

BULLDOG BITES

Nikiski Middle/High School

October 15, 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

Wow, what a year! In a year of uncertainty of what each day brings, we still choose to bring our best! Our goal is to tackle each day, one at a time and make it the best it can possibly be. Even though challenges present themselves on a daily and sometimes on a minute by minute basis, we still have much to celebrate this year:

Through this pandemic, we still had students physically in school for almost six weeks before COVID case counts forced us back into remote learning

Our students and community are working through all the challenges of different mitigation plans to still be together

We are improvising different ways to have contactless hand shakes and high fives!

Our student council planned and executed a homecoming week unlike any other in school history

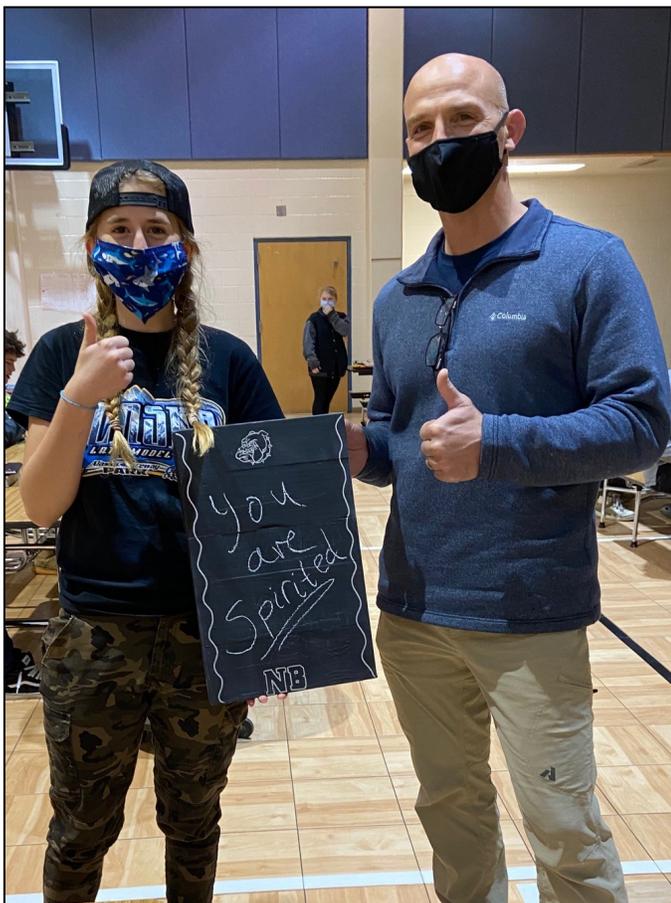
We were able to host our first home playoff football game in five years

Our students and staff bring a positive attitude every day

This is just a sampling of the great things still happening at NMHS every day, whether in person or remote.

I hope you all are doing well and overcoming the challenges we face every day!

Be Kind...Do Good



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

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.



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Parents/Guardians/Students

FROM: Kevin Lyon, Planning and Operations Director

DATE: Fall, 2020

SUBJECT: AHERA School Management Plans

As mandated by Federal Regulation 40 CFR PART 763, known as AHERA (the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, enacted in 1987), local educational agencies must notify parents/guardians/students in writing each school year about the existence and location of AHERA School Management Plans for each school building within their jurisdiction.

Currently, copies of all AHERA School Management Plans are located at the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's Central Office and at the Kenai Peninsula Borough Maintenance Office. In addition, a copy of the individual AHERA Management Plan for each school is kept on site in the school's administrative office. AHERA Management Plans may be inspected at any of these sites.

Your school, Nikiski Middle/High School, has been inspected for the presence of asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM), and none were found.

If you should have any questions concerning the AHERA School Management Plans or asbestos-related activities, as the designated Local Education Agency's Asbestos Coordinator, I can be contacted at the School District's Central Office or phone (907) 714-8875.



