



BULLDOG BITES



Nikiski Middle/High School

March 2, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

Even though it may not look like it, spring is right around the corner. The days are getting longer, we can feel the warmth of the sun (although it is mainly felt through a window), and hope and change are in the air. Let's focus in on hope for a bit. My hope is that we can continue our transition back into a sense of normalcy where we do not necessarily need to smile with our eyes, but are able to look upon each other and see a huge grin on a student's face. Back to a place where we can shake hands, give a "high-five", and embrace our friends with a comfortable hug. These are all things that are working their way back into our way of life and I cannot wait to see all of this return to our daily lives.

Now let's talk about change. Even though I have made the decision to leave Nikiski, this place will always be in my heart. I really don't think there is one specific memory that stands out above anything else. What does stand out is the people who make this place home. I have made some of the most enduring friendships with the people of Nikiski. People in Nikiski are loyal, honest, hard-working, trustworthy, and simply incredible. I will never forget this place, how it treated me, and how much I grew as a person. Thank you all for this experience!

The other part of this change is that Mr. Shane Bostic will be assuming the role of school principal. I could not be happier for him and for the leadership that he will provide for this community. He has already been here for 10 years, is raising his family here and resides in our little, tight-knit community. Nikiski will truly meet the next level of growth and achievement under his leadership.

Be kind...Do Good!

VICE PRINCIPAL—MR. BOSTIC

Thank you for trusting me over the last 10 years as the assistant principal of NMHS. As our Journey continues together, we will continue to build our school and community to enhance the quality of our relationships and our commitment to each other. We are a community that is fiercely loyal, has unwavering commitment and shows true compassion. You are obviously a community who are “all in” for your kids, and that makes my heart smile.

Can you believe that this challenging school year is almost over? There are many ways that we can finish the 2021 school year on a high note. Students are very excited at the diversity of winter/spring events such as musical theatre presenting “High School Musical”, Ski Club, B/G Club Spring Break and after school programs, Basketball, Track, HS Soccer, HS Baseball, Band/Choir Concert, and Wrestling. If you want more information about how to get your kid involved, give me a call. Encourage your kids to get active in Spring Activities at NMHS as they promote positive community involvement and motivation to be their best. If you see me at an event, please share any ideas that will enhance our school.

Thank you to...

Students for showing unrelenting determination and grit. We are all very proud of how you have framed the challenges of this school year as opportunities and have kept your heads held high.

Parents for showing NMHS compassion, patience and understanding as we continue to make the best of a tough situation.

Senior Parent Graduation Committee for all of their time to make Graduation a positive and memorable life event.

Coaches and Advisors for spending extra time with our kids to make them better students and citizens.

NMHS staff for continuing to put the needs of their students and the student’s families at the top of the list. This year has magnified their unrelenting commitment to “Our Kids are Worth Whatever it Takes”. I have never seen a group face a seemingly impossible challenge with grace, compassion and unwavering commitment like these individuals.

Our Community for trusting me as the Principal of NMHS. I am truly blessed to be a part of the Nikiski Community.

Please take care of Yourself and Each Other,

Mr. Bostic

MR. HOOPER - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/ HIGH SCHOOL MATH

Bulldog Parents,

It has certainly been an interesting school year from the AD's office. I am thankful that I have been able to greet many of you as you have been coming to watch your kids play Middle School Volleyball or High School Basketball. I am very happy that we have been able to have our student athletes competing at all levels. We just had our first team travel off of the Peninsula this school year as our Varsity Basketball team competing in the valley against Houston. We will be hosting the Girls side of the Region Tournament over Spring break and look forward to seeing some great competition.

I have been working on Mitigation plans so that our Spring sports can get underway in the second half of March. **High School Wrestling starts March 15th** and **High School Track and Soccer start March 22nd**.

Dylan Hooper

MR. ANDERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ HEALTH

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle High School in Physical Education for grades 6 to 8. Students have been participating in many team or cooperative games. We are rolling with the punches and adapting activities for pandemic mitigation. Students have been playing atomic soccer, yoshi, ultimate frisbee, ultimate handball, bench ball, tag variations, and dodgeball variations. Students recently completed our first Bulldog fitness tests of the year. We began learning about field events for track and field; students participated in the high jump and will explore triple jump and shotput soon.



MR. NELSON - PHYSICAL TRAINING / LIFE ACTIVITIES/ HEALTH

It has been so good having kids back in the building. PE in real life is just so much better!

It's been a great semester in Physical Training. All the students set personal goals for the semester. They have been developing their weekly workouts, so it's been really cool to see them develop and progress on their own. In May we will see if all this hard work will get them to their goals!

Health has been busy and will just get busier. We have covered mental health and we are just finishing up nutrition. Nutrition is my personal favorite topic and I've enjoyed having good discussions with my students. Next quarter we'll dive into tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

MRS. SINGER - SPANISH 1 & 2

Nikiski Spanish classes are finishing the quarter strong. Both Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 have begun their cultural studies by exploring the country of Colombia. Students are learning about Colombian music, holidays, food, history, Indigenous Peoples, and cultural traditions. In addition, Spanish 1 is learning about the weather in Spanish. They are also using verbs, pronouns, and vocabulary pertaining to festivals and dates. Spanish 2 is reviewing how to conjugate past-tense verbs in Spanish, as well as building their vocabulary by learning more AR, IR, and ER verbs. Both classes are also working hard to build relationships and review class material. All in all, our Spanish classes are building a solid understanding of the Spanish language and culture.

MS. BOYLE - INTERVENTION / DANCE / CREDIT RECOVERY

READ 180

It is an understatement to say that we are all happy to be back to in school learning. Students, who already struggle with literature and comprehension, need consistency. We have been unable to provide this up until this point due to Covid. Students and teachers are now working hard to establish a norm or baseline. We are reading a book, *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds. This is a narrative poem. It is about a harder neighborhood and has given students the opportunity to express compassion and to reflect on the differences between two very different ways of growing up and the things they may take for granted, like safety. It has also allowed them to see how quickly a bad decision can get out of hand and how important it is to consider the consequences of our actions beforehand. We have had great discussions about the symbolism that exists in this type of writing. After break, students will apply these concepts to writing their own narrative poems in a poetry unit. This is the second novel we have read this year by Jason Reynolds.

Credit Recovery

Eleven students have successfully earned back credits during third quarter. This is always a huge celebration for me because it is not an easy way to go.

Dance/Movement

NMHS is so excited about moving forward with this year's musical and we are excited to be part of it. Movement in masks has been challenging but try movement while singing. It's all coming together, but is a process. Students are learning that like anything you want to be consistently good at, you have to have patience and practice the same thing repeatedly. They are learning to work together not only with other classmates but groups to see how all the pieces need to come together to put on a show of this magnitude. Everyone is responsible for holding up their end, because others are relying on you to do your part. Please stay tuned for more information about the show and plan to attend, if possible, this year's Musical.

MR. DOTH - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE / AERIAL VIDEOGRAPHY

7th Grade Science is wrapping up our unit on the Diversity of Life. We've looked at the incredible volume of different living things and have learned that we are all connected in some way or another. We anxiously await the 4th quarter when we get to study the animal kingdom in all of its glory. Dissections, outdoor explorations, and rainforest ecosystems are all on the docket for spring. Stay tuned faithful readers and lets finish this year off strong!

8th Grade science is toughing through it their first section of physics. The ideas of relativity. motion, force and gravity are all topics of study. Although the math can be tricky at times, the hands on opportunities more than make up for it. Physics is all around us and we are looking forward to diving in head first come 4th quarter. Stay tuned for some incredible labs and fun activities in the near future.

Drones class is flying through their curriculum. We're learning about the governing body for unmanned aerial systems as well as how to fly them. Some Maverick level pilots are starting to emerge as we continue to wait for warmer weather and better flying. Be patient everyone, the sun is getting more powerful every day and soon we will be flying the DJI's outdoors and practicing all that we have been learning.

Hang in there and stay classy Nikiski,

Jake Doth

MR. KORNSTAD - CAD - CAM / WELDING

Hello from the Industrial Arts world at Nikiski Middle/High! We are quickly coming to the end of another year full of practical learning experiences in the shops. Students in the Cad Cam shop have learned to create products in the digital world and produce them in the physical. We are proud to report that we have had a safe year free from major accidents! A safe attitude produces a safe environment!! Students have learned the basics of two software programs that design their various projects to be run on 4 different machines. Students have become proficient in utilizing some of the basic design tools in Corel Draw and Partworks to create projects on each one of the 4 machines in the shop. Projects created in Partworks were 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 were produced on either the Versa Cam or on the Laser machine. The Versa Cam is a large printer that prints and cuts out designs on rolls of various vinyl-type materials 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 have worked well in the shop and enjoyed learning employable skills relevant to the 21st century!

