

Monthly Update



Anchorage School District

Calendar

- **November 7-8** – Parent conferences. School schedules and student-release times vary. Not all grades will have conferences on every day. Check with your school for specific schedule.
- **November 9** – In-service day, no school for students.
- **November 11** – Veterans Day
- **November 22-23** – Thanksgiving holiday. All schools and district offices closed.

Announcements

21st century high schools

www.asdk12.org

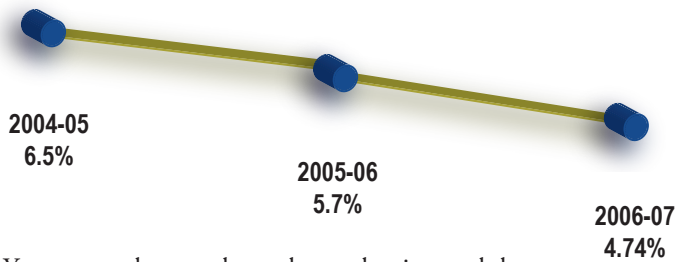
Today's students are different, society is different and the world is different. ASD is looking at all aspects of high school education to create a vision for the next decade. What would you like to see changed; revised graduation requirements, school start times, elective credit options? Please share your thoughts at an upcoming community discussion.

Tues. Nov. 6	Chugiak High library
Wed. Nov. 7	East High rooms M2 and M3
Wed. Nov. 14	West High cafeteria
Wed. Nov. 28	Eagle River High cafeteria
Thu. Nov. 29	South High commons

All meetings are 7-9 p.m.

Expect the Best

ASD continues to improve its graduation rate while decreasing the dropout rate. Because each child learns differently, the district offers a wide range of education options for students, including online learning, self-paced courses, non-traditional schedules, summer school and work-study. ASD also provides programs for pregnant and parenting teens, working teens, bilingual students, homeless students and students who are incarcerated or expelled from school for less-violent offenses. For the past three years, the district's dropout rate has steadily declined.



You can read more about the graduation and dropout rate on Tuesday, November 6 when the district publishes Expect the Best, an annual report to the community. The publication will be a special insert in Tuesday's Anchorage Daily News. You may also pick up a copy at the ASD Education Center located on the corner of Northern Lights Blvd. and Boniface Pkwy.

Celebrating Alaska Native and American Indian culture

www.asdk12.org/events/native.asp

This month, ASD staff and students are recognizing the contributions of Alaska Natives and American Indians throughout the history of Alaska and the United States. A number of activities and celebrations are scheduled to commemorate November as Alaska Native and American Indian Heritage Month. Many schools are welcoming elders, artists and speakers into the classroom to share their stories and arts with students. ASD-TV cable channel 14 will broadcast more than two dozen programs highlighting Alaska Native and American Indian lifestyles. A program schedule is available on the district's Web site.

Point of Pride

This week, West High School social studies teacher Pam Orme and students Chloe Cotton and Molly Quinn have an opportunity to meet and ask questions of the US Supreme Court justices. The group has the honor of participating in the Sunnylands Supreme Court Institute November 4-7 hosted by the Annenberg Foundation. During the institute, students from across the country will spend one hour with each justice posing questions on matters relating to the Constitution. The institute will be filmed and edited into an instructional video that will be distributed to schools nationwide for use on Constitution Day 2008.



Molly Quinn, Pam Orme and Chloe Cotton

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

This month, I encourage each of you to join me in remembering and celebrating both our heritage and this country that is our home. This is my favorite time of year because people of varied backgrounds come together to give thanks for all we have.

Thanksgiving is a holiday everyone can enjoy. Whether it's over a warm meal at home or at a community gathering, I hope each of you is able to spend quality time with family and friends to let them know how much they are appreciated. Thanking others for their efforts is an important lesson we can all remember and practice.

I would like to share a few reasons I am thankful to be superintendent of the Anchorage School District.

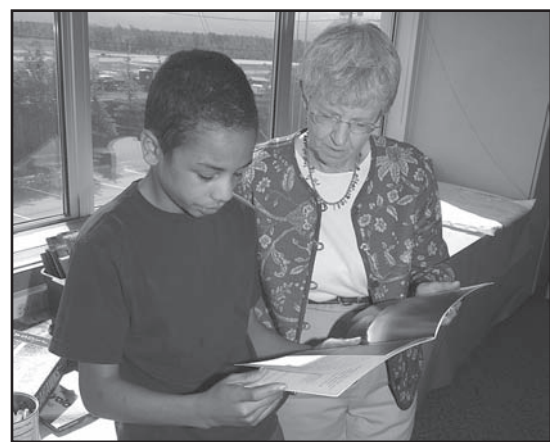
- **Active parents** - From asking questions over dinner to supporting the local parent teacher organization, involved parents and families play a significant role in shaping children's attitudes and beliefs.
- **Dedicated staff** - ASD staff is committed and focused on providing the best education for our students. Their dedication to youth and public service is an inspiration.
- **Hard working students** - School is a child's primary job for 13 years. ASD students are working hard and making progress. They will move on to make profound differences in our community.
- **Anchorage residents** - Local taxpayers afford us the warm, well staffed schools we enjoy. Our students and staff thrive in an atmosphere of community support.

For more than 300 years, since the first Thanksgiving meal, military forces have been protecting the ground we call home. Here in Alaska, a number of active-duty troops are preparing for assignments across the country and overseas in war-torn areas, while others are finally coming home after lengthy deployments. I am thankful for their dedication to our country and to each one of us and for their willingness to put their lives on the line to protect our freedom. On November 11, I will join Americans across our great nation to honor past and present military members on Veterans Day. It's important to recognize not only those who died, but all who have served, sacrificed and performed their duties for our well-being. Families of men and women in the armed forces have also made sacrifices that should be recognized.

Whatever your role may be, I thank you for all you do to make our country, community and schools the best they can be. Our children are benefiting from your support.

With gratitude,

Carol Comeau



Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 11/2/07

MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW
WORK SESSION—AGENDA November 5, 2007 5–8:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Conference Room 150

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute
 Tim Steele, Presiding
Announcements

Discussion
 1. FY 2008-2009 Budget Discussion
School Board Comments
Adjournment

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA November 12, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Conference Room 150

Call To Order, Roll Call
 Tim Steele, Presiding
School Board Comments
Executive Session – (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)
 1. Student Hearings

2. Live Student Hearing (5:00 p.m.)
Superintendent's Update
Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA November 12, 2007 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute
 Tim Steele, Presiding
Approval Of Agenda
Announcements
Awards/Recognitions/Presentations
 1. Williwaw Elementary School Choir, Chris More director
 2. **Memo 59** - Recognition of East High Partner Club
 3. **Memo 97** - Recognition of Library Donation, Anchorage Republican Women's Club
 4. **Memo 98** - Recognition of Donation, Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA)
 5. **Memo 110** - Recognition of Alaska Teacher of the Year Finalist, Dan Sparkman
 6. **Memo 114** - Recognition of Alaska Secondary School Principal of the Year, Shannon Gallagher

Special Advisory Reports
 1. Student Advisory Board
 2. Military Delegate
 3. M.E.C.A.C.

Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)

Consent Agenda
 1. Approval of Minutes
 a. Regular Meeting - September 24, 2007
 b. Special Meeting - October 22, 2007
 2. **Memo 106** - Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day
 3. **Memo 107** - Resolution in Recognition of American Education Week and All School Employees
 4. **Memo 104** - 2008 Legislative Priorities
 5. **Memo 105** - Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Financial Planning
 6. **Memo 92** - ASD Board Policy Changes Due to Anchorage Equal Rights

Commission Recommendations (Second Reading)
 7. **Memo 115** - Appointment of Controversial Issues Review Committee Members
 8. **Memo 116** - Approval of Family Partnership Charter School Enrollment Adjustment
 9. **Memo 108** - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Reading First
 10. **Memo 109** - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Demonstration Program – Creating Successful Futures
 11. **Memo 112** - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Teaching American History Grant Program
 12. **Memo 113** - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Railroad Summer Youth Employment Program 2008
 13. **Memo 95** - Personnel Report

Superintendent's Report
 1. **Memo 96** - Project Status Report
 2. **Memo 103** - Monthly Update Student Information System – Zangle
 3. **Memo 88** - Annual Report of Exempt Purchases
 4. **Memo 102** - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2007-2008 School Year
 5. **Memo 99** - First Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary – October 31, 2007
 6. **Memo 100** - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of October, 2007

Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items
Communications & School Board Comments
Executive Session – (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)
Adjournment

Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.

*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Nov. 14 at 5 p.m., Nov. 15 at 12:30 p.m., Nov. 17 at 12:30 p.m. and Nov. 18 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours. Meeting podcasts are available at www.asdk12.org.

For more information

Anchorage School Board and Superintendent

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Macon Roberts, 742-5350, roberts_macon@asdk12.org
 John Steiner, 696-2629, steiner_john@asdk12.org
 Chris Tuck, 742-5343, tuck_chris@asdk12.org
 Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, comeau_carol@asdk12.org

MECAC: The mission of the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) is to serve as the voice for families in the Anchorage School District and to promote educational success for minority students. The MECAC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. and the third Thursday of every month at 12 noon at 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Conference Room.

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99504-3135 • 742-4000 • www.asdk12.org • Tune in to cable channel 14