

SEPTEMBER, 2024 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope you all have had a relaxing and fun summer break.

The Taku Staff are ready to kick this year off in true Tiger fashion!

I would like to welcome all of our new families, whether you are joining us from another school in the District or have relocated from another city, state, or country. We are excited to share all that Taku has to offer!

The dedicated Taku Staff has been working tirelessly to finalize schedules, fine-tune our instructional practices, engage in professional learning opportunities, and update class routines and expectations, all with the goal of fostering academic success.

Starting this week, we will be announcing the Top 2 classrooms with the best attendance. The winning classrooms get the Traveling Tiger Trophy in their room for the week, and of course, bragging rights of best attendance. Also starting this week, classrooms with 90% attendance or better will work to Spin It to Win It! When the class fills up a 12-frame, they get to spin a wheel of awesome prizes. So, let's get the kids to school every day on time!

Our 3rd - 5th graders will be doing their MAP Testing 9/3 and 9/4. We want them to do their best work on these assessments and show what they know! Please make sure the students get a good night's sleep so they are ready to go tomorrow! Good luck 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders!

I look forward to the start of the new school year and our continued collaboration and positive partnership to ensure your children are successful.

Go Tigers!

Best regards,
Kaitlin Tallman, Principal
Sara Kriz, Assistant Principal

Late Start Mondays and Drop OFF Times/Procedures

Just a reminder that our school start times for the 24-25 school year is a bit different.

Mondays will start later than usual. Drop off begins at 8:40am and the first bell rings at 8:50am. Instruction begins at 9:00am. Student release time will at at 2:30pm.

Tuesdays - Fridays, Drop off begins at 7:40am and the first bell rings at 7:50am. Students enter their classrooms to eat breakfast and get organized. Students are considered tardy after 8:00am. Student release time will remain the same at 2:30pm.

Plan your pick up and drop off routine in advance so students know how they are getting home.

If you have any questions about school start and ending times, feel free to contact the office. 907-742-5940.

SAFE ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Arrival

School Drop off and supervision begins at 7:40am (8:40 on Mondays). Please do not drop off students before 7:40 (8:40 on Mondays). Thank you. Students who are not in their classroom by 8am will be marked late.

Thank you for having your students in school on time.

As always, the beginning of the year can be a little hectic during drop off and pick up. Please be patient, flexible, and safe.

- Please do NOT let your students out among the parked cars.
- **Wait until you are at the "Drop off and Pick Up Begins Here" sign.**
- Please stay in your vehicle and use the drop off and pick up lines.
- Pull all the way forward for drop off and pick up.
- Please do NOT park during drop off and pick up. This is the key to keeping our vehicle line moving.
- The lot is busy and we want to keep all kids safe. Thank you for your help.
- Strive for 7:45 drop off. This is a good rule of thumb.

Dismissal

School dismissal is at 2:30pm. It is a busy and hectic time, especially for a couple of weeks until we get our flow down.

PRO TIP: Feel free to come at 2:25 and avoid the initial traffic jam. :-) Staff will supervise students outside until 2:45pm. At 2:45, students and staff will enter the building and you will need to park and come to the office to pick up your student.

PRO TIP #2: If you have kindergarten or first grade students, PRACTICE getting in and out of your car and seats and belts.

Please be patient, flexible, and safe.

- Please use the pickup line and stay in your vehicle.
- Pull all the way forward to the drop off and pick up sign.
- Staff will help kids get in and out of vehicles
- Staff will supervise and wave you forward so we can load as many vehicles at a time as possible.
- NEVER wave your student into traffic or between parked cars.
- If at all possible, have your student enter and exit your vehicle on the right side out of the way of passing traffic.
- Do NOT block the bus lanes - both the entry and the exit
- If you are meeting your student, please wait by the main crosswalk near the road. We will send students to you.

Nurse's Note

Hello Taku! My name is Nurse Ellie!

This is my first year in this office and I am very excited to support you and your students! If there is anything that you want me to know or ways I can support your student at Taku, please reach out to me. The start of the school year is a busy time for all of us. If your student has action plans or daily medications, please get those to me as soon as possible. I cannot give your student medications unless we have completed the correct forms. Wishing you a happy and healthy back-to-school season.



Ellie Smith
Registered Nurse
Taku Elementary School

Vision screenings - 9/11/24

Vision screenings will be administered on **9/11/2024** to all preschool and students in grades PK, K, 1, 2, 3, and 5 as required by state law and school district policy.

****Please send your student with glasses or contacts as they will use these during their screenings**

Why is it important to have your child's vision screened?

If vision problems are not detected and treated early, they can lead to permanent vision loss and learning difficulties. If a child has poor vision, it makes it much harder for them to succeed in school, sports, social situations, and in life.

