

# Principal's Report

April 18th, 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.
- 3rd - 8th grade students took the AK STAR/ MAP in March / April. This is the state exam that measures academic progress and whether state benchmarks have been met.
- 3rd, 6th, and 8th grade students took the A1/ A2/ B1 German exams. This exam measures German language proficiency and if benchmarks have been met.

I plan to present student data at the next meeting once it has been compiled and analyzed.

Many current and former Rilke students were recognized for their outstanding German academic achievement at the ASD German Awards Ceremony. Students from kindergarten to senior year were celebrated, and it was wonderful to see so many successful former Rilke students at the high school level.

Student retention numbers are projected to be very strong according to the intention to return survey and follow up phone class. The positive is that we are projecting to have 488 students which is more than we projected for the FY25 budget. The negative is that

we are projecting larger class sizes with 1st grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, and 7/8th grade around 25 students per room.

We have currently filled 69 kindergarten for the 24-25 school year. The lottery will run again in July and some students are already signed up. It does not seem likely that we will add any students to grades 1st - 8th since all spots are currently filled.

Rilke has many school events coming up as we wind up the school year such as a middle school dance, talent show and dessert festival, choralpallooza, kinoabend, Kinderlauf, Wandertag, awards assembly, 8th grade graduation, and a number of class field trips. We look forward to a fun and engaging end to the school year as we move out of testing season.

### **Staff:**

45 Staff Members.

Frau Tappero was awarded the Duden Teacher of the Year award. Her dedication to her students and engaging German instruction are greatly appreciated by students, families, and staff.

Herr Jones, our beloved guidance counselor, has decided to head back to the classroom. The whole staff appreciated working with him this year as he established the counselor position at Rilke Schule and supported both students and staff.

The 1st Annual Statewide Immersion Summer Institute to be held May 28-29 at Government Hill Elementary in Anchorage. This Institute will be designed for K-12 Immersion Teachers, English Partner Teachers, and K-12 Immersion Administrators. All teachers are encouraged to attend.

Herr Strauch, and a couple other German teachers, will be meeting with German immersion teachers across the nation on a zoom meeting to collaborate and problem solve common German immersion school challenges.

### **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.

**Facility:**

The HVAC system remains a major concern for staff as they are unable to control temperature in the classroom. Currently, the ventilation system is manually opened on the west end to allow fresh air to enter the building. However, a new part has been ordered and we are waiting for it to be installed.

The Schülerrat would like to purchase and install basketball hoops on the playground. Herr Hotch and I have been working with Herr Radke and the students to move this forward. Once the snow leaves, we will finalize plans to install them.

**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:**

Rilke Schule hosted Anika McCulloch, the German curriculum coordinator for Seattle Area German- American School (SAGA) in order to observe classes and discuss immersion instruction. We were very happy to share about our program and learn about SAGA as well.

The ASD Immersion Advisory committee held its last meeting of the school year. This was the first year that this committee met and it is composed of individuals from all the immersion programs across the district. While the mission statement and vision is still being drafted, the goal of this committee is to advocate for immersion language programs in our school district. Rilke Schule has five representatives on this committee.