MRS. ZIMMERMAN - MS SOCIAL STUDIES / LANGUAGE ARTS

8th LANGUAGE ARTS: I have integrated American History books, movies, etc... in LA8 in order to enhance the history curriculum. Students are finishing up their reaction papers on the Disney movie Johnny Tremain. Our focus is on quality writing! We use the 6 traits of writing: ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. We continue to learn more vocabulary from the ACT and SAT vocabulary lists. The date for this quarter's vocabulary quiz is March 2. We also keep up with the CLOSE reading activities which measures comprehension. Looking forward, students will be given a Revolutionary journal and newspaper writing project to work on.

8th AMERICAN HISTORY: We have been studying the Revolutionary War Era in chapter 3. Students will be taking their test on sections 3.4 and 3.5 on February 26. KUD's are due the day of the test. We will begin chapter 4 which encompasses the Constitution of the United States. If your child is absent, s/he can go to Canvas for the assignments. They also have the ability to upload their assignments in Canvas.

REMOTE STUDENTS: Please know I am available for remote students. If students email me, we can set up a video conference time or chat on the phone so I can clarify any questions.

POWER SCHOOL: Parents, if you do not know your access code or are having problems with Power School, PLEASE call the front office at 776-9400 to get the necessary information you need. Power School is where you can find the most up-to-date grades for your student.

QUESTIONS or CONCERNS: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at school by phone or email. I am here to help!

MS. WIDMAN - ART / DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Nikiski High artists continue to amaze me! Here are some of our current projects:



Cooper Stock: Sea Turtle



Jade Williams: Elephant



Maggie Grenier & Emma Weeks: Sulpy Animals



Matthew Parazoo: Collage

Enjoy these creative moments from our talented kids!

MRS. JENNESS - LANGUAGE ARTS/YEARBOOK/MUSICAL THEATER

The Nikiski High Silver Scribe yearbook staff has been hard at work putting together a record of the craziest school year yet! You won't want to miss the memento of the silver lining of this year. Lots of smiles and positivity among the difficult issues our school faced this year. Our staff took mug shots of the majority of our students since Lifetouch wasn't allowed in our school in time for portraits to be included in the book. Also tons of great coverage of the sports and activities throughout the year. If you haven't bought your book yet, you can do so in the office or at [Jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com). They are \$65 and there is a limited number so don't wait!

Bulldog Theatre is back at it after a one year hiatus due to the pandemic. We have a BIG beautiful cast of kids working hard to bring the community together for a good old fashioned HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL! The Disney phenomenon is coming to the Nikiski High School stage this spring!

MS. MUCHA - BAND / CHOIR / MUSICAL THEATER



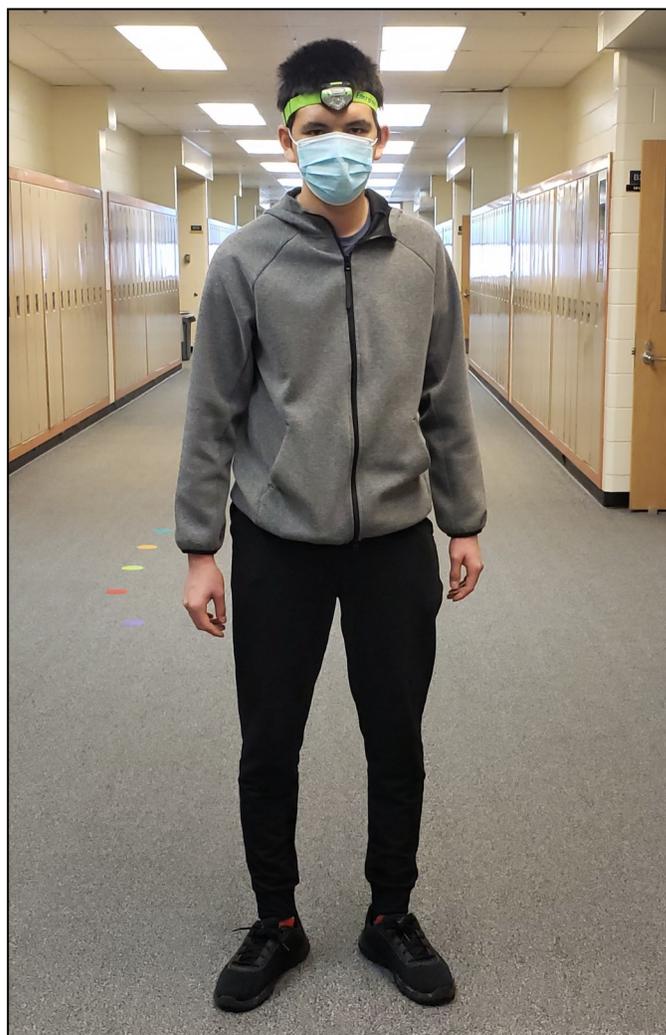
The band and choir classes have been working hard on songs to hopefully be able to perform in May. It has been such a fun year working with these awesome students. Hopefully by next year we are able to have a normal concert schedule.

I cannot wait and see what next year brings!

MR. BLADES - INTENSIVE NEEDS

You've probably seen this tall, quiet, thin guy walking around school. Ducking in and out of classes, serving you lunch and cleaning up things. You might wonder is he a student or does he work here. The answer is yes. Frazy is a junior and even though he is new to NMHS this year he has taken to this place fairly quickly. As his teacher I'm not tall, not thin but I'm definitely quiet so the two of us get along pretty well, and like him I'm also new here but have taken to this place pretty easily. If you see either of us and we don't speak it isn't because we are rude, it's just our quiet way.

Frazy helps serve in the lunch room every day and it's his favorite part of being here. He enjoys helping and being a part of this school! He also enjoys picking on Mr. Carsten's bald head and tricking Mr. Bostic into looking at something that's not really there. He gets to see all of the students while serving lunch so don't be afraid to say hello. If you see me emerge from my cave upstairs don't be afraid say hello to me too. Because of the way my classes run I don't get in the hallways much in between classes and I do most my hall walking during classes checking in on my students. So if you see Frazy or me in the hallways please feel free to say hey to us!



MR. HITCHCOCK - MS WORLD HIST./LANG ARTS/ KEYBOARDING

As 3rd Quarter draws to an end, World History Students are leaving Egypt in the dust (red land) and moving to the Indus River Valley. They were able to collaborate and debate historical theories on how the Pyramids were built. In Language Arts, we explored informative writing using fictional characters. Deriving the traits and experiences, they were able to write a job resume and an encyclopedia entry for the species of their character. Finally, Keyboarding students are now pushing towards certification in the Google Suite of apps. Have an amazing spring break and we will bring this year to a strong close!

MRS ABEL- HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE / MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH



It is crazy to think we have finished 3 quarters of the school year already. It truly seems just yesterday I was welcoming students back into my classroom after a long, long summer break. I have such a great group of students this year and they make me laugh nearly every day. It has been a breath of fresh air having students in the building full time again.

In math we started our unit in geometry. Students have been exploring perimeter, area, and 3D shapes this quarter. Once we complete this unit we will be moving into proportions and probabilities. We have also been working on Khan Academy to improve individual skills and meet the goals they set for themselves after their Winter MAPS tests.

Biology has completed their rite of passage project for 9th grade. Yes, that is right, they have finished Caring for the Kenai! Entries have been submitted and we will be waiting to hear the results over spring break. We are now going to dive deep into how cells divide and genetics!

Anatomy is a great class to teach because nothing makes me happier than challenging squeamish students with a dissection. We have getting hands on as much as possible to make up for lost time. Once we've completed the respiratory and digestive system units we will embark on the cumulative project – the cat dissection. Here is a picture of some diligent students overcoming fears and exploring how our biceps work in our muscle dissection lab.

MRS. BOSTIC - GRADE 6 LANGUAGE ARTS, SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY

The class of 2027 continues to amaze me! They are bright, enthusiastic, and eager to learn. The 2020-2021 school year has brought this group together in powerful ways. They are always hungry for more!

Sixth grade Language Arts began the semester with a powerful novel called *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. This Global Read Aloud project is helping us make connections across the world. We will continue to read historical fiction novels by Alan Gratz, as well as Malala Yousafzai and Aishu Saeed. The real world connections have been riveting.

In our Earth Science classes, students have learned about plate tectonics. We had a guest speaker from Lake Clark National Park and we learned about *Redoubt: The Volcano in Our Backyard*. We are currently studying the rock cycle and the students have made sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. Next quarter we will kick off our weather unit with a visit from Melissa Frey and Alaska's News Source Weather Lab!

We have added World Geography to the list of adventures in the Bostic classroom. Second quarter included learning tours of both Africa and Australia. Next quarter we're off to Asia!

Thank you for your support and commitment to the children of Nikiski Middle High School. We are all more successful here because of the support from our families, parents, and the community.

MRS. BARROWS - MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS / READING

It has been so great to have your kids back inside of the school building for the last few weeks! Thank you for your patience during the transitions and the learning curve that came along with remote school.

We are working hard to make up for lost time in my language arts classes. LA fundamentals is finishing up reading the book "Ugly: A Memoir" by Robert Hoge and learning about how Robert learned to love the skin he is in. After spring break we will be starting a new book (chosen by the students) and preparing for the PEAKs assessment.

My 7/8 LA class has been focusing on Grammar, Informational Texts, and Writing complete paragraphs. We are working hard on building skills that we may have missed or forgotten along the way.

Please encourage your children to continue reading at home! No one gets better at anything without practice. 😊

MRS. HALL - STUDY SKILLS/ MATH FUNDAMENTALS

I am so happy to have my students back in the classroom. My students have done a great job getting back into their 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 courses. My students are working hard to keep their grades up.

In my math fundamentals class, my students are engaging and working hard. My students are currently working on factoring. This week we have been working on greatest common factors. It was great to see my students finding success while working on factoring. My students continue to work in the ALEKS program. This program supports each student's individual needs to help fill their gaps. I am so proud of all the progress they are making and will continue to make.

MR. PORTER - HIGH SCHOOL MATH / WOODSHOP

In Mr. Porter's class we are finally getting back into the swing of things.

In first period calculus, students are about to wrap up our exploration of derivatives. We will be moving on to Integrals shortly.

In geometry, we are working on our study of triangle congruency and proofs. We are also moving into the study of the 4 triangle centers. As we move into our study of similar triangle and trig, we will be looking for ways to get out of our seats and explore these mathematical principles.

In business math class, students just wrapped up some studies on expense sheets and income statements. We are now moving into the entrepreneur section of this class. Students will be creating their own business. Be on the lookout for some really great and unique items coming out of this class!

In woodshop we are working furiously to finish up the table that is going to go into the upstairs hallway. Stagecraft is working hand in hand with Mrs. Jenness to create a play that will blow your minds!

MR. BJORKMAN - HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES/ OUTDOOR EXP

I cannot believe it's already almost spring break and the end of the 3rd quarter! We are all very thankful to have kids back in school full time. Excellent learning is taking place.

In Alaska History, students have been learning about Alaska Native history and traditional practices. We have been making connections between the technologies that Alaska Natives developed and used thousands of years ago to the technologies of today. Many of the needs were the same (staying warm, dry and well fed). How people meet those needs are sometimes very different, but in many ways much the same as subsistence style practices used today!

In 10th grade World History students have been learning about the nature of revolutions and what caused them to fail or be successful in the mid 19th century. Students have made many connections between regimes of the past and regimes of today – noting that history appears to be cyclical.

Students have been confronting the cyclical nature of history and business as well in our 11th grade US History studies of the 1920s and 1930s. Students have been discovering similarities and differences surrounding response to crises then versus now. Students are also considering the similarities and differences of the outcomes that they observe.

During middle school outdoor explorations, students have been learning all about hunter safety and education. We have talked a lot about and demonstrated the four basic rules of firearm safety. Students are gaining skills needed to be a safe and successful hunter. Even if students never go hunting, they are learning valuable skills they can use in the outdoors for the rest of their lives.

MRS. HORNING - HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE/MATH FUNDAMENTALS

Mrs. Hornung lead the Middle School Volleyball team to win the Borough Championship!



MR. BAILEY - QUEST / MATH COURSE 1

Third quarter Quest saw the finale of the 'Cricket Wicket' Engineering Challenge, a project devoted to Heraldry and creation of a family 'Coat of Arms', investigation of the recent Mars Perseverance rover landing, and individual project goals relating to students' personal areas of interest.

The 'Cricket Wicket Bulldogs' team of Logan Nicks, James Hemphill, and Sammy Anders placed 1st overall in the middle



school division of the KPBSD STEM Challenge 2020-2021 engineering contest! 22 teams and over 70 students districtwide submitted videos of their highest scoring device performance, with Nikiski Middle getting the highest score! Congratulations to all the Nikiski Middle students who participated in this year's challenge, both in-school and remotely!

Quest students explored the system of Heraldry, including the components of a heraldic 'Coat of Arms', and created 'Coat of Arms' for their families. Besides discovering some aspects of their family ancestry, students created both an online and hand illustrated 'Coat of Arms' in which the colors and symbols they utilized in their shield and design reflected certain family characteristics or traits. What students chose to represent themselves and their family led to some interesting discussions and reflections!

Investigating the NASA Mars rover mission called Perseverance, which landed on Mars on February 18th, led to some remarkable discoveries relating to space science, team work on a large scale, and the future of space exploration. Students also have been engaged in a variety of personal interest tasks, such as independent research projects, creative art projects, and logical reasoning challenges.

6th Grade Math: As we near the close of the 3rd quarter in 6th grade math, the class is exploring the relationship between rates, ratios, proportions, and decimals. Earlier in the quarter, discovering how statistical measurements (such as mean and median) explain different sets of data, as well as different methods for displaying that data in graphic form, were prime areas of focus. Moving into the 4th quarter, the class will explore systems of measurement, fundamental geometry properties, functions, and integers. My 6th grade math class is a wonderful group of students!

On a personal note, after missing over 2 ½ months for extended family leave, I'm thrilled to be back at school and want to thank all of the students and parents who expressed words of kindness and thoughtfulness upon my return. Nikiski is a wonderful community!

MRS. COELHO - HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

If you were to step into the classroom you would see LA 9/Honors LA 9 students busily finishing their research essays. These Caring for the Kenai projects have been a work in progress since the end of last quarter and I know the students are looking forward to turning them in and moving on to our next unit, Informative Speeches. Each student will write and present a speech using a visual aid. I look forward to sharing these presentations with parents. Honors LA 9 will continue to read *The Book Thief*, pinpointing the themes and conflicts unique to this author's style.

LA 10 and Honors LA 10 dove deep into literary devices, vocabulary, and critical thinking through the book *Night* by Elie Wiesel. This autobiography details a young boy's life from ghetto to concentration camp and liberation. Next, LA 10 will be reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and practicing creative writing while Honors LA 10 will be pressing forward into *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare and persuasive writing.

I can't wait to see what they produce, your students make me love my job!

MR. MITCHELL - SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Greeting from the Counseling Department,

With Spring break coming it's time do to class registration for next school year. Mrs. Carstens and myself have been in classes registering students and answering questions all week. It has been really nice to see the kids and talk about their class choices and possible career paths. It is a highlight for me every year. Next week we will be at Nikiski North Star Elementary introducing ourselves to the next wave of Bulldog students and I anxiously await that experience.

I have just a few reminders as we head into 4th Quarter.

For seniors, don't forget to apply to your Trade schools or colleges, and get those FAFSA applications done.

Also, for seniors get those scholarship applications done. **The Bulldog packet is due for seniors March 5 by 2:15 PM!**

If any parents have any questions about their students class choices for the fall please reach out to myself or Mrs. Carstens and we would be glad to answer them.

It has been a great start to the second semester and I hope it continues through to the end of the school year.

YEARBOOKS ON SALE!

\$65

Order now at Josten.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 5	No School for Students - End of Quarter - Teacher In-service
March 8-12	Spring Break - No School
March 11- 13	Region Basketball Tournaments Girls Tournament @ Nikiski High Boys Tournament @ Kenai Central High
March 15	High School Wrestling Begins
March 16	School Pictures
March 17	Early Release - Students released at 1:15 PM
March 22	High School Soccer & Track Begin