



Community Update - November 2019

District Calendar

November is...

Alaska Native and American Indian Heritage Month

November 12

Community Forum
at Begich Middle School

November 13

Community Forum
at Mirror Lake Middle School

November 15

Rock Your Mocs

November 18-22

American Education Week

November 19

Regular School Board Meeting

November 21

Community Forum
at Mears Middle School

November 28-29

Thanksgiving Holiday



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

Anchorage School Board Strategic Planning Community Forums



The Anchorage School Board invites anyone with a stake in the educational success of our children to participate in one of four community forums about the future goals and direction of the Anchorage School District.

Community involvement and feedback in the School Board's strategic planning process will contribute to a new set of Districtwide goals to be introduced next fall.

Please join us in this community-wide process focused on educating all students for success in life.

Forums are open to the general public

Service/South Region

Thursday, Nov. 7

6-7:30 p.m.

Goldenview Middle School
15800 Golden View Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

Bartlett/East Region

Tuesday, Nov. 12

6-7:30 p.m.

Begich Middle School
7440 Creekside Center Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504

Chugiak/Eagle River Region

Wednesday, Nov. 13

6-7:30 p.m.

Mirror Lake Middle School
22901 Lake Hill Drive
Chugiak, AK 99567

Dimond/West Region

Thursday, Nov. 21

6-7:30 p.m.

Mears Middle School
2700 W 100th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99515

You may also provide input via our community-wide survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYRJY56.
The survey will be available to the public through Nov. 27.



Alaska Native and American Indian Heritage Month

Since 1990, November has been Alaska Native American Indian Heritage Month, a time to celebrate history, traditions, and rich and diverse cultures. Heritage Month is also a perfect time to educate the public about American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, cultures, and traditions. This month raises recognition of the challenges Native people have faced from the past to the present, and the ways in which American Indians and Alaska Native peoples have worked to overcome these obstacles.

Within Alaska, there are 11 distinct cultures, with 22 different dialects. Please join us in celebrating Native Heritage Month, researching our local history, and learning about Alaska's first peoples.

Good Things:



The Grand Opening of the Lower Yukon School District's Kusilvak Career Academy

On Wednesday, November 7, surrounded by superintendents, school board members, and state representatives from both the Anchorage and Lower Yukon School Districts, students cut a black and orange ribbon signifying the grand opening of the new home for 42 Lower Yukon School District students.

Just over one year ago, the Lower Yukon School District (LYSD) and the Anchorage School District embarked on an innovative mission to expand Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities to students in the rural LYSD.

LYSD Superintendent Hannibal Anderson is committed to creating access to career pathways for

his students and increasing their graduation rate, which is currently at 60 percent. Studies show that students enrolled in at least one CTE course have a graduation rate of 94 percent.

Concerned that they would not be able to attract industry instructors to their remote district, LYSD reached out to ASD last fall to form a strong partnership. With both school boards excited about the partnership and the program, LYSD purchased the Alaskan Long House Hotel in Anchorage and have been renovating it for its new purpose—student housing.

The LYSD students will be housed at the Kusilvak Career Academy for nine weeks at a time, taking afternoon industry classes at King Tech High School. LYSD students will take courses like carpentry, welding, criminal justice, cosmetology, aviation tech, and more. Earlier in the day, they will take online courses at the Academy, receiving assistance from certified teachers and aids.

Insider Information:

The Anchorage School District Career Technical Education (CTE) Department is pleased to announce that two of their nominees for Alaska Association for Career & Technical Education (AK ACTE) were selected as winners: one teacher, Adam Wood, and one of ASD's community partners, Ben Craig.

Adam Wood has been awarded Alaska New CTE Teacher of the Year. First hired as a teacher for the newly developed metal fabrication program at East High School, Adam Wood has since enriched the program with technology including 3D printing, computer-aided milling, and plasma cutting. His passion for sharing his craft with students comes through in the meticulous details of his program organization and production.

ASD is grateful for Ben Craig's work in improving educational opportunities for our students. Not only is Ben an advocate for our students in his spare time, but as the Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer at Northrim Bank, he continues his support through a valuable School Business Partnership.

Anchorage School Board: Starr Marsett, President

Margo Bellamy

Dave Donley

Alisha Hilde


Andy Holleman

Deena Mitchell


Elisa Vakalis

Superintendent: Dr. Deena Bishop

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