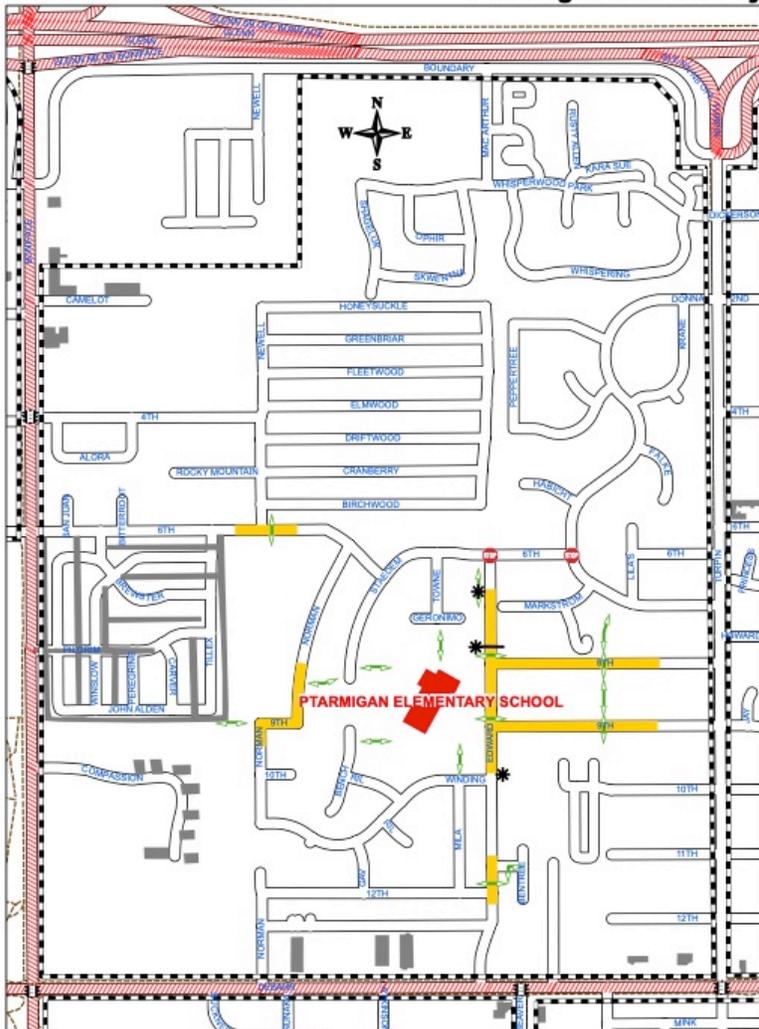
Feel free to contact me through email: winkelman_katie@asdk12.org

NO CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL ZONES FACTSHEET*



A new ordinance (law) passed by the Anchorage Assembly on June 20, 2019 makes it unlawful for a driver of any vehicle to talk on a mobile communication device while driving a vehicle within an active school zone or on school grounds, unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used.

Ptarmigan Elementary



HOW TO USE THIS MAP:

- I. **WALKING ROUTES**
 - A. With your child, follow the arrows on the map and select the best route from your home to the school. Mark the route with a pencil or crayon.
 1. Where no arrows are shown, all routes are considered equally safe.
 2. Whenever you come to a double arrow in the roadway  your child should follow that route, as the safest available route.
 3. If you come to a double arrow along side the roadway  your child should use that path or stay on that side of the street until he reaches a safer crossing.
 - B. Whenever this symbol  has been used, your child **should NOT** be crossing the street, as the traffic conditions there are considered significantly less safe. He/she should cross these streets only at locations marked by the symbol shown at right. 
 - C. Teach your child to follow this as the safest route, and to cross only at safer crossings shown on the map. You and your child should become familiar with the route by walking it together. Observe marked crosswalks, stop signs, traffic signals, and other traffic controls. Crossing points have been located wherever possible and should be used, even though a longer walk may sometimes be necessary.
- II. **WALKING SAFETY**
 - A. Whenever there are not sidewalks, teach your child to follow safe pedestrian practice by **walking to the left side of the street, facing any oncoming traffic**.
 - B. Teach your child to stop at the edge of the street, **look to the right, left and behind** when crossing at an intersection (pedestrians may be hit by turning cars as well as normal through traffic).
 - C. In secluded or remote areas children are safer walking in groups of three or more. Remember, there is **safety in numbers**.
- III. **SCHOOL BUS STOPS**

Teach your child to follow safe walking practices to get to the bus stop. Changes in bus stop locations may possibly occur as neighborhood populations change. If so, you will be notified by the driver or your principal.

