

# URSA MINOR

## Resources

<https://www.asdk12.org/>

### Remote Learning:

<https://www.asdk12.org/remoteducationNuncutlectus>

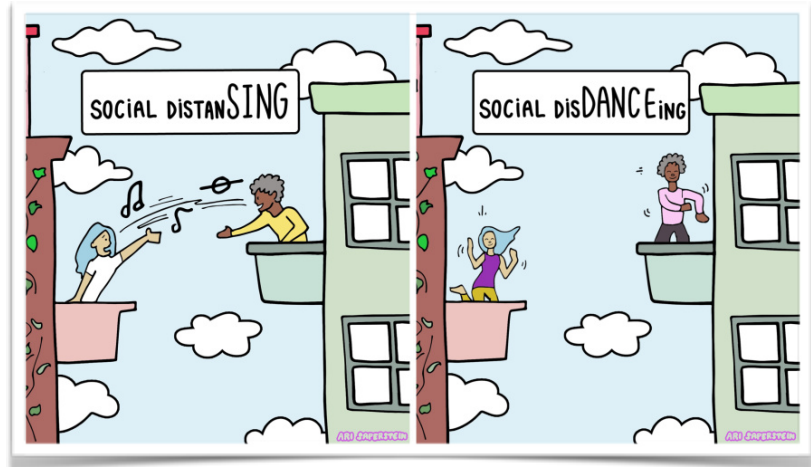
### Education FAQ:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15231>

### Mr. Linderman website:

[bit.ly/ursaminorpe](http://bit.ly/ursaminorpe)

Next Zoom Dance is April 7 at 2:40. Make sure to try our challenges and have a parent email Mr. Linderman if you beat one of the teachers so he can add your name on the website. Stay safe active and healthy!



## A Message From The Principal

*Dear Ursa Minor School Community,*

This newsletter will hopefully provide information regarding “school” as we move forward. Because school as we know it will not return to a more normal routine until at least May 1. Teachers have been planning learning activities for your child during this time of social distancing. While we strongly encourage students to engage in learning activities, *they are not required, nor will they be graded.* Student grades from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter will be brought forward for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Learning activities, at this time, will be focused on English Language Arts, Math and Social Emotional Learning. While Social Studies and Science are not on Canvas for teachers to draw from, your child’s teacher may be providing

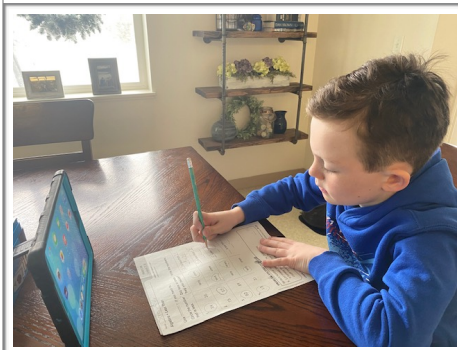
-Continue page 7





## Students at Work!

McKayla S- Ms. Scott 5th/  
6th combo



Jackson S.- Mrs. Currirer  
1st Grade

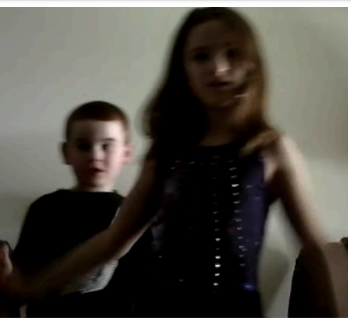
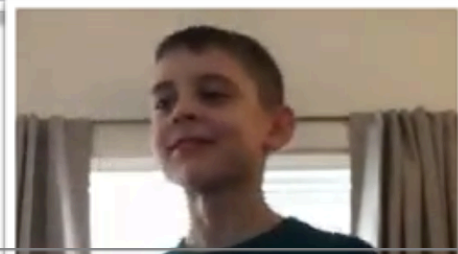


Logan S. -Mrs. Price 3rd  
Grade

## Student Online Etiquette:

- This is a virtual classroom; therefore, appropriate classroom behavior is expected.
- Log into your class or meeting from a distraction-free, quiet environment.
- Please keep your audio on mute until you want to speak. This will help to limit background noise.
- Consider using a headset with an external mic for best hearing and speaking capabilities.
- Close unneeded applications on your computer to optimize the video quality.
- If you would like to speak or answer a question, use the “Raise Hand” feature. Then unmute yourself after you are called on by your teacher.
- When you are speaking, let others know that you are finished by saying something like, “That’s all,” or “I’m done,” or “Thank you,” so that everyone knows you have finished your comments.
- If you would like to use the chatbox, remember that it is public, and a record of the chat is kept and archived.
- Keep paper and a pen or pencil handy to take notes.
- Make sure your video is on (if you have camera capabilities) so your teacher and peers can see you.
- Be mindful of your background lighting. If you are sitting with your back to a window, you may be silhouetted by the light coming through. Your overhead light might also need to be adjusted for the best image quality.
- Please take care of your personal needs (appropriate dress, basic hygiene, eating, chewing gum, talking to others in your home, etc.) prior to entering a Zoom classroom.
- Please do not use profanity or inappropriate language.
- Remember to sign out or “leave the meeting” when the session is finished.

# Zoom & Home! Thanks Mr. Linderman!!!!



*Info From Nurse Kathi:*

How long does the COVID-19 live outside the body?

Air: 3 hours

Plastic: Up to 72 hours

Stainless Steel: up to 72 hours

Copper: Up to 4 hours

Cardboard: up to 24 hours

Please take this into consideration especially when grocery shopping. I would not recommend placing grocery bags on the kitchen table or counters. Unload groceries in your garage or place bags on the floor and then disinfect. I would recommend disinfecting the outside of anything plastic as it seems to live on these surfaces the longest.

It is now recommended by Dr. Zink to wear a mask or a covering over your mouth when grocery shopping or being in a place with others that do not live in your home. The mask DOES NOT have to be N-95, a plain surgical mask or homemade mask with suffice.

**MOST IMPORTANT:** It still is Best practice to wash your hands for 20 seconds and rinse for 20 sec. Frequently and to not touch your face, especially nose and mouth.

Please be sure you are eating well, drinking plenty of water and getting enough rest at night. These practices will also help in boosting your immune system to fight off the virus.

Any questions, I am happy to assist!

Nurse Kathi

*Mrs. Victoria*

I miss seeing all students for breakfast and lunch! I just want to share this cute message with you all!



ROMAINE  
CALM  
AND  
CARROT  
ON

Also don't forget Ursa Major is serving breakfast and lunches to all kids 10am-2pm Monday-Friday.



**Richelle Lay: lay\_richelle@asdk12.org**  
**K-6 Health/Social Emotional Learning**

To my Health class students & families,

I want you to know that I miss you very much! I hope you are staying healthy and finding ways to be involved in educational experiences at your homes. In Google Classroom, I have created a class for each grade level that you will be able to join using the following codes:

Kindergarten: <b>bt7yiap</b> 1st Grade: <b>uyfrji2</b> 2nd Grade: <b>kozhgcn</b> 3rd Grade: <b>ojpcnr</b>	4th Grade: <b>fvqymuy</b> 5th Grade: <b>amhjz73</b> 6th Grade: <b>o7puaiq</b>	
---	---	--

Join the class for your grade level to see a short video I made that I have posted on there for you. I will be posting additional supplemental activities for each grade level starting next week. These are optional activities, so please know that I understand all family circumstances are different as far as what you have time and resources to work on. For now, if you would like to try one of the following, here are some ideas:

### **Grades K-2**

- Make a tooth brushing and flossing chart and check it off each day – 2x for brushing and once for flossing
- List as many fruits and vegetables as fast as you can out loud.
- Help a family member with a chore around the house without being asked

### **Grades 3-6**

- Make up a handwashing song to the tune of ABC's
- Trace your hand and write 5 people and a wish you have for them
- Be supportive, be respectful, be active. Write a list of how you could do each of these at your home

Looking forward to seeing you on Google Classroom soon! **-Mrs. Lay**

PTA



Stay connected with some of the things we are doing from home through our Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/Ursa-Minor->



Hello from the School Counselor,  
I want to invite you to visit my website for activities, videos, and other resources. I will be sending out information to my Zoom office hours soon. I look forward to checking in with students via phone, emails, and Zoom. My email is [butcher\\_heather@asdk12.org](mailto:butcher_heather@asdk12.org). My website link is [bit.ly/ursacounselor](https://bit.ly/ursacounselor)  
I wish you well!

Heather Butcher  
School Counselor  
Ursa Minor/Ursa Major  
#Helping the Whole Child be Successful

Dear Ursa Minor,  
I'm so grateful to have had time with many of you through invitations from your classroom teachers to join with you through your class Zoom time! Many of you shared with me that you are continuing to read at home every day and that's totally awesome! Some of you are new to Ursa Minor and your books are packed in boxes as you've just arrived.

To help with your home reading time, your Ursa Minor Library is hosting an online Scholastic Book Fair! Once our online fair is ready to go - all of our families will be able to browse for books online, choose books you'd like and place an order for those books. Your books will be delivered directly to your home mailing address! The full details for this upcoming Scholastic Book Fair Online will be shared in our next newsletter.

Keep On Reading!  
Your Ursa Minor Librarian ~ Ms. Susanne Wilkins,

I have enjoyed my zoom sessions with my students. I look forward to seeing their sweet faces and hearing about what they have been up to!  
~ Mrs. McComas

activities in those content areas. Teachers will be providing feedback on submitted work.

There has been some questions and discussion on why the district is only doing supplemental work and why they are not grading it. This is difficult to explain, but let me try. Anchorage School District is a publicly funded organization that receives tax dollars to operate and provide education to all students. We cannot discriminate on the haves and have not. We also provide accommodations and modifications to students who qualify for these measures so they are able to access required work. We cannot do this through online learning. I am not sure if you are aware, many students who attend a private or other charter school are able to come to public school to receive services they need to be successful in learning. So, we are providing supplemental learning activities that support parents in keeping their child(ren) engaged in learning at home. These activities are not meant to introduce new learning, as some families are not able to access the online learning tasks. If a child does not get timely corrective feedback, it can take many correct actions to relearn it the correct way. Supplemental activities can strengthen a child's foundation, add depth in their learning and understanding. Lean on being creative through playing games and interacting with each other. Teachers are providing feedback on submitted work. It is not graded. Often in elementary school, home work is not graded because it is practice and when done at home some students get a lot of support and some students are not afforded the same level of support. Therefore, it is difficult to gage how much the child has learned. Teachers get a good gage of how well a student is learning various concepts through observations of their real time work, questions, and engagement in the work. That important piece is missed when students are working from home

If your student has access to technology, then Lexia and MathWhizz are great resources. These are programs that we use for tutoring, supplemental and enrichment. These programs are interactive and support learning by responding to how your child answers the problems presented. It will go back and review if needed or move the student forward. Students are instructed based on need, grade level and proficiency. Students who need support below grade level are getting it. Students who are at grade level are getting more practice, and students who need enrichment are able to receive more challenging work. Make sure that students are working in the tutoring mode and not just playing games.

We hope that you participate in the three weekly open office hours that your child's teacher is scheduled for to connect with their school family and partake in an activity or connection that the teacher plans. These meetings are a great opportunity to ask questions. Our main goal is to maintain a connected with families and the school, and provide learning activities during this "hunkering down" time. Teachers may plan interactive sessions during their meeting times that review the language activities on their page, a read aloud, followed by discussion and other activities that review or support their mix of asynchronous learning activities.

I want to take this opportunity to say that play should not be underestimated as a great learning activity. Board games, chess/checkers, puzzles, and other games provide

opportunities to problem solve, create, plan, and focus. Many games also provide practice for mathematical and reading skills. One activity that my brother and I would do when we were young and it would take hours of our day is building forts with blankets and chairs. We designed chambers and tunnels. What a great way to support imagination, teamwork, planning and problem solving. We also built fond and heart-warming shared memories.

In this newsletter you will find information on how you might support learning in a home environment in addition to your plans that you have made. Establishing a “school” routine of bed and wake up times, meal times, work and break times is important as children do best when there is a routine to their day. It is also important for parents to establish and follow through with your expectations that support your routine and learning. There is much more information at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) and click the link Remote Education Portals [Here](#) in the red banner at the top of the page.

I want to give a shout out to Mr. Linderman and Mr. Feris who are collaborating to provide music and movement activities. Please check out their portal for fun ways that you can move in your home and opportunities where you can join in school wide activities.

We would like to continue with the Ursa Minor school tradition of wearing our school spirit wear on Fridays. April is The Month of the Military Child so we want to encourage everyone to wear purple on Mondays. Please consider participating even if you are not in a zoom meeting. It is just one more way we can stay connected in spirit.

I am working on developing skills on providing announcements through video recording. These announcements will follow a similar routine as our regular school announcements in that student birthdays will be called out, our SEL standard will be reviewed and our words of wisdom will be read. These words are meant to give us something that we can reflect on and can help us to be the best that we can be. Students may choose to write about what the message of that day meant to them. It would be great to share with your teacher who can share with me.

Anchorage School District’s first priority is to support our graduating seniors. In a few weeks we are hoping to have a viable plan to distribute technology tool and paper pencil activities for elementary students. One big challenge is how to prepare and distribute these items while keeping all involved safe and not contribute to the spread of this terribly virus. We will make sure you are updated as we receive updates.

I am proud of our teachers who have stepped up and taken on the challenge of changing their teaching delivery. This is not an easy undertaking as many are learning new programs and protocols that are also changing as we are presented with new challenges. I encourage and ask of you to have grace and patience with us as we work through our task of providing educational resources to your child and challenges that arise in doing so. I realize that what is provided may not be what you are hoping for and need, and I am sorry. We are working through a pandemic that is effecting not only our



community, its effecting our nation, our world. We are not in this struggle alone and I know we will come through this together.

Please feel free to contact me at [brons\\_wendy@asdk12.org](mailto:brons_wendy@asdk12.org) with questions or concerns you may have. We are here to help. Remember, gratitude can change our attitude. When times get difficult allow yourself to slow down, breathe and think of all the things that we do have to be thankful for.

Wishing you well,

Wendy Brons, Principal  
Ursa Minor Elementary