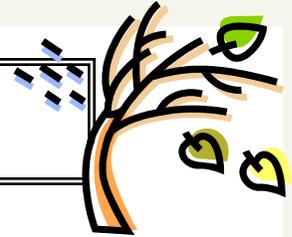


# Bulldog Bites



Nikiski Middle/High School

September 25, 2013

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

Welcome back everyone to the 2013-14 school -year! After a sun drenched summer and a damp fall I, for one, am ready for all of the smiling faces that come through our door...from both your children and our staff members. The plan is to make this the absolute best year ever for Nikiski Middle/High School, and the only way we can do that is with your help.

One way we are doing that is to try and welcome more volunteers into our building. We have enlisted the help of Ramona Malston to coordinate volunteers for some of the various needs we have in our building. These needs will be beyond the normal scope of sports and activities and extend into our classrooms as well. Our teachers are already listing what they may need your assistance with. If you are interested in sharing your information with our volunteer coordinator, please give us a call in the office.

I also encourage all of you to get involved with our great school on The North Road. There are so many wonderful things happening out here and the kids love having people come and watch what they are doing. Whether it's being a super-fan at a football game, enjoying a night out at a concert, or helping out at the concession stand, it is a blast to get involved.

The following excerpt is regarding highly qualified status of our teachers at NMHS. As you can see, we have a top notch, high quality staff.

Have a great year, Go Bulldogs, and keep doing good.

Dan Carstens

Principal

## FUTURE CHEERLEADER CAMP



Participants from Nikiski North Star Elementary participated in a Future cheerleader camp put on by the Nikiski High School cheerleaders. Participants were able to show their talents during a football half-time show performing both a cheer and dance routine. This was a great opportunity for the older girls to mentor to the younger girls who look up to them.

# MR. BOSTIC - VICE PRINCIPAL

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.

A few facts about 2012-2013 NMHS Attendance:

- 85% of Students had an attendance rate greater than 90%
- 6 Students had perfect attendance
- Students who had attendance rates better than 96% outscored their peers who attended at a 90% rate by 40 points in Math, 30 points in Reading and 35 points in Writing on the SBA's.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

What this may tell us is that a few extra days of school absence on average, will have a dramatic impact on student achievement.

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 First Student to provide dependable and safe busing.

## Access to Health Care

Ms. Glynes 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. Marilee 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. Jones for opportunities to get involved.

## 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.

## Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, 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.

# MRS. JONES-COUNSELING

As the school counselor, I assist students with academic, social -emotional and career development. This is my second year at Nikiski Middle High!! I am also the Upward College Bound, 504, Peer Tutoring/ Mentoring, and Test Coordinator. I collaborate with our staff in order to develop classroom guidance activities and respond to student needs. Parents can feel free to contact me at any time concerning questions or ideas regarding their student's academic, social-emotional, and career needs. Important Nikiski Counseling Department Announcements and Information can be found at the 'Counselors Corner' on the Nikiski Middle High Website.

### Major happenings in October...

The PSAT is being offered in the Auditorium the morning of Oct, 16<sup>th</sup>. Sophomores and Juniors have until September 25<sup>th</sup> to sign up with myself or Mrs. Carstens. Cost is \$14.

I am meeting with Seniors individually to help them create or focus their post-secondary plan and to make sure they are on track.

Juniors and Seniors can attend the College Fair on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students can sign up with myself or Mrs. Carstens by Wednesday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Peer Tutors/Mentors will be paired up with middle or high school students who need them.

Middle school small groups will begin to form based off referral. Common small group topics are academic & study skills, social-emotional skills, and student motivation and resiliency.

Financial Aid Night- TBA

HSGQE Retakes are October 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Select Juniors and Seniors will be notified.

Upward College Bound begins meeting. I am accepting applications for 3 openings.

AKCIS (Alaska Career Information Systems)- Our college and career guide, Tasha Thompson, and I will begin to work with students in the classrooms utilizing our on-line AKCIS tool. Students will continue to develop their PLCP, or Personal Learning Career Plan.

NEW\*\* I will soon be offering the Myers Briggs for Juniors and Seniors who want to do more career exploration. This is the most widely used test in the nation for developing more career and personality understanding. We currently offer an Interest Inventory based off Holland Codes for Career Exploration. Freshman typically take this assessment on-line through AKCIS during their 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Explorations Class. I also have a paper pencil version that I have been using with Seniors who didn't take the on-line assessment as Freshman. It is good for students to take both an interest inventory and a personality assessment (Myers Briggs) in the process of exploring careers and developing a career path. These tests are only used as a tool, as career exploration isn't a perfect science. ☺ Job shadowing may be offered through the district soon. In addition, it is always good for parents to discuss career ideas and personal goals with students.

