



## Community Update – December 2020

### District Calendar

**December is...**

**December 7**

National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance

**December 10**

Hanukkah

**December 21**

Winter Solstice

**December 22**

Mathematics Day

**December 24**

Christmas Eve

**December 25**

Christmas Day

**December 26**

Kwanzaa

### Upcoming ASD Events

**Wednesday, December 9**

ASD Townhall Goals and Guardrails

**Thursday, December 17**

Classes end

**Friday, December 18**

State Released Grade Reporting Day  
End of Second Quarter

**Monday, December 21**

Winter Break begins



### ASD Asks Community to Put Education First

“Getting our kids back into the classroom is going to require the commitment of the entire community.

Marcus Wilson  
Principal, Wendler MS

PUT EDUCATION FIRST



*The pandemic has affected everyone in this community. With schools closed, students continue to bear more than their share of the burden. Every day our students are out of the classroom, they are missing out on essential skills and services they can't get anywhere else. Getting our students back into the classroom is going to require a commitment from the entire community. The sooner Anchorage reduces the spread of COVID-19, the sooner students can be back in school. Let's put education first. Our students deserve it.*

The ASD Public Service Announcement [Put Education First](#) was developed to highlight students and staff advocating for a safe return to school in school. While some families are managing school well from home, students overall learn more when they are in school. While everyone is impacted by the pandemic in different ways, students are bearing an undue burden. They lack necessary educational, physical, and mental health supports.

### Anchorage School Board Seeks Stakeholder Feedback on Draft Goals and Guardrails

The Anchorage School Board is amid its strategic planning process to provide specific guidance and direction for the District through 2026. The

Board is seeking community feedback in two areas: [Draft Board Goals and Draft Board Guardrails](#).

To be transparent to the public through the entire process, the Board is presenting these draft goals for public feedback and encourages input from students, parents, educators, community organizations, and business leaders.

The Goals and Guardrails are listed in no particular order. Stakeholders can submit Board Goals input [here](#) and Board Guardrails input [here](#).

The Board will host a second [Online Townhall Meeting](#) Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. to discuss its strategic planning process. Attendees will hear about the draft Goals and Guardrails, the process of how they were developed, and can ask questions and provide feedback. Spanish interpretation and close captioning will be available.

## Good Things:



### ASD Awarded for Exemplary Elementary Foreign Language Programs

The Anchorage School District's [World Languages and Immersion Programs Department](#) was presented the [Melba D. Woodruff Award](#) for Exemplary Elementary Foreign Language Programs. The national award was presented to ASD on Nov. 20 at the 2020 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Professional Awards Ceremony, which took place during the first day of the ACTFL 2020 Virtual Conference.



The award honors Melba D. Woodruff, a classroom teacher for over 40 years, and recognizes an exemplary K-6 world language program.

ASD began its [Language Immersion Programs](#) in 1989 with the inception of its Japanese immersion program. Since then, the District has added Spanish, Russian, German, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Yup'ik, one of Alaska's 20 official Indigenous languages.

ASD's foreign language programs reflect the history and characteristics of its community. ASD is one of the nation's largest districts but also one of the most diverse. More than 100 home languages are spoken by ASD students and their families. Over 4,000 students participate in ASD immersion programs.

View the acceptance video [here](#).

### ASD COVID-19 Testing Sites Throughout December

Throughout the month of December, the Municipality of Anchorage will be conducting COVID-19 testing at select ASD sites. This COVID-19 PCR testing service is open to the public and free of charge. Testing will be conducted by Visit Healthcare. It is helpful to schedule your visit ahead of time online.

See a list of available dates and ASD testing sites below. All testing sites will be open 8 a.m. through 7 p.m.

## COVID-19 Testing Sites at select ASD schools

Testing times are 8 a.m. through 7 p.m.

Date	Location
Friday, December 4	Williwaw Elementary School
Saturday, December 5	AK Native Cultural Charter School
Monday, December 7	Clark Middle School
Friday, December 11	North Star Elementary School
Monday, December 14	Lake Hood Elementary School
Friday, December 18	Russian Jack Elementary School
Monday, December 21	Taku Elementary School
Monday, December 28	ASD Education Center



**Anchorage School Board:** Elisa Vakalis, President

Margo Bellamy

Dave Donley

Alisha Hilde

Andy Holleman

Starr Marsett

Deena Mitchell

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