

BULLDOG BITES

Nikiski Middle/High School

December 12, 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL - MR. CARSTENS

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas outside and inside our school,
In fact, you will probably see many of our kids hanging at the pool;
Imagining that they are in the tropics and 90 degree days,
While trying to avoid the bite of that cold winter haze.

Our staff has dedicated another semester to our kids,
Trying to impart knowledge and understanding under their lids;
They are all looking forward to the wonderful Christmas break,
Hoping they can fish, snow machine, or skate on the lake.

Activities and sports for some are winding down,
It is sure for some to bring quite the frown;
But when they start to think what will happen this Christmas morn,
Family, friends, fun, and food...will make them no more forlorn.

Finally my bulldog friends and families,
This winter time rest will put the stress to ease;
So have a Happy Christmas with trimmings and lights,
And may all of these busy days turn into restful
nights.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dan Carstens
Principal



VICE PRINCIPAL - MR. BOSTIC

As the sun rises just over the horizon and snow begins to blanket the countryside, it is a perfect time to reflect upon the success and celebration that has been bestowed upon Nikiski Middle/High School. Each day brings the little celebrations of holding a door open, greeting a stranger in the hallway, telling someone that they look nice, and smiling just because. These little celebrations build the cultural components of compassion, integrity, courage, respect, and happiness. A positive culture builds success, prosperity, and harmony. We at Nikiski MS/HS would like you to know what our culture has built:



- ◆ Middle School Knitting Club provided the Nikiski Senior Center over 40 blankets to distribute during the Christmas Season
- ◆ High School Foods Class made 86 pies and 52 Loaves of Bread for the Nikiski Neighbors Food Baskets.
- ◆ 10 students from the Outdoor Education Class earned their Hunters Safety Certification
- ◆ 191 students on the 1st Quarter Honor Roll
- ◆ A Football team that earned the Highest Combined GPA for Small School Football
- ◆ 42 students with Perfect Attendance
- ◆ National Honor Society inducted 10 new members.
- ◆ A Speed/Strength Training Team that showed positive support for competitors from other schools.
- ◆ Local Businesses that support our Extra Curricular Activities to provide learning opportunities for NMHS Students.

I am confident that we all could add even more great accomplishments that are a result of our positive school culture. Thank you for your support and trust. May your holiday season be blessed with family and friends and filled with wonderful memories.

Shane L Bostic

SEMESTER TESTING SCHEDULE

Monday, December 15th - Regular Monday Schedule

Tuesday, December 16th – Regular Tuesday Block Schedule – Testing in Periods 1 & 4

Wednesday, December 17th – Regular Wednesday Block Schedule – Testing in Periods 2 & 6

Thursday, December 18th – See schedule below: Testing in Periods 3 & 7

1st hour 7:40-8:55

3rd Hour 9:00-10:15

7th Hour 10:30-11:45

5th MS Lunch / HS BDB 11:45-12:15

5th HS Lunch / MS BDB 12:20-12:50

4th Hour 12:55-1:20

Faculty Christmas Show – 1:25-2:15

School Safety Closure or Delay Start information

Parents and guardians, school safety is a top priority in the KPBSD. It's important for you to know what to do before, during, and after a school emergency, weather related delay start, or school closure. Please visit this webpage to familiarize yourself with A.L.I.C.E., KPBSD emergency terms and actions, and how to learn if there will be a two-hour delay start or school closure. <http://bit.ly/EmergencyInformationKPBSD>

► If school remains open due to adverse weather, and you as a parent or guardian assess the conditions in your local area and decide to keep children home, please call the school to let the office know. An absence due to road and weather conditions will be excused.

MR. BAILEY - QUEST & 7th Grade Social Studies

Nikiski Middle Quest & 7th History:

Nikiski Middle Quest students have been working on a variety of projects and challenges over the past quarter, some requiring hands-on problem solving, others requiring creative expression, and still others challenging students' higher level thinking skills. 'Paper Roller Coaster' projects require students to construct various elements for their coaster design (utilizing paper and tape), and to assemble the required components in an organized, systematic, and creative design. What angle and speed is necessary for a marble to successfully complete the course elements? The hands-on problem solving students explore with this project is constantly in flux, as the designs get more and more intricate. Several students chose to also participate in the 'Doodle for Google' creative expression challenge, which this year asks students to design their doodle around the theme 'What Makes Me...Me'. Groups participated in several sessions of debate topic brainstorming and sharing their differing opinions on a wide variety of local, state, or global issues. The higher-level thinking skills associated with being able to see multiple sides to an issue and to present ones opinions clearly and persuasively will continue to be explored as the year progresses. In addition to these challenges, other students have also worked to complete high level mathematic puzzles (Hidokus), explore a foreign language, and write rough drafts for creative writing competitions such as the FPS (Future Problem Solving) future scenario story contest.