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

 **WALK**

STEADY
You may begin to walk with caution in the direction of this signal.

 **DONT WALK**

FLASHING
If you are crossing the road when this signal appears you may continue to cross at a normal pace to the nearest curb or safety island. If you have not yet started to cross do NOT enter the roadway.

 **DONT WALK**

STEADY
Do NOT enter the roadway in the direction of this signal.

MAP LEGEND

	Recommended Walking Route: "Walk on Left Facing Traffic."		Diverter
	Recommended Walking Route: "Walk on This Side Only"		Overpass Crossing
	Preferred Crossing		All-Way Stop
	Underpass Crossing		School Flasher
	"Do NOT Cross Here"		Overhead Flasher
	School Walking Boundary		Railroad Tracks
	Traffic Signal		Crossing Guard
	School Zone		Trails

This year, our school will be using an evaluation screener to look at school-wide systems of support for social emotional learning and behavior. This screener, much like our academic Universal Screeners (FastBridge and MAP Growth), will be completed with all students in the Fall (October), Winter (December) and Spring (April). Teachers will evaluate students relative to various behavioral risk factors. The evaluation tool is called the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS). The tool will help teachers identify students who may need additional supports to increase their academic and social emotional success. This screening is completed by teachers and will not involve lost instructional time for students. Should you have any questions about the use of this universal screener, please don't hesitate to contact your building principal.

Thanks for all that you do for our Ptarmigan family!!



~ NEWS from Nurse Brittany ~

Welcome back to school, Timberwolves! Part of the nurse's job at Ptarmigan is to screen students for potential hearing or vision problems. All students new to the school district, 1st, 3rd and 5th graders are screened annually. If any teachers have concerns about their students, they may be referred for a screening as well. If you have receive a letter home from the nurse, please review promptly. Hearing and vision are so important for good learning. We would hate for your student to miss something due to a problem that is fixable! As always, if your student needs to see an eye doctor and you are not sure where to send them, please check in with the nurse and she can give you ideas about where to start.

Also, with all the wildfire smoke coming in and out of Anchorage, the school nurse's are monitoring Air Quality daily. Students are kept inside when the air quality levels are deemed "unhealthy". Health services has asked nurses to use this website to check air quality: <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Aq/> . Please call the school nurse with any concerns or questions.



UPCOMING SPIRIT DAYS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 16th: Constitution Day: Wear Red, White, & Blue
September 18th: Pirate Day: Talk & Dress Like a Pirate
October 31st: Dress like your favorite Storybook/Movie Character
November 13th: World Kindness Day: Spread Kindness

BECOME A GIRL ON THE RUN!



We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum, which creatively integrates running.

If you're in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, you're invited to join us. And so are all of your friends. You're sure to have fun, even if you don't love running.

With Girls on the Run You'll:

- Make new friends, and enjoy your old friends more!
- Learn how to eat well to feel good about YOU.
- Take part in games that help you feel positive and excited about tomorrow.
- Do things you never thought you could do—like run (or skip or walk) a 5K.



Team Details

DAYS & TIMES: TUES & THURS @ 3:30pm-5:30pm
LOCATION: Ms. Meck's Rm

SEASON DATES: Sept 9th-Nov 16th (no practice on holidays or snow days)

COST: \$150/\$25/\$10 (full fee/reduced lunch households/free lunch households). Additional scholarships available

INCLUDES: 20 Lessons, t-shirt and water bottle, healthy snacks, and entry to season-ending Girls on the Run 5K on Saturday, Nov 16th.



And that's just for starters. So on your mark, get set, go to our website and find more about everything we offer. Spaces fill up fast. Enroll today! www.gotrsouthcentralak.org



Anchorage School Board:

Starr Marsett (President), Alisha Hilde (Vice President), Margo Bellamy (Clerk), Elisa Vakalis (Treasurer), and Members Deena Mitchell, Dave Donley, and Andy Holleman. ASD Superintendent, Dr. Deena Paramo.