

Alpenglow Snow Leopards

September 2025

Kids Come First at Alpenglow

It is the mission of the Alpenglow Elementary School staff to create confident learners for academic and social success.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that our school is on the traditional lands of the Dena'ina People of Upper Cook Inlet. For thousands of years, the Dena'ina People have continued to be the stewards of this land.

ASD is committed to diversity and inclusion, and it is with honor and respect that we recognize all Indigenous people who live and learn in our community.



From the Principal's Desk

We look forward to partnering with you to help our students reach their full potential. Together, we can make a real difference in their education.

Here are a few ways you can support your child's success:

- Make sure they attend school regularly and arrive on time.
- Encourage completion of homework.
- Read with them daily to build literacy skills.
- Ask about their day to stay connected to their school experiences.



- Be aware if they need extra help in any area.
- Let them know you expect their best effort, every day.

Thank you for being such a vital part of our community. I look forward to connecting with both new and returning families this year—we believe our students can achieve anything they set their minds to.

Denise Demetree-Trombley
Principal, Alpenglow Elementary School
demetree_denise@asdk12.org

MAP Growth Information

MAP Growth is the ASD and State of Alaska required benchmark/interim reading and mathematics assessment for students in grades 3-9. Grades 10-12 students identified as needing Tier II and Tier III reading and mathematics support also take MAP Growth as part of the Anchorage School District's MTSS framework.



Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has partnered with NWEA to implement a creative approach to a balanced statewide assessment that connects fall and winter MAP Growth benchmark/interim assessments and the Alaska spring AK STAR summative assessment. AK STAR eliminates the spring benchmark/interim assessment window for grades 3-9 by combining the summative and benchmark assessment into one test that produces a spring benchmark score, which includes a growth measure. More information is available at the State of Alaska AK STAR website, education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar.

MAP Growth is an online, adaptive assessment that provides each student a personalized testing experience with data that speaks to their individual progress and growth in mathematics and reading.

The MAP Growth reading and mathematics benchmark will be administered in person during the fall and winter benchmark windows. The spring benchmark will be embedded in the AK STAR summative assessment as outlined above.

Alpenglow's Fall Benchmark Schedule is:

- Fall Benchmark 1:
 - ELA on Tuesday, September 2
 - Math on Wednesday, September 3

With make-ups running through September 19

- Winter Benchmark 2: December 1 - December 12 (make-ups through December 18)
 - Specific Dates TBD
- Spring Benchmark 3: embedded in AK STAR administered during the summative assessment window: March 30 - April 17 (make-ups through May 1)
 - Specific Dates TBD

MAP Growth practice tests and tutorials allow students and families the opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions and tools available on the actual MAP Growth assessments such as the highlighter and calculator. An overview of these resources with links to the practice tests are compiled on the [MAP Growth Practice Tests Quick Sheet](#).

mClass Information

As part of The Alaska Reads Act, the State of Alaska requires that districts administer an early literacy screening tool three times a year to students in grades K-3 to identify potential reading difficulties in order to improve reading outcomes for students. Families can read more about this comprehensive K-3 reading policy at The Alaska Reads Act website: education.alaska.gov/akreads



mClass with DIBELS 8th Edition Assessments is the State of Alaska Department of Education's and ASD's Early Literacy benchmark screening and progress monitoring tool for students in grades K-3 in reading. mClass utilizes curriculum-based measures and is used by schools as part of the ASD Comprehensive Assessment System to support informed instructional decisions.

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development explains the decision to adopt mClass as the statewide literacy screener here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/Statewide-Early-Literacy-Screener>

mClass screening assessments will only be administered in-person during the benchmark window listed below:

- Fall 2025: September 2 - 12
 - Alpenglow's specific testing dates are Wednesday, September 10 and Thursday, September 11.