**TUTORING:** Do you have a student who could use a tutor? Nikiski Middle High School is now offering a student mentor/tutoring program during the school day. If you have a student who needs a little extra help with school work please contact Holly Jones in the counseling department. In addition, the Boys and Girls Club offers free after school tutoring here at Nikiski High School. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Jones or Mrs. Carstens in the counseling department.

## MRS. ZIMMERMAN-SIXTH GRADE

I'm very excited about this school year. I have 23 years of teaching experience. This is my third year at NMHS. I truly love it here!

In 6th grade Language Arts, your student will come home with a monthly reading log. The due date can be found on the log. Students are **REQUIRED** to read for 30 minutes every night & log their minutes. If your student claims s/he has no homework, ask them if they read for 30 minutes. Every morning your student comes into my classroom, they are required to fill out their daily planners which are graded on Fridays and correct one DOL (Daily Oral Language-grammar) sentence per 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 on writing narratives. Ask your student for his/her schedule if you do not already have it!

In 6th grade Social Studies, we have started a North America map & are almost done labeling it. There will be a written test given on the information we have learned in class on September 20. Students were given a study guide at the beginning of the unit and are expected to study on their own time. Jr. Scholastic is the way we will stay on top of current events. We also complete two Daily Geography questions per day to improve our map reading & geography skills. Please check Power School for posted assignments, schedules, newsletters & of course, grades. I need at least one days' notice if your son or daughter will be gone for a doctor's appointment so I can get the necessary work to them. Also, if you are going on vacation, your student needs to pick up a PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCE form at the office. Students then go to each teacher with this form & teachers fill it out with what is expected of them while they are gone. I have been giving out weekly newsletters on Mondays, so ask your student for it! 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!

7th grade LA: When your student comes into class, they are required to fill out their planners and start working on their DOL exercise. Students are asked to complete and correct one sentence per day. At the end of the week, we correct it together and hand it in. Word of the Day is a program that introduces new vocabulary to students. Each day we review a word, it's definition and complete a short activity surrounding the word for the day. We are currently in the midst of writing our first narrative. Students will be required to complete one book report per quarter. This means your student should be reading a novel at home! The first book report is due October 11. Students were given a packet of options at the beginning of the year. Assignments and handouts can be found on Power School. Lastly, every Friday your student checks Power School and writes his/her grades into their planner and are given a planner/grade check. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know ASAP. I am looking forward to a great year of writing!

## MRS. DURRANT-SIXTH GRADE

The 2013/2014 school years started off with a wonderful new group of Dawgs entering my classroom. The sixth graders came to school excited to learn and ready for anything. Some of the students major concerns, such as lockers, didn't seem to be as much of a problems as it has been in the past. Finding classrooms and figuring out the new Modified Block schedule has taken a little longer. Today I asked one of my classes if they knew which classes they had on which days. Almost 100% of the students told me they did. I will confess that I still check my schedule every morning to make sure I am ready for the right class.

Getting organized and keeping papers together is still an issue the students and I will be working on. When the students get an assignment, they are to write it into their planner. Each students is to have a folder for Science and, if they are in my Math classes, a folder for Math. When they work on an assignment they are to put it into their folder. On the left side of the folder is the Home side. That is where any unfinished work should go. When the assignment is finished, it should be placed on the right hand side of the folder to be turned in the next time the student comes to class. All graded assignment are to be kept in the students binders until the end of the quarter. This helps the student and I know what needs to be worked on, what is finished, and what has been graded.

In Science the 6<sup>th</sup> graders just finished a unit on the Scientific Method. The next unit is on Matter. We have a new curriculum in Math this year and new books. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are working on multiplication and division of whole number and decimals. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are working on integers. If you have any questions please call or email me.

## MR. BAILEY-QUEST & 6th HISTORY

Quest students have been actively brainstorming, designing, and starting the construction of devices for this year's KPBSD "Mind A-Mazes" challenge – called 'Ups and Downs'. Exploring chain reaction events, how reactions often involve simple and complex machine concepts, and figuring out different methods of using gravity to create a gradual descent (such as obstacle paths and timers) are all components of this year's team challenge. As with any 'Mind A-Mazes' challenge, there's a lot of communication, experimentation, construction, and tons of problem solving required to make a successful design. 'Mind A-Mazes' challenges help teach students how to cope with failure and stretch their thinking to come up with workable strategies for solutions to hands-on problems.

6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies students have been learning about the geography of North America, as well as having various discussions regarding current events from their Junior Scholastic edition or from world/national headlines. Students have been completing North America maps with labeled Canadian provinces, states, major rivers, major mountain ranges, Caribbean islands, Central American countries, major bodies of water, and US region outlines. Each day, students have also been exploring geography questions regarding such concepts as latitude, longitude, meridians, parallels, hemispheres, and grid coordinates. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade group of students I have for social studies each day are a creative, fun bunch of individuals to work with each day. We'll enjoy exploring current events and geography/culture of continental regions around the globe as the year progresses!

## MS. BARROWS— 6TH & 7TH RESOURCE

This is my first year as a teacher at Nikiski Middle/ High School. I am so excited to be working among the wonderful staff in this school! I grew up near Grand Rapids, Michigan and moved to Alaska in 2011. My background includes 5 different student teaching assignments, including time spent teaching in Guadalajara, Mexico, and my first teaching job at Mountain View Elementary School as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade resource room teacher in Kenai. My students and I will be and have been working hard to improve scores in math and reading through the general curriculum, Success Maker Math, and the Language! program. I am looking forward to spending the year with the students of Nikiski Middle/ High School!

## MR. DOTH—MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

2013 is off and running in middle school science! 7<sup>th</sup> graders are digging into what it means to be ALIVE and the veteran 8<sup>th</sup> graders are stepping it up as we learn Earth science. A new environment is being built in B115 for the soon to come leopard geckos. Myself and several motivated students are dedicated to recreating the natural habitat of Pakistan inside the 150 gallon tank. Stop in and watch the progress of this enormous terrarium build as we finish up the final touches! I am super excited and look forward to another great winter of teaching and learning..... I hope ya'll are ready. Lets keep the energy level high and positive for the rest of the year! Till next time fearless readers.....

Best Fishes

## MS. NIEMCZYK-LANGUAGE ARTS

7<sup>th</sup> 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—coming of age narratives. The students are reading a variety of short stories that focus on important moments in one's life. They will be writing creative stories that deal with moments in a person's life throughout the quarter.

Students have reading logs due every Monday. Please encourage your student to be reading throughout the week and ask them how they are doing on their book reports. Students should be reading 30 minutes, three times a week at home. Their first quarter book report is due by Oct. 11.

The students just finished up Ed Performance testing that provides a base line or starting point for reading and writing skills. Each student uses his or her results 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.

8<sup>th</sup> 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. I have structured the class around a writing and reading workshop schedule. Two days a week, we focus on writing with at least 35 minutes each of these days for individual writing. Our first unit of study is the Narrative—story telling. Students are expected to compose 2 stories this quarter that demonstrate their ability to use characters, dialogue, suspense, and conflict to move the story along. The best part of this is that the subject matter, story setting, and creative aspects are all entirely determined by each student. The number one rule of writer's workshop is that a student must write about a topic that interests them. Each student is a working author and will share his or her work on a regular basis with the class.

The other three days a week are split between reading workshop and grammar/vocabulary. 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.

The students just finished up Ed Performance testing that provides a base line or starting point for reading and writing skills. Each student uses his or her results 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.

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Our first unit of the year is the Hero's Journey Narrative unit in which the students will be thinking and writing about where they come from and what forms one's identity. We started with defining what a hero is and the Hero's Journey Cycle. They are now reading a Hero novel in small literature groups. Each student will be writing a hero quest of their own before the end of the quarter. The writing focus for this quarter is on word choice, sensory and figurative language, and organization.

Now that they are in high school, there does not seem to be enough time in the school day for reading for pleasure. Once a week, students read a book of their choosing for a short block of silent sustained reading—an important aspect of a reading curriculum. Assigned class-readings focus on analyzing an author's word choice for mood, tone, and purpose.

The students just finished up Ed Performance testing that provides a base line or starting point for reading and writing skills. Each student uses his or her results 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.

## **MRS. BROWN**

**New** schedule.....loving the extended time with the students twice a week

**New** Math Standards.....a step up in difficulty but a good change for Alaska

**New** Math Books..... Great online support for students at [my.hrw.com](http://my.hrw.com)

**New** math class plan.....students are required to read the lesson from the text book before the lesson is discussed in class.....ask students about the Pre-lesson read sheets. When students take the time to read the lesson before the class discussion, it gives them time to think about the subject matter and to think about the things they are or are not understanding. It has been the best change in the class so far so please help encourage your sons and daughters to read the lessons before they are discussed in class and fill out the Pre-lesson read sheet.

