

Principal's Report

August 21, 2025

By Branden Strauch



Students:

494 Students

There are still a couple of spots turning over for the kindergarten class and families make their final choice on a lottery school. However, I expect it to fill over the next week.

It has been a great start to the school year. Students seem excited about the new spaces like the MPR, library, and five acre playground.

Staff:

40 Staff Members.

Staff has been very active and engaged with setting up the school and preparing classrooms.

This year, we are focusing on two big initiatives: Strengthening a sense of belonging in our students and ownership in our staff. To do so, we are focussing on staff collaboration through our PLC model on Friday afternoons for staff to broaden the staff's impact on student outcomes and help guide the school. Additionally, the leadership team will be meeting more regularly to improve student outcomes and guide school operations.

It should be noted that this model is similar, but not the same as ASD. While the overall structure is about the same, our model is very focused on our school charter, vision, mission, and goals while leaning into the experience of our amazing staff.

With this in mind, staff input has been vital in the development of our new processes and procedures in the Abbott Loop facility.

Curriculum and Instruction:

In recent years, we've had a small group of students take Geometry alongside their peers in Algebra. While this allowed us to offer the course, it also stretched instructional resources and limited the individual attention students deserved. As our student body continues to grow and more learners move into advanced math, we've explored new ways to better meet their needs.

We're excited to share that we have the opportunity to partner with AK Choice to offer Geometry through a blended learning model. This means students will complete the course through the AK Choice online platform, while also receiving in-person support here at Rilke Schule. This hybrid approach allows for a more focused, flexible, and enriched learning experience. We believe this option will help our students thrive, and we look forward to supporting them on this exciting next step in their academic journey!

Facility:

We are settling into Abbott Loop with the help of staff and community members.

ASD began moving pallets and materials in June which was ahead of schedule, and completed the vast majority of the relocation by July 11th. Items were then distributed to classrooms and storage areas. The front office opened on July 21st, and we have had staff periodically in the building to set up classrooms. I want to thank the APC board again for providing two extra days of per diem to support this work. We also held volunteer days to help close out the Kiska building and prepare Abbott Loop. Each day, we had around 30 volunteers who completed a lot of work. We are very grateful for such an involved community who supports the school.

Budget:

Refer to Herr Truog's treasury report.

Relocation Budget Update

Budget: \$40,000

Materials: \$2,473.52

Warehouse Labor: \$6,802.48

Staff - two days per diem: \$23,902.22

Actual Total Expenses as of 8/17/25: \$33,178.22

Kiska Building Repairs and Cleaning

Budget: \$25,000

Painting and Repairs: \$15,200

Cleaning: \$5,000 (Quoted)

Projected Total: \$20,200

Community:

Huge thank you to the Rilke community for your continued support to make Rilke Schule a great school.

Many families attended the Popsicles with the Principal event. It was great to see so many of the students again.