



TAKU ELEMENTARY

Taku will foster a safe and welcoming learning environment to support the diverse needs of all students where everyone is valued and strives for success.

FEBRUARY, 2026 TIGER TALES

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Taku Families,

Happy February! Kindness has been a focus at Taku the last couple weeks - we have been highlighting empathy, respect, and self - regulation. Students have been participating in activities that reinforce positive character traits and strong citizenship. We encourage families to continue these conversations at home - small acts of kindness make a big difference!

It's Counselor Appreciation Week! We sure do LOVE Ms. Bauer! Feel free to send her some shout outs this week! Or have your students write her a quick appreciation note or card. She does amazing things for our community.

Winter weather continues... Please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for 30 minutes of outdoor recess every day! Hats, coats, gloves, snow pants and boots are all essential! If you need assistance getting gear, let us know. Missing gear?? Remind students to check the Lost and Found near PE.

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up this month! More information for signing up will be coming soon. But mark your calendars for February 25th and 26th!

A reminder about Parking Lot safety - please use the drive through loop during morning and afternoon drop off. If you need to get out of your car to help your child get in the car, please PARK and walk up to get your child. Do not get out of your car in the drop off loop. Parking on the street? Please do not utilize the bus loop for turnaround. Also be mindful of our neighbors - do not block driveways! Thanks for your help,

Thank you for your continued partnership! Together, we are helping our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally!

Warm regards,
Kaitlin Tallman, Principal

Family Survey! Climate & Connectedness

The Family Survey is open through March 20, 2026.

- Family Survey: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily>

Complete the survey. Take a screen shot of completion and send to AskTaku@asdk12.org and your child will go home with a prize!

We will also have chromebooks set up and available to complete the survey during Parent Teacher Conferences!

ACCESS Testing

Beginning February 2nd our school will be conducting a state required assessment for English Language Learners. This assessment is called ACCESS and provides important feedback about the progress of our English Language Learners in Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing. Students will take the test using our school's computers. Only students who are currently identified as members of the English Language Learners (ELL) Program will be assessed. Most of the assessments will be completed during the first two weeks of February but some may continue into March. More information about the ACCESS assessment can be found on the Alaska Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's ACCESS page, <http://education.alaska.gov/assessments/elp>.

If you have any questions about this test, you are encouraged to contact us here at school 907-742-5940. You may also contact the District's ELL Department at 742-4452. Information about the [English Language Learners Program](#) in the School District can be found on ASD's website.

As always, with testing, we ask that families plan so that their students are in school and are well rested for testing. Your patience and support for this process is very much appreciated as this assessment does provide useful information that helps our district and school improve programs for English Language Learners.

Title I Community Survey

As a Title I school, Taku Elementary receives federal funding each year to capitalize on our schoolwide goals.

Please take a couple minutes to complete our Title I Community Survey below.

<https://forms.gle/vf1K38BxqzEHQS2V6>

Thank you!

Visit Highland Academy!





Highland Academy Charter School

Educating for Leadership, Educating for Life

VISIT OUR SCHOOL!

During the month of February, we are providing many opportunities for interested students and families to tour Highland Academy. Please see details below and share with those who may be interested!

Ice Cream Social

What: Interested students and families are invited to join us for ice cream while touring and learning more about Highland!

When: Tuesday, February 17th @ 5:30-6:30pm

Where: Highland Academy Charter School

Tuesday Tours

Schedule a tour at 9:00am or 1:00pm any Tuesday in February. Please call (907) 742-1700 to confirm the desired day and time or to schedule a more convenient time.

SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
HIGHLAND ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL



HIGHLAND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Educating for Leadership, Educating for Life

www.asdk12.org/Highlandacademy



ABOUT US

Highland Academy is a 6th-12th grade public charter school that promotes competency learning through student-centered, individualized activities and varied assessment strategies.

- Four focus areas: Academics, Accountability, Character Development, and Career and College Readiness
- Technology integration, project-based assessment, and collaboration
- Opportunity to advance levels at an accelerated pace
- Advisory program focused on community building, parent-teacher-student connections, social/emotional learning, academic coaching, and student ownership, leadership and advocacy.
- Supportive and caring staff with a community emphasis on a Culture of Respect for Everyone (CORE)



OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE

Alaska School Choice EXPO

- Saturday, January 31st from 11:00-2:00pm (Alaska Native Heritage Center)

ASD Alternative Schools and Programs EXPO

- Saturday, February 21st from 12:00-4:00 (Begich Middle School)

Ice Cream Social

- Tuesday, February 17th at Highland Academy from 5:30-6:30
- Interested students and families are invited to join us for ice cream while touring and learning more about Highland

School Tours

- Every Tuesday in February (9:00 or 1:00) Contact the school to arrange a time



907.742.1700



crosby_nicole@asdk12.org

Ready, Set... Kindergarten!

Resources and events for our incoming kindergartners + families



Get ready with us!