- Vision problems affect 1 in 20 preschoolers
- 1 in 4 school-age children experience vision problems

Vision screening will consist of one or more of the following:

1. Distance visual acuity- ability to see objects far away
2. Photo-screening-ability to see far away, up close, and how well the eyes work together
3. Binocular vision- how well your child's eyes work together
4. Color vision- ability to see colors
5. Near visual acuity- ability to see objects up close

How with the results be shared?

- You are welcome to contact the nurse to learn the screening findings.
- If your child does not pass the vision screening, the school nurse will contact you to share the results and may make a recommendation for further evaluation by an eye care specialist

A vision screening provides only a snapshot of how your child performs on the day the test was administered and is not a substitute for a complete eye exam by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

If you have any questions about the school vision screening program please call the school nurse.

Meet Our Counselor Abby Bauer



Hello, Taku families! I am so happy to see both new and "old" faces this year!

For those of you who don't know me, I am Abby Bauer. I am a counselor at Taku and Bayshore Elementary. I will be at Taku every Wednesday (half day 11:30-3), Thursday (all day), and Friday (all day). I hold a MS in Counseling Education, and I have work

experience in healthcare and residential treatment programs. This is my second year as a school counselor. Before joining ASD, I was working in the community as a clinical therapist with teenagers and their families. I am passionate about listening to, talking to, connecting with, and helping families and children of all ages. I am proficient in successful intervention strategies, coping skills, and evaluation techniques.

What is my role?

I am here to help support students, teachers, and parents! I will be visiting classrooms once a month to teach a social emotional learning lesson (SEL). Some topics I cover are self-regulation, managing emotions, empathy, growth mindset, communication, conflict resolution, and more!

I would like the students to think of my office as a safe place, where they are always welcome. I look forward to working with the students and promoting academic, personal, and social development support. I will work with students at the classroom level, small group level, as well as at the short-term individual counseling level. I will also be meeting with parents, collaborating with teachers and staff, and consulting with community organizations to benefit and meet the needs of the students here at Taku.

Individual Counseling

- Both teachers and parents can refer students for individual counseling. Students may also request to see me (I have request forms outside my office door).
- Students might see me for individual counseling to work on decision-making, managing emotions, family dynamics, changes, friendship/social skills, or other concerns.
- You can email me or call me if you would like to refer a student for individual counseling. I have a consent form that parents/guardians will need to sign for counseling that extends beyond two sessions within a school year or that is planned on a regular basis/as needed. I can send students home with the form, e-mail it, or there are paper copies at the front office.

I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Thank you,
Abby Bauer

Specialist News

Art with Elizabeth Feucht

My name is Ms. Feucht (say it like "foyt") and I'm excited to begin my 11th year as the Art Teacher here at Taku. I look forward to exploring new materials, thinking creatively, and seeing the art your children will make.

Our art room rules are "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe." In art class, your student will earn an O for "Outstanding," and S for "Satisfactory," or an N for "Needs Work."

OUTSTANDING students listen while the teacher gives directions and use materials and supplies in a responsible manner. They try their hardest, even when the work is challenging. They are creative, excited and engaged. They help their classmates and leave their workspace clean and ready for the next group.

I know your email fills up with ASD notices, but I hope to brighten that inbox with a once-a-quarter Art Update for your student's grade level.

If you have any questions, you can email me at Feucht_elizabeth@asdk12.org



Information about Fur Rondy contest

All Taku students are eligible to take part in the Annual Fur Rondy Button Contest! You can watch this [slideshow](#) or [movie](#) for more information. Ms. Feucht has papers at school, but you can also download the entry form here: [Fur Rondy Contest Entry Form](#). Return your entry form to Ms. Feucht at Taku by September 25th, or return it right to the Fur Rondy Headquarters by October 19.

Go, Taku Artists! Please include this image with the Fur Rondy information. Thanks!



Library with Amy Johnson

September @ Your Library

Greetings! We look forward to a new year of nurturing our students' love for reading and lifelong learning, and their competence at navigating and creating in the virtual world. Taku Library offers a full program of activities to support students' development of critical literacy, research, and communication skills.

Curriculum

In the library this month, students will explore the genre, or style of writing, called Realistic Fiction. Realistic Fiction stories address topics such as friendship, family, and school. Students relate easily to these stories, as they present situations that are much like those occurring in students' real lives.



In addition to studying Realistic Fiction, students will also investigate the topic of cyber community citizenship, with lessons tailored to individual grade levels. And, middle grade students will review how to access online resources, including magazine, encyclopedia, and newspaper articles, and ebooks.

Activities

Students in second through fifth grades will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs during their recess periods. These activities range from Tech Lab to Recess Read-Aloud to Maker Space. I will send more information about these programs in next month's newsletter.

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson
Taku Elementary School Librarian

Music with Andrew McKnight

Hello Taku Families! My name is Andrew McKnight and I'm so glad to be your students' music teacher for the 24-25 School year! I am from Missouri and moved to Anchorage this June with my wife and son. At Taku elementary, we are busy every class period experiencing and/or creating music in a variety of meters and tonalities by moving, singing or using school instruments. Students are learning to audiate, or think music, and we are having so much fun! I hope to schedule some performance opportunities this year for your kiddos to show off their talent!



Health Education

Andrew McKnight
Music

Health Note

Introducing THE GREAT BODY SHOP

Dear Family Member:

We are delighted to introduce you to THE GREAT BODY SHOP, the comprehensive health education program your child will be participating in this year. THE GREAT BODY SHOP will help your child learn more about the human body and the skills needed to stay safe and healthy. The success of the program requires a team effort, involving you, your child, the teacher, and trusted adults.

This is how it works:

THE GREAT BODY SHOP topics, include nutrition, illness prevention, substance abuse prevention, and safety, among others. Each monthly unit contains information to help your child understand his or her own body, the way it works, and the best ways to keep it healthy and safe. The teacher will discuss each monthly unit of THE GREAT BODY SHOP with students and guide them in developmentally appropriate, skill-based activities to reinforce the lessons contained in each unit.

To support families in taking an active roles in their child's health education, we provide digital copies of the Student Issues, Family Bulletins, the Family Connections newsletters, and The Great Body Shop music in the Family Portal.

To create your account, visit <https://www.thegreatbodysshop.net/>. Click on the FAMILIES link at the top of the page. Next, click on CREATE NEW ACCOUNT and start by entering the Class Code provided below. Complete all required fields which includes adding an email and password. Make note of the email and password you enter, as you will need both to access THE GREAT BODY SHOP resources.

ASD Parent Portal Join Codes

Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	6 th Grade
GBS_302969	GBS_302963	GBS_302964	GBS_302965	GBS_302966	GBS_302967	GBS_302968

By working together to reinforce the skills taught in THE GREAT BODY SHOP, we can help your child make healthy decisions about his or her body that will keep him or her safe and ready to meet the challenges of the future.

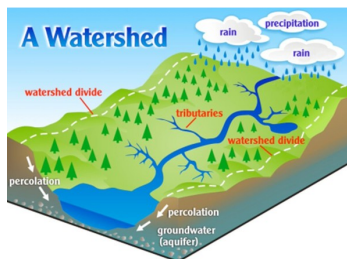
Sincerely,
Health Department
Anchorage School District



Important Dates



Labor Day - 9/2
No School on 9/2



4th Grade Field Trip - 9/20



Taku has an Instagram!
Go like, share, and follow our page!
https://www.instagram.com/taku_elementary365/



Fall Picuture day - 9/20

Mark your calendar for Taku's fall picture day! Bring your best dressed self and your smile! Retake day is October 15th.

PTA Meeting - 9/10

Come and join our PTA meeting from 5:30pm - 6:30pm!

Taku has a Facebook!

Go "Like" our page!

<https://www.facebook.com/taku365/>

Thank you CU1!



Thank you CU1! They generously donated a "Welcome Back Breakfast" for our hardworking teachers and staff on their first week back to work.

1 Credit Union



Community support of our teachers and staff is imperative to the functioning of our school. We appreciate your support!

THE BULLETIN BOARD, Office Ladies

WELCOME BACK TAKU FAMILIES!

We are excited to see both familiar and new faces!

Just some friendly reminders:

- Absences can be reported in parent connect. If you are planning a vacation please let the office know so we can enter a pre-arranged absence.
- Students who arrive to school at or after 8am need to come through the front office to get marked tardy. We have breakfast in the office for late students.
- We are striving to achieve an attendance rate of 90% or higher. More details on our new attendance procedures will be provided soon.



~ Rachel **Musselman** (AA) and Rachel **Ketchum** (Secretary) ~

Volunteering at Taku

If you are interested in volunteering at Taku this upcoming year, please fill out the volunteer form ASAP. This must be done every school year. Parents who filled out the form last year will need to reapply.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQD_HMwPMg/viewform

We encourage families to do this now, that way, as events, field trips and other volunteer opportunities arise you won't have to scramble last minute. The volunteer process includes a background check and can take up to 5 business days before ASD's Office of Equity approves or denies your application. Once we have received the approval/denial we will email you to let you know.

PTA Vacancies for 24-25 School Year

The following PTA positions will be vacant for the upcoming 24-25 school year:

- Teacher Representative
- Parent Volunteers

We would love to have you [join](#) the Taku PTA! If you are interested, please join us for the September PTA Meeting!



Taku Elementary

Email: takuattendance@asdk12.org

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

Location: [701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK, USA](#)

Phone: [907-742-5940](tel:907-742-5940)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/taku365/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/taku_elementary365/



Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters