

Principal's Report

August 22, 2024

By Branden Strauch



Students:

488 Students

Student enrollment numbers are a bit higher than projected in the spring due to a high student retention rate across all grades. We do have four spots still open in kindergarten which could push our enrollment over 490. It is interesting to note that we have not been able to fill all of our kindergarten spots the last few years. For example, last year, 80 of 88 spots were rostered and this year 68 of 72 spots have been filled so far. This is an interesting trend to follow as enrollment continues to decrease across ASD. We will continue to advertise to the community to fill those remaining kindergarten spots.

The Rilke cross country team began practice this week. We will be teaming up with Polaris once again this season. Furthermore, we will continue to have discussions with Polaris to potentially partner again for other middle school sports or activities.

German exchange students and teachers will be arriving on September 3rd and staying until the 17th. We have a number of different activities planned so they may experience the wonders of Alaska.

Staff:

42 Staff Members.

The staff was well prepared for the school year which led to a strong start.

I am requesting \$15,000 to fund professional development this school year. Below are three different conferences that we are targeting for this school year.

[International Conference on Immersion and Dual Language Education](#), October 2nd -

5th, 2024 in Salt Lake City

[PNCFL Conference](#), April 25-26, 2025 in Anchorage

[AK Science of Reading Symposium](#), TBD, in Anchorage

The collaborative group, titled German Immersion School Team (GIST), will be meeting monthly this school year to collaborate on common issues that are challenging for German Immersion programs. Different staff members are invited to the meetings over the school year depending on the topic and time.

The school counselor position remains open with no applicants.

Curriculum and Instruction:

German teachers have begun to use the new German curriculum called 'Niko.' We will be meeting monthly, as a German teacher cohort, to share successes and problem-solve challenges over the school year as we implement this new curriculum.

Staff have and continue to take a number of different training to provide student instruction and support.

Facility:

Nothing to report.

Budget:

Nothing to report.

Community:

The Name Update Survey results:

16 out of 19 (84%) of staff are in favor of the name Rilke Schule German Immersion School.

47 out of 87 (54%) of public responses are in favor of the name Rilke Schule German Immersion School.

Rilke clean up day was a success with many families showing up to help out. Additionally, Popsicles with the Principal event was very well attended. Huge thank you to everyone who coordinated and participated in these events.