7th grade social studies (history) continued their exploration of ancient civilizations during the 2nd quarter, moving from the pyramids and mummies of Ancient Egypt and Nubia, to the history and Judaism religion associated with Jewish culture, and finally to the culture and civilizations of ancient India! Learning about why civilizations emerged in certain geographic regions of the world, what customs and practices the people had in these different areas, and what differences and similarities existed between these various groups are all key principles focused on throughout 7th grade history. The class also enjoys spending some class time periodically discussing current events that have come up in the news! Have a great holiday season and a great start to 2016!

MRS. BARROWS - MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE

Hello and Merry Christmas! Students in my Language Arts Fundamentals classes continue to work on building reading and writing skills in order to bring their scores nearer the district average. We just finished reading the book "Princess Academy" by Shannon Hale. This book had a very slow beginning but by the time we got to the end the students couldn't wait to hear what happened next. These students are working on a book report with this book to turn in both in LA Fundamentals and Language Arts. They have been working hard and are very deserving of this 2 week break!

MR. JACKSON - MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

Students in Math Fundamentals are slowly, but surely, making gains in their personal math journey. Daily I watch individuals struggling with a concept and work their way through it. The struggle is real to each of them, and often time they look at it as unsurmountable, but just like a mountaineer climbing to the peak, these young people are taking one step after another to make gains. They are each working slowly toward the top of their personal math mountain. One small step each day is proving that come January, each should see improvement in their math abilities. I'm thankful to be working with this group of students, they work hard, know what is expected, and are willing to ask for help when they are stuck trying to learn. They each are showing real growth in taking responsibility for their own learning.

MRS. FOWLER - INTENSIVE NEEDS

Our class continues working at Nikiski North Star and taking our weekly outings to assist Pathways with grocery shopping. This quarter we visited the Kenai Visitor's Center to see the Gingerbread House Exhibit. We will be snow shoeing and cross country skiing. (We hope for lots of snow!) Many of the students have learned new jobs around the building, including sorting mail and loading the vending machines. We look forward to teaching even more jobs as the year goes on!

Wilson Mooney visits the Gingerbread House Exhibit with his class



MRS. HORNUNG - SIXTH GRADE

What to do about the mid-school year blahs!

The newness of school has worn off and even the best students are beginning to get in a rut. They're tired of getting up early, they put off their homework until the last possible moment, and when asked what they learned each day, the answer is always "nothing." What can you do about it? Here are a few ideas that may help.

Stay involved with their education. Ask them for KUD's. KUD stands for know, understand and do. These are documents that I give them which explain exactly what we plan to learn and what they will be tested over. Once you know what we're working on you can find ways to apply what we're doing in class at home.

Check PowerSchool often. I try to post assignments and tests early so that you and your student know about important due dates. For my math classes, you can find standards we are working on and rubric scores to track your student's progress towards proficiency on those standards.

Send me an email if something doesn't make sense. I check my email many times a day and can usually get back to you very quickly.

Visit our classroom. I welcome guest speakers. If you work in a science field or use mathematics every day, I'd love to have you share your experience with my class.

MRS. ZIMMERMAN - SIXTH GRADE

6th LANGUAGE ARTS: Most students are finished with their practice informative essay. Please talk to your student about this essay. The second Common Quarter Assessment (CQA) is coming up soon and students need to practice what they will be doing. Our focus is on quality writing! We use the 6 traits of writing: ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. This quarter, students have started Daily Oral Language (DOL) which gives students practice on grammar skills, sentence structure, mechanics and usage. Students have also started a Spelling Word of the Day (SWOTD), I have taken 200 of the most commonly misspelled words to use in this program. **Second quarter book reports are DUE on December 8.** Make sure you ask your student for the Monday newsletter that goes home with your student. This newsletter can also be found on Power School.

6th SOCIAL STUDIES: We continue learning about current events through our Jr. Scholastic. We have started learning about the continent of Asia and will be taking the final test **before** Christmas vacation.

7th LANGUAGE ARTS: Students have been preparing for their second quarter writing assessment! Our focus is on quality writing! We use the 6 traits of writing: ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. We have read the short story "The Most Dangerous Game" in class and have been trying to dig deeper into this story. **Second quarter book reports are DUE on December 8.** Make sure you ask your student for the Monday newsletter that goes home with your student. This newsletter can also be found on Power School.

POWER SCHOOL: If you do not know your access code or are having problems with Power School, PLEASE call the front office at 776-9400 to get the necessary information you need! **STUDENT of the WEEK:** Mrs. Hornung and I continue with our Student of the Week recognition program in the 6th and 7th grade. We hope to honor those students who are showing good character, working hard, staying on top of their work and going above and beyond general expectations. **Have a very blessed and safe holiday season with your family!**

MR. ANDERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL PE

Students have recently studied fundamentals of strength training and some basic basketball skills. On Mondays we are continuing the weekly mile run and many personal records are being beaten. Students are keeping a record of all their miles on a log. This month there is an emphasis on ultimate frisbee. Most students are doing a good job of bringing their PE clothes and athletic shoes every day. Keep up the good work. Happy Holidays!

MR. DOTH - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

Hello readers, middle school science is going crazy with engineering challenges, ecological relationships, predator prey, and soon, the most ultimate force lab ever created by mankind. Alright, maybe not that great, but really cool nonetheless. In collaboration with Mrs. Hornung, we have developed a way of teaching real life engineering practices in a classroom setting. We are proud to have our kids working as small engineering firms to complete a task for me the client (and CEO of everything). They get a real budget with fake monies that they can distribute, use, lend, or burn if they so choose. This money is used to buy supplies for the creation of their glider, or tower, or car, etc. The team with the best product and most money left over, wins. Engineering teams are collaborating, working together, learning, and solving real world problems like we've never seen before. Our middle school science department is onto something here folks. More to come on that.

Our new force lab will require us to revive some technology that dates back to the first peoples on earth. The atl atl (or throwing stick) is a tool used by early, paleo-hunters to maximize the force applied to a spear or dart. The physics of this amazing tool is astounding and the kids are really excited to see it in action. Right now we are building the throwing sticks and preparing the experiment. As this project evolves, we will keep you posted. But know this faithful readers, we will be very safe and scientific in our quest for more physics knowledge. Here's our trailer for the ultimate force lab: it may involve ballistics gel, real caribou hides, 8 foot long spears, and a working model of a traditional atl atl last used over 600 years ago! Again, there's more to come in B113.

MR. BJORKMAN - MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

7th Grade Ancient World History and Geography: Recently our class has been studying the significance and similarities between the ancient cultures of the near and far east. Students have been exploring the technological and cultural advances of the ancient Indus River Valley civilizations, India and China and their lasting effects on modern culture and civilization.

8th Grade US History: Currently we are studying the events that lead to the American Revolution. Students are considering the proper role of government, direct action and importance of knowing and exercising a citizen's rights.

9th Grade AK History: Students are exploring Alaska's more recent past: how our state government was formed, the relationship between the state and federal government and how our state government operates.

11th Grade US History: At present students are continuing to discover events surrounding the Gilded Age and how those events have shaped modern culture and serve as example for current events. They are exploring complex issues like monetary policy, corporate and political graft, trusts, civil rights, technological advances and much more.

Bulldog Block: Students are continuing to use this period of time to work on projects and complete homework. Often students are able to seek out teachers for extra help and to make up assignments from when they were absent.

MS. NIEMCZYK - MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade Language Arts: Second Quarter has flown by! Our second quarter common writing assessment will focus on informational writing using the short story "The Most Dangerous Game". We have spent a good deal of time this quarter working on fundamental writing skills—particularly sentence combining. Students are learning how to annotate a piece of writing for important information, events and to discover theme. Going back into a story to find details and evidence is something we began focusing on this quarter and will be important for the remainder of the year. Students should be reading at least 3 times a week at home so if they are not, encourage them to. When we come back in January, we will begin a unit on Persuasion/Argumentation. I hope you all have a wonderful winter break.