MR. JACKSON - HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

After a delayed start, it was so great to meet with my LA10 class in person. One of the topics we discussed was the idea of mobocracy and going along with the flow. Students recognized it nearly right away as peer pressure. One of the assignments I had given while we were still in a remote learning phase was to watch a video titled Relationships and Belonging. It goes through what healthy relationships look like at home, with your friends, and in a public setting such as a classroom. My objective was to not only install another layer of what healthy relationships look like, but also to start the year off knowing that expressing their opinions in my class was ok, even if it differed from others, the key is how we each react to the differences.

We also cracked our first novel, taken from a list of books every high school student should read, George Orwell's Animal Farm. Something I really enjoyed was not only watching my students make the connections between the allegory and who the real people were being portrayed by each character. This small group of students came to class every time ready and looking forward to reading the next chapter. If you have not read Animal Farm, I encourage you to do so, it is a quick 10 chapter read. But I'll end with a warning, as you "look from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; it may become impossible to say which is which."

2020 NIKISKI MIDDLE SOCCER TEAM



MR. HOOPER - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/ HIGH SCHOOL MATH

Bulldog Parents,

It has certainly been an interesting start to the school year from the AD's office. I have files upon files of mitigation plans that have been submitted and resubmitted for approval. I am very happy that we have been able to have our student athletes competing at all levels. We have managed to compete in the football playoffs, completed Middle School Cross Country Running and Soccer seasons. We were able to host our High School Cross Country race and our Shayna Marie Pritchard Memorial Volleyball Tournament after having postponed them earlier in the fall.

I would like to thank our parents and fans for their cooperation as we try to keep our events going and open to spectators. I have had only positive interactions with our community as we enforce our mitigation plans. I truly appreciate that you are understanding and willing to wear a mask when required so that our kids can have opportunities to participate.

Middle School Basketball is now underway and High School Wrestling will be starting the on November 2nd. The start of High School Basketball season has been moved to after Christmas break.

MRS. BARROWS - MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS / READING

In a world of craziness, I am so happy to be back in a classroom with students in front of me! It has been a rough transition for many, but we are just so thankful to be together again and are working hard to make up for lost time. My students are working hard to improve reading and writing skills. I teach three fundamental language arts classes where we work to fill holes. Students are completing assessments that give me the necessary information to know where to start and how to group them.

Thank you for supporting your children in this strange journey we are on. We will get through, together. 😊

MRS. HALL - STUDY SKILLS/ MATH FUNDAMENTALS

This year in math fundamentals we are using the ALEKS program. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. The students are showing individual growth in their math fundamentals class. My students have done a fantastic job getting back into the school routine.

In my 4th, 5th, and 6th-period study skills classes, students are provided the opportunity to prepare, organize, plan, and complete assignments for their classes. Students review their academic progress weekly. Parents can review their child's grades on Power school.



Powder Puff Football Game

MS. WIDMAN - ART / DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY/ GRAPHICS

Art at Nikiski Middle High is off to a great start! It is such a joy to have students in my classroom, my in person, real life classroom! Introduction and Intermediate classes have been learning about acrylic and watercolor paints and the difference between the two.

Digital Photography has been working on color theory, depth of field and the basics of Photoshop. Our photographs of the week are always a favorite with the students choosing the theme each week. This week the theme is Monochromatic. Delving into photojournalism students are each interviewing a community member to create a feature on!

A new addition, Graphic art has been developing personal logos using Adobe software. Next they will be spoofing or modifying an existing logo.

I look forward to another quarter with each of my amazing students.

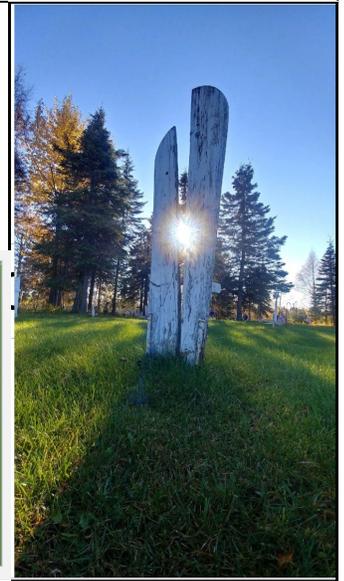


From left to right:

Brianna Blankenship, Acrylic Painting

Emma Lakin, graphic design

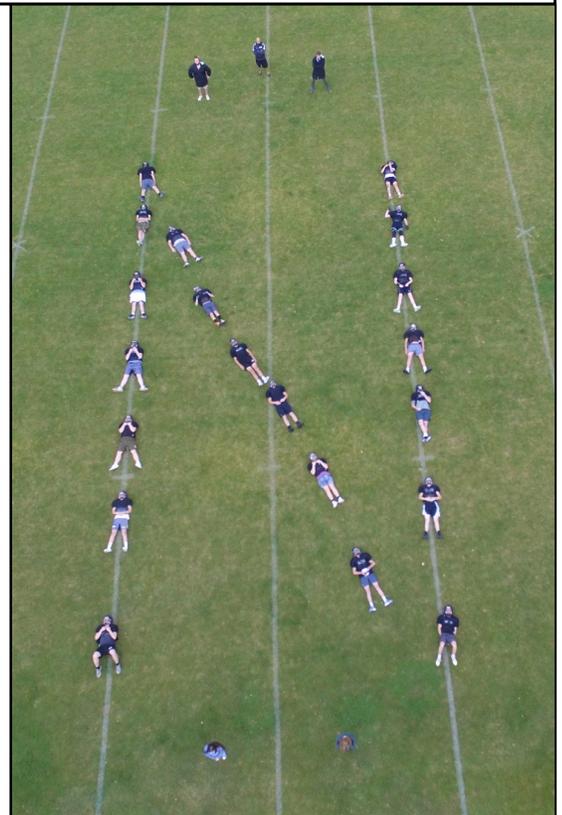
Rory Gilmartin, Digital Photograph



MR. NELSON - PHYSICAL TRAINING / LIFE ACTIVITIES

The world of Physical Education has been off to a great start! In Life Activities, we just finished our fitness unit, which was preceded by ultimate Frisbee. We have also been playing a variety of games to spice things up!

As for Physical Training, we have been exploring core lifts like the deadlift, squat, and power clean. We also throw some speed days in there for good measure. Team Activities is a new class this semester and we are having a ball! We have played some tennis, moved on to table tennis, and are looking at badminton next! It's been great to have kids in school again!



MRS. JENNESS - HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS/ YEARBOOK

The 2021 Silver Scribe yearbook staff is hard at work to document this crazy year! You're not going to want to miss out on this historical edition of Nikiski Middle High School's Silver Scribe Yearbook. Act now to order yours at the year's lowest price, \$50. Go to [Jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com) to easily order yours today!

MRS. HORNING - HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE / MATH COURSE 1 & 2

This year I'm teaching high school Physical Science, Chemistry, Engineering, and Math Fundamentals. I love these topics and it's 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 Chemistry class will spend all year gaining enough knowledge and skills to be proficient in a college level chemistry class. 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.

As we are all well aware, other changes are happening everyday. If for some reason your child is at home for an extended period, please make sure they are checking in daily. The way to do that is to navigate to my Canvas page and follow the links to get to class. I will check in with each student as they video call in, let them know what we are doing in the class that day, and then either invite them to be part of the class virtually, or allow them to work offline. It is necessary, however, that they call in each day. Every remote student and every in-person student works at a different pace, so it is essential that they make daily contact with me to stay caught up.

MRS. BOSTIC - SIXTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS & SCIENCE

As I begin my 10th year in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, I find myself in a new home. It is the home of the Bulldogs and I could not be happier to be here. This year I have the opportunity to teach 6th grade Language Arts and Earth Science. I am also coaching the Middle School Battle of the Books teams.

Sixth grade students began the year with a novel called *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis. They have been practicing reading and writing skills using a variety of texts centered on a theme of Human Perception of Wolves throughout History. In addition, we have begun our Global Read Aloud project with a book called *Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park. We have made connections with several classrooms across the world.



In our Earth Science classes, students have learned about scientific inquiry, scientific investigations, and the methods of science. We began learning about the Solar system and exploring the role of gravity in our universe.

The class of 2027 is made up of hardworking, bright, enthusiastic students who make me smile. I am thankful for each day we have in the classroom together. They are a special group of kids and I look forward to seeing everything they accomplish this year and into the future.

MR. ANDERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Nikiski Middle School Physical Education is up and running. We are rolling with the changes and keeping students moving and exercising. Students have participated in basketball and soccer activities. We are doing a variety of team and cooperative games modified for social distancing.

MS. BOYLE - INTERVENTION / DANCE / CREDIT RECOVERY

READ 180

It is so great to have students in class. We are reading a book called GHOST by Jason Reynolds. This author has written quite a few books that are popular with teen readers. Later in the year, we will read another book by Reynolds, allowing the opportunity for students to compare and contrast the two. Also encouraging students to find books that they like to read based off our selections. Ghost is a fun book that has lessons and consequences. Students can empathize with the characters. We are working on skills to build background knowledge before reading, to engage with the words and consider the authors purpose while reading and to take our thinking to the next level after reading a piece of text. Discussions and feedback have been thought provoking and interactive as students write about how they are feeling. We will wrap things up with a hands on project, some research and a presentation.

Dance

Students have been learning about different types of movement to increase flexibility and strength. From yoga and Pilates to Zumba, pound, rebel groove, and step aerobics, they have challenged themselves to try new things. We have worked through a couple of pieces of choreography in jazz and lyrical dance. Students are working on technique and learning proper dance terminology. We do a close read every Friday on the importance of making a commitment to your health, to stay active, and to make that part of your life long daily goals. We have talked about the benefits of dance in school and how activating your mind creatively helps by giving you another way to express yourself. Music can inspire and be motivational. Movement can move you when words fail us. Together we are able to narrate a message, increase many health factors in a positive direction, be entertained, or simply challenged to expand our way of thinking all through movement.

MS. MUCHA - BAND / CHOIR / GUITAR

Wow! This quarter has flown by with flying colors! I am so happy to be at Nikiski Middle/High School and it has been so much fun to get to know the students.

The music department is chugging away at learning music and we are having FUN playing instruments and singing. Having fun is what matters the most!

Christmas music will be handed out soon and I cannot wait to fill up the band room and choir room with Christmas songs while the snow is falling outside. Keep a smile your face!



MR. BAILEY - QUEST / MATH COURSE 1

Middle School Quest & 6th Math (Mr. Bailey) –

Middle School Quest classes have spent 1st quarter engaged in a variety of projects, competitions, and problem solving activities. Besides some great class discussions on current topics or divergent thinking 'Red Herring' challenges to stretch their creative minds, students also participated in:

*Outdoor Activities – Students followed and created their own orienteering courses to determine object locations (using only compass bearings and paces). One group also added to their photograph portfolio by capturing a variety of autumn nature scenes, within different design categories, near NMHS.

*Math Challenges – Some Quest students completed numerous 'Math Olympiad' problem-solving questions, and have also been working to figure out some Round 1 solutions to some very challenging USAMTS (Math Talent Search competition) questions!

*Personalized Projects – A few Quest students have begun work on projects suited to their individual creativity strengths or language strengths – including a fall theme window project (coinciding with 70th anniversary of Peanuts comic strip) and creative writing competition preparation. Students also completed an online 'Popplet' design (similar to a web organizer) based upon their individual interests and personality traits.

*STEM Challenge 2020 – Student groups have been exploring prototype designs connected with the KPBSD STEM Challenge 2020 'Cricket Wicket' engineering challenge! Using only allowable materials, teams are attempting to accomplish this year's 'wicket' challenge and submit their team's video by the late October deadline. Repeated testing and modifications are essential in this precision based challenge!

6th MATH CLASS: 6th grade math class has been a wonderful group this quarter! We've spent a portion of 1st quarter covering mental math properties, exponents, long division steps, estimation, and the Order of Operations. In addition, the class has been working on numerous pre-algebra processes while working with variables, expressions, translations between tables-words-expressions, and how to understand and solve equations with various types of operations. In the coming quarter, the class will continue their focus on pre-algebra processes, as well as diving into decimals and fundamental fraction properties. What a super group of 6th graders!



MR. KORNSTAD - CAD - CAM / MIDDLE SCHOOL WELDING

Hello from the Industrial Arts world at Nikiski Middle/High! We are off to an exciting start to the school year. Students in the Cad Cam shop are beginning to create products in the digital world and produce them in the physical. In the Cad Cam class students learn about safety in the shop before they are introduced to two software programs that design various projects to be run on 4 different machines. By the end of first quarter students will become proficient in utilizing some of the basic design tools in Corel Draw and Partworks to create a project on each one of the 4 machines in the shop. Projects created in Partworks will be produced on either the ShopBot or on the Plasma Cam. The ShopBot is a computerized router mounted on a large rectangular table used to engrave, mill and cutout. The plasma cam is a plasma cutter controlled by the computer and mounted to a large square table. It cuts metal designs out of steel and aluminum. Projects created in Corel Draw are produced on either the Versa Camm or on the Laser machine. The Versa Camm is a large printer that prints and cuts out designs on rolls of vinyl up to 28" wide. The Laser machine engraves, etches, burns, and cuts all kinds of materials from paper to plastic to glass to metals. Students are working hard in the shop and enjoying learning employable skills relevant to the 21st century!

MRS. ZIMMERMAN - MS SOCIAL STUDIES / LANGUAGE ARTS

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 20-40 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 Canvas.

KUD's along with section assessments and the Topic Assessment will be handed in the day of the test. We are halfway through Topic 2. Grades are updated every morning, so grades on Power School are current.

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!

6th grade Geography: The one big lesson 6th graders discovered is that they need to study more for their unit tests. Students are given the key concepts they will be tested on and given 7-10 days' notice when the test date is scheduled. We have started our second unit, South America. Each unit entails a KUD (vocabulary) which is done in class, a study guide which we review in class as well as a large continent map worth 100 points. Continent maps are graded on: neatness, completeness, accuracy, spelling and punctuality. I review this daily as students work through our continent maps. Some kids still do not have the necessary supplies for class. Parents, please make sure you check the supply list on our school website OR on my class syllabus. Some kids do not have the 12 box of colored pencils which we use daily on our continent maps. If there is an issue getting supplies, please let me know.

Grades are updated every morning, so grades on Power School are current. Assignments and handouts can be found on Canvas. 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 super year!

LA 7th grade: Everything we do in language arts is standards based. I have LA broken down into: vocabulary, reading, writing and grammar. Vocabulary comes from prefixes, suffixes, Greek and Roman roots. A quarterly quiz will be given. Students help me choose the words which will appear on the quiz. Extra credit is also being offered on the quarterly quiz in the form of proper usage of vocabulary words in sentences. Extra credit is also offered weekly with an extra day of reading in the Reading Focus Questions which are due on Fridays. This quarter the journals have been used as a way to get to know students and are graded for grammar. Next quarter, we will begin to read short stories in class and complete activities based on the content.

Grades are updated every morning, so grades on Power School are current. Assignments and handouts can be found on Canvas. 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 wonderful year!

LA 8th grade: Everything we do in language arts is standards based. I have LA broken down into: vocabulary, reading, writing and grammar. Vocabulary comes from the ACT and SAT word list. A quarterly quiz will be given. Students help me choose the words which will appear on the quiz. Extra credit is also being offered on the quarterly quiz in the form of proper usage of vocabulary words in sentences. Extra credit is also offered weekly with an extra day of reading in the Reading Focus Questions which are due on Fridays. This quarter the journals have been used as a way to get to know students and are graded for grammar. Next quarter, we will begin to read novels in class and complete activities based on the content.

