



# Bulldog Bites

Nikiski Middle/High School

Sept. 2017

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL - MR. CARSTENS

Welcome back to another fine year at Nikiski Middle/High School! Even though it has been a bit of a wet summer, it sounds like the students had a wonderful summer full of all sorts of amazing adventures. That is definitely one thing I look forward to when students return: hearing about their stories of summer fun on the Kenai and wherever else life takes them. Our hope is to continue to make learning relevant to all of our students, especially with the district focus on personalizing learning for all. This will allow students to have a little more autonomy on how they learn and encouraging problem solving and critical thinking.

Speaking of problem solving and critical thinking skills, I believe we have some wonderful new staff members on our team this year. Even though we had to hire our new members at a late date this past summer, we definitely got the cream of the crop. Our new staff members this year are:

Caroline Willis – Special Education, Intensive Needs

Sarah Harless-Singer – History, Spanish, Distance Ed

Tina Hall – Special Education, MS Resource

Clyde Swaby – Career/Tech Education (welding, woods, construction)

Ross Tulloch – MS Science/Explorations/PE



If you have a chance to stop in and meet them, please do so. Another great opportunity to meet our new people is to come to parent/teacher conferences on October 26.

We continue to have school goals that focus on us working with students on graduating, getting more involved in school activities, and sharing our best instructional practices with our colleagues to better meet the needs of all students. We will examine our goals in more detail at our first site council meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 20; anyone wishing to attend that meeting is more than welcome.

Overall it will be another great year in Bulldog Country. To see regular updates on what is happening visit our website or like our Facebook page, Nikiski Middle-High School. We hope to see all of you around the school as we celebrate the success of our students.

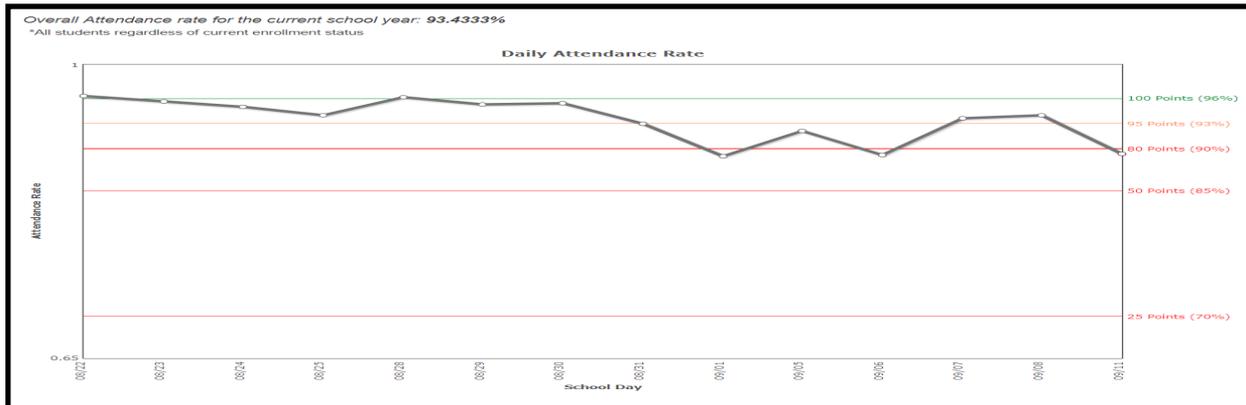
Dan Carstens  
Principal

# VICE PRINCIPAL - MR. BOSTIC

## September is Attendance Awareness Month!

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

Fall 2017-2018 NMHS



So what is the school doing to support students?

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

### **Reliable Transportation**

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

### **Access to Health Care**

Ms. Glynnes 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. Gaunt 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.

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

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.

# MR. ERNST - STUDY SKILLS/ALT. ALGEBRA/LA

## Study Skills:

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

## Alternative Algebra:

Mark Smith and I teach this standards based math course out in the Portable #2. The freshman that we have this year are doing a fantastic job producing evidence of their mastery of the state standards in mathematics, and it looks like they will all be able to successfully transition back to the regular curriculum for their sophomore year at the same level or above that of their regular education peers!