8th Grade Language Arts: Right now we are in finishing up our dystopian unit. Students read one of seven possible dystopian novels: *The Giver*, *The Book Thief*, *Ender's Game*, *The Uglies*, *Among the Hidden*, *The Maze Runner*, or *Legend*. They worked in literature circle groups to explore the idea of utopia, conformity, and the hero's journey. This unit has four main objectives. The first two are content related: analyze literature with a focus on themes and symbols, and write an essay that explains the relationship between events and themes. The second two objectives are just as (if not more) important: time management and interpersonal skills. Students are responsible for completing a variety of assignments and tasks individually and in small groups by a set date. Groups determined their reading schedule and Community Creation project. I am providing guidance and accountability checks but have left many of the decisions up to the individual groups. It is a great learning opportunity for the students and allows them to tackle new and challenging material/concepts using their individual learning preferences. There is more homework this quarter than last so if you are not seeing your student reading more at home, ask them about it.

9th Grade Language Arts: Students have spent this entire first semester working on their *Odyssey* unit although the focus each quarter was different. We have looked at figurative language, the Hero's Journey, narrative elements, and text structures. Time management is an essential skill for freshmen to master and this unit has provided multiple opportunities for this. Students should always be reading a book of their own choosing and have reading letters due every two to three weeks, so if your student is not reading at home 3-4 times a week, please encourage them to do so.

MR. HOOPER - ALTHETIC DIRECTOR

It is an exciting time of year for many of our student athletes. Both our boys and girls middle school basketball team are entering the borough tournament this week. Our high school wrestling team is competing in the Kachemak Conference Tournament in Homer this weekend and will be at state Dec 18 and 19. Our Skiers are hoping for some fresh snow to ski on. And last but not least our high school basketball teams have started their seasons and are preparing for their holiday tournaments. The girls will be playing in the Kenai River Challenge on Dec 17-19 and the boy will be playing in the Makahiki Hou Invitational in Hawaii the week after Christmas.

MRS. JENNESS - LA/YEARBOOK

Memories make the best Christmas gift! The Nikiski High School Silver Scribe yearbook is still on sale at a discounted price. \$55 will buy your student 120 full-color pages commemorating this school year in all its glory! Go to jostensyearbooks.com to buy yours today.

MRS. BROWN - MS/HS MATH

I am feeling blessed that I have such a wonderful group of students to work with this school year. I am feeling blessed that I have so many students come to class each day eager to learn and willing to help each other. I am feeling blessed to have so many students' parents that communicate with me about their children's progress. I am feeling blessed to have such caring colleagues to work beside. I am feeling blessed to have such amazing new staff members who have joined our team in the past couple years. I am feeling blessed to have a long winter break ahead of us all to spend some good quality time with our family members and friends. I hope you all have a blessed holiday.

MS. DILLON - CHOIR/BAND

Hello Music Lovers!

This year so far our students have put on two remarkable concerts and grown so much! I love seeing what a team our music ensembles have become and I love the support I am feeling from students, their families, and the school community as we grow this music program! Thank you so much!

Our Winter Concert on December 10th was more wonderful than I could have hoped! The students brought their best behavior, their best singing and playing and I couldn't have wished for a better audience! This was truly a professional level event!

Our fundraisers this year are going well! We are about 2/3 of our way to our goal of purchasing new school uniforms! Starting this January we will try to push through to finish raising the money and have our uniforms before our district festivals and our Q3 concert.

Coming up this quarter we have High School Mass Choir at Kenai High School on February 8 and 9, and March 1st in our auditorium is our Spring Concert. In addition to these performances, we have another movie night coming up January 21st from 6-8 in the choir room! All music students and their families are welcome to attend!



I am looking forward to this coming semester, making beautiful music with these wonderful students, and seeing you at our upcoming performances. Thank you for a wonderful, musical, and exciting semester!

Have a wonderfully musical day!

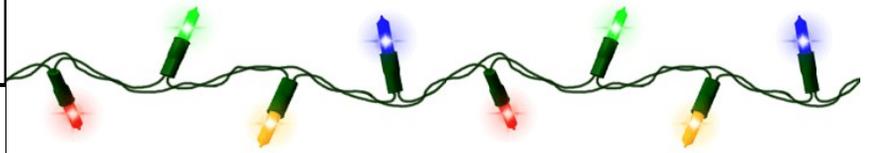
Kristen Dillon

MRS. JOHANSEN -

Homemade quick breads, mac-n-cheese, individual pizzas, lasagna, pumpkin carving, toasted pumpkin seeds, roasted pumpkin, poptarts, pies....Are you getting hungry? These are all items we've made in FOODS CLASS.

Student demonstrations are going on now, up until Christmas break. Thanksgiving "Pie" homework is due!! Students from Foods Class made 57 large pies and 29 individual pies to contribute to the Thanksgiving Food baskets. We are now working on quick breads for the Christmas baskets. The Foods class partnered with Ms. Widman's Photography class to create a cookbook that will hopefully be finished and on sale soon.

Encourage your kids to get into the kitchen and help make a meal...~Marilee



PUMPKIN MOLASSES CAKE

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees.

2 1/2 C. flour

1 1/2 cup brown sugar

2 tsp. orang peel

2 eggs

1 tsp. baking soda

3/4 cup buttermilk

1/2 tsp each salt, cinnamon, and ginger

1/2 cup pumpkin

1/2 cup butter
molasses

1/4 cup



Combine dry ingredients. Add butter, sugar and eggs stirring well.

Add remaining ingredients beating well after each addition. Pour in a 9" x 13" pan and bake in a 350 degree oven for 30 to 35 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

MR. PORTER - HS MATH

Snowflakes and Christmas Lights

A couple of classes have a been a little restless. So... We took some time one day to make some snowflakes in my Geometry and Math Modeling classes. It was well received and even the kids that I wouldn't have expected to participate made some great snowflakes. Now, all my classes want to make snowflakes. Yikes!

In the mathematical world though, these two classes have been doing a pretty good job. I have finally found that what my geometry class needs is to stay busy **ALL** the time. I should probably put something in here about Idle hands being the Devils workshop but I suppose keeping kids busy is pretty obvious on its own. we have been working on Triangle Congruence Proofs and I have to say that we have finally turned the corner from," why do we have to do this?" to "I think I am actually getting it." A pretty big step for these rambunctious teens.

MR. ZIMMERMAN - SPANISH/US HISTORY

The high school Spanish classes are becoming verb conjugation superstars, with the Spanish I students focusing on present tense and the Spanish II classes focusing on past tense and reflexive tense. Spanish II students are completing their 2nd quarter project as well. Middle school Spanish explorations class is about to end as it is only a semester long course. U.S. History students are studying the time period from 1890-1917 as the United States is emerging as a world power. With just a few weeks left in the semester it is important for your child to be vigilant about doing the right things when it comes to academics. Things like being proactive instead of reactive and staying atop of required homework are great habits which most often will breed success. Another factor that is critical all year round is school attendance. Students with poor attendance are put under additional stress and have a more difficult time doing well in class. I hope you and your student will find ample opportunity to relax and enjoy family over the upcoming break and may the forthcoming year, 2016, bring good health and happiness to you and your loved ones.

MRS. WARD - HS SCIENCE

It has been a full semester at Nikiski Middle/High School! I have enjoyed getting to know students better and doing some awesome science!

Environmental Science: We are working hard on our Caring for the Kenai Projects – ask your student about their idea! We are also talking about the causes and effects of air pollution, including experiments to see how acid rain affects different substances.

Physical Science: We are wrapping up a unit on Waves and beginning our last Physics unit on electricity. A highlight of the semester was engineering thermal protection systems and testing them by roasting marshmallows!

Physics: We developed deeper understandings of impulse and momentum by doing an egg drop design challenge – the competition was fierce. The next week and a half we will be studying for an end of semester final.

MRS. ABEL - HS MATH

Happy Holidays!

As the quarter winds down and students gear up for days spent snow machining and lounging around it gets a little harder to keep focus on the class work instead of watching the snowflakes fall out the window. I would like to applaud my two classes (personal finance and geometry) for continuing to bring positive attitudes and willing hands to class each and every day. We've done our fair share of observing the weather but the students have maintained a great work ethic, keep it up!

Personal finance has just finished up a rather difficult chapter on interest earning savings accounts. We had many great discussion about the different ways interest is calculated and spent time investigating different banks/FCUs and what they offer. As many of these students either have an savings account open or are preparing to do so, it has been a great topic with lots of questions for discussion! We are moving into some slightly easier topics including sales taxes, comparison shopping, and we will even touch on some couponing. The students should be aware of a cumulative final coming their way on Wednesday, December 16th. A study guide will be given out the week prior and we will have plenty of review time in class.

Geometry is right in the middle of triangle congruency and proofs! I'm sure everyone is very much looking forward to the next two weeks free of the words 'geometry' and 'proof'. We will be concluding chapter 4 before the end of the quarter and starting fresh with chapter 5 in January. I hope everyone has a safe and happy two weeks and I look forward to seeing all the friendly faces come January 4th.