Grades are updated every morning, so grades on Power School are current. Assignments and handouts can be found on Canvas. 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 grand year!

MRS ABEL- HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE / MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH



NMHS students battle the ropes with a raw egg to become the next Nikiski Survivor!

Flexibility is the key to facing 2020 and I want to thank my students and families for exhibiting this trait to the upmost. I am SO incredibly happy to have students in my classroom and I have been enjoying getting to know each of them. Nikiski Middle/High School is a GREAT place to teach, I am reminded of this every day with these kids.

Course 2 has finished up their first chapter and starting in on integers. We are building important foundational skills right now and I am pleased to see my students work so diligently on this. Practice is the most important part of understanding math – it takes time to build these skills. I remind my students that no one started off talking or walking perfectly. Put in the practice time and you will be rewarded!

Anatomy class is studying the skeletal system now and we have been having great discussions about breaking bones! Earth Science is studying minerals and we will be doing some mineral identification labs this week. Finally, Biology is just about to start the cell and we will be making models of plant and animal cells!

MRS. COELHO - LANGUAGE ARTS/PERSONAL FINANCE

This is my first year at NMHS and so far, it's been my favorite. Even with all the uncertainty of moving in between risk levels and figuring out new methods of instruction, I've had a blast getting to know the students that make this school so colorful. Mrs. Coelho's LA class is fun, challenging, flexible, and rigorous. I expect a lot from the students and they deliver. I've enjoyed learning with each class as they fill me in on the ways of Nikiski and I share my knowledge of literature. We've worked through a book unit during the first quarter and practiced our writing skills every day with grammar practice or journaling. Even with all the outside challenges students are facing, I am constantly impressed with how they make the best of things. I'm glad to be here and looking forward to making the Peninsula my home!



MRS. SINGER - SPANISH 1 & 2



This semester in Spanish I, the students are busy speaking and reading about characteristics, greetings, and cultural aspects of Mexico. One important part of our lessons have been the development of collaborative learning groups, called "familias".

Spanish II just finished reviewing material from last spring. The students are now exploring listening to and speaking Spanish while discussing food. All classes are looking forward to the Dia de los Muertos celebration at the end of the month. BRAVO!

MR. MITCHELL - SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Aloha-

I would just like to do a brief introduction since I am new to the building. Before I moved to the Kenai area I lived in Fairbanks since 81'. Previously I worked at West Valley High School as the Freshman counselor and at Lathrop High School before that. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far in the Kenai area and specifically at Nikiski Middle High School. It has been wonderful to see students back in the classrooms and I have visited with many classes already to introduce myself to the students.

There are some important events and dates coming up so please mark your calendars!!

September 28 - UAA Virtual College Fair Student registration opens. The UAA College & Career Fair is October 13 & 14. To register online here is the link [UAA College & Career Fair](#)

Nikiski High School Senior Financial Aid & FAFSA Night was a big success. If you missed anything, all of the power points and info is on our website at: <https://kpbsd.org/schools/nikiski-middle-high/students/seniors-important-dates-information/>

Pre SAT Test Day will now be January 26. Available to any sophomores/Juniors interested. Cost is \$17. See Mr. Mitchell or Mrs. Carstens to register. There are limited number of tests so sign up early to secure your spot.

In Closing... I have enjoyed meeting so many new staff and students and I am looking forward to continuing to work with all of our students and parents.

Bryan Mitchell NMHS School Counselor

MR. HITCHCOCK - MS LANGUAGE ARTS/ HISTORY/ JOURNALISM

What a crazy first quarter, it is admirable how resilient everyone has been. Nikiski always has been a tough community that sticks together. That is how we will persevere. Embrace our situation as best as possible to get an advantage going forward.

In World History, we are now delving into the Fertile Crescent through examining the epic Gilgamesh. This cultural exploration will create a background knowledge for the students to operate on going forward with this unit.

In Language Arts, the 7th and 8th grade classes are finishing up the first unit on narrative writing by examining short stories and comparing their current situations with buzzworthy topics.

