

# February 2024, 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,

The cold weather has hit hard this month! As a reminder, students go outside for recess for 30 minutes every day up to -10 degrees. Please dress your students for the weather! They should have hats, coats, gloves, boots, and snow pants. If your child needs gear, let us know, and we can help get you some.

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up! February 21 - 22, students will be dismissed at 12:30, so families can attend conferences in the evening. Teachers will be reaching out to you soon about getting a conference scheduled.

For the second semester, Taku is working hard to improve our attendance! Each week, the class with the best attendance gets the Traveling Tiger Trophy in their classroom! This week, Mrs. Lopez's 1st grade class had 95% attendance and Mr. Ferretti's 5th grade class had 89% attendance! They have the Tiger Trophies in their rooms on display! We are also tracking classes who reach 90% attendance each day. When a class reaches 10 days, they get to spin a prize wheel!! Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Bravo's 1st grade classes are in the lead to get to 10! Keep working hard to come to school every day on time.

We are also hosting another Family Night on Thursday, 2/8/24, from 5:30 - 7:00. We will start off with pizza in the MPR, and then students and families will get to do some fun SEL activities throughout the school! We hope to see you all there!

If you need assistance with anything, please contact us via email ([asktaku@asdk12.org](mailto:asktaku@asdk12.org)) or by phone (742-5940). We are here to help you. It is an honor to serve the Taku community. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to be in contact.

Kaitlin Tallman,  
Taku Principal

## Taku's Family SEL Night - 2/8/24

TEACHERS

I AM SMART

FAMILY

I BELONG

FRIENDS

I AM KIND

TAKU'S

FAMILY NIGHT

FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Join us for Pizza and fun activities  
as we celebrate  
Emotional Awareness and  
Attendance Success

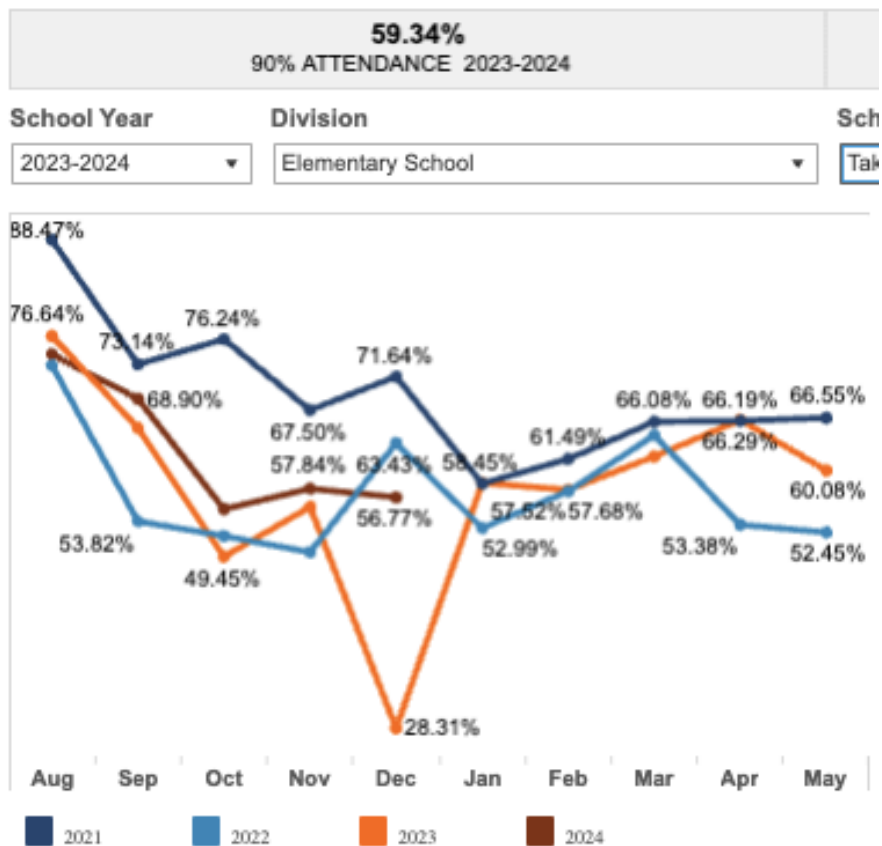
2.8.24

5:30 - 7 PM

## Taku Attendance

Attendance for the Last 7 Days	Attendance for the Last 30 Days	Year-to-date Attendance
87.03%	87.62%	89.24%

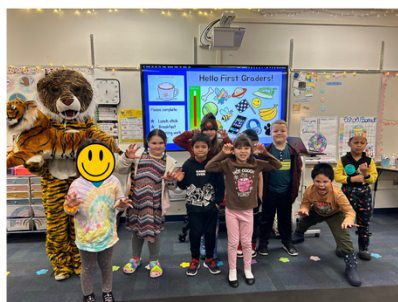
## 90% Attendance



### 90% Attendance by school for the month of December

Taku Elementary School

56.77%



**Mrs. Lopez's 1st grade  
Attendance Winners!**



**Taku TIGERS!**



**Mr. Ferretti's 5th grade  
Attendance Winners!**

## AK Reads Act Updates - Progression vs Non-Progression

Part of the Alaska Reads Act is identifying students who are 'well below' and who might need additional time and support to catch up.

## Alaska Reads Act Requirements



Students in grades K-3rd who show that are in the well below category for the assessment, will be considered for non-progression or more commonly known as retention. This conversation will be introduced to families at February conferences. The conversation will include parents/guardians, teacher and principal. The family will make the final decision on whether or not their child will progress to the next grade level. The state is requiring districts to have families of 3rd grade students who are well below, sign a waiver with their decision around progression/non progression and agreeing to 20 hours a summer school.

Progression Vs. Non-Progression Final Edit

# PROGRESSION VERSUS NON-PROGRESSION ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT



### We are Hiring!

Are you interested in working with the Taku Team? Maybe you know someone who would be a great addition to our learning community? We are hiring for several positions, including an administrative assistant, classroom teacher, special education teacher, substitute teachers, and noon duties.

You can apply online here:

<https://www.applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp/default.aspx?>

[AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22TAKU+ELEMENTARY%22](https://www.applitrack.com/asd/onlineapp/default.aspx?AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22TAKU+ELEMENTARY%22)

Want to search all of our job openings: Follow this link: [asdk12.org](https://www.asdk12.org), click the yellow tab labeled, "I want to...", click "Apply for a Job", and then click "View External Applicant Positions."

Come and work with us!

## Join our next PTA meeting!

We will be meeting in the Taku Library 2/13/23 at 5:30 pm! 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!

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## *5th & 6th Graders Moving to Middle School*

All 5th and 6th grade students will be transitioning to Middle School for the 24-25 school year. Romig and Hanshew counselors met with Taku's 5th/6th grade students on 1/31/24 to provide more information about what to expect in Middle School.

### Moving to Middle



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### Parking Lot Safety

Please remember safety is our top priority at Taku! Cellphone usage is not allowed in school drop off/pick up zones.

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

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## Basketball News

Basketball is under way! Taku has two teams separated by ability level. Please talk with your player to see what team they are playing on. Here is the schedule for the season. Please come support our players!



### Upper League Schedule 23/24 Wolverine League

1. ANCS 1 12/1 @ Trailside 12/8 Fairview 12/15 Lake Otis *12/19 @ Baxter 1/12 Northwood 1/19 @ Taku 1 1/26 W. Crest 1 2/2 @ Chinook	2. Baxter 12/1 @ Taku 1 12/8 Chu. Opt. 1 12/15 @ Klatt 1 *12/19 ANCS 1 1/12 @ North Star 1/19 Spring Hill 1/26 @ Trailside 2/2 Bayshore 1	3. Bayshore 1 12/1 @ Spring Hill 12/8 Chinook 12/15 Kincaid 1 *12/19 @ Trailside 1/12 @ Lake Otis 1/19 Sand Lake 1/26 Taku 1 2/2 @ Baxter	4. Chinook 12/1 Sand Lake 12/8 @ Bayshore 1 12/15 Gov. Hill *12/19 @ Taku 1 1/12 Klatt 1 1/19 @ O'Malley 1 1/26 @ Spring Hill 2/2 ANCS 1	5. Chu. Opt.1 12/1 O'Malley 1 12/8 @ Baxter 12/15 @ Fairview *12/19 Spring Hill 1/12 @ Kincaid 1 1/19 Northwood 1/26 @ Sand Lake 2/2 Trailside
6. Fairview 12/1 Northwood 12/8 @ ANCS 1 12/15 Chu. Opt. 1 *12/19 @ Sand Lake 1/12 Gov. Hill 1/19 @ North Star 1/26 O'Malley 1 2/2 @ Taku 1	7. Gov. Hill 12/1 @ North Star 12/8 Trailside 12/15 @ Chinook *12/19 O'Malley 1 1/12 @ Fairview 1/19 Lake Otis 1/26 @ Northwood 2/2 Spring Hill	8. Kincaid 1 12/1 @ Lake Otis 12/8 Taku 1 12/15 @ Bayshore 1 *12/19 @ Northwood 1/12 Chu. Opt. 1 1/19 Klatt 1 1/26 @ North Star 2/2 Sand Lake	9. Klatt 1 12/1 @ W. Crest 1 12/8 Spring Hill 12/15 Baxter *12/19 North Star 1/12 @ Chinook 1/19 @ Kincaid 1 1/26 Lake Otis 2/2 @ O'Malley 1	10. Lake Otis 12/1 Kincaid 1 12/8 @ Sand Lake 12/15 @ ANCS 1 *12/19 W. Crest 1 1/12 Bayshore 1 1/19 @ Gov. Hill 1/26 @ Klatt 1 2/2 Northwood
11. North Star 12/1 Gov. Hill 12/8 @ O'Malley 1 12/15 @ Trailside *12/19 @ Klatt 1 1/12 Baxter 1/19 Fairview 1/26 Kincaid 1 2/2 @ W. Crest 1	12. Northwood 12/1 @ Fairview 12/8 W. Crest 1 12/15 Taku 1 *12/19 Kincaid 1 1/12 @ ANCS 1 1/19 @ Chu. Opt. 1 1/26 Gov. Hill 2/2 @ Lake Otis	13. O'Malley 1 12/1 @ Chu. Opt.1 12/8 North Star 12/15 @ Spring Hill *12/19 @ Gov. Hill 1/12 Trailside 1/19 Chinook 1/26 @ Fairview 2/2 Klatt 1	14. Sand Lake 12/1 @ Chinook 12/8 Lake Otis 12/15 @ W. Crest 1 *12/19 Fairview 1/12 Taku 1 1/19 @ Bayshore 1 1/26 Chu. Opt. 1 2/2 @ Kincaid 1	15. Spring Hill 12/1 Bayshore 1 12/8 @ Klatt 1 12/15 O'Malley 1 *12/19 @ Chu. Opt. 1 1/12 W. Crest 1 1/19 @ Baxter 1/26 Chinook 2/2 @ Gov. Hill
16. Taku 1 12/1 Baxter 12/8 @ Kincaid 1 12/15 @ Northwood *12/19 Chinook 1/12 @ Sand Lake 1/19 ANCS 1 1/26 @ Bayshore 1 2/2 Fairview	17. Trailside 12/1 ANCS 1 12/8 @ Gov. Hill 12/15 North Star *12/19 Bayshore 1 1/12 @ O'Malley 1 1/19 @ W. Crest 1 1/26 Baxter 2/2 @ Chu. Opt. 1	18. W. Crest 1 12/1 Klatt 1 12/8 @ Northwood 12/15 Sand Lake *12/19 @ Lake Otis 1/12 @ Spring Hill 1/19 Trailside 1/26 @ ANCS 1 2/2 North Star	1. Alaska Native Charter School 1 2. Baxter 3. Bayshore 1 4. Chinook 5. Chugach Optional 1 6. Fairview 7. Government Hill 8. Kincaid 1 9. Klatt 1	10. Lake Otis 11. North Star 12. Northwood 13. O'Malley 1 14. Sand Lake 15. Spring Hill 16. Taku 1 17. Trailside 18. Willow Crest 1

Tournament Date: Feb. 10, 2024

Tournament site: Clark Middle School

Starting time TBD

# Lower League Schedule 23/24

## Winter League

1. ANCS2 12/1 Chu. Opt. 2 12/8 @ Muldoon 12/15 @ W. Park *12/19 Bowman 1/12 @ Klatt 2 1/19 M. View 1/26 @ C. Gate 2/2 Kincaid 2	2. Bayshore2 12/1 Bowman 12/8 @ M. View 12/15 @ Taku 2 *12/19 W. Park 1/12 Kincaid 2 1/19 @ Klatt 2 1/26 @ Chu. Opt. 2 2/2 C. Gate	3. Bowman12/1 @ Bayshore2 12/8 Klatt 2 12/15 @ O'Malley 2 *12/19 @ ANCS 2 1/12 C. Gate 1/19 Kincaid 2 1/26 @ W. Crest 2 2/2 Chu. Opt. 2	4. Chu.Opt.2 12/1 @ ANCS2 12/8 Kincaid 2 12/15 Muldoon *12/19 @ W. Crest 2 1/12 W. Park 1/19 @ C. Gate 1/26 Bayshore 2 2/2 @ Bowman	5. C. Gate 12/1 W. Crest 2 12/8 @ W. Park 12/15 @ M. View *12/19 Williwaw 1/12 @ Bowman 1/19 Chu. Opt. 2 1/26 ANCS 2 2/2 @ Bayshore 2	6. Kincaid2 12/1 Williwaw 12/8 @ Chu. Opt. 2 12/15 Klatt 2 *12/19 Taku 2 1/12 @ Bayshore 2 1/19 @ Bowman 1/26 W. Park 2/2 @ ANCS 2
7. Klatt 2 12/1 Taku 2 12/8 @ Bowman 12/15 @ Kincaid 2 *12/19 @ O'Malley 2 1/12 ANCS 2 1/19 Bayshore 2 1/26 @ Williwaw 2/2 W. Crest 2	8. M.View12/1 @ O'Malley 2 12/8 Bayshore 2 12/15 C. Gate *12/19 Muldoon 1/12 @ W. Crest 2 1/19 @ ANCS 2 1/26 @ Taku 2 2/2 Williwaw	9. Muldoon 12/1 W. Park 12/8 ANCS 2 12/15 @ Chu. Opt. 2 *12/19 @ M. View 1/12 @ Williwaw 1/19 W. Crest 2 1/26 @ O'Malley 2 2/2 Taku 2	10. O'Malley2 12/1 M. View 12/8 @ W. Crest 2 12/15 Bowman *12/19 Klatt 2 1/12 @ Taku 2 1/19 @ Williwaw 1/26 Muldoon 2/2 @ W. Park	11. Taku 2 12/1 @ Klatt 2 12/8 Williwaw 12/15 Bayshore 2 *12/19 @ Kincaid 2 1/12 O'Malley 2 1/19 @ W. Park 1/26 M. View 2/2 @ Muldoon	12. Williwaw 12/1 @ Kincaid2 12/8 @ Taku 2 12/15 W. Crest. 2 *12/19 @ C. Gate 1/12 Muldoon 1/19 O'Malley 2 1/26 Klatt 2 2/2 @ M. View
13. W. Crest2 12/1 @ C. Gate 12/8 O'Malley 2 12/15 @ Williwaw *12/19 Chu. Opt. 2 1/12 M. View 1/19 @ Muldoon 1/26 Bowman 2/2 @ Klatt 2	14. W. Park 12/1 @ Muldoon 12/8 C. Gate 12/15 ANCS *12/19 @ Bayshore 2 1/12 @ Chu. Opt. 2 1/19 Taku 2 1/26 @ Kincaid 2 2/2 O'Malley 2			1. Alaska NativeCharterSchool 2 2. Bayshore 2 3. Bowman 4. Chugach Optional 2 5. College Gate 6. Kincaid 2 7. Klatt 2	8. Mountain View 9. Muldoon 10. O'Malley 2 11. Taku 2 12. Williwaw 13. Willow Crest 2 14. Wonder Park

Tournament Date: Feb. 17, 2024

Tournament site: Clark Middle School

Starting time TBD



## Girls on the Run Team at Taku this Spring!

Girls on the Run is a confidence-building after-school program for girls in third through sixth grade.

### When is it?

- February 26th to May 8th
- Mondays and Wednesdays afterschool (pick up at 5PM)

### What do they learn and do?

- Have fun, make friends, increase physical activity, build self-confidence and learn important life skills!
- Coaches lead fun lessons, games, group discussions and physical activities. You do **not** have to be a "runner" to join.
- Complete a community impact project to help make the world a better place.
- The season ends with a 5K celebration for all of the participating schools in Anchorage!

### How do I sign up my child?

- Registration opens Feb 1st at 8am
- [Use this link to register online](#) or reach out to Ms. Kiss at Taku if you need a paper registration form ([kiss\\_allyson@asdk12.org](mailto:kiss_allyson@asdk12.org))

### What does it cost?



- Standard registration fee \$150
- Households that qualify for reduced lunch \$25
- Households that qualify for free lunch \$10
- All participants receive a program t-shirt, water bottle, and option for transportation to and from the 5K celebration on May 11.

**For more information:** Reach out to Ms. Kiss at Taku or visit <https://www.gotrsouthcentralak.org/>

Flyer:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ffR3u94g3hH\\_6jsV89aoB-prqVsX3gig/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ffR3u94g3hH_6jsV89aoB-prqVsX3gig/view)



**Girls on the Run is for EVERY girl.**

**Girls on the Run is an afterschool program like no other!**

Twice per week for 10 weeks, girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. Trained and caring coaches lead 3rd - 6th-grade girls through interactive lessons and movement activities. The season ends with a celebratory 5K event.

*Why it matters*  
**It's fun. It's effective.**

Participating in Girls on the Run transforms girls' lives by helping them increase their self-confidence, develop healthy relationships, and feel good about themselves, inside and out.

**SEASON DETAILS**

Registration Opens: **2/01/2024**  
 Program Starts: **week of 2/26/2024**  
 Program Fee: **based on reduced lunch/ free lunch qualification**  
 Practice Days: **Mondays and Wednesdays after school**  
 Contact: **Taku Elementary School**  
 Allyson Kiss  
[kiss\\_allyson@asdk12.org](mailto:kiss_allyson@asdk12.org)

Girls who were the least active at the start of the program increased their physical activity by more than 40%\*

97% of participants said they learned critical skills to manage emotions, resolve conflict, help others or make intentional decisions\*

\*Results based on a independent study conducted by Positive Youth Development expert Maureen R. Weiss, Ph.D.

**Learn more and register today at [www.gotrsouthcentralak.org](http://www.gotrsouthcentralak.org)**



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## Nurse's Note

Hello Taku Families!

I hope you are all enjoying our Alaskan winter.

Please make sure that your students come to school with proper winter gear, students go outside for recess until it is colder than -10 degrees fahrenheit.

Please send an extra set of clothing in your students backpack, just in case of any spill, emergency, accident, or outfit change.

My office is always accepting donations. If you have any jackets, snow pants, or gloves your home no longer needs, please consider sending them to me. I also am always looking for pants donations.