Partner with the Anchorage School District to help set up your incoming kindergartner for success. The best time to start talking and getting ready for the upcoming school year is now.

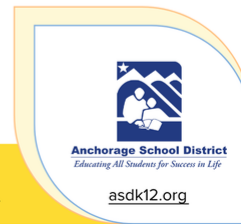
- Preparation** ◀ Help your child feel confident and comfortable starting school.
- Independence** ▶ Build skills your child will use every day at school.
- Enrichment** ▶ Activities to make learning fun.

Learn more and get involved

- Visit asdk12.org/readyssetkindergarten
- Scan the QR code below to sign up for monthly readiness resources delivered to your family.
- Follow us on social media @ASDSchools



Ready, Set...Kindergarten!
A strong start begins together.

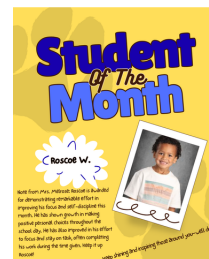
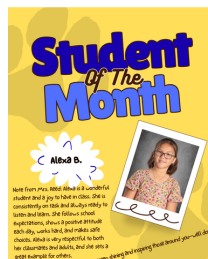
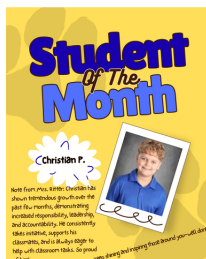


January Students of the Month

Congratulations to our Taku Tigers Students of the Month!

These students have been recognized by their teachers for their hard work, kindness, and positive impact in the classroom. We're so proud of the way they represent our school community!

Check out the pictures below with the wonderful notes their teachers shared about them. Way to go, Tigers!





JANUARY ATTENDANCE PARADE

We are celebrating those students who had 90% attendance in JANUARY! Help us cheer them on in the halls!

Families are welcome to come celebrate with us!

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3rd @
8:10 AM**

Safe Arrival and Dismissal Procedures Parking Lot Safety Transportation Expectations

Please visit our website below for more information about our [Arrival/Dismissal Expectations](#).

Taku's Amazon Wishlist

We've created an Amazon Wishlist with items that would greatly benefit our students. If you're able, please take a moment to look through it and consider purchasing a few items. If you know someone who may be willing to contribute, feel free to share the link with them. Any support is appreciated, and it would mean a lot to all of us!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

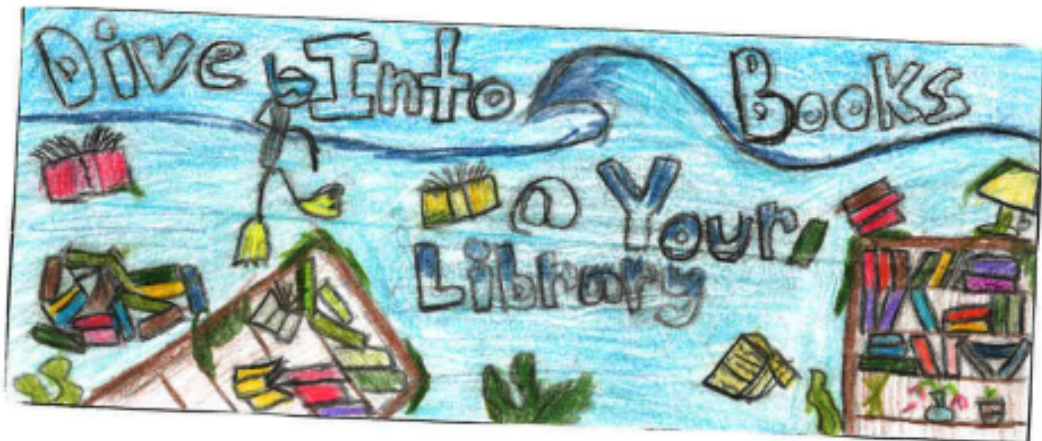
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QGLMK4OTPPSK/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Specialist News

Library with Lori Moore

Congratulations to our Bookmark Contest winners! These student designs will be in the district-wide contest. Stay tuned to see if our Tigers win!

Lori Moore
Taku Elementary Librarian
Main Line (907) 742-5941/5947
Library (907) 742-5953



Isabel P. - 5th Grade



T. - 2nd Grade

Art with Liz Feucht

February in Art with Ms. Liz:

This month, students are continuing to ask “How do artists explore and brainstorm ideas?” Specifically, students are focused on the following skills:

- Kindergarten and 1st grade: *I can use my imagination with art materials.*
- 2nd and 3rd grades: *I can use a variety of materials to make art about my interests, questions, and curiosities.*
- 4th and 5th grades: *I can find more than one creative solution to a challenge by brainstorming multiple ideas and exploring with materials and supplies.*

This month in particular, students are learning that it can be fun to make art out of unconventional supplies. Encourage their creativity both at school and at home!

