

Annaleah Ernst
Student Representative for the Board of Education
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
2011-2012

For the very first year of my elementary education, I was home-schooled. I spent the next two years at a private school in Kenai (READS Primary). I was then shipped Nikiski Elementary as a third grader, and public school was different in virtually every way from my previous experiences. My first year was Nikiski El's last, so for fourth through sixth grade, I was sent to the newly named Nikiski North Star Elementary. Upon graduation from elementary school, I began to attend my current place of education: Nikiski Junior Senior High School.

For years before high school, I played the clarinet and oboe. I am now singing as the alto section leader in choir. I am also part of the North Road Pounders and have played for various dance performances and the closing ceremony of the Arctic Winter Games. I love art, be it drawn, painted, sculpted, crocheted, folded, or crafted. I have a great passion for the theater, particularly musicals. I have been involved in the school performances since seventh grade, and I have been in the last two Kenai Performers Shows, getting the lead role in *Peter Pan*.

I have participated in a diverse group of volunteer activities. I dug ditches with Habitat for Humanity in Costa Rica. I volunteered with Cook Inlet Keeper to raise awareness about the Kenai watershed and marine health. I worked for the Red Cross sorting pennies. I donated hair to Locks of Love twice. I raised money for Relay for Life and worked on a committee to help start a mini-Relay at my school. I prepared and served food at the annual AFS foreign exchange student banquet. I have spent literal days of my life raking pits, calling names, and resetting bars at district track meets. I have been a timer at the State Wrestling Tournament. I have been a counselor at a children's science camp. I have given public presentations through 4-H. I picked up trash on the side of the road. I have volunteered at the animal shelter. I have helped to maintain the headquarters of the Timberlost Trumpeter Swam Conservancy. I have spent countless hours behind the scenes with the Nikiski High School Drama Department. I have worked at the Ninilchick fair grounds. I spend many mornings in our school's writing lab helping underclassman perfect their papers.

My first extracurricular of the year is cross country running, a sport I have been in for two years. I have been performing in dance troupe for five years, and am now a principle dancer. Student council is another significant draw upon my spare time. I was the Student Body Activities Director as a sophomore, and this year, I have taken up the mantle of Student Body President, a rare honor for a junior. I am also the Drama, Debate, and Forensics (DDF) Team captain.

I have received various academic awards for my 4.0 and advanced courses including student of the month, quarter, semester, and year in various classes, and an academic letter. I have also lettered in DDF. I scored extremely well on the PSAT, though I was not eligible for the National Merit Scholarship because I was a sophomore. I was selected to attend a leadership conference in Washington, DC. I was on the Language Arts Curriculum committee. I have received a variety of awards through 4-H, including the Herdsmanship award, grand champion chickens, and Master Smallstock Showman. I am a second year member of National Honor Society. I am honored to be a part of this important board and look forward to serving the students of this district with you.