

Principal's Report

March 21st, 2024

By Branden Strauch



Students:

468 Students.

Completed Student Assessments:

- 4th grade and 8th grade students took the NAEP assessment in the third quarter. This is the national exam that was used in the charter school study out of Harvard that recognized Alaska charter schools at the forefront of academic achievement.
- 2nd - 8th grade students also completed the STAMP assessment. This is the district / national exam used to measure German language proficiency.

Upcoming Student Assessments:

- AK STAR/ MAP for 3rd - 8th grade students in March / April. This is the state exam that measures academic progress and whether state benchmarks have been met.
- A1/ A2/ B1 German exams for 3rd, 6th, and 8th grade students. This exam measures German language proficiency and if benchmarks have been met.

The 7/8 Battle of the Books teams took first place at the state competition and are the state champs. The 3/4 and 5/6 teams finished in the top 5 at the state competition as well. We are very proud of the work that the students and teachers put in to prepare for these competitions.

Student retention numbers are projected to be very strong according to the family survey and follow up phone class. The positive is that we are projecting to have more students than we projected for the FY25 budget. The negative is that we are projecting larger class sizes with 1st grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, and 7/8th grade between 25 - 30 students per room.

Kindergarten applications numbers are strong as well with 159 applications submitted for 72 spots. Last year, we had a similar number of applications, but only filled 80 spots after the waiting list was exhausted.

Staff:

45 Staff Members.

The leadership team has been analyzing enrollment projections and staffing placement in preparation for next school year.

Curriculum and Instruction:

Rilke Schule is involved in the piloting of a new literacy screener tool and corresponding intervention / supporting literacy instruction called UFLI. A few staff members have already been trained on this new tool and will eventually be providing feedback to ASD on its implementation, effectiveness, and ease of use.

Herr Strauch and Herr Vincent-Lang have met with teachers to discuss the adoption of 4th and 5th grade CKLA and a German Literacy Curriculum called 'Niko' for next school year. [Please click on this link to read more about the proposal.](#)

Facility:

Frau Colvin, Herr Hotch, Herr Vincent-Lang, and Herr Strauch met with landlord representatives for a school tour and discussed Rilke Schule's position regarding a lease renewal in 2025. The meeting was informative and friendly and resulted with no action items or decisions made. We look forward to building this relationship as we explore facility options moving forward.

The HVAC system remains a major concern for staff as they are unable to control temperature in the classroom. This is especially true for the west end of the building.

Budget:

Nothing additional to report on the general fund or the FY25 budget.

Student activity and supply fund is roughly \$34,000, and 17 supply / activity fees have been paid since the beginning of the second semester. This amount will largely be used over the next couple of months for end of the year field trips and school supplies to prepare for next school year.

Community:

Herr Strauch has sent a request to the RSI to cover the expenses associated with the Amity Internship Program which is roughly \$35-\$40K annually depending on the number of interns that school year.

Herr Strauch has also requested that RSI cover the cost of the evening custodian. We are in the process of gathering quotes to understand the cost of that service.

The Rilke community has been active with the creation of the Rilke Grants Committee and Rilke School Business Partnership Committee since winter break. While the both groups are in their infancy, we hope to create new opportunities for the Rilke Schule students, staff, and community through this work.