



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.

May, 2026 Tiger Tales

Taku Elementary Kaitlin Tallman, Principal



Principal's Corner, Kaitlin Tallman

Dear Taku Families,

As we welcome the month of May, it's hard to believe how quickly this school year has flown by. This is always a busy and exciting time in our school community, filled with celebrations, learning milestones, and special events.

May is also a time for celebration. We look forward to recognizing our students' hard work and growth, as well as honoring our incredible staff during Staff Appreciation Week. Please join us in thanking our teachers and staff for their dedication and care—they truly make a difference every day.

We have several events coming up, including field trips, classroom activities, and end-of-year celebrations. Be sure to check your child's classroom communication and our school calendar so you don't miss out on these opportunities to connect and celebrate together.

As the weather warms up, we encourage students to continue coming to school prepared to learn each day. Regular attendance remains important, even as we approach the final weeks of school.

Finally, thank you for your continued partnership and support. It is a privilege to work with your children and to be part of such a wonderful community. Let's make these last weeks of the school year positive, productive, and memorable for all.

Warm regards,
Kaitlin Tallman, Principal

Taku's Summer Learning Bags

As we approach the end of a wonderful school year, we are excited to share a special opportunity to help your child continue learning and growing over the summer months. Each student will be bringing home a Summer Learning Bag during the final week of school.

These bags are filled with engaging, grade-appropriate materials designed to keep skills fresh in reading and writing. You'll find books, simple practice activities, and ideas for hands-on learning that can be done at home or on the go. Our goal is to make summer learning fun, flexible, and stress-free for families.

We encourage you to explore the materials together and use them in ways that fit your family's schedule. Even a few minutes of reading or practicing each day can make a big difference in helping students feel confident and ready for the next school year.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We hope your family has a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer!



TAKU

SUMMER LEARNING BAG

FOR EVERY TAKU ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE STUDENT!

These bags are filled with engaging, grade-appropriate materials designed to keep skills fresh in reading and writing.

YOU'LL FIND:

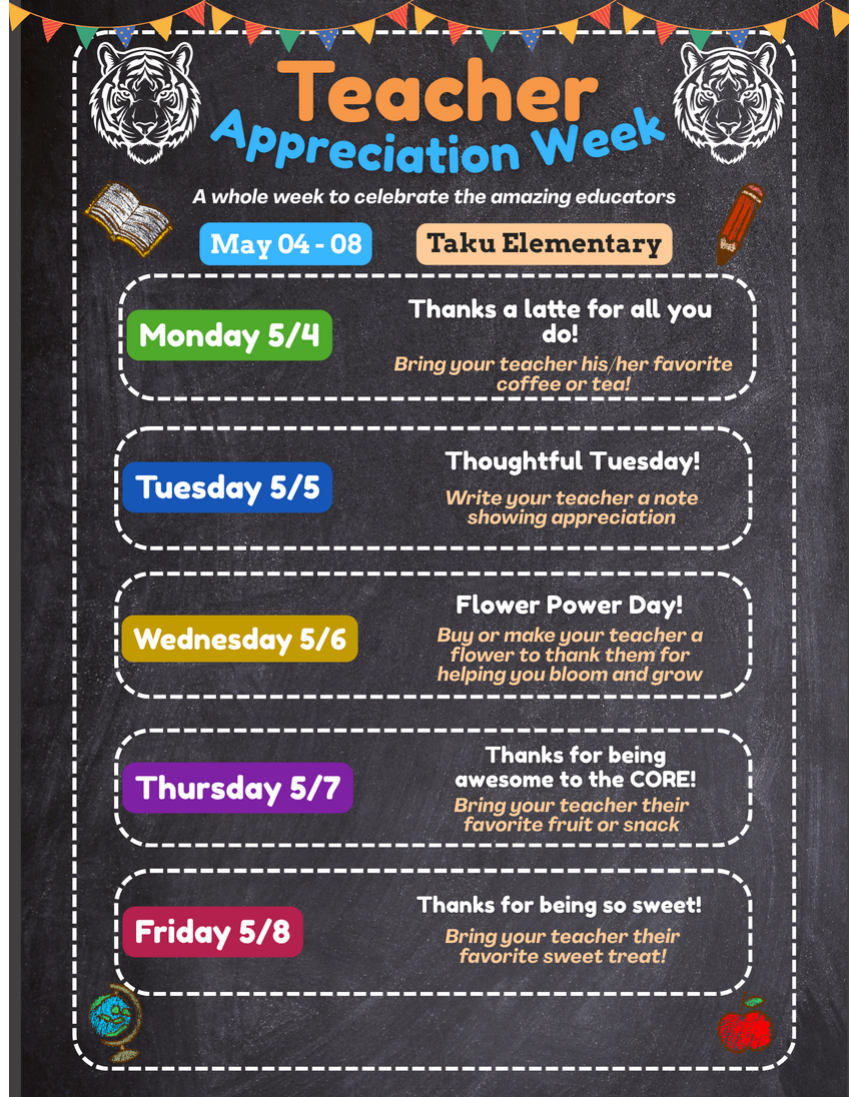
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Simple practice activities
- ✓ Ideas for hands-on learning that can be done at home or on the go
- ✓ Games to play with the family
- ✓ Additional tools and accessories for reading

SUMMER TIPS:

- ✓ Read every day! Spend 15–20 minutes reading together.
- ✓ Use games, puzzles, and everyday activities to practice skills.
- ✓ Write a little each week. Draw, journal, make lists, or write stories.

Bags will be given out the last week of school.

Teacher Appreciation Week!



Taku's Jog-A-Thon

Taku Elementary & Taku PTA are hosting a Jog-A-Thon! We are so excited to be kicking off spring with a fundraiser that helps the school raise funds for special programs & helps the students stay active.

Fundraising Dates:

Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 - Friday, May 8th, 2026

Our Jog-A-Thon run date will be May 5th!

Students will be running during their normal school day. The theme of our Jog-A-Thon is SUPERHEROES! Come dressed up as your favorite super hero or even throw on a cape to be extra fast. We look forward to seeing all the fun outfits when the day comes!

Share with friends & family to support your students Jog-A-Thon progress!

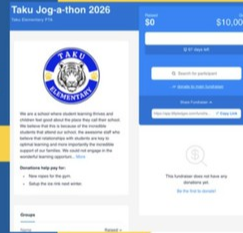


FUNDRAISER INSTRUCTIONS:

1

Visit the fundraiser page

Click the link or scan QR code below:
app.99pledges.com/fund/takujogathon2026



2

Simply search and find your student's online pledge page on the main fundraiser page

Search for participant

...or [donate to main fundraiser](#)

3

Copy your link to Donate and Share:

Simply make a donation for whatever you can!

Donate

Share Fundraiser

<https://app.99pledges.com/fundf...> Copy Link

SCAN ME



Spirit Week 5/4-5/8



SPIRIT WEEK

May 4, Monday
Crazy hair Day!

May 5, Tuesday
Tie Dye Day!

May 6, Wednesday
Beach and Summer wear and Bike to School Day!

May 7, Thursday
Disney Character Day!

May 8, Friday
Pajama Day!

Taku's Block Party - 5/7

→ JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL EVENT! ←

TAKU BLOCK PARTY!

📅 MAY 7, 2026

🕒 2:45 - 4:45

📍 TAKU ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND



LIVE DJ!



**KONA ICE
SNOW CONE
TRUCK!**



**FREE GAMES
& CONTESTS**



**COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES! FACE
PAINTING, ANCHORAGE
MUSEUM, BOTANICAL
GARDEN ETC**

MORE INFO:

→ ASKTAKU@ASDK12.ORG

→ 907-742-5940

REGISTER FOR THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR TO WIN PRIZES!

April Attendance Parade - 5/5



Taku's Field Day - 5/21

Taku Elementary Field Day

May 21st



Grades K-2 will be outside for 8:45-10:15

Grades 3-5 will be outside from 12:30-2:00

Please come and enjoy the last day of school with us and send our students into summer break with lasting memories of Taku elementary and all their friends.

We are seeking volunteers this great event. Each volunteer will be working a station as the students move around and enjoy themselves.

To sign up for this event you will need to fill our ASD's volunteer form and sign up for this event. You can scan the QR codes below to sign up.



ASD Volunteer form.

3-5 Volunteer form.

K-2 Volunteer form

If you have any questions, please contact

Mark Heysell, PE Teacher

Heysell_mark@asdk12.org 907-742-5940

We need your help to make Field Day a success! We're looking for parent volunteers to help make this fun-filled day run smoothly for our students. If you're available to lend a hand, please check out the attached flyer and scan the QR code to sign up. Your support helps make events like this possible, and we truly appreciate it!

Looking Ahead - Fine Arts Update

The district is redesigning the fine arts specialist model to ensure students continue to receive consistent access to fine arts instruction (art and music) while still operating within the current budget realities. Next year, students will receive two 50-minute sessions per week of either art or music each week for one semester. In the second semester, students will then receive instruction in the other content area. From the current school year to 2026-27, music instructional hours will be 30 hours, a decrease of six hours over the course of the year. Art education will increase by 12 hours over the course of the year.

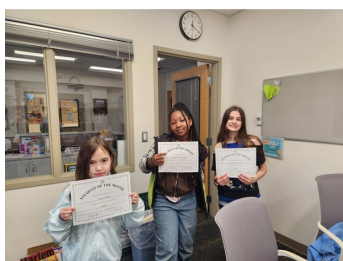
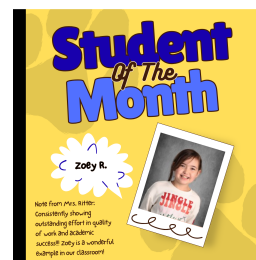
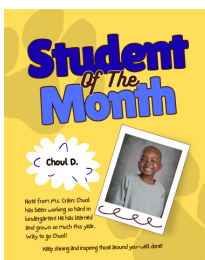
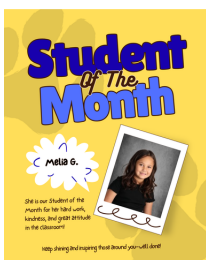
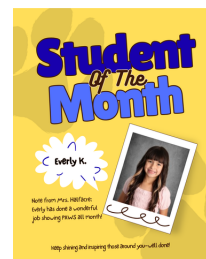
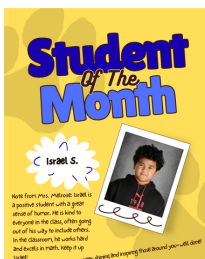
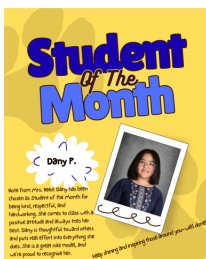
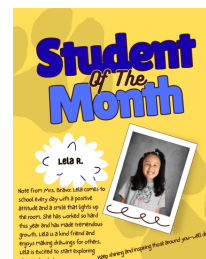
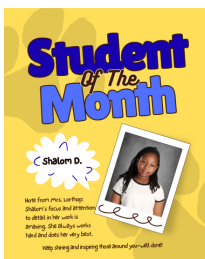
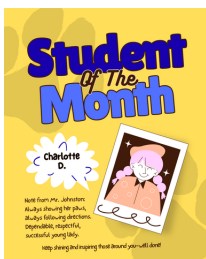
For more information, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions on the FY27 budget webpage](#).

April 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!



mClass

2025 - 2026

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:

- Spring 2026: April 20 - May 1
- Makeup Window - May 4 - 8, 2026

Results for K-3 students that were assessed during a benchmark window, will be available in Parent Connect by May 15, 2026 [ParentConnection Login Information and Reference Guide](#):
parentconnect.asdk12.org

ASD Make-Up Days

Dear ASD Families and Staff,

So far this year, schools have closed for four days because of weather conditions. The school calendar already included two closure days, so we need to make up two extra days.

The approved school calendar includes make-up days if they are needed. To make up the extra closure days, the following changes will be made:

- **Friday, April 17** will be a **full school day**
- The last day of school for students will now be Thursday, May 21
- The **last workday for teachers** will be **Friday, May 22**

IMPORTANT REMINDER: FRONT OFFICE ENTRY ONLY

For the safety and security of all students and staff, **ALL parents and visitors who enter the building MUST come through the FRONT OFFICE and sign in.**

Side doors are NOT to be used by parents at any time – including during morning drop-off.

Even if you are just stepping in briefly, you are required to enter through the main entrance and check in at the office.

Thank you for helping us keep our school safe by following this procedure every day!

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

Note from Nurse Ellie

Wrapping Up the School Year!

It's hard to believe the school year is coming to a close! Our **last day of school is May 21st**. As we head into summer, this is a great time to review important health information and prepare for a smooth start to next school year.

Health Focus of the Month: Summer Safety & End-of-Year Health Reminders

Why it's important:

As routines change and outdoor activity increases, it's important to keep safety in mind. Preparing now also helps ensure your child is ready and cleared for the next school year.

Tips for a Safe & Healthy Summer

- **Stay hydrated**—bring water during summer activities
- **Use sunscreen** and wear hats when outdoors
- **Wear helmets** when riding bikes, scooters, or skateboards
- **Practice water safety**—always supervise near water
- **Keep a routine** for sleep and meals when possible

Important End-of-Year Nurse's Notes

- **Last Day of School:** May 21st
- **Letters Coming Home:**

You may receive a letter from the health office for the following reasons:

- Medication **pick-up** from the nurse's office



- Vaccines that need to be updated before the next school year

- **Medication Reminder:**

All student medications must be picked up by the last day of school. Medications cannot be stored over the summer.

- **Forms for Next Year:**

All required health forms for the upcoming school year can be found here:

👉 <https://www.asdk12.org/departments/mental-health-and-student-supports/healthcare-services/forms>

Healthy Habit of the Month

Play safe, play smart!

Encourage your child to stay active outdoors while making safe choices to prevent injuries.

Have a Healthy and Safe Summer!

Nurse Ellie

Important Dates



Bike to School Day - 5/6

Students may Bike/Scooter/Skateboard to school that day. They must wear a helmet. Upon arrival, they will be given a sticker and reflector for participating. Every student who participates will be entered into a district wide raffle to win a new bike from the Bicycle Shop in Anchorage.



Spirit Week 5/4 -5/8

Monday 5/4 - Crazy Hair Day!
Tuesday 5/5 - Tie Dye Day!
Wednesday 5/6 - Beach and Summer Wear and Bike to School Day!
Thursday 5/7 - Disney Character Day!
Friday 5/8 - Pajama Day!



PTA Meeting - 5/5

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/>



Star Wars Day - 5/4



Asian Alaskan Cultural Center



Taku's Block Party - 5/7

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.



THANK YOU to Raising Cane's on Dimond for generously donating gift cards for our amazing substitutes! We truly appreciate your support.



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/1FAIpQLSft2SM758xCY0fkBu7cYj6vdYGO4RRJt7LFAqrCKaQDHMwPMg/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