**New** quiz format..... Students are taking quizzes on the computer using the website that supplements our text book, [my.hrw.com](http://my.hrw.com). The quizzes are called "Ready to Go On?" and helps diagnose just that; is the student ready to go on? If the student is not ready to go on, the computer program assigns them a tutorial to listen to and watch followed by a post test. Completing these post tests help increase their score as well as redoing the incorrect problems.

## **MR. ANDERS-PE**

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle/High School in Physical Education for grades 6-8. So far this year students have worked on some soccer basics and also their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter fitness testing, based on the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Students practiced some fundamental soccer skills and enjoyed the challenge of doing their personal best in each of the fitness tests. Currently we are in the middle of a cross country walk, run or jog unit. Students are running on our school's cross country trails, logging their accomplishments and setting goals. In coming weeks students will begin working on basketball skills and activities.

## **MR. JOHNSON - INDUSTRIAL ARTS**

Industrial Arts is the opportunity to work with different forms of media while learning a skill that can be applied to future career choices. Here is what we have been doing:

**CAD/CAM**- We are excited to end the semester with great success; we used the Shop Bot, Plasma/CAM and Versa/CAM (a vinyl printer) to make great things that the school and community can use! This program has expanded significantly allowing students to demonstrate their individual creativity in wood, metal, and vinyl. We extend our great appreciation to Mike Peek who was an integral part of expanding the program this year! When you see one of our new banners cheering a Nikiski success or advertising for our local community, another 21<sup>st</sup> century skill is being demonstrated!

**Occupational Technology** is our exploration of vocational arts for our younger students. Our middle school students will be working in the wood shop, building cheese boards and production projects. Students learn to use tools, equipment safety, as well as leadership and collaborative roles while learning the process for each project.

**Woods** classes will be styling projects through the joinery, woodturning, and production. These students demonstrate their creative talents and artistic flare while learning the detail behind wood-working. The students are enjoying using the new wood lathes that we have added to the shop over the last four years.

Nikiski Middle High School has offered many opportunities to students to gain employability skills for their future, and we look forward to demonstrating these skills in our community!

# MR. ANDERSON-BAND AND CHOIR

## CHOIR

Honor Choir- October 14th and 15th at Kenai Central High School

Fall Choir Concert -October 17th at 7:00 PM

All State Choir- November 19th

Winter Choir Concert-December 5th at 7:00 PM

High School Mass Choir - Feb. 10th and 11th at Kenai Central High School

Nikiski's Got Talent- Feb. 27th, at 7:00 PM

Middle School Mass Choir- April 22nd at Soldotna High School

Spring Choir Pops Concert- May 5th at 7:00 PM

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## BAND

Winter Mass Band Concert- December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

MS Mass Band - April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Kenai Middle School

Spring Band Concert- May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

Combined Band Night with Nikiski North Star - May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

Graduation- May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

# MR. ADAIR-SCIENCE

**Physical Science:** Over the duration of the school year we will be exploring the main concepts of how our world works. This will include a unit on basic Physics (motion, gravity, magnets, simple circuits, wave properties), Chemistry (atoms, periodic table, fission, fusion, types of bonds), Earth Science (plate tectonics, erosion, Earth's structure), and Astronomy (theories on star and galaxy formation, our solar system). Students are currently in the middle of their Chemistry unit and learning about chemical reactions, how to balance chemical equations and how radioactive decay occurs among many other topics.

**Environmental Science:** The first semester of the year will be the Environmental Science portion (2<sup>nd</sup> semester Geology) which will allow us to explore Earth's biomes and ecological interactions. Currently we are investigating invasive plants and animals in Alaska and the impacts on the ecosystem. We will also spend a decent part of our time first semester exploring current environmental science issues and working on our Caring For the Kenai projects ([www.caringforthekenai.com](http://www.caringforthekenai.com)). This project is a five paragraph research paper accompanied with a visual aid on a topic chosen by the student. The exciting part is that the contest gives out thousands of dollars in prize money!

**Conceptual Physics:** This will be an exciting and challenging course as we will explore many topics such as: kinematics, rotational motion, projectile motion, thermodynamics, waves, electrostatics, magnetism, electricity, light, nuclear physics, and the theory of relativity. Many of students have been exposed to the basic concepts of Physics in Physical Science. This class will explore more details and have more in depth calculations. Many labs will be student driven / designed throughout the school year. One of the main goals of this class is to show our young men and women that Physics can be understandable and fun.

## MRS. JOHANSEN-FOODS

We have been working on our Nutrition unit studying all about different nutrients. Each student has done a nutrient poster, booklet or power point presentation. Next, we've been learning about safety and sanitation in a commercial kitchen (our classroom) . We've had 3 cooking labs: Gobbly Gooks, Shepherds pie, and appley stir fry. I am excited when a student says " I did this AND it tasted good!" If you aren't encouraging your kids to help in the kitchen, do so. It's very rewarding.



## MR. SWABY-WELDING

This year is definitely starting off better than last. Last year, with the help of funding, we received and were able to bring in a lot of new equipment to the program. Now we can offer most kinds of welding which will allow us to work on a variety of projects. Who knows, maybe we will be able to make some more fire rings this year. I know I would love to be able to have camp fires again this year.

## MS. BOYLE-READING & LANGUAGE

We are reading a book by Jerry Spinelli called Crash. This modern realistic story is one of many novels read during this class. It tells about a football player who is a bully, but matures and changes through experience and understanding of others. He eventually learns to have compassion. At the end of the book, students will be asked to complete a project in which they will incorporate some personal ideas in a creative venue.

Students are also encouraged to read and discuss books, newspapers, and /or magazines at home. The more a student reads, the more his vocabulary will increase.

Students have been taking several assessments to verify that they have been properly placed in the core classes that will meet their diverse needs as learners, while challenging their minds.

## MR. HOOPER - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Nikiski has hosted the Nikiski Class Races, Shayna Pritchard Memorial Volleyball Tournament, a couple of Middle School Soccer games and 3 Football games so far this year. 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 Middle School Borough Cross Country Running Races of September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## MR. ERNST-ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Study Skills: We are having a great year so far out in the red portable! Middle school study skills is going great, with students working on achieving success in all their core classes. Every day you can stop in and see students focusing on their assignments and getting help when they need it. I am very proud of the hard work the Middle Schoolers have in this class.

ALT LA9: In Alternative School LA 9 we have been working with the *Language!* curriculum, a research based approach to language arts instruction which builds basic skills and develops mastery in reading and writing. Recently we have been studying parts of speech. Verbs are our current favorite syntactic category, especially how they carry tense (past/present/future) and aspect (progressive/perfective).

Life Science: Phil Morin and myself co-teach this freshman required class, and the students have performed excellently so far. Our current fall project is to create a field taxonomy of all the plants that we can find in the area around the school. The students are using iPads to take the pictures and do research on identifying the plants which they have photographed. By the end of the quarter they will have prepared a presentation with the scientific name, the common name and uses (if any) of the plants.

# MR. THOMPSON—MATH

Welcome Back! Another school year has started and we are back into academic study in the field of mathematics. I teach four subjects in the field of mathematics: Geometry, Mathematical Modeling, Precalculus, and Calculus. I also teach a Math Lab during 5<sup>th</sup> period to help students improve math skills in which they are low. I will give a short synopsis of what each of these classes is about

**Geometry:** This course integrates coordinate and transformational approaches with real-world applications while developing deductive proof. Two-dimensional geometry focuses on similarity and congruence, perimeter and area, circles, and graphing with scatterplots and linear graphs. Geometry uses algebraic skills such as linear and quadratic equation solving, factoring and graphing. In this course, solid geometric topics including surface area and volume are explored.

**Modeling with Mathematics:** In this course, students will explore algebraic models and application of mathematical functions. Students in this class will be exposed to how mathematics describes the world around them.

**Precalculus:** This course explores function families, with an emphasis on the trigonometric functions. Students will also apply trigonometric knowledge to triangle trigonometry, vectors and other application type problems. Students will also explore the basics of calculus starting with basic limits, derivatives and integrals.

**AP Calculus/Calculus:** Calculus is the study of four main topics: Limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and indefinite integrals. Students who take the AP test at the end of the course may earn college credit (see the requirements of the college you hope to attend). The AP course is considered college level.

**Math Lab:** Students are given instruction and activities aimed at improving their math skills. A main point of emphasis is the improvement of computation skills with whole numbers, decimals, integers, and fractions. We will also cover other basic areas such as proportions, percent, expressions, equations, etc.

Please keep in touch with your child and their studies. If you never see their mathematics textbook at home, I would be wondering how they are getting their homework completed. If they are struggling, encourage them to come in early and get extra help from me. I am generally in my room by 7:00 am every morning. If you wish to contact me, email is best. (Email: [bthompson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:bthompson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us))

# MR. JACKSON-HISTORY

There is a somewhat little known piece of literature that has been around for 4,000 years. It is given the moniker of the oldest literature, or written text, known to man. We have been looking at different parts and pieces of that text in World History. *The Epic of Gilgamesh* is full of themes not unlike those found in movies today. It has love, friendship, religion and adventure to name a fraction. Students are not easily drawn into a 4000 year old story; however, when the connections are made to the fact that they often are dealing with the same issues, it becomes more interesting. We have looked at the background of the story, the history of the region the setting is in and now we will begin to discuss a few of the allegories and symbolism found within *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. After a brief look at symbolism, we will be comparing two different stories found within the text; first is the flood story and how it compares to the flood story found in the Bible. Keeping in mind that one text is older than the other and how are the stories both similar and what differences are there. The other piece we will examine is the drive for youth. Ponce de Leon tried to find a way, just as Gilgamesh did 3500 years earlier. There is so much repetition throughout history and it is interesting to see that it has been that way since man first began writing.

# MR. RIZZO-DRAMA, DEBATE & FORENSICS

The **Drama/Debate/Forensics** team is kicking off this year's season on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> when the **Bulldogs** travel to West High School in Anchorage to take on nine different schools in 11 different speech events.

In fundraising news, we are grateful for a donation of \$300 from Tesoro to help us fund our season. **Next month** we will have several beautiful quilts to raffle off and some amazing **turned** wooden bowls for sale created in our woodshop right here in Nikiski.

In other academic news, the writing center is open every 5<sup>th</sup> hour to help students on a one to one basis with their writing assignments. This is a great opportunity for students to get extra help with papers for any class.

## **MR. ZIMMERMAN-SPANISH**

All of my Spanish and history classes are off to a great start as we arrive at the middle of the quarter. The new modified block schedule has taken a little while to get used to but is proving to have its benefits. Shortly, most of my classes will be beginning their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter project. You can keep abreast of weekly assignments on PowerSchool.

I would like to share my belief that ATTENDANCE at school is the most important factor in your child's success here at Nikiski Middle/ High School. If absences are absolutely necessary please know that it is IMPERATIVE that your child take the responsibility to make up the work that was missed during this time. I look forward to meeting all of you throughout the year and I am anxious to meet this school year's forthcoming challenges.

## **MRS. JENNESS– INTEGRATED HONORS PROGRAM**

The yearbook is in full production mode. We have a great staff and two wonderful editors working hard to document the year. The yearbook is currently on sale at the lowest price of the year: \$45. Go to [Jostens.com](http://Jostens.com) and order yours today. This low price will go up October 31, so act now! Jostens is offering a payment plan this year to spread out the cost over time.

Senior parents, keep in mind your student's picture and baby picture are due October 4. We are also requesting a "little kid" or elementary age photo from every senior to include in the book. Please submit these via email to [cjenness@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:cjenness@kpbsd.k12.ak.us) or drop them by the office. Senior baby ads are also available if you would like to commemorate your student's accomplishment in the yearbook. A full page ad is \$175, a half page is \$125, or a quarter page is \$55. Contact Mrs. Jenness or Laura Hufford for more details.

Another innovation this year is the Replayit app. This app allows our parents and students to upload photos they have taken directly to our yearbook for possible inclusion in the book. Just download Replayit from the

## **MRS. RIBBENS-LIBRARY**

It has been a great start to the new school year. Many wonderful kids are coming in to check out books. YEAH!!! Remember, books are checked out for two weeks at a time and can be renewed.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS is up and running. We will have three teams this year. There is still space to join the team. If you like to read and might be interested in joining, come see Mrs. Ribbens in the Library.

The SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR will be held in the library for two weeks starting October 21<sup>st</sup>. Students will be able to buy books before school and during lunch. It will also be open on Thursday Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> during parent/ teacher conferences.

## **MR. KORNSTAD, JR - MATH**

Hello from Mr. Kornstad's Algebra emporium! We have been recently taking a closer look at how learning objectives are delivered to students. Just prior to, and regularly throughout a unit of study, we are making a focused effort to systematically ensure that students are clearly presented with what they are supposed to know, understand and be able do for the unit. One key piece to producing quality learning objectives is to break them up into three different levels so that students do not feel overwhelmed. Objectives are categorized into the following three levels: 1) things students should KNOW, (2) things they should UNDERSTAND, and (3) things they should be able to DO. These categorized objectives are referred to by everyone around school as KUD's. K's (Know) are for basic knowledge such as facts, vocabulary terms, and other items that are learned through recognition and memorization. U's (Understand) are the understanding of central ideas and themes and relationships. Understanding represents a higher level of learning. D's (Do) represent what students can actually do with the things that they know and understand. Investing collaborative and reflective time on a more detailed approach to learning objectives has helped me to grow as a teacher, and I believe, will help my students learn on a deeper level. When students understand how they are being measured they become curious how they measure up against the objectives and in comparison to each other. This curiosity creates a qual-

# MRS. THOMPSON-SPECIAL NEEDS

Welcome Back to School!!!!

As you can see we are starting our Halloween crafts and treats. We will be making all sorts of cool, scary and of course delicious snacks and crafts. We are also starting up the Bulldog Café. Our first meal we will be cooking will be a great one!!! Beef Stroganoff, Potato Casserole, and Chocolate Cheese Cake will be on the menu in the Bulldog Café.

This year we will be shopping again for a local assisted living home. The students love providing this great service to the great community of Nikiski.

Stop in and see what we have going on in here. Let me tell you it is a happening place to be. Especially cooking or craft day!!!!



# MS. WIDMAN

Art Classes are in full swing this fall at Nikiski! Middle school students are learning the different art elements and mediums they will be using this quarter. Students have done works in chalk, oil, and pencil. They are explorative, hardworking, and always ready to share their art experiences. We will bring in fall with a watercolor and clay units! High school classes this quarter are 2D design, Intro to Art, and Intermediate Art. Impressionism has been the focus in many classes. Colors and textures abound. Autumn Walters designed our XC running hoodies this fall in 2D design with great success. Contact the art department to get one of your own!



Autumn Walters designed our XC running hoodies this fall in 2D design with great success. Contact the art department to get one of your own!



Middle school students work on a watercolor study.

**Dear Parent:**

**I hope that your child is having a great year at Nikiski Middle/High School. Our teachers have worked hard for many years to prepare themselves for the challenging and rewarding role of providing a quality education for your child.**

**To that end, I wanted to share with you that our teachers have met all the criteria established by the State of Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development, as well as the criteria established by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, to obtain their teaching credentials and hold a teaching position with our school district.**

**In addition, the teachers listed below have acquired the "highly federally qualified" designation required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002. This is a wonderful accomplishment on their parts. You are certainly welcome to request, through your principal, information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher.**

ADAIR, DAN	BIOLOGY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	ERNST, ROBERT	MS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	CHEMISTRY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		MS ENGLISH/LA	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	GENERAL SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		MS SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	PHYSICS	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		BIOLOGY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
ANDERS, ADAM	MS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		HS ENGLISH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	HS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		GOV'T/POLITICAL SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	WORLD/US HISTORY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		HS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
ANDERSON, JEREMY	MUSIC	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		PHYSICAL SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
BAILEY, BRIAN	MS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		WORLD/US HISTORY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	GEOGRAPHY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		HOOPER, DYLAN	MS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH
	HS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH			MS SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH
BIRD, ROBERT	MS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH			EARTH SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH
	GOV'T/POLITICAL SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH			GENERAL SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH
	HS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH			HS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH
	WORLD/US HISTORY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		PHYSICAL SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
BJORKMAN, JESSE	MS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		JACKSON, TONY	MS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH
	HS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	HS SOCIAL STUDIES		NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
BOYLE, HOLLY	READING	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	WORLD/US HISTORY		NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	MS ENGLISH/LA	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	JENNESS, ELIZABETH	MS ENGLISH/LA	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	HS ENGLISH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		HS ENGLISH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	THEATER	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	KORNSTAD, REID	MS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
BROWN, BRETA	MS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		HS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	HS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	KORNSTAD, VERN	MS ENGLISH/LA	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
BROWN, DAVID	MS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	MORIN, PHILLIP	MS SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	HS SOCIAL STUDIES	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		BIOLOGY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
DOTH, JACOB	MS SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	NIEMCZYK, LAURA	MS ENGLISH/LA	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	BIOLOGY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		HS ENGLISH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	GENERAL SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	RIZZO, JOSEPH	MS ENGLISH/LA	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
DURRANT, TERRY	ELEMENTARY K-6	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		HS ENGLISH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	MS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	THOMPSON, SHARON	ELEMENTARY K-6	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
	MS SCIENCE	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	THOMPSON, WILLIAM	MS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
WIDMAN, ANNA				HS MATH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
			ZIMMERMAN, LINDA	ART	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
				ELEMENTARY K-6	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
				MS ENGLISH/LA	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH	
			ZIMMERMAN, TROY			MS SOCIAL STUDIES
SPANISH	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH					
			WORLD/US HISTORY	NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH		