In Keyboarding, we are working towards getting a G-Suite certification, viable to put on resumes, by working through guided checklists for each of the tested apps. In addition to increasing their words per minute, the students have been doing great applying the core concept of the class to applicable job skills.

Finally, in Journalism, we are investigating common fallacies in the news and political campaigns by exploring how propaganda works in both design and lasting effect.

Stay Healthy and Safe!



MR. ERNST - STUDY SKILLS / LANGUAGE ARTS / LIFE SCIENCE

Alternative Algebra, 4th hour:

Dylan Hooper and I teach this standards based math course. This year we are employing a computer based math platform called "ALEK". This program actively assesses the student's mastery of Alaska state mathematical standards and provides exercises tailored to each student's changing level of ability. The freshman that we have this year are doing a fantastic job producing evidence of their mastery of the state standards in mathematics. It looks like some of them will move through our whole Algebra Readiness curriculum and begin to do Algebra I early

Study Skills, 2nd & 3rd hour:

My Study Skills 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 LA 9 ~ Alternative Life Science, 1st & 5th hour:

This is a great hybrid class for freshman 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. This quarter we have been working on language arts standards and skills in reading and writing. Currently we are working on the writing summaries of articles selected by me from NewsELA in LA 9 and in Life Science we are finishing up a field taxonomy of local flora. NewsELA is another great computer-based source for current events and news which can be customized to each student's reading (Lexile) level.

MR. PORTER - HIGH SCHOOL MATH / WOODSHOP

In Calculus, we just wrapped up limits and we are just getting into the connection between limits and derivatives. This year we are going to be using the Tangent Line problem to bridge the gap between pre-calc and calculus. My geometry kids also just wrapped up the 1st chapter and I think we are ready to start moving a little faster. I keep telling them not to get lulled to sleep as the difficulty level in geometry can sneak up on you! All of my wood shops have been very productive. All students have finished the first project and many have moved on to project two and even three. This year started off kind of strange but now that we have some of the kids back, it has been great. The wearing of masks seems to impact us very little. One positive side is that my class sizes are so small, I have been able to get more one on one time with kids that are having a difficult time. It has been so fun having the time to work with kids that need a little extra help.



MR. DOTH - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE / AERIAL VIDEO

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCES

Things are really beginning to take shape in the middle school science and engineering department. Our 7th graders are diving into the world of biology and learning what it means to be alive. Although the school year is anything but normal, we are doing a great job at still finding ways to engage and support a diverse curriculum. We are looking forward to a bunch of hands on experiences as we move into the microscopic world of the cell and beyond!

Physical Science is also shaking and moving through a complex set of chemistry standards. The quantum world of the atom is looming around the corner as we start digging into the many ways of describing the world around us. Stay tuned while we unravel countless misconceptions about our planet and how atoms can possibly be the key to our universe.

Design and modeling is now beginning to really dive into the realms of engineering. They are currently designing a mini hover craft that zooms across the floors on a film of air. We are quickly learning how difficult the world of engineering can be. And although we have run into many hardships during our builds, progress is being made and we hope to start expanding our skills into the world of aviation. Stay tuned as we try and build a working glider, puzzle cubes, design software, and even 3-D printing.

AERIAL VIDEOGRAPHY

Drones class is starting to take off! Although we haven't flown a lot yet due to inclement weather, the projects are starting to take shape as we continue trying to remotely release gliders from our drones, build model super cubs that are completely RC, and get ready for the culminating 107 license in Anchorage this February. We are hopeful that all will go as planned and we can get certified as commercial drone pilots by the end of the semester! Stay tuned faithful readers, there's more to come on this wild ride!



UPCOMING EVENTS

All sports and activities are TBD.

October 29	Parent / Teacher Conferences—No school for students 8:00-11:30 AM 12:00-4:30 PM 5:00-7:00 PM
October 30	No school for students—Teacher Inservice
November 26 & 27	School closed—Enjoy Thanksgiving!