## Alternative LA 9 / Alternative Life Science

This is a great hybrid freshman class that combines the skills of writing and close reading that are the subject of language arts with the scientific information and investigative skills of life science. We are working on developing vocabulary knowledge to enhance close reading while learning how to write in a variety of forms and for many purposes.. Currently we are working on the narrative writing form in LA 9 and answering life science worksheets using complete, grammatically correct sentences. Our current topics in life science are taxonomy and classification. Right now students are taking photos of the local flora to compile in a power point, identifying each plant by genus and species.

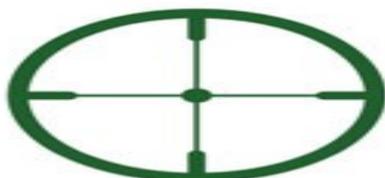
# MR. HOOPER - OUTDOOR ED/MATH

Bulldog Parents,

Nikiski has hosted the Nikiski Class Races, Shayna Pritchard Memorial Volleyball Tournament plus an action packed 3-day weekend of conference volleyball games and the homecoming football game. 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 our Middle School Cross Country Running Race on September 15th.

In Advanced Algebra Mr. Porter and I plan to begin team teaching during Unit 2. We hope to be able to provide more individualized attention and better address the needs of all of our students though team teaching and small group instruction. In middle school explorations we have been learning the basics of archery, completed the required unit 15 moose hunter orientation, and have begun work on completing the State of Alaska's Hunter Education certification program.

**HUNTER ED**  
**COURSE**



# MRS. ZIMMERMAN - SIXTH GRADE

I am very excited about this school year. This is my 27th year of teaching in the KPBSD. This is my seventh year at NMHS. I truly love it here! In 6th grade Language Arts, your student will come home with a weekly Reading Log. Students are to write the due date at the top of the log to keep things straight. Students are REQUIRED to read for 30 minutes every night and log their minutes along with a summary and reaction. If your student claims s/he has 'no homework,' ask them if they have done their 30 minutes of reading and filled out their Reading Log. Every morning your student comes into my classroom; s/he is required to fill out their daily planners which are graded weekly on Fridays. The information they need is on the board all week. Students are presented a lesson on a particular part of speech or grammar rule, then completes a Grammar Handbook with a definition and example. This is an activity done IN CLASS. Students are then given a worksheet as independent practice on whatever lesson was presented for the day. Students are also required to check their grades every Friday and record them into their planners. This quarter in writing workshop, our focus is writing narratives. Ask your student for his/her schedule if you do not already have it! If you do NOT have your parent code for POWER SCHOOL, ask the office. Power School is a powerful tool and is full of useful information for parents and students. You can set Power School up so you received a weekly or daily email with your child's grades. If you are not familiar with Power School, have your son or daughter show you how to navigate it. I've also posted as much as I can on Power School for parents and students as well as in Canvas for students.

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

In 7th grade World History, we just took a test on Core Concepts Part 1 and have started Core Concepts Part 2. Students are required to fill out their planners when they come into class. The information they need is on the board all week. I've also posted as much as I can on Power School for parents and students as well as in Canvas for students. Each day in World History, students watch a video connected with the day's reading. We review the captions and questions for the day's reading assignment, then students have an opportunity to get a jump start on their work, generally 30-40 minutes of class time. Work not completed in class needs to be finished as homework and handed in the next day. We correct our assignments in class, so students can understand the information better. These assignments entail reading a section and filling out a T-chart to organize the answers to the section questions as well as filling out their KUD which is vocabulary. KUD's along with section assessments and the Topic Assessment will be handed in the day of the test. Please check Power School for posted assignments, schedules, and of course, grades.

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

8th grade American History: When your student comes into class, they are required to fill out their planners. Each day in American History, students watch a video connected with the day's reading. We review the captions and questions for the day's reading assignment, then students have an opportunity to get a jump start on their work generally 30-40 minutes of class time. Work not completed in class needs to be finished as homework and handed in the next day. We correct our assignments in class, so students can understand the information better. These assignments entail reading a section and filling out a T-chart to organize the answers to the section questions as well as filling out their KUD which is vocabulary. Section assessments and Topic Assessments (Chapter reviews) are started in class. Assignments and handouts can be found on Power School AND on Canvas. KUD's along with section assessments and the Topic Assessment will be handed in the day of the test. The Topic 1 TEST is scheduled for September 20.