**Our district is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts. With parental and community involvement supporting our teachers and administration, together we will ensure that success.**

**Sincerely,**

**Daniel R Carstens  
Nikiski Middle/High School**

# Nikiski Middle High School Emergency Action Plan

Nikiski's Middle High School Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is a plan to provide a framework for protecting students, staff and school facilities, as well as to describe the responsibilities of staff members, for a wide range of emergency and disaster situations that may occur. The plan is based upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concept of comprehensive emergency management. If you would like more information concerning school and district EAP planning, please visit the KPBSD website under the Employee tab and select the safety link. For further information about Nikiski Middle High School's EAP, please contact the school office.

## HOME COMING!!!

Homecoming Week is September 30-October 5

The theme this year is Picture Perfect.

The Dance is Sat. Oct. 5 from 8pm-midnight here at the high school. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are \$8 a person or \$15 a couple. Kelly Reilly is the photographer. Attire is Semi-formal.

Dress up days are class competitions: 9/12 against 10/11

Monday: Pajamas (9/12) v. Formal (10/11)

Tuesday: Farmers (9/12) v. Livestock (10/11)

Wednesday: Nerdy (9/12) v. Preppy (10/11)

Thursday: Favorite Movie Character (9/12) v. Favorite Book Character (10/11)

Friday: Spirit Day—all grades

The Powder Puff Game is Friday, October 4 at 6pm here at the school and the Bonfire will follow directly afterward. Both events are free and there will be a complimentary cookout at the bonfire. The bonfire ends between 9:30-10pm.



## PTSA

**eScrip Enrollment and Re-Enrollment time!** Support Nikiski Middle High School PTSA through eScrip. Safeway donates a percentage of members total amount purchased back to NMHS PTSA. This is an easy way to support the Bulldogs! Each member must re-enroll every school year. Enrolling is easy online @ [escrip.com](http://escrip.com). Search for Nikiski High School PTSA. Safeway Club Card number is needed to enroll. Obtain your number by calling Safeway's Club Card Center—877-723-3929. Please enroll today.

The NMHS PTSA invests almost \$10,000 annually into the students through grants to different classes, clubs and teams. The PTSA is looking for members and volunteers to help increase their capacity to support NMHS. PTSA puts countless volunteer hours into the concession stand and spirit shop. The next PTSA meeting will be Thursday, October 10. Please come and become a part of this PTSA group supporting NMHS!

Contact [Michele\\_carver4@yahoo.com](mailto:Michele_carver4@yahoo.com) with any questions.

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

PO Box 7112  
Nikiski, AK 99635

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Stay up to date on school news

Daily Bulletin

[ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/bulletin/10](http://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/bulletin/10)

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NMHS School Website! Follow link from PS daily bulletin or  
<http://nikiskimiddlehighschool.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpmu/>

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 30-Oct 5	Homecoming Week
October 7	Middle School Basketball Begins
October 8	Site Council Meeting—4:00 p.m. National Honor Society Induction & Honors Night-6:00 p.m.
October 9	Picture Retakes
October 10	PTSA meeting-6:00 p.m.
October 16	PSAT-7:40 a.m.
October 18	Inservice/No school for students
October 24	Parent Teacher Conferences-No School
October 25	Teacher Work Day-No School for Students
October 30	Early Release Day for Students
November 12	Site Council Meeting—4:00 p.m.
November 14	PTSA Meeting-6:00 p.m.
November 20	Early Release Day for Students
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Holiday-No School
December 2	High School Basketball Begins

### Volunteer Opportunity

In an effort to utilize the many volunteers at NHMS there is now a volunteer organizer. Ramona Malston has agreed to head up this program. The School District requires all volunteers to be approved through central office. Please go to [kpbsd.k12.ak.us](http://kpbsd.k12.ak.us) and follow the tabs for VOLUNTEERS. Signing up takes about 10 minutes and must be approved before you can volunteer in the school. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please contact

Ramona:

[rmalston@gmail.com](mailto:rmalston@gmail.com)

776-8772.