Cheers!

Mrs. Abel

MR. KORNSTAD - CAD/CAM

As the semester comes to a close students are finishing a variety of projects. America Jeffreys, Angela Druesedow, Kaycee Bostic, and Tika Zimmerman designed artwork to engrave on stainless steel water bottles for their basketball team. Most of the students have completed a T-shirt design and heat pressed it on to a shirt. The final project is a wooden ornament. The ornament above was designed by McKinlee Jeffreys for her father.



Ornament made by McKinlee Jeffreys in Middle School Cad_Cam class.



MR. ZIBELL - HS GOVERNMENT/HISTORY

Alaska Studies freshman have been learning about the Klondike Gold Rush. We have analyzed primary sources, read Robert Service poetry, and even a story about a bike ride down the entire Yukon River to Nome! That's only about 1,000 miles.

We have a very cool collaborative project going on with Mr. Rizzo's Sophomore Language Arts classes and my World History and U.S. Government classes. Credit goes to Mr. Rizzo for coming up with this awesome idea. These classes are currently creating their own micro-nation, a very tiny country within the school. These new nations are the Order of the Guilds, North Roadia, Kratia Novus, and Dysfunctional Dystopia. They are writing constitutions, creating their own economies, flags, and national anthems. By participating in this unit students are learning how to become adept in the ways of politics. They are competing to create the most successful country by engaging in negotiations, side deals, diplomatic letters, memos, and even a bribe or two. However, some have yet to learn that loose lips sink ships. Winners of the academic contest will be the enshrined as the model for next year's Micro-Nation unit.

I wish you all plenty of cookies and snow for the holiday season! Unless of course you are going somewhere tropical. Merry Christmas!

KNITTING CLUB WITH NURSE GLYNES

Last year Nurse Glynes started a knitting club with the middle school students. The number has grown from 6 students to 27. This club provides a place where students can build caring and stable relationships with other students. Glynes, along with other parent volunteers, has met with these students once a week. They have learned how to knit with looms and needles, crochet and do cross stitch. Along the way these girls have created relationships with each other as they have shared their journey through the year.

These students have decided that by working as a team, they would like to give back to the community that supports so many aspects of this school. They made 27 fleece, lap blankets for the Nikiski Senior Center to distribute to seniors for Christmas gifts. This project was carried out by the hard work of the 27 Grannie Wannabes as well as parent and community volunteers. They presented their handiwork to the Senior Center representatives on Thursday, December 10. This was a rewarding project for the girls to do.

With the help of Julie Carr and Kelly McCaughey, the girls made a quilt for Glynes to show her how much they cared about her. Each girl had a quilt block to personalize with their own message to Nurse Glynes. It will be fun to see what next year will bring for these Grannie Wannabes!

Grannie Wannabees with the quilt they made for Nurse Glynes.



Handmade blankets MS girls made for Seniors.



MR. D. BROWN - STUDY SKILLS/TEAM TEACHER

At Nikiski High School, students receive academic instruction and are expected to complete their assignments on their own time. Some students need an extra support net for organization, academic tutoring, and to be taught those extra “study skills “that students are expected to master. Study Skills is meant to give students a focused, academic hour to complete work, to ask questions concerning specific core classes, and to work on the basic life skills that a person needs to be successful in life

Each week, the students in study skills complete a post card, outlining their current grades. Then, the students address an envelope to be sent directly to their parents, via the U.S. Mail. This post card is meant to further open the lines of communication between school and home. Many students have stated that they do not own a computer, thus making it impossible for their parents to check their child’s grades on Power School.

Happy Holidays!

Mr. Brown

MR. RIDDALL - HS PE

What Is Up In Physical Education at Nikiski High School?

Nikiski’s Speed Strength Program is running strong. Students just finished up the speed and jumping component to the SST program by competing in SST contest held at Kenai High School. We had 6 individual champions and others who pushed the overall winners.

Basic P.E. classes are currently completing their fitness testing for semester one final grades and working on developing a broader understanding of multiple exercises and body movements. These classes will turn into Health classes for second semester.

Collaboration between Kenai, Sohi, and Nikiski will continue. During second semester, we are hoping to connect all three school with in class viewing programs that will encourage collaboration but also competing against the other classes that you view on the screens.

I-Pads are also being used during classes for self and fellow student evaluations. The data collected is helping to give more immediate feedback to students about form and technique.

MR. MORIN - BIOLOGY/ANATOMY

This freshman class has done a commendable job transitioning from the Middle School format to the more rigorous High School climate. I attribute this to the excellent work of the Nikiski High Middle School team of teachers. They are top notch and their training is obvious when working with this freshman class. Another critical factor in a child’s educational success is parental involvement. I commend the parents of my students for their positive support and effective child rearing. Teachers are told we are the primary factory in a student’s success. I disagree; I think parents are the most critical factor in a child’s success. Soon, teachers will be evaluated on the test scores of their students. If parents do not impart a strong work ethic, positive attitude towards learning and self-discipline at home there will be a lot of excellent teachers getting poor evaluations. Teachers can adjust a student’s attitude, but we cannot instill the requisite basic character traits necessary for a student’s academic success.

The Biology students need to start their Caring for the Kenai projects. The first step in this process is to go to the Caring for the Kenai webpage and read all the information provided. The students then need to identify a problem they are willing to pursue based on the prompt: “What can I do, create or invent to better care for the environment of the Kenai Peninsula...” or help better prepare for Natural Disaster.. This is often the most difficult and challenging step. This is authentic learning at its best. Students will be contacting people in our community and you very well may be one of the people they interview. I trust the students will represent their families, my classroom, our school and the Nikiski community well when they go about their research.

The last item I would like to mention is to have parents continue checking on their child’s notebooks, grades and discussing their school work. Remember, there is homework in my class every day; students can always work on their Caring for the Kenai Project. And, as always, attendance is critical--absences can seriously hamper a student’s success. Thank you and have a very joyful Christmas.

MR. JOHNSON - CAD_CAM/WOODS

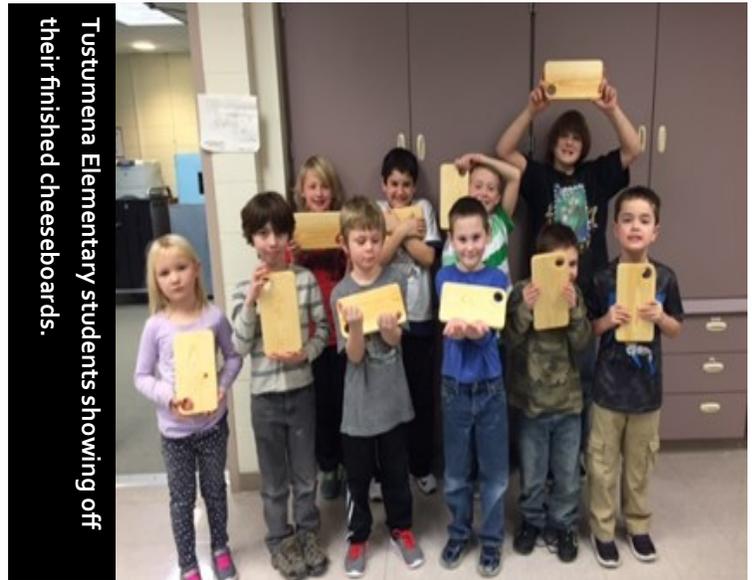
The Holiday Season and Industrial Arts

This holiday season, the industrial arts programs has been involved in making and giving gifts to our community. In CAD/CAM we have constructed wooden trivets with the Shop Bot that can be made with Christmas designs. The Nikiski Ski team has been making snowflake ornaments with the Checkmate Laser out of blue and clear acrylic with engraved bulldogs on them. Another festive Christmas project we have constructed is the wooden dish made with the Shop Bot. The dishes can be made into snowmen, Christmas trees, and a multitude Christmas themed items.

At Tustumena Elementary School several students, eleven boys and one girl, participated in an enrichment activity made possible by Nikiski Middle High School's Woodshop classes. Shanna Johnson supplied the wood for Nikiski students to form into 14 rough cut cheese boards. The elementary kids started this project on November thirtieth and ended on December third. Their jobs were to sand the boards until smooth, apply mineral oil for finish, and take home for present or to keep for themselves.



Students hard at work sanding their boards.



Tustumena Elementary students showing off their finished cheeseboards.

MS. GAUNT - COUNSELING

Greetings from the NMHS Counseling Program! We have certainly had a very busy year so far. From 35 students taking the ASVAB to over half of the senior class applying to college, we have been so impressed with the participation of students & parents this year! Just recently we hosted Testing Information Night and with 40 people in attendance, covered testing topics from ACT to WorkKeys and everything in between. We have a lot of awesome study resources available for Juniors preparing to take the ACT in the spring, students just need to come on down to check them out!

In addition to testing topics, we in the counseling department have been working closely with the freshmen, sophomores, juniors & seniors using a program called AKCIS (Alaska Career Information System). All students, 7th-12th grade, can now log in to AKCIS through their PowerSchool. Through AKCIS, students have the opportunity to explore their skills and interests and learn about how they relate to different careers. During the research process, students are also learning that different careers require different levels of post-secondary education. It is so awesome to hear freshmen and sophomores discussing the difference between an associates, bachelors and masters degree! We are very excited to be having these conversations with students early on in high school because high school is the perfect time to start planning for the future. The classes students take in high school can set them up to be college-ready. Take a look at the APS (Alaska Performance Scholarship) to see what a college-preparation curriculum looks like. In some ways, a college-prep program requires students to go above and beyond our NMHS graduation requirements (taking 4 years of core subjects, 2 years of foreign language, etc). In the spring, students will have the opportunity to make their course requests for the next school year, so now is a great time to start having these conversations with your students to make sure that the classes they request align with their future goals.

That was a lot of information all at once, if it feels like it's clear as mud, that's okay! Speak with your student about their postsecondary goals and feel free to contact us if you would like to come in to talk about what we can do to make sure your student is on track.

Happy holidays!

NMHS Counseling Team

SITE COUNCIL OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in attending site council and hearing what our members have to say or to have them hear what you have to say? We have two more site council meetings this year on February 9 and April 12 at 4 PM in the staff lounge. Our agendas will be posted to our website about a week before hand and the minutes posted shortly after the meetings.

MS. WIDMAN - ART

Art is Awesome! Here's a blow by blow of 2nd semester! All of my classes are gaining new insight to the elements and principles of design and art and how they are interwoven into everything we do.

Middle school: Some breathtaking sculptures have been made in the form of culturally themed masks and Egyptian inspired canopic jars (vessels the Egyptians stored the organs of the dead in).

High School: Inspired by Japanese ink block prints, Nikiski's drawing and design class has been hard at work making stamps based on symbols they have developed for themselves. Intro to art has been carving animal sculptures inspired by Alaskan ivory carvers. These classes are brimming with creativity and many students are moving on to independent work that showcases their artistic passions.

Digital Photo: In addition to our heated Photo of the Week Contests and other assignments, the photography class has been producing a cookbook in conjunction with the foods class. It is set to go on sale before Christmas and will contain beautiful food photography and original page layout designs and photographed by my REMARKABLE students. This book will bar a great memory for all who have taken the class or enjoyed the food produced by the students and Mrs. Johansen.

P.S. Check out our art at the December 10th Art Show at and before the band concert. Also challenge yourself to find our hidden art blog linked of Nikiski High's homepage under important links. The student blog link contains individual student art blogs.

Cheers!

Ms. Widman



Armi Olsen, Ethan Hack, Cedily Quiner, and Laila Olsen show off their masks.
Photo by Haley Wik



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

PO Box 7112
Nikiski, AK 99635

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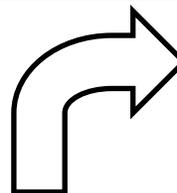


Check us out on
Facebook
Nikiski Middle-High



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 19	End of Quarter. No school for students.
Dec 22	Home Basketball vs. Kenai-12:00
Dec 19-Jan 3	Christmas Break!
Jan 4	Back to School
Jan 4	Middle School Volleyball Begins
Jan 4	Middle School XC Skiing Begins
Jan 4	Middle School Wrestling Begins
Jan 8 & 9	DDF Meet @ Nikiski
Jan 14-16	Nikiski Tip-Off Basketball Tourney
Jan 18	Holiday! No School!
Jan 21	PTSA Meeting-6:30 p.m.
Feb 3	Early Release Day
Feb 4	Conferences-No School for Students
Feb 5	Inservice-No School for Students
Feb 9	Site Council Meeting-4:00 p.m.



PAY FEES ONLINE!!!!

~kpbsd.org

~Students/Parents

~Online Payments

Select Middle School or High School

Select Nikiski Jr/Sr (bulldog icon)

- 1. Food Service Payments-lunches**
- 2. Student Class/Activity Fees-linked to PS**
- 3. Additional Items & Events- donations to programs, activity card and other items.**

Please contact the office with any questions: 776-9400