

A group of students from Teeland Middle School are participating in a field activity. They are gathered around a stream, with a white tub in the foreground containing water and small fish. The students are focused on their work, with some writing in notebooks. The background shows a natural setting with trees and a body of water.

Teeland Middle School River Rangers

Where do you learn best?



Who are the River Rangers?

- Developed by Rhett Buchanan, Mike Shea, and Joe Nolting
- approx. 220 7th grade students per year
- approx. 1500 students over the past 7 years



Excellence In...

We strive for **excellence in citizenship** by emphasizing and celebrating respect, responsibility, and personal growth resulting in a caring learning environment.

CITIZENSHIP

ACADEMICS

We strive for **excellence in academics** by creating 21st Century Learners through innovative teaching strategies using real-world applications.

CONNECTIONS

We strive for **excellence in our connections** with students, parents, and community through positive interactions, service-learning, involvement in co-curricular activities, and the celebration of success.

**Teeland
Middle School**



Wit Susitna
River

Manvil H Olson
Bridge



“After learning about stream ecology, I see the stream and riparian zone as more than just flowing water and some plants. I see them as something precious and important.”

-Stephanie M.

What is our goal?

Our goal is to make education relevant in our students' lives. We are improving science content knowledge and process skills, as well as improving students' attitudes and enthusiasm for science.







How are we getting things done.....

- Support of partner teachers and building staff
- Lots of hard work for students and staff
- Outside help from WSWCD and ADF&G
- Monetary support through grants
- Numerous volunteers
- Awesome students



























Hardships....

It is WAY easier to teach in the classroom

Individual Prep Time -- Personal and time out of the classroom

Students out of the building

Buy-in from other staff and administration

Standardized Testing and struggling students

Budgets

Bussing -- Cost and Travel times

Facilities

Student supplies

Volunteers

We live in wild Alaska!!!

Results...

“I think that what we are doing is making a huge difference in the health of our streams, and it has been an experience of a lifetime.”

-Kelsey H.

“I think that I do view them differently than before. I know that the riparian zone is quite amazing and complex, what with all the trees and bugs being part of one big cycle.”

-Benjamin F.

“Some people will trash a river and everything. To be honest, I was one of those people, until this year. Because now I know how much effort is put into revegetating all the areas. Now I think twice.”

-Cory H.

“My parents used to say to me, ‘With more knowledge, comes more opportunity.’ I now have an opportunity to make a difference in my community.”

-Sydney B.