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

# MR. ANDERS - MS P.E.

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle/High School in Physical Education for grades 6-8. Students have worked on some soccer and also their 1st quarter fitness testing. Students are recording their fitness test results on their logs. In coming the weeks students will begin working on basketball skills and activities. We are also doing a variety of team and cooperative games. The mile Monday is up and running. Many students have improved their times from the first week. Students are logging their runs and will keep a record all year. Students in 8th grade Strength and Conditioning are working hard, getting fit and learning form on lifts and movements.

Adam Anders

Teacher

Nikiski Middle/High School

Physical Education Grades 6 - 8



## MR. SMITH - SIXTH GRADE

Things are in full swing in Mr. Smith's world so far this school year! I help coach football and we are in the thick of our season currently, which makes for long and busy days- but I love it! I'm also busy chasing around my 15-month old son, Silas, when I am home from school and football. It is a blast being his daddy! In the classroom, I am teaching 6th and 7th grade math, as well as a high school personal finance class. In my middle school math classes, students just finished up Ed Performance testing and are finally starting to learn the routines for a typical week at school. It is good to start to settle into a rhythm after the first few weeks of school. Students are constantly being pushed to be accountable and responsible for their work and staying organized. I am looking forward to my personal finance class, as I will have a lot of opportunities to share experiences from my life to help teach our students practical lessons about finances. The importance of saving and budgeting is coming up soon, which will provide the chance for some great discussions, meaningful projects, and practical learning.

## MRS. DILLON - CHOIR/BAND



Hello Music Lovers!

This semester so far has been wonderful!

We have been working hard and are getting ready for our first band and choir concert of the year on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7PM!

Coming up later this semester we may have students performing in the Borough Honor Choir October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Homer. We have had quite a few students audition for All-State Choir and we should hear back in a few weeks if they made it! The Allstate Gala Concert is being held at the West Anchorage High School Auditorium on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> following three days of grueling rehearsals! I it an excellent concert I hope you can join us! Finally, our winter concert is December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Can't wait to see you at our upcoming concerts and have a wonderfully musical day!

## MR. SWABY - WELDING/WOODS



I am very glad to be back in the classroom. I have 15 years experience in the field working as a welder, fabricator, roustabout, truck driver, carpenter. I have always worked in the maintenance and construction fields. A few years ago Mr. Carstens gave me the opportunity to be a welding instructor at Nikiski Middle/High School. It started out like just another job, but after spending time in the building with the students and staff it made me realize how much I enjoyed being here. Do to some unfortunate events, I have spent the last 3 years in the field building a natural gas compressor facility all the way to building another house.

I am very excited to be teaching wood/construction this year along with welding. We're hoping to build a sauna and a few greenhouses this year along with our usual arts and crafts like cheese boards and bowls. We will see what this year will bring.

## MRS. BARROWS - LANGUAGE

Hello and welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I'm so excited for what this year will bring! Again this year, I am teaching a couple of language arts fundamentals classes and study skills. In LA Fundamentals, we will be working through the Language! Curriculum and reading some books to go along with it. We have just begun reading Holes by Louis Sachar. These books will be used to build comprehension skills and add some interesting projects to the class. I am eager to see how much improvement these students make in their reading skills this year!

To help me and your student out, please encourage them to read at home each night. Even just reading recipes or magazines can be huge in improving reading skills.