Results for K-3 students that were assessed during a benchmark window, will be available in Parent Connect by September 26, 2025 [ParentConnection Login Information and Reference Guide](#): parentconnect.asdk12.org

Attendance Reporting Reminders



Regular attendance is key to your child's success at school. Please try to plan trips, vacations, and family activities during non-school days so students don't miss out on valuable learning time.

Reporting Absences

If your child will be absent, please:

- **Call:** 907-742-3300
- **Email:** alpenglwoffice@asdk12.org
- **Use:** Q/ParentConnection app

Automated attendance calls are sent at 9:00 a.m.; please report absences before that time. Absences not cleared within 3 days will be marked as unexcused.

Family Trips

Before heading out on a family trip, please:

- Contact your child's teacher to obtain any make-up work or assignments.
- Note that these absences will count toward your child's overall attendance record.

School-wide Expectations

Be Safe

- Follow all classroom, school, and district rules. Report bullying to adults at school and home.

Be Respectful and Kind

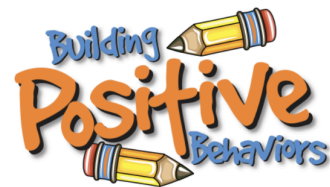
- Treat others and yourself with care. Celebrate differences and model kindness.

Be Responsible

- Act appropriately without reminders. Take ownership of your actions.

Be Ready

- Come prepared to learn and make positive choices.



These expectations are integral to creating a safe and nurturing environment at Alpenglow Elementary.



Ways you can partner with us to support your child

- Discuss our school-wide expectations and how they relate to your expectations at home
- Talk to your child about their day
- Praise your child when you see them doing what they need to do
- Be clear in the expectations you have for their behavior in different settings
- Expect mistakes and have a plan for how you will respond
- Set family routines to build consistency
- Model the social behavior you would like to see from your child
- Encourage open communication with your child's teacher(s)

Join The Team

Alpenglow Elementary School is currently seeking dedicated individuals to join our team in the following positions:

- **Noon Supervisors/Crossing Guard:** Support and supervise students during lunch and recess, and help ensure their safety before and after school while crossing Driftwood Bay Drive.
- **Cafeteria Manager:** Oversee the preparation and serving of fresh, hot lunches to students.
- **Building Plant Operator (BPO):** Maintain a clean and welcoming school environment by ensuring the building is well-kept and functional.
- **Substitute Teachers:** Provide temporary instructional support in various classrooms as needed.



To apply for these positions, please visit the [Anchorage School District employment portal](#).

If you have any questions or need assistance with the application process, please contact Mrs. Demetree-Trombley at 907-742-3300.

We look forward to welcoming new team members who are committed to fostering a positive and productive learning environment at Alpenglow Elementary.

From the Nurse's Office

If your child needs **cough drops** during the school today, contact Nurse Sally Netter for an over-the-counter medication form and the process for administering them. You can also find the form at

this [link](#) and have it sent directly to the nurse. Her email for the form is netter_sally@asdk12.org.

Sally Netter, RN
School Nurse
Alpenglow Elementary School
AK Choice @ Alpenglow
netter_sally@asdk12.org
907-742-3304



Welcome from the School Counselor



Welcome to a new school year!

I'm so excited to begin this journey with you and to support your child's academic, social, and emotional growth throughout the year. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, I want you to know that you are an important part of our school community.

As your school counselor, my role is to ensure that every student feels safe, supported, and ready to learn. I'm here to help with anything from friendship challenges and emotional well-being to academic planning and goal setting. My door is always open, and I encourage both students and families to reach out whenever you need support or just someone to talk to.

How to contact me: my days at Alpenglow are Monday and Tuesday, all day; and Friday afternoons. The very best way to reach me is by email. You can also call the Alpenglow front office (907-742-3300) and leave a message; or, on my direct line (907-742-9547).

Here's to a year filled with learning, growth, and connection. I look forward to getting to know each of you and working together to make this school year a positive and successful one.

Warmly,
Jane Barber, M Ed
Counselor
Alpenglow Elementary School
Anchorage School District
2024 National Blue Ribbon School

Phone: 907-742-9547
Chugiak Elementary School
Anchorage School District
Phone: 907-742-9060

Mon/Tues: Alpenglow; Fri afternoon: Alpenglow
Wed/Thurs: Chugiak; Fri morning: Chugiak;

HELLO from the Library!

Welcome Back to the Alpenglow Library!

We are thrilled to welcome all our students—new and returning—back to school and back to the heart of Alpenglow Elementary: **the Library!** ✨

The library is already buzzing with excitement as we prepare for a year filled with wonderful books, creative reading adventures, author spotlights, and magical story times. Whether your student is just learning to read or an avid bookworm – there is something here for everyone.



Why Reading Matters

Reading with your child isn't just a cozy bedtime ritual—it's one of the most powerful tools for their success.

Reasons to make reading a daily habit:

- ✓ **Children who are read to daily are exposed to up to 1.4 million more words** by the time they enter kindergarten compared to children who are not read to regularly. (*Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, 2019*)
- ✓ Just **20 minutes of reading per day** exposes children to nearly **2 million words per year**, building vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills.
- ✓ Reading together fosters **bonding and emotional growth**. Kids who are read to often show increased empathy and stronger social-emotional development.

Make reading a wonderful part of your family's daily routine!

What's happening at the Library?

 **Book Checkout Begins:** Students were able to check out 1 book this week and bring books home! Kindergarteners will check out books in a couple of weeks. Ask them which book they chose —it's a great conversation starter! Please be sure to keep track of your books and treat them with care!

 **Battle of the Books** Students in 3rd – 5th Grades will have the opportunity to participate in the district Battle of the Books. I will be sharing the books and information during library time in September.

 **Book Fair!:** The Book Fair will be in October in conjunction with Parent Teacher Conferences!

 **Volunteer Opportunities:** I am happy to have help in the library! Please email me if you are interested in volunteering!

We are so excited for the adventures this year will bring, and we're here to support your child's literacy journey every step of the way.

Thank you for being a part of our reading community!

 Mrs. Moncur

Alpenglow Elementary Librarian

 moncur_stacey@asdk12.org

Choir is Back!

Permission slips (attached below) will go home with 4th and 5th grade students on **September 3rd**. Our first day of choir will be **September 25th**, with rehearsals continuing on **Thursdays from 2:30–3:30 PM**.



Jana Bryner
Elementary Music Specialist
Alpenglow & Airport Heights

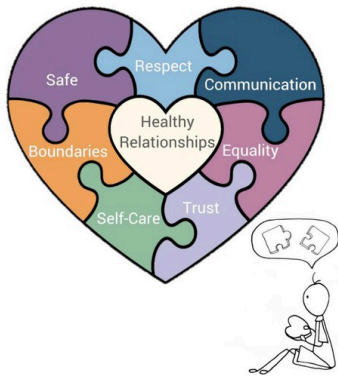


Alpenglow Choir Permission Slips 2025-26 (1).pdf

Download

1.1 MB

Alaska Safe Children's Act



This letter is to let you know that your child's class will be receiving age-appropriate lessons on child sexual abuse and assault prevention education as required under the state's Alaska Safe Children's Act (Erin's Law).

Erin's Law Education is comprised of two lessons (one lesson at the beginning of each semester) taught during the Health classes. Combined, these lessons meet the full requirements for students under the Alaska Safe Children's Act (Erin's Law) and are designed to help prevent childhood sexual abuse. These lessons

will be presented in a non-threatening way, along with the skills needed for self-protection and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner.

Information about the lessons can be viewed [HERE](#).

If you do NOT want your child to receive the instruction under the Alaska Safe Children's Act, you must write a letter to the school principal requesting that your child be excused from these specific lessons.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and well being of our students.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lindsay
Alpenglow Elementary, Health Teacher

From Coach Pandres

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well! My name is Jade Pandres, and I am the Physical Education teacher at Alpenglow Elementary.

This year, students will participate in a range of activities designed to build physical skills, foster teamwork, and promote sportsmanship, all while having fun!

Key points about the PE program:



1. What to Wear: Please ensure your child wears comfortable clothes and non-marking tennis shoes. Layers are helpful as students may become warm during activity.
2. Participation: Active participation is important for your child's physical development and enjoyment of the class. If your child is unable to participate due to illness or injury, please provide a note or inform the school office.
3. Grades: Students are graded based on their effort, following directions, sportsmanship, being safe, and being respectful (to themselves, others, equipment, etc).
4. Communication: If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at pandres_jade@asdk12.org.

Thank you for your support! I'm looking forward to a fun and active year!

Chugiak/Eagle River Beach Lake Jamboree

Students do not have to be in running club to sign up for this race. Students may register on the same day at the event, but you can skip the line by registering early. All preregister paperwork must be submitted by Sept 17.



25 Jamboree Flyer.pdf

[Download](#)

140.2 KB



25 XC Waiver.pdf

[Download](#)

96.3 KB



2025 BL Jamboree Registration_ Info (1).pdf

[Download](#)

353.3 KB

Jade Pandres
Physical Education Specialist
Alpenglow Elementary School

From the Art Room



Welcome back to school!

In the art room, we are constantly thinking: "What do Artists do?"
Every child is an artist, and the art room is their studio.

This year in art, your child will learn:

- How to talk about their own work and the work of others.
- How to care for their artwork, their studio, and the materials and supplies they use.
- How to responsibly explore and experiment with new materials.
- How to brainstorm and explore unique, creative ideas.
- How art connects the world through ideas.

Art Class empowers students to develop their unique artistic voices, understand the art-making process, build art vocabulary, foster observational skills, encourage imaginative thinking, and recognize themselves as artists!

I am looking forward to this year!

Sara Upicksoun

Art Teacher

Alpenglow and Homestead Elementary School

upicksoun_sara@asdk12.org

Alpenglow Elementary PTA

Thank You & Upcoming Events!

We want to extend a big **THANK YOU** to our amazing Alpenglow families and community for supporting this year's Giving Campaign. Thanks to your generosity, our school community will enjoy events, activities, and resources that enrich our students' experience this year! 💙



Mark Your Calendars:

- 🍿 **Popcorn Friday – September 5**

Our first Popcorn Friday of the year is almost here! Students look forward to this fun treat

each month. Sign up to help here: [Popcorn Friday Signup](#).

- 🏃 **First Annual Fun Run – September 12**

Get ready to cheer, run, and celebrate! We're excited to launch our very first Fun Run at Alpenglow. Volunteers are essential to making this event a success—sign up here: [Fun Run Volunteer Signup](#).

Volunteer Reminder:

Anchorage ASD requires all volunteers to be approved by the district. Please complete the [ASD Volunteer Application](#) to ensure you're ready to assist in school activities.

Stay connected and join the conversation with other families on our [Alpenglow PTA Facebook Group](#).

Together, we're building a strong and supportive school community—thank you for being part of it!

Dates to Remember

School Spirit Fridays!

Every Friday, show your Alpenglow pride by wearing an Alpenglow shirt or our school colors — **black, teal, and white**.

SEPTEMBER 2025

1 No-School Labor Day
5 Popcorn Friday
12 Fun Run
25 Running Club Ends
25 Picture Day
17 – 23 Constitution Week
18 Chugiak/ER Area Jamboree
19 Talk-Like-a-Pirate Day
29 PTA Meeting

OCTOBER 2025

3 Popcorn Friday
7 Donuts with Day
10 Glow Dance - PTA Family Fun Night
13 No School
16 Great Alaska Shake-out
17 No School
20 - 23 Scholastic Book Fair



22 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Early Release
23 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Early Release
24 No School
27 PTA Meeting

Dates, times, and events are subject to change. Check the [School Calendar on our Website](#) for changes.

Request ASD Student Records

ASD Volunteer Application



Alpenglow Elementary School

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

Contact

