

Steller Secondary School

What is Steller School all about?

-Steller is a 7-12 open optional school. The program is designed for motivated students. Staff and parents work together to empower students to be the primary decision-makers in their education. There is a focus on the school as community and each person's responsibility as a member of a community. Students are accountable for their actions with an emphasis on responsible freedom.

What kind of student does well there?

-Students who have had some exposure to open optional philosophy or other alternative programs are very successful at Steller. Supportive parents who take an active role in their student's education are vital. A viable candidate would be any student who wants to be responsible for their education, who owns their behavior, and is willing to adapt and change when necessary.

How many students are enrolled at Steller?

-Current enrollment is 300 students. Our building capacity is 276. The program should not exceed 300 students. It is important that students are known as community members.

What are the advantages of the Steller program?

-Students learn to be self advocates; they have very good negotiation skills. Students are placed where their skills indicate they should be whether that is above or below grade level. They have many opportunities to practice leadership skills. Students are encouraged to adapt their educational program by taking college classes, participating in internships or travel, and volunteering in the Anchorage community.

What are the disadvantages of the Steller program?

-There is a lack of transportation. Students must provide their own transportation. We have a small staff and limited class offerings. Students may need to supplement the curriculum on their own. There are no competitive team sports. We have few after school activities. There is not a lunch program at Steller. Students must either bring their lunch or leave the building during lunch.

How would a program like Steller fit with the Eagle River community?

-Eagle River already has a population of open optional students. Currently, any Eagle River student who wants to continue with a secondary open optional education must travel to Anchorage. By providing a program here, more students will have an opportunity to continue with the education of their choice. In addition, the community benefits with more volunteerism and an active teenage citizenry.