## MS. NIEMCZYK - LANGUAGE ARTS

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts:** Welcome to Middle School! I am so excited to have gotten to know each of your students some and look forward to learning more about them. Our focus of study this quarter is Narratives. We are reading a variety of short stories that focus on important moments in one's life. Students will be writing personal memoirs from different points of their lives throughout the quarter. 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. The choice of what to read is up to each student. They will be reading in class 3 days a week and need to read at home 2-3 times a week to make sure that they stay on track to finish a book every 4-5 weeks. Students will be doing bi-weekly reading letters this quarter instead of a traditional book report. The students just finished up Ed Performance testing that provides a base line or starting point for reading and writing skills. Results are used to help develop and create reading and writing goals for the quarter. This allows me to personalize each student's instruction and ensures that each student is being challenged.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts:** 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—poetry. The students are reading a variety of poems that will help them discover how word choice influences meaning and how poets develop a theme. Unlike in previous years, students do not have weekly reading logs, unless they are absent from school on a Wed. Students will be completing an in-class reading log that is specific to the skills/strategy that students is working on. Students do need to be reading at home 2-3 times a week for 25-40 minutes. Please encourage your student to be reading and ask them how they are doing on their book report. Their first quarter book report is due by Oct. 11. Students are graded on the State standards. Much of their classwork is to allow them to practice the standards and skills being taught with the majority of their grade coming from final essays, projects and reports that let you, your student, and myself know exactly what material/skills have been mastered and which still need practice. This allows for me to ensure that each student works on the skills they need. The students just finished up Ed Performance testing that provides a base line or starting point for reading and writing skills. Results are used to help develop and create reading and writing goals for the quarter. This allows me to personalize each student's instruction and ensures that each student is being challenged.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts:** What a great beginning to the year we have had. The students have dived right in and gotten back into the rhythm of our classroom. Our first unit of study is the Hero's Journey and Archetypes. Students are exploring archetypes that are found in literature regardless of culture or time period. This is an easy unit to hook students into because they all relate to superheroes and quest adventures. I feel that it is important for students to have as much choice and control in their education as possible. They must always have something that they are reading—a book, magazine, play or poetry. The choice of what to read is up to each student. We are working on reading strategies that evaluate the story in terms of plot, character, and literary devices, as well as using foreshadowing and tone to make predictions. Students are writing two reading letters each week and have their first quarter book report due Oct. 12th. Students are being assessed on the State standards in what is known as standards based grading. Students know that they need to be keeping track of their progress and growth with each standard. Much of their classwork is to allow them to practice the standards and skills being taught with the majority of their grade coming from final essays, projects and reports that let you, your student, and myself know exactly what material/skills have been mastered and which still need practice. The students just finished up Ed Performance testing that provides a base line or starting point for reading and writing skills. Results are used to help develop and create reading and writing goals for the quarter. This allows me to personalize each student's instruction and ensures that each student is being challenged.

## MR. DOTH - SCIENCE

Welcome back all Nikiski Middle/High students!! My classes are up and running with a great start and I'm excited to move forward with 2017/18. Middle school science is delving into the art of designing experiments and how to work through the scientific method. Airplanes, gummy bears, and fruit flies are all up for experimenting on! 7th graders will soon be starting with the Biology curriculum while the 8th grade classes wait to dive into the world of Chemistry. The new Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) class is also up and running. Students are engineering fixed wing gliders right now in hopes of creating a giant, 3 foot wing span glider. Creating propulsion systems, building drones, and making movies with aerial videography is on the horizon. Stay tuned faithful readers, there is so much more to come.

# MS. GAUNT- COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Hello from the Counseling Team!

This year is already off to a very busy and very exciting start. We hosted Freshmen Transition Night to provide freshmen and parents with information about what to look forward to as high school students. We've also started meeting with seniors to get them thinking about and working towards their post-secondary goals. Speaking of post-secondary planning, we look forward to facilitating AKCIS (Alaska Career Information Systems) lessons with students grades 7-12 this year. Additionally, right now Sophomores & Juniors are invited to sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT. This test is a great opportunity to get a feel for the SAT and juniors can even qualify for the National Merit Scholarship competition! The test costs \$17 and will be offered in school on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. A limited number of fee waivers are available for juniors who qualify and will be distributed on a first come/first served basis. Reserve your seat today by signing up outside Ms. G's office.

Here are some Counseling Program events coming up:

Thursday, September 21

2<sup>nd</sup> hour – Financial Aid & Post-Secondary Planning Presentation with UAA & KPC for Seniors

6pm in the library - Financial Aid & Post-Secondary Planning Presentation with UAA & KPC for Seniors & Parents!

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

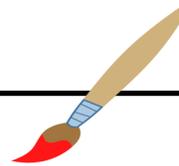
6:30pm in the library – FAFSA Completion Event with Kathi Overpeck from KPC

Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

In the Library – PSAT Test for Sophomores & Juniors

Let's have a great year!

Ms. G & Mrs. Carstens



# MS. WIDMAN - ART

The art at Nikiski is off to a great start! Middle school started with color theory and pastel landscapes and is moving on to weaving. High school classes are working on expressive self-portraits. This year I gave students free choice in medium (pencil, photography, paint, etc.) to help them explore the available options and express themselves comfortably! Digital photography is studying the elements and principles of design. They are also exploring slow shutter speed and other camera functions.



*Shaylynn Stroman works on expressive self portrait.*



*Siobhan Dempsey works on expressive self portraits*

## **MRS. SINGER - SPANISH/US HISTORY**

My name is Sarah H. Singer. This is my first year at Nikiski High School. My family and I moved here from Tokyo, Japan where my husband retired from the USAF after 22 years of service. I have been in education for over 6 years and am certified to teach Spanish, English, History, and Math. I have a master's degree in Teaching and have the best job in the world! This year at Nikiski, I am teaching Spanish 1 and 2, US History, and Distance Ed Language Arts. There are many exciting projects and activities on the horizon in my Spanish classes. The students are not only learning conversational Spanish; they are learning about Hispanic culture as well. In the coming weeks, we will be exploring Hispanic food and holidays. US History is currently studying Early American and the Constitution. The students are connecting past events to current global issues. It is great to see history alive. My distance learning classes are focusing on Shakespeare and American literature. It is wonderful to experience young minds at work.

If you get a chance, please stop by the classroom. I think you'll find enthusiasm for learning, student awareness of the world and cultures around them, and insight into how history has created our global community.

## **MR. JACKSON - STUDY SKILLS**

### **Study skills are life skills!**

After having spent the last few years working with middle schoolers, I have made the transition back into high school. It has been a smooth transition, largely in part to the fact that I already knew many of the high school students that I am now working with. I appreciate being able to engage with students and to see the maturity that many of them have acquired since middle school. They have grown up considerably since those days.

It is my goal help direct every high school student I come into contact with a little closer to being a self-directed learner. I have this opportunity many times throughout a day, in Study Skills, in Science class, in a Language Arts class. In the study skills environment, it is largely comprised of reminding young people to work on whatever it is they need to individually. For some students, that is all the reminder they need. Others require a little more prompting before they get to the aha, I know what I am needing to work on.

Whenever someone has just found out that I am a teacher, their next question is always what do you teach, my answer has always been "kids". I teach kids. This year I look forward to having the opportunity to teach young people how to become (at least a little more) independent than they came into the year.

Take a step back, take a look at your son or daughter, can you see the growth? Can you see an area they have matured in since last year? Use this time to point it out to them, let them know that you are proud of them and see that they are growing up.

## **MRS. HORNUNG - MATH**

This year I'm teaching high school Physical Science, Physics, Engineering, and middle school Math. I love these topics and its fun teaching students of all ages. Physical Science is an introduction to the world of Chemistry and Physics. We will begin the year with Chemistry and will transition to Physics after Christmas. My Physics class will spend all year gaining enough knowledge and skills to be proficient in a college level physics class. Also new to me this year is a class called Introduction to Engineering and Design in which students will learn the basics of engineering and have some practice designing and building some of their own creations. Just like last year, you can find important information on Canvas, the District's learning management system. Canvas is where I will post class notes and extra copies of handouts given during class. If you haven't had a chance yet, have your children log into Canvas and show you what's there. It will be a tool I use to allow students access to the topics we cover in class so that they can study from the notes and get extra practice from home.

## **MR. BJORKMAN - HISTORY**

7th Grade Ancient Civilizations – In this course students have been learning about some basic geographical and historical ideas as we prepare to begin our study of the ancient civilization of Sumer and the beginning of people living in large cities with written histories. Currently students are working in groups producing posters that represent one of the 5 themes of geography.

9th Grade Alaska Studies – Students have been learning about the basic geography of Alaska and the location of many communities and landforms on the map. Also, students have begun learning about the climate regions of Alaska, the native tribes that reside in these regions and their ancient cultures.

10th Grade World History – Students have been learning about the Renaissance and its effect on western civilization and modern culture. We will continue to follow the historical progress of improving freedom for citizens and the transition toward constitutional democracies from totalitarian monarchy in Europe.

11th Grade US History – Students have been leaning about the Civil War and its aftermath of Reconstruction. We have had some great conversations related to current events and connecting the past with the present.

## **MR. BAILEY - QUEST / GEOGRAPHY**

6-8th Quest & 6th Geography:

Middle school Quest students will be involved in a variety of projects, competitions, and creative pursuits over the coming quarters. Throughout the school year, Quest students participate in a wide assortment of activities connected with numerous subjects, in order to provide students enrichment opportunities which continue to challenge students and allow for creative expression. Challenging engineering competitions, math meets, computer application projects, creative expression through writing or visual pursuits, middle school debates, mock trial, logical reasoning problems, coding activities, group problem-solving tasks, independent research projects, digital film endeavors, and critical thinking puzzlers are just some of the wide number of opportunities middle school Quest students dive into through the year. This year's "Mind A-Mazes" engineering/teamwork challenge (open to all students) was just recently released, so if any student wants to form a team and learn more about this year's "Crazy Catapults" challenge, they should stop by or find Mr. Bailey to get more information!

6th Geography class will spend the year learning more about the various continental regions of the world, from their physical & political geography, to their cultural characteristics and distinguishing features. Students will also increase their understanding of geographic terms found on maps and globes, their ability to interpret geographic information from maps, graphs, and charts, as well as the capability of creating their own maps of the various continents we study throughout the quarters. Current event articles or major news events also routinely tie into geography and lead to great discussions.

## **MRS. HALL - SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Hello! I am excited to be a Nikiski Bulldog! I am the new Special Education teacher for the Middle School. I will be teaching Math Fundamentals. A little about myself, I was raised in the beautiful White Mountains of Pinetop-Lakeside Arizona. My family and I have lived in Missouri, Alaska, and Colorado. My husband and I have three daughters. I have enjoyed getting to know my students. Here's to a fantastic year Bulldogs!

## **MRS. JENNESS - YEARBOOK / AP ENGLISH**

Mrs. Jenness' Language Arts classes are up, running, and looking great. This year I decided to go almost entirely paperless, having students turn in everything on Canvas. I feel strongly that no technology can substitute for a great teacher-student-classroom experience, but technology can streamline many of the processes of turning in assignments for review and grading. Grading work in Canvas makes it easier for me to get more feedback to students more quickly. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions. Yearbooks are now on sale for the low, low price of only \$45! Go to Jostens.com and order yours today!

## **MR. MORIN - BIOLOGY**

The new school year is well underway. The New School Year brings new and different approaches to learning for students transitioning from Middle School to the rigors of High School. Both the students and I will be learning some of these new and different approaches as we go. I am still working on my Canvas skills. However, there are some traditional modes of learning that will not change. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize a couple of requirements that are essential for all students in my classes if they are to succeed. The first irreplaceable skill is memorization. There are myriad methods and techniques regarding effective memorization. I will teach several explicit skills to all my students. I encourage the students to use whatever method that works for their learning and thinking style. But, they must learn to memorize and this takes time. Over my 29 year career in teaching, I have attempted to explain the necessity of HOMEWORK. Our culture has certainly changed since I've started teaching. Frequently, I encounter people who believe kids should not have to spend time outside of school working on school work. This is an unfortunate and misguided belief. There is not enough time in the 170 in-school contact hours allocated for students to work through all the curriculum. Nor are these 170 hours enough for practice and drill, memorization, exploration and the other learning events, let alone exploration of the critical thinking we need to get the kids through to have an optimal learning opportunity. Therefore HOMEWORK is expected and necessary. I ask every parent to read through your child's science notebook. Please review and look through their textbook. It is a wonderful textbook. I ask every parent to use PowerSchool and frequently review your child's progress and grades in my class. Talk to your kids about what is happening in their science class. And please call or e-mail me if you have any concerns or if you would just like to discuss your child's progress in my class.

## **MS. BOYLE - CREDIT RECOVERY / CHEER COACH**

### **Future Nikiski Cheerleader Camp**

Come to Nikiski High School on **Saturday Sept 23rd at 9am** in shorts, a t-shirt, tennis shoes and your hair pulled back in a ponytail, bangs out of your eyes, ready to have some fun!!!!

Any questions call Coach Holly Boyle at 252-0988 or 776-9400. Registration begins at 8:30.

**Who:** Ages 4-13 or grades k-8<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** NIKISKI HIGH SCHOOL GYM

**When:** SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2017 with an opportunity to perform at half Time at the Sept. 30th home game at 2.

**Time:** 9am -11am

**Cost:** \$25



## **MR. NELSON - PE / FOOTBALL COACH**

It's been a great year for Bulldog football as we cruise past the halfway point of the regular season. We are currently in the midst of a 3 game winning streak, and have our sights set on Homer this weekend. Also, we are number one in the conference, having won our first two conference match ups against Voz and Redington. Expectations are high as we near playoff time. We have two more home games left. 9/22 against Eielson, and our senior night, 9/23 vs Eielson. Come out and support your Bulldogs!

There has been a lot of activity and learning in Phys Ed this semester. Soccer is going strong in 8 PE. We have progressed to full sized games! In Life Activities, we are full swing into softball, and the bats are getting stronger. We have a new approach to Physical Training this year, as we are learning a lot about fitness and the kids are working towards their personal fitness goals.

All in all, it's shaping up to be a great semester!

## **MR. RIZZO - LANGUAGE ARTS/DRAMA**

Hear ye, hear ye, this court in Mr. Rizzo's government class is about to begin! I love teaching the government class and coming up with hands-on lessons that our seniors can get into. It prepares them for the real world and helps them understand some of the incredibly important things about law and government that will affect them their whole lives. For the next few weeks, we will be holding mock trials where students get to play the part of prosecutors and defense attorneys, witnesses and experts. You learn by being involved and in government class, we are learning a lot.

## **MR. PORTER - MATH**

Advanced Algebra is off to a great start with our study of transformations. We are looking forward to Unit two where we will be teaming up with Mr. Hooper and his Advanced Algebra class to give kids a more personalized learning experience.

Geometry is just finishing up chapter 1 which deals in mostly geometry vocab. Now we are prepared to move on to some bigger and better things with the introduction to logic statements and then on to algebraic proofs.

Pre-Calc has cruised through chapter 1 as well, which is almost all review, and we are almost ready to tackle Chapter 2 which gets us into polynomial and rational functions.

Algebra 1 has been a really fun group thus far. They come in everyday eager to learn... which is unusual for a 7th period class. These go-getters have eaten up 1,2 and multiple step equations. They are currently working on solving the ever-so-tough Literal Equations and then we are on to solving absolute value equations.

Overall it has been a great start to the year. Just about every student here and NKMHS has proven to be up to the challenge of math. What a great start!

-Mr. Porter



# NIKISKI MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

PO Box 7112  
Nikiski, AK 99635

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

KENAI, AK 99611

NON-PROFIT

PERMIT NO. 23



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### Upcoming Events:

- 9-22 Football vs Eielson
- 9/23 HS XC Running Regions @ Wasilla
- 9/27 HS Wrestling Begins
- 9/30 Football vs Seward—Senior Night

### Looking Ahead:

- Early Release: 09/13, 10/25, 11/22
- October 5: National Honors Society Induction/ Academic Awards @ 6:00 p.m.
- October 12 : Fall Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- Inservice Day: October 20
- Parents Teacher Conference: October 26 & 27,