3rd quarter is typically when we do clay in art class. Kids love clay (it's almost everyone's favorite), but it is also a hard one to catch up on if students are absent. It's a big celebration when a class has perfect attendance on clay day. Help your class meet that mark by coming to school every day!



Taku Art at the Dimond Center!

Our 4th and 5th grade classes spent time in the fall making space elements like astronauts, aliens, rocket ships, UFOs and more. This work was designed by two comic book artists with local ties: Casey Silver and Dimi Macheras of [80% Studios](#). Now, they are all hanging at the Dimond Center with work from 10 other elementary schools. Go check it out between now and April!

Ms. Liz

Note from Nurse Ellie

February Check-In

February may be a short month, but it's a great time to focus on **healthy hearts, kind choices, and staying well through winter.**

Small daily habits—both physical and emotional—help our students feel their best at school and at home.

Health Focus of the Month: Heart Health & Kindness

Why it's important:

February is **American Heart Month**, making it the perfect time to talk about how exercise, healthy food, and kindness all support a strong heart. Emotional well-being and positive connections also play an important role in overall health.

Tips for Parents & Students:

- **Get moving every day**—recess, dancing, sledding, or family walks all count!
- **Choose heart-healthy foods** like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins.
- **Practice kindness**—kind words and actions help everyone feel safe and supported.
- **Manage big feelings** with deep breaths, stretching, or talking to a trusted adult.

Nurse's Notes



- **Cold & flu season continues:** Please keep children home if they have a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or other contagious symptoms.
- **Winter gear reminder:** Continue sending **coats, snow pants, hats, gloves/mittens, and boots** daily. Label all items when possible.
- **Hydration matters:** Even in winter, children need water—please send a refillable water bottle each day.

Healthy Habit of the Month

Do something kind for your heart!

Challenge your family to do one kind act each day—helping a friend, writing a note, or sharing a smile. Kindness is good for both physical and emotional health.

907-742-5948

Smith_ellie@asdk12.org

Important Dates



No School - 2/16
Presidents Day Holiday



No School - 2/27
Student Professional
Development Day.



PTA Meeting - 2/3
Come and join our PTA meeting from 5:30pm - 7:00pm at the Starbucks on Dimond! Also! Please follow our PTA Facebook with the link below.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17N1pBj7mH/>



Parent-Teacher Conferences 2/25 - 2/26
Students will be dismissed @ 11:30am on 2/25 & 2/26 due to Parent-Teacher Conferences.

More info will be sent out soon.

Thank You for your donation!

A big thank you to Great Alaska Pizza Co. for their generous donation of pizza for our Students of the Month! We're proud to celebrate these amazing students and their accomplishments.



THE BULLETIN BOARD, Office Ladies

HI TAKU FAMILIES!

Just some friendly reminders:

- Absences can be reported in parent connect. If you are planning a vacation please let the office know so we can enter a pre-arranged absence.
- Students who arrive to school at or after 8am (9am on Mondays) need to come through the front office to get marked tardy.
- We are striving to achieve an attendance rate of 90% or higher. Please take a moment to review the procedure, and let's keep attendance on point—because every day counts!
[Attendance Procedures](#)
- If you're coming into the office at dismissal, please park in a designated spot and avoid stopping in the pick-up lane. This helps keep traffic moving smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation!



~ Rachel **Musselman** (AA) and Rachel **Ketchum** (Secretary) ~

Become a Taku School Business Partner!

Are you a local business looking to make a big difference in your community? Taku Elementary is seeking School Business Partners (SBPs) to join us in supporting our students and staff. Whether it's a small donation or a larger contribution, **every bit counts**—and every act of generosity helps us provide more for our amazing kids and dedicated team.

If you or someone you know is interested in partnering with us, please reach out at **907-742-5940** or asktaku@asdk12.org. We'd love to connect!

Important Update: New Pick-Up Change Policy

We will no longer be able to accommodate pick-up changes after 2:15pm, except in the case of an emergency. Late changes create unnecessary confusion in the office, as we need to locate students, verify bus routes, and ensure timely dismissals. We also want to avoid delays for students on the buses. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth end-of-day routine.

Volunteering at Taku

If you are interested in volunteering at Taku this upcoming year, please fill out the volunteer form ASAP. This must be done every school year. Parents who filled out the form last year will need to reapply.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQD_HMwPMg/viewform

We encourage families to do this now, that way, as events, field trips and other volunteer opportunities arise you won't have to scramble last minute. The volunteer process includes a background check and can take up to 5 business days before ASD's Office of Equity approves or denies your application. Once we have received the approval/denial we will email you to let you know.



Taku Elementary

Email: asktaku@asdk12.org

Website: <https://www.asdk12.org/taku>

Location: [701 East 72nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK, USA](#)

Phone: [907-742-5940](tel:907-742-5940)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/taku365/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/taku_elementary365/



Taku Elementary

Taku is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters