

BULLDOG BITES

Nikiski Middle/High School

September 17, 2019

FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

Despite all the uncertainty surrounding our district since the beginning of school, the startup at NMHS has been incredibly smooth as we move into the fall months. The good news is that the district and our unions that support the teachers and support staff have come to a tentative agreement that will prevent any sort of work stoppage this school year. Even better is that we can all move forward and focus in on what and who we are here for: The Students of Nikiski!!

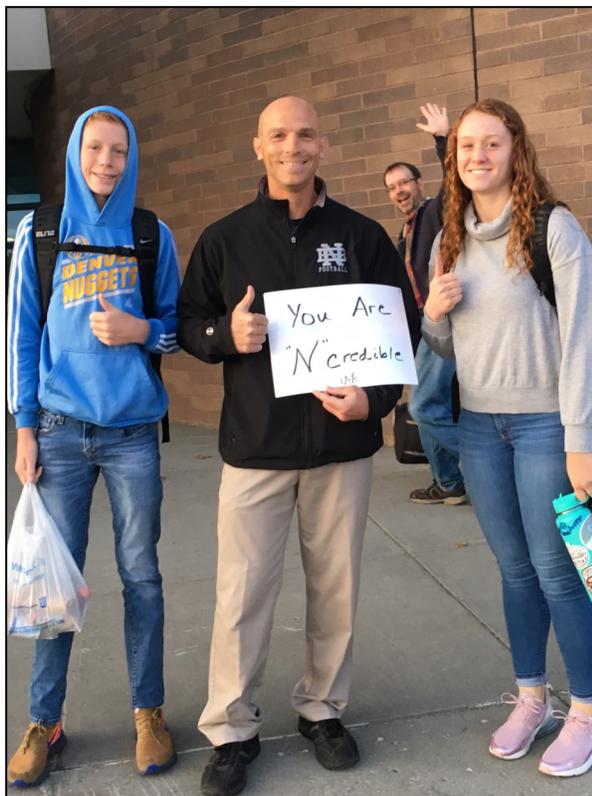
I would like to take some time to recognize a few new people we have on staff this year:

Kara Abel: A 2007 graduate of Nikiski High School, Kara takes over as our high school life science teacher and will have some middle school math classes as well. We are always excited to have home-grown talent come back to our school!

Mark Jurek: After over a decade of teaching in Texas, Mark joins us as our new music teacher. He will be teaching band, choir, guitar and musical theatre.

Sammi O'Reagan: After working in our kitchen for a number of years, Sammi will assume the role of SNS Kitchen Manager. She has always been a big supporter of our school and we're excited to have her on board officially!

My hope is for everyone to have an extremely productive school year filled with positivity and success! Be sure to like our Facebook page to see the many happenings at NMHS. And remember, it's always a good day to be a Bulldog!

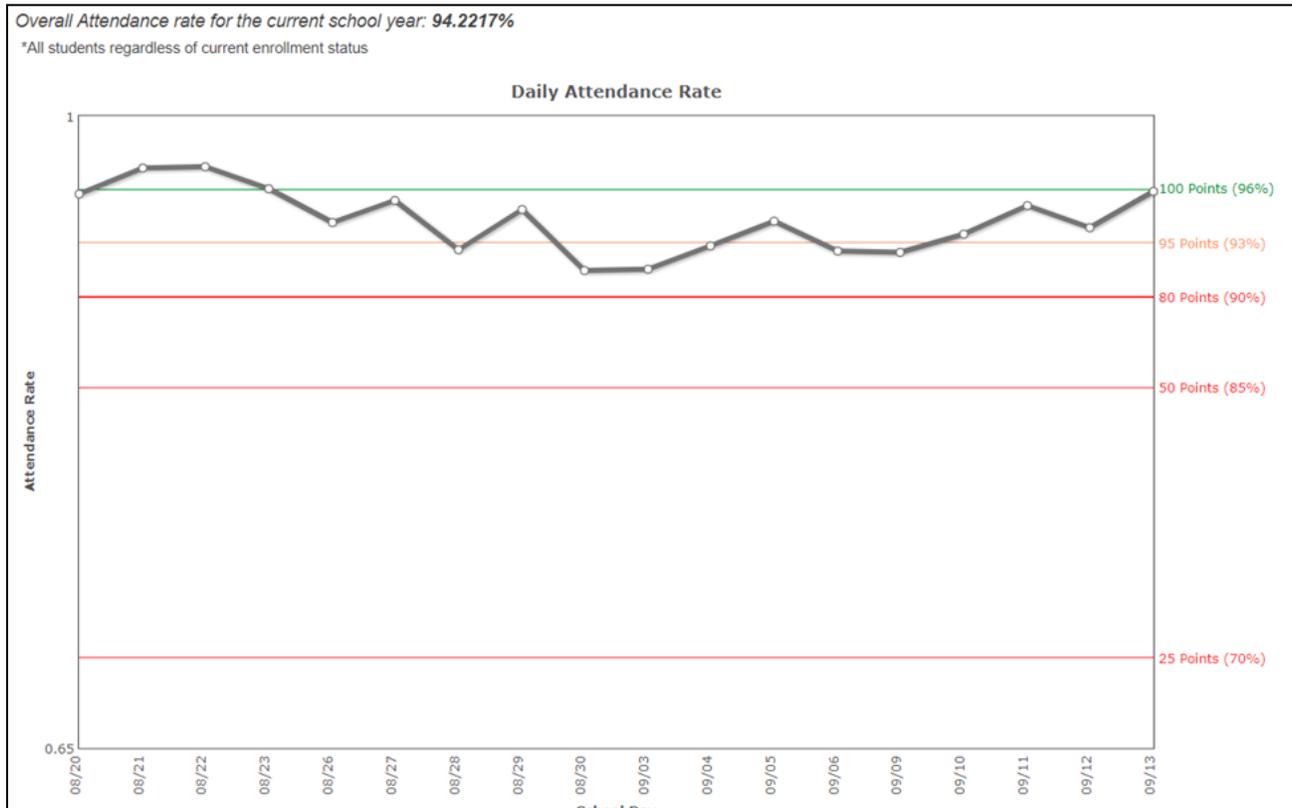


VICE PRINCIPAL—MR. BOSTIC

September is Attendance Awareness Month!

Nikiski Middle High School is off and running with a strong focus on building relationships with students, monitoring individual student growth, and showing a positive school culture. To continue to do these things well, we must focus on a component that will predict success more than any other single variable: Attendance.

Fall 2019-2020 NMHS



So what is the school doing to support students?

In looking at the research on the indicators that have the greatest detriment on student attendance, here is what we are working on at school.

Reliable Transportation

If you have questions about school busing, please contact our front desk for bus routes. We team with Apple Bus to provide dependable and safe busing. 262-4900

Access to Health Care

Ms. Gynes in our nurse's office provides students with first rate care and support. Please contact her with any health related questions or support that you may have.

Proper Nutrition

Ms. Sammi in our school cafeteria serves students breakfast before school and at our extended passing period in the morning as well as a nutritious lunch that involves several choices to meet your student's dietary needs.

Student Activities

Research proves that students in extracurricular activities have better attendance, higher self-esteem, and achieve at rates greater than students who are not involved. NMHS provides many academic, athletic, and social opportunities to get involved. Please contact NMHS athletic/activities director, Mr. Hooper or our counselor, Ms. Lyke for opportunities to get involved.

Cont. on page 3

Academic Support

Academic support is available through Boys and Girls Club, NMHS counseling office, and during student's Bulldog Block.

School-Wide Attendance Plan

In supporting KPBSD Board Policy 5121, Nikiski MS/HS will be closely monitoring student attendance and addressing absences through our I-Team process. Each semester, students that reach 7 or more absences in any class period will be notified through the school office and when absences reach 15, an I-team meeting consisting of the student, parent/guardian and the I-team will convene to discuss possible intervention. Students who reach 15 absences and are unable to meet the expectation of the I-Team will lose High School credit in that class or be recommended for Middle School retention. Please contact Mr. Bostic with any questions concerning the I-Team Process.

A few Tips from: <http://www.attendanceworks.org/>

- Make school attendance a priority.
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.
- Communicate with the school.
- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

MR. HOOPER - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/ HIGH SCHOOL MATH

Bulldog Parents,

Nikiski has hosted the Nikiski Class Races, a Middle School Cross Country Race, Shayna Pritchard Memorial Volleyball Tournament and 2 of our 4 home Football games for the season. It was touch and go with the fire as we rescheduled and juggled many events and practices due to the smoke and travel advisory. Our community adapted well to all of the changes I threw at them and we were able to salvage most of our events and make it as good for kids as possible. Thanks to all of the volunteers that have been helping to make our games, tournaments and races a success. We are looking forward to hosting the Borough Tournament for Middle School Soccer on September 28th. We are also preparing for Homecoming the week of September 30th through October 5th featuring the following events:

Oct 1st at 5:00 Volleyball Vs SoHi

Oct 1st at 6:30 Peach Fuzz Volleyball

Oct 3rd at 6:00 Powder Puff Football

Oct 4th at 4:00 Football Vs Seward

Oct 4th at 6:30 Bonfire

Oct 5th at 8:00 Homecoming Dance

Preparing for the 2019/2020

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES

FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM (NSLP)

Student Programs Applications for 2019/2020 SY

Households with income: Households with income are encouraged to submit a KPBSD Student Programs Application (even if income is over the Income Eligibility Guidelines), because certain Federal programs base funding on the total number of students applying for benefits. Parents can submit an application (one application per household) for their household **BEFORE** school starts - Please allow 10 working days for processing by the Student Nutrition Services Office.

2019/2020 STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (cream with purple printing) will be available for pick-up by August 12, 2019 at all Kenai Peninsula Borough Schools, Public Assistance / Job Service and KPBSD Central Office.

Households receiving Public Assistance Benefits: Households receiving Public Assistance benefits (Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance) **DO NOT** need to fill out a Student Programs Application IF they have received and turned in a School Meals/Direct Certification Notice from Public Assistance. The Department of Education and Public Assistance will coordinate efforts to implement the Categorical Eligibility Process by also sending names of qualifying households directly to KPBSD / Student Nutrition Services (SNS). Once your student's name has been received and processed, SNS will send you a letter notifying you that benefits are available.

30-DAY GRACE MEAL BENEFITS: Students qualifying for free or reduced meal benefits on the last serving day of the 2018-2019 School Year (May 22, 2019) may receive meal benefits for up to the first 30 school days of the 2019/2020 school year (**August 20 – October 1, 2018**). The 30 day grace period allows students to qualify for school meals while their new application, School Meals or Categorical Eligibility Direct Certification Notice is being processed. **NOTE:** If a student changes schools, a delay in receiving 30 day benefit may occur.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES: Elementary breakfast \$2.00 and lunch \$3.00. Middle/High School breakfast \$2.00 and lunch \$3.50. Students qualifying for free/reduced meals, breakfast free and lunch \$.40.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Parents/Guardians/Students

FROM: Kevin Lyon, Planning and Operations Director

DATE: Fall, 2019

SUBJECT: **AHERA School Management Plans**

As mandated by Federal Regulation 40 CFR PART 763, known as AHERA (the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, enacted in 1987), local educational agencies must notify parents/guardians/students in writing each school year about the existence and location of AHERA School Management Plans for each school building within their jurisdiction.

Currently, copies of all AHERA School Management Plans are located at the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's Central Office and at the Kenai Peninsula Borough Maintenance Office. In addition, a copy of the individual AHERA Management Plan for each school is kept on site in the school's administrative office. AHERA Management Plans may be inspected at any of these sites.

Your school, Nikiski Middle/High School, has been inspected for the presence of asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM), and none were found.

If you should have any questions concerning the AHERA School Management Plans or asbestos-related activities, as the designated Local Education Agency's Asbestos Coordinator, I can be contacted at the School District's Central Office or phone (907) 714-8875.

MS. VRANIAK- MS MATH / ALGEBRA /COMPUTER CODING

This is my fourth year teaching at Nikiski Middle High and I'm so glad to be back. This year I am teaching 6th Grade Math, 8th Grade Math, Algebra I, and Intro to Computer Programming. Computer programming has teamed up with Upward Bound to learn some amazing new things. So far, they have built their own Raspberry Pi computers and programmed them to do some basic things. For example, one team just finished a project where they hard wire a button, LED ring and a camera into their motherboard and program it to take a picture when they press the button! Soon they will get into more advanced projects. Another group of our students attended an Upward Bound training this past summer in Fairbanks, where they learned to build and automate a grow tower for lettuce. The Raspberry pi checks automates water levels etc. for the lettuce. They were so amazing that they were asked to lead a group of 30 students in Anchorage in the same activity. Later this month they will travel to Seward to teach them about Raspberry Pis and grow tower construction and automation as well.

I am also the National Honor Society Advisor again, and I am looking forward to a new year full of new service projects! Please contact me at MVraniak@kpbsd.k12.ak.us if you know of any needs in the community, or if you are in need of volunteers for a community event! The NHS members and I would be happy to help! Also, applications for new inductees will be sent out to students who are eligible soon! Be on the lookout for those! I will host an application workshop where students can ask questions about how to fill out their applications and work on their essays.

MRS. JENNESS - HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS/ YEARBOOK

10 Language Arts

Sophomores started the year by learning some procedures such as writing down the word of the day as they come in to class every day. We will be adding in more vocabulary-building strategies throughout the year. In order to work on reading strategies, we will be reading a current news story each week from the website NewsELA. This site allows kids to adjust the reading level to fit their skills and abilities. We took the Reading and Language Arts MAPS test in order to see in which areas students need support. Finally, we started our children's literature unit that will culminate in students writing their own children's books.

11 Language Arts

Juniors started the year with a creative writing project in which they choose a vintage postcard from my collection and will write a story based on it. We read two short stories from the book, "Had a Good Time", in which the author does just that. Students will be practicing their editing skills in order to produce a top-quality final draft.

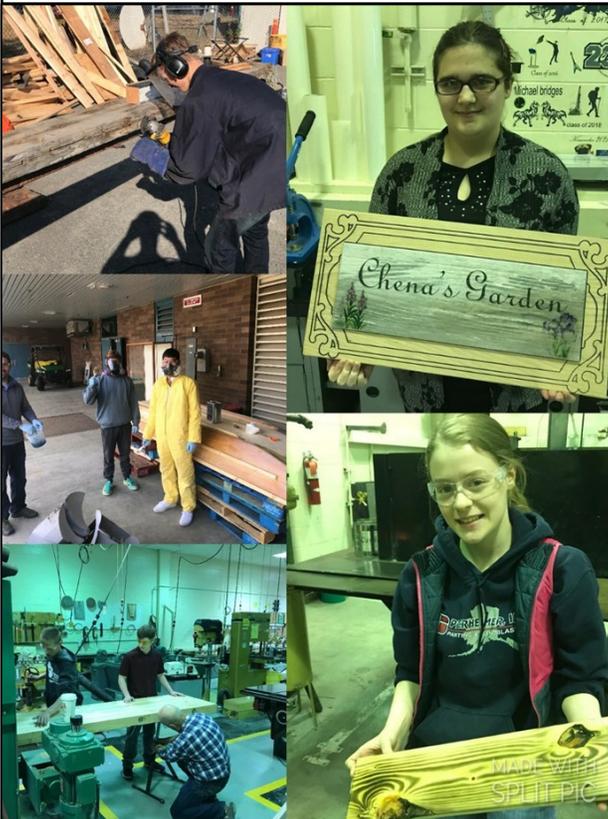
12 Language Arts

Seniors started the year by reading the epic poem, "Beowulf". The LA 12 curriculum is based on British Literature so we will be reading British authors here and there throughout the year. Seniors are now writing their personal essays in order to prepare for post-secondary plans.

YEARBOOK

We have a wonderful yearbook staff this year and they are already hard at work making the best yearbook yet! If you have photos of any school activities, please send them to my email cjenness@kpbsd.k12.ak.us or sign up for ReplayIt, the Jostens photo sharing app. Yearbooks are for sale now on Jostens.com for \$50.

MR. KORNSTAD - CAD - CAM / MIDDLE SCHOOL WELDING



Hello from the Industrial Arts world at Nikiski Middle/High! We are off to an exciting start to the school year. Students in the Cad Cam shop are beginning to create products in the digital world and produce them in the physical. In the Cad Cam class students learn about safety in the shop before they are introduced to two software programs that design various projects to be run on 4 different machines. By the end of first quarter students will become proficient in utilizing some of the basic design tools in Corel Draw and Partworks to create a project on each one of the 4 machines in the shop. Projects created in Partworks will be produced on either the ShopBot or on the Plasma Cam. The ShopBot is a computerized router mounted on a large rectangular table used to engrave, mill and cutout. The plasma cam is a plasma cutter controlled by the computer and mounted to a large square table. It cuts metal designs out of steel and aluminum. Projects created in Corel Draw are produced on either the Versa Cam or on the Laser machine. The Versa Cam is a large printer that prints and cuts out designs on rolls of vinyl up to 28" wide. The Laser machine engraves, etches, burns, and cuts all kinds of materials from paper to plastic to glass to metals. Students are working hard in the shop and enjoying learning employable skills relevant to the 21st century!

MR. DOTH - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE / AERIAL VIDEO

7th and 8th grade science is hitting the ground running with more labs, more excitement, and more energy than ever before. Planes soar from the commons balcony, gummy bears get contorted in saltwater, and parachutes drift endlessly to the floor. And that is just the beginning. With 7th graders starting biology there's much to be expected: Cells, animals, plants, ecosystems, and dissections all await our faithful learners. 8th graders are about to embark on a journey through the world of chemistry. So put on your lab coat and get messy in room 115. We're going to learn about gases and liquids, atoms and electrons, reactions and products, so come ready to learn and have a lot of fun! I am focusing on data analysis this year, along with measurement, as we have learned that our skills in those areas need some honing. Expect a lot of fun with graphing!

Until next time faithful readers: Keep your binders organized and your pencils sharp!

MR. BAILEY - QUEST / MATH COURSE 1

Middle School Quest:

Middle school Quest students are currently working on this year's district "Mind A-Mazes" problem solving challenge – called "Music Mechanism". Using various types of energy sources, teams will design, build, and test a device which performs a chain reaction series of steps in order to play a musical instrument at the end! As every year, "Mind A-Mazes" works on developing students' communication, creativity, and problem solving skills with a 'hands on' competition challenge. Quest students also exercised their creativity by participating in an outdoor photography project where they created individual words using natural materials and perspectives. Critical thinking activities such as divergent thinking challenges and logical reasoning Perplexors also helped get students' brains geared up for a full year of academic challenges ahead!

MRS. COOPER - MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS



Mrs. Cooper's classes have been hard at work already this year. We are getting organized and setting ourselves up for Middle School Success every day.

In our Bulldog Block we even created an interesting flag for Nikiski Survivor!

MR. ANDERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle/High School in Physical Education for grades 6-8. Students have worked on some soccer and also their 1st mile runs of the year. Students have created their run logs and recorded their first two runs of the year. We will be outside as much as possible; students are being reminded to bring a hoodie or light jacket. In the coming weeks students will begin working on basketball skills and activities. We are also doing a variety of team and cooperative games. Students in 8th grade Strength and Conditioning are working hard, getting fit and learning form on lifts and movements .



MS. NIEMCZYK - MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

7th grade:

Hello and welcome to a new school year. These first few weeks of school have flown by and I have enjoyed getting to know each of my students. We are well into our first unit—narrative stories with a focus on Coming of Age. The students are reading a variety of short stories and poems that will help them discover how word choice influences meaning and develops a theme.

Unlike in previous years, students do not have weekly reading logs, unless they are absent from school on a Thur. Instead, we are doing the 25-book challenge this year. We read for a portion of each class and students will be completing an in-class reading log that is specific to the skills/strategy that students is working on. Students do need to be reading at home 2-3 times a week for 25-40 minutes. Please encourage your student to be reading and ask them how they are doing on their book report. Their first quarter book report is due by Oct. 11.

Students are graded on the State standards. Much of their classwork is to allow them to practice the standards and skills being taught with the majority of their grade coming from final essays, projects and reports that let you, your student, and myself know exactly what material/skills have been mastered and which still need practice. This allows for me to ensure that each student works on the skills they need.

The students are finishing their MAP testing (Measures of Academic Progress), that provides a base line or starting point for reading and writing skills. Results are used to help develop and create reading and writing goals for the quarter. This allows me to personalize each student's instruction and ensures that each student is being challenged.

8th Grade:

What a great beginning to the year we have had. The students have dived right in and gotten back into the rhythm of our classroom. Our first unit of study is the Hero's Journey and Archetypes. Students are exploring archetypes that are found in literature regardless of culture or time period. This is an easy unit to hook students into because they all relate to superheroes and quest adventures.

I feel that it is important for students to have as much choice and control in their education as possible. They must always have something that they are reading—a book, magazine, play or poetry. The choice of what to read is up to each student. We are working on reading strategies that evaluate the story in terms of plot, character, and literary devices, as well as using foreshadowing and tone to make predictions. Students do need to be reading at home 2-3 times a week for 25-40 minutes. Please encourage your student to be reading and ask them how they are doing on their book report. First quarter book report due Oct. 10th.

Students are being assessed on the State standards in what is known as standards based grading. Students know that they need to be keeping track of their progress and growth with each standard. Much of their classwork is to allow them to practice the standards and skills being taught with the majority of their grade coming final essays, projects and reports that let you, your student, and myself know exactly what material/skills have been mastered and which still need practice.

MR. HITCHCOCK - MS WORLD HIST./GEOGRPHY/EARTH SCIENCE

Things are off and running for the school year! Earth Science has been exploring the scientific method through observation, practice, and application. They finished their team Bridge Design Challenge and it was a great start to that program. World History is navigating their way through early human discoveries and artifacts. They are just starting their personal artifact project that will apply concepts explored in class and introduce archaeological exercises. Finally, in Geography, student will be looking to put their map skills and understanding to the test by creating their own country and placing it amongst the current Earth.

MR. NELSON - PHYSICAL TRAINING / LIFE ACTIVITIES/ FOODS

Hello from the world of health and fitness! It's been a good start to the semester, and it's shaping up to be a great year.

Physical Training has been learning a lot about fitness principles and have just set their goals for the semester. Personal fitness plans have been created and next week we start putting those plans into action!

Life Activities started with ultimate Frisbee. The kids had a lot of fun with that, and next week we transition into badminton. Maybe we'll develop and Olympian or two!

Foods and Nutrition gets better every day and we are usually in the kitchen two days a week. We have made smoothies, learned how to cook eggs a variety of ways, including quiche, and baked a couple different kinds of cookies. Ask your kids to show you what they've learned!

MR. JUREK - BAND / CHOIR / GUITAR

Hello and welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I'm so excited for what this year will bring! This year we are offering several music classes for students including choir, band and guitar. In each class we are learning and reviewing the fundamentals of music reading and working on the fundamental skills that you need as a performer. I am looking forward to the fall as we start moving forward and doing some concerts within the community with each of the classes.

We have started off quickly this fall with the high school choir auditions for Honor Choir, which will be October 20-21st and All-State Choir/Band which will be November 21-23 in Anchorage. I am excited for the students who submitted recordings and look forward to the performances.

We will also have our Winter Concert Festival in December for all of our musical groups.

Our fall fundraiser has started and will be continuing until September 23, so please be on the look for the order forms and catalogs. I will also be sending home order forms for our Music Performance t-shirts later this month.

Let's go Bulldogs!

MS. BOYLE - INTERVENTION / DANCE / CREDIT RECOVERY

This is such a fun class because we are learning about several different dance and movement styles. We just finished learning choreography to a classic Elvis Presley song, "Jailhouse Rock." Performance opportunities allow students to show what they have learned in a low-pressure setting supported by their peers.

Through dance, students learn teamwork, focus, and improvisational skills. Dance awakens new perceptions, which help them learn and think in new ways. Students need to express and communicate their ideas and to be given the chance to make creative decisions. Dance involves a greater range of motion, coordination, strength and endurance than most other physical activities. This is accomplished through movement patterns that teach coordination and kinesthetic memory. Dancing utilizes the entire body and is an excellent form of exercise for total body fitness. We also do Pound fitness, which is a combination of cardio, rhythmic and weight training exercises done with drumsticks. Zumba, Zumba Toning, Step aerobics, Pilates, resistance training, Reb3l Groove, and a number of other programs also allow students to try new things and be exposed to fitness programs they may want to continue on with after high school as an instructor or participant. We talk about being healthy and taking care of ourselves, working together as partners in dance and will later address the aesthetics aspects of performing, i.e. lighting, costumes, etc.

MS. WIDMAN - ART / DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Art at Niksiki Middle High is in full swing. Classes are busy creating mandalas based off Tibetan sand mandalas. They are researching other cultures that use symbolism to help them create their own version of the craft. Digital Photography is going through the principles and elements of design and capturing unique views of everyday objects. Additionally, they have created their own video guides on what makes a good photograph! Sculpture classes have been working through the joys and frustrations of carving soap as they learn about Inuit soapstone carving. I am looking forward to lots of discoveries and collaborations this year.



MRS. NICHOLS - INTENSIVE NEEDS



I had a great first summer here in Alaska. In May we made the final move from Texas and spent some great family time together with the kiddos. There is a lot of excitement in the air here at Nikiski Middle High School and we are pumped and ready!

The students will be working on setting personal goals, determining if they met those goals, and what helped or inhibited them in achieving those goals. They will also be working on building skills needed as they grow into young adults. There isn't a mountain too tall for this Class. We are going to achieve great things this year.

Woop Woop! Here we come 2019-2020 School Year!! ~ Nichols

MR. ERNST - STUDY SKILLS / LANGUAGE ARTS / LIFE SCIENCE

Alternative Algebra, 2nd hour:

Dylan Hooper and I teach this standards based math course. This year we are employing a new computer based math platform called "ALEK". This program actively assesses the student's mastery of Alaska state mathematical standards and provides exercises tailored to each student's changing level of ability. The freshman that we have this year are doing a fantastic job producing evidence of their mastery of the state standards in mathematics. It looks like some of them will move through our whole Algebra Readiness curriculum and begin to do Algebra I early

Study Skills, 3rd & 6th hour:

My Study Skills students are working hard every class to keep their grades up and find academic success in school. Families can keep up to date on the progress of the classes of their children by using PowerSchool or Canvas on their home computers.

Alternative LA 9 ~ Alternative Life Science, 4th & 5th hour:

This is a great hybrid class for freshman that combines the skills of writing and close reading that are the subject of language arts with the scientific information and investigative skills of life science. We are working on developing vocabulary knowledge to enhance close reading while learning how to write in a variety of forms and for many purposes. This quarter we have been working on language arts standards and skills in reading and writing. Currently we are working on the writing summaries of articles selected by me from NewsELA in LA 9 and in Life Science we are finishing up a field taxonomy of local flora. NewsELA is another great computer-based source for current events and news which can be customized to each student's reading (Lexile) level.

MRS ABEL- HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE / MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

Hello!

I just want to say first how excited I am to be working with your students this year. We have got off to a great start and I've had a wonderful time getting to know the kids.

In Course 2 math we have been busy exploring order of operations and algebraic expressions. Math students should expect to have homework most nights – practice is the key!

In Earth Science class we have been enjoying the fall weather during our geo-cache excursions where we use GPS location to go on a real treasure hunt! We have some excellent cache hunters in class and we even solved the riddle to find the coveted "Mouse House" multi-cache.

Life sciences are gearing up to head into studying about the cell. Ask your kids in a few weeks what the golgi apparatus does!



MRS. BARROWS - MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS / READING

Language Arts Fundamentals:

Students in Language Arts Fundamentals are off to a great year! We just completed testing to be sure they all have been placed into the correct class. Language Arts Fundamentals is designed to help students who may struggle in either reading or writing to improve their skills before they get to high school. We have begun working through the curriculum and finished getting all of the baseline data that will be used to assess their progress as we progress through the year. For this class, students **will not** regularly have homework. However, it is important that they are reading at home each day!

Study Skills:

Students in Study Skills classes have made goals for progress they would like to make this year. We are beginning assignments to work toward those goals during the time when they do not have other assignments to be working on. We have been hard at work!

Let's make this year great together!

MR. JACKSON - HIGH SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS / LANGUAGE ARTS

At this time, just like every generation before, it continues to be important to be a proficient reader and writer. It seems as though every year the powers that be scrutinize our student's scores, only to point their finger and say enough is being done to teach these areas. My goal is to start to turn that ship around by focusing on reading, writing, and vocabulary building in LA10. We are going to spend every week of this year in 3rd hour English working on reading, and understanding what we're reading through current events in (News English Language Arts) NEWSELA. Along with that we are going to write about what we've read give our opinions and use supporting evidence to back up our opinions with what we've read in the article. We will spend time looking at different idioms that are used within the English language what they figuratively mean as well as the origination of where that specific idiom came from.

Another important aspect to becoming a proficient reader and writer is to increase your vocabulary skills. It is important to me that each student have the option to pick words that they currently do not know. So they will be picking words from the news article to use for their weekly vocabulary words. By allowing students to pick their own words I believe it will make it more interesting for them, give them a sense of ownership, and be one way of individualizing their education.

Ultimately the goal for me for this LA 10 class is to build relationships and let them know they can be vulnerable. If they don't understand something I want them to be able to come and tell me they don't understand, but the end goal will always be to make each a better reader and writer than they currently are.

MRS. SINGER - SPANISH 1 & 2

Spanish I and Spanish II are starting the year with lots of activities and conversations relating to the Hispanic world and Spanish language. The Spanish I class now knows how to greet someone and express their likes and dislikes in Spanish. Ask them to speak Spanish with you! These muchachos can carry on a good ten-minute conversation. Spanish II is continuing their discovery of Spanish verbs and exploring present and past tense conjugations. The students are also learning about Latino cultural events, such as the Quinceanera. Their newest vocabulary unit is on food. I cannot wait to see all of the brilliant Spanish conversations these students will have this coming year!

MRS. ZIMMERMAN - MS SOCIAL STUDIES / LANGUAGE ARTS

I am very excited about this school year. This is the beginning of my 29th year of teaching in the KPBSD. This is my ninth year at NMHS. I truly love it here!

In **6th grade Language Arts**, your student will complete a weekly Reading Log in class. If students do not finish their Reading Logs in class, they must go home so students can complete them. Work time is given in class. If a student does not finish the assignment in the allotted time, it is due at the beginning of class the following day. Students are to write the due date at the top of the log to keep things straight. Students are **REQUIRED** to read for 50 minutes each week and log their minutes along with reacting or summarizing what they have read. I will be providing a writing prompt in order to focus students as they read. Every morning your student comes into my classroom; s/he is required to fill out their daily planners which are graded weekly on Fridays. The information they need is on the board all week. Students are presented a lesson on a particular part of speech or grammar rule, then complete a Grammar Handbook with a definition and example. This is an activity done *IN CLASS*. Students are then given a worksheet as independent practice on whatever lesson was presented for the day. Students are also required to check their grades every Friday and record them into their planners. This quarter in writing workshop, our focus is writing *narratives*. Ask your student for his/her schedule if you do not already have it! If you do NOT have your parent code for POWER SCHOOL, call the office. Power School is a powerful tool and is full of useful information for parents and students. You can set Power School up so you received a weekly or daily email with your child's grades. If you are not familiar with Power School, have your son or daughter show you how to navigate it. I've also posted as much as I can on Power School for parents and students as well as in Canvas for students. I emailed each one of my classes a step by step set of directions on how to print from Power School. I am looking forward to a great year!

MS Student Council, we are preparing for a fun year! Oct. 7-11 is our first Spirit Week. Oct. 7: PJ Day, Oct. 8: Twin Tuesday, Oct. 9: International Day (dress in the colors of a country flag), Oct. 10: Throwback Thursday (dress up in whatever decade you'd like). October 11 is our FIRST middle school dance. I am looking for two parent chaperones who are KPBSD volunteer approved. The theme is costume dance. Chaperones are asked to judge the costumes. October 16 is DRESS IN PINK in honor of those who have had or currently have breast cancer! These students are excited to spread a little sunshine in our school!

6th grade Geography: Every week your student completes two daily geography questions which are due on Fridays. We also go over the continent study guide in class so students have the information discussed in class to study for the test. We are wrapping up our North America unit which means the North America continent map is due (100 points), the North America KUD is due on the day of the test which is Thursday, September 19. Please check Power School for your child's grades.

8th grade American History: When your student comes into class, they are required to fill out their planners. Each day in American History, students watch a video connected with the day's reading. We review the captions and questions for the day's reading assignment, then students have an opportunity to get a jump start on their work generally 30-40 minutes of class time. Work not completed in class needs to be finished as homework and handed in the next day. We correct our assignments in class, so students can understand the information better. These assignments entail reading a section and filling out a T-chart to organize the answers to the section questions as well as filling out their KUD which is vocabulary. Section assessments and Topic Assessments (Chapter reviews) are started in class. Assignments and handouts can be found on Power School AND on Canvas. ***KUD's along with section assessments and the Topic Assessment will be handed in the day of the test.*** The Topic 1 TEST is scheduled for September 17.

If you are going on vacation, your student needs to pick up a **PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCE FORM** at the office. Students then take the form to each teacher and teachers write down what is expected of the student while gone. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them with me immediately. DO NOT wait to address a concern. I am looking forward to a great year!



**2019
X-Country
Team**



MR. PORTER - HIGH SCHOOL MATH / WOODSHOP

This year has started with some great things in math and in the shop. Despite this looming cloud called a strike, the students for the most part have come ready to learn. In construction class, the difficulty is with trying to keep every student busy and learning. This year, we decided to break up the kids into 3 groups. The “Greenhouse” group, the “Shed” group and the “Bench” group. Kids are learning how to frame and build trusses. In Woods, most kids are finishing their cheese boards and are starting in on more exciting things like lathe products and phone amplifiers.

Math this year is going so well I almost do not want to say it aloud. The kids are interested and engaged. My geometry students are genuinely excited to learn, even if they do not like to admit it. Calculus has a relaxed and diligent atmosphere. I expect great things from them this year!

Volleyball team
at the
Homer
Jamboree



MR. RIZZO - LANGUAGE ARTS/PERSONAL FINANCE/GOVERNMENT

The year is starting off with great promise. In 9th grade English, we are learning how to write based on a six trait rubric so students can judge their own writing and know how to improve it. Both honors English classes are honing their analytical skills as we study great films and literature. The sophomores are studying the film, Citizen Kane, ranked as the greatest film ever made by the American Film Institute. The freshmen honors group is reading excerpts from Robert Fulghum’s number one best seller, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. Pictured is a class exercise in communication and interpretation with the aid of a hundred different color crayons.



MRS. HORNUNG - HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE / MATH COURSE 1 & 2

FOUR REASONS TO CELEBRATE

Reason 1:

Last spring the 10th grade took the Science PEAKS test and rocked it! Nikiski High School scored better on this assessment than any other school in the district! Great job kids! Thank you for setting the bar good and high for this year.

Reason 2:

Sixth grade students in math last week aced the first real quiz of the year. Almost everyone got a 100% on the exponent quiz. WooHoo 6th grade!

Reason 3:

Physics students made it through the dreaded “math review” and are now happily applying math to the world around them. Currently, they are working on making sense of one dimensional motion and exploring all the ways to make walking from point A to point B complicated!

Reason 4:

STEM students love coding and engineering so much that some of them spent 6 weeks of their precious summer learning how many sweet things can be done with a Raspberry Pi. They were such rock stars in Fairbanks that we are taking the show on the road to Seward where our Nikiski students will be teaching a group of Seward students some the sweet things that can be done with a Raspberry Pi.



Nikiski Football

MS. LYKE - SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Karen Taylor subbing in for Nicole Lyke in the counseling department

The 2019-2020 school year has begun with a flurry of activity that has included registration of students, the 6th-grade Ice Cream Social, Open House, Freshman Transition Night, Senior Parent Night, and a number of grade-level presentations during Bulldog Block Homeroom introducing students to the counseling department and resources. Several students have registered for the ACT or the SAT.

As an outsider in a school far removed from those where I taught until retirement, I have witnessed a caring and nurturing of staff for the students at Nikiski Middle/High that result in an outpouring of resources where and when the need is known. The intervention team, grade-level staff meetings, even some lunch meetings are centered on providing solutions and support for students who are struggling. As we move into September, there are planned meetings to continue this support for students heading out into the workforce, to a vocational learning experience or to a college or university.

MRS. GRENIER - STUDENT SUCCESS LIAISON

Hello Nikiski families,

I made it back to NMHS and I am so glad to be here with this awesome group of students and staff! We have 184 students enrolled in high school and 51 of them are taking at least one online class. That equates to 27% of our students! We have kids studying every subject offered by the district, including keyboarding. While online learning comes with certain challenges, it offers our school flexibility in scheduling and course options. It also gives our students the option to learn about how to successfully navigate an online format. One way or the other, many of us will experience some form of online training in our future and teaching our kids to be self-advocate, time manage and stay motivated are essential for their futures.

Jumpstart is another route some of our students are using in online education. Kenai Peninsula College offers high school students college courses at reduced rates and often times kids can receive dual credit for both high school and college. We have students taking Calculus, US history, College Algebra and Communications all for college credit! It's an awesome opportunity for a highly motivated student to get a head start on post-secondary education but also to allows them to see what a college course is like while still being supported.

Job shadowing is just beginning as our seniors and juniors are settling into the new year and we will kick off this year's Workforce Wednesday with our borough mayor, Mr. Charlie Pierce on September 25th! There are already some very exciting presenters coming to share their workforce experience with our kids. Please encourage your kids to come! There will also be many new learning experiences for our early release days this year. Please check out our Facebook page to find out the latest exciting news here at NMHS!

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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
NIKISKI MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

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Nikiski, AK 99635

PRESORTED STANDARD

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KENAI, AK 99611

NON-PROFIT

PERMIT NO. 23



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18 Early Release - Students released at 12:45 PM

Site Council - 4:00 PM

September 23

High School Eligibility

Financial Aid Information Night - 7:00 PM

High School Homecoming Week - September 30 - October 5

Tuesday, October 1

Volleyball vs. Soldotna - C Team 3:00 / JV 4:00 / Varsity 5:00

Peach Fuzz Volleyball - 6:30 PM

Thursday, October 3

Powder Puff Football - 6:00 PM

Friday, October 4

Football vs. Seward - 4:00 PM

Bonfire - 6:30 PM

Saturday, October 5

Homecoming Dance - 8:00 PM