I am seeing lots of sick students in my office, if you have any questions about when your student should stay home, please never hesitate to reach out to me.

Wishing you and your family warmth and health,

Nurse Karra

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# Specialist News

## Library with Amy Johnson

February @ Your Library

For February, the genre, or style of writing, of the month is Nonfiction. Nonfiction books are informational books containing facts. Along with learning about nonfiction books, students at various grade levels also will learn how to access information from non-print sources such as online catalogs and encyclopedias, and video recordings.



In addition to studying nonfiction, students at specific grade levels will learn the following in February:

- K- Multimedia viewing with nonfiction video; Fiction versus nonfiction
- 1 - Fiction versus nonfiction; Call numbers
- 2 - Illustration media (collage, photos, watercolors, woodcuts, paint, pen/pencil); Caldecott Medal; Fiction versus nonfiction (emphasis on biographies)
- 3 - Importance of alphabet in library organization; Table of contents and index; Dictionaries; Fiction versus nonfiction; Online resources
- 4 - Online safety and responsibility
- 5 - Online safety and responsibility
- 6 - Online safety and responsibility

Happy Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson, Taku Librarian

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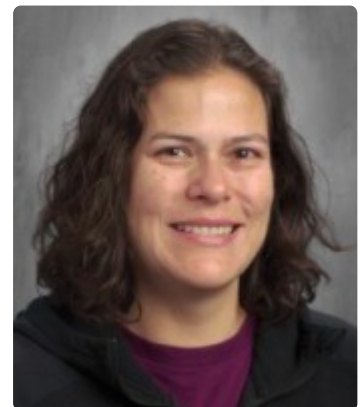
## P.E. with Natalie Washington

Physical Education News:

Welcome back to a new school year! I am looking forward to seeing all your students in Physical Education classes this year!

Coming events:

- Healthy Futures log
  - New logs begin on February 1st.



- Pre-K-4th will be sent home.
- 5-6 will be kept at school.

#### 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](mailto:Washington_natalie@asdk12.org)

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### Health with Katrina Rhodes

Parents or Guardians of 5th and 6th Grade Students:

During the 2nd semester, the Elementary Health curriculum, The Great Body Shop, will cover Human Growth and Development and Diseases.

The 5th grade units are "Growing Up" and "About Blood and Disease."



The 6th grade units are "The Reproductive System" and "HIV/AIDS: What You Need to Know Now."

Lesson topics, student issues, and videos can be viewed here.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zTuTxyXfvva8JXUNPqjgYJgmiVUCp7xS>

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katrina Hill Rhodes

Health/SEL Specialist

[Rhodes\\_katrina@asdk12.org](mailto:Rhodes_katrina@asdk12.org)

A decorative footer featuring a watercolor-style background in shades of blue, green, and yellow. Overlaid on this background is the text "Important Dates" written in a large, white, cursive script font.



**2/8 - Family Night! 5:30 - 7:00**



**Parent Teacher Conferences! 2/21 - 2/22**  
12:30 Dismissal on 2/21 - 2/22,  
and no school for students  
2/23



**2/13 - PTA Meeting**  
Join us at the PTA meeting at  
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm!

Donor Thank You

### CU1 Donation

Huge shoutout to the Alaska Zoo for their generous donation of pop it fidget sensory toys! We're incredibly grateful for your kindness and support in enhancing the sensory experiences of our students.

Thank you, Alaska Zoo, for making a positive impact on the lives of our students! Your generosity is deeply appreciated.



**Student Handbook:** [https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1179/23-24\\_ES-Student-Handbook\\_Accessible.pdf](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/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQD\\_HMwPMg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQD_HMwPMg/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.

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## **Taku Elementary**

**Email:** [takuattendance@asdk12.org](mailto:takuattendance@asdk12.org)

**Website:** <https://www.asdk12.org/taku>

**Location:** [701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK, USA](#)

**Phone:** [907-742-5940](tel:907-742-5940)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/taku365/>



## **Taku Elementary**

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters