

SEWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"HOME OF THE SILVERS"

September Newsletter

September 1, 2016

GENERAL NEWS

Parents/Visitors Sign In:

Parents and visitors are required to sign in at the office, it only takes a minute to stop and get a visitors badge. Thank you!

Want to know what is going on at Seward Middle School?

Checkout our blog which is updated with important information .

<http://sewardmiddleschool.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpmu/>

Parent Packets:

Parents packets were sent home on the first day of school with your child. Please take time to look through them and return the following forms:

- Student registration form with corrections if needed and sign the bottom.
- Parent language questionnaire please fill out and sign the bottom.
- Parent/Student handbook form signed and return to school.

Bus Pass

Parents if your child is going to ride a different bus after school please call in before Noon or send a note with your child.

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:30-3:00 if you are looking for your child that stays for sports or tutoring there is a white board in the office window with this information.

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

- *Thursday, September 1—Open House 6:30 pm
- *Monday, September 5— No School (Labor Day)
- *Tuesday, September 14—Picture day
- *Wednesday, September 14—Early Release time at 12:50pm



PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Students,

It's been a fantastic start to a new school year! We've got a new crop of enthusiastic 8th grade leaders, and a new cohort of curious 6th graders. As I tour the building, I'm always amazed at how much our kiddos grow over the summer, and throughout the year.

I'd like to introduce to you a few new folks to our team: James Wayne (Math and Health Teacher), Dr. Mark Turner (Music Teacher), George Reising (Geometry Teacher), and Chelsea Taylor (School Psychologist). Pedro Fernandez will fill in for Katy Scriver while she is on leave through September. Logan Schulz will fill in for David Hebert (Resource Teacher) as a result of his resignation. We are working to fill his position this month.

6th Grade Orientation

Students and parents participated in the sixth grade orientation a couple weeks ago. It turned out to be a great ice breaker, as their day was filled with what to expect, where to find stuff, practice with their locker and schedule, and having some fun. They received a few gifts with compliments from our student leadership team following.

Open House

We also invite you to our Open House/Back to School Night on Thursday, September 1 at 6:30. We'll introduce you to your kiddo's teachers (new and familiar), and be available to field questions. You'll get the chance to follow your son or daughter's schedule, and meet their teachers. Rumor has it Dr. Mark's music students have something to share.

Coming up this year

We've reverted back to our traditional schedule, which includes two lunches and a 5min passing. This changed was motivated through student and staff feedback. Additionally, we have designated a 30min advisory time for each student. Students will be partnered with a teacher for the year. This time is designated for check-in, homework, and tutoring. Research shows a strong foundation in both literacy and mathematical reasoning yields profound benefits day to day, increasing their potential for success (health, well-being, happiness, financial security, etc.). Advisory is a great time to focus on these skills! We have also built intervention opportunities in the afternoon to provide opportunity to work with our tutors to enhance basic skills. We hope to get the most we can out of our students each and every day, to meet their potential, and have a little fun too. Our bell schedule will look like this:

- 1st Period: 7:50-8:40
- 2nd Period: 8:45-9:35
- 3rd Period: 9:40-10:30
- 4th Period: 10:35-11:25 (*Math Power Hour—All levels of math taught at same time*)
- Lunch A/Advisory A 11:25-11:55
- Lunch B/Advisory B 12:00-12:30
- 5th Period: 12:35-1:25
- 6th Period: 1:30-2:20 (*Exploratory—Students will sign up for these on the first day of school*)

Fall Sports

Cross Country and Boys/Girls Soccer is underway and meets from 2:30-4:00 each day. Their first competition is at Skyview next Friday (9/9) for both. Eligibility checks take place on the first day of each week and shared with coaches. Students must maintain a C average, and be in good behavioral standing to participate. Fees and paperwork must be turned in before competition.

Student Activities

There are a number of upcoming student activities and field trips in the making this semester. Some of these activities are not possible without a little volunteer support from folks like you. Getting my students outdoors, and in our surroundings is one of my top priorities, so stay tuned for opportunities to help out and get involved! Our 8th grade overnight to Trail River last May was a blast!

Attendance and Participation

Seward Middle School is partnering with Marathon Helicopters of Seward to provide incentives to our students for participation and attendance. Mike Culver, of Marathon Charters, has challenged us to be at school and get good grades. Students who maintain passing grades in all their courses, and perfect attendance will receive a free flight up to the top of Marathon with two others of their choice. That's right, folks, you too could be invited to fly! Students are also eligible to receive other incentives for perfect attendance and good grades for two to three quarters of the year.

Student Handbook and Parent Packets

Our team has recently published a new school handbook, in partnership with site council, staff and student leadership. This extraordinary effort was needed to improve consistency and accountability for the people we serve. Please return the signed page of the 2016-2017 Seward Middle School Handbook indicating you have received a handbook, and acknowledge you understand the guidelines we follow day-to-day. Your signature tells us that you have read the handbook, and are informed about school/district policies and other important information. The Parent opt-Out forms and school calendar are also part of the handbook.

Contact Information

If you have any changes to your address, phone numbers. Adult household members, or emergency contacts for your student, please make them on the enclosed registration page and return it to the school OR notify the school secretary, Loretta Honebein, at 224-9000.

We at Seward Middle School are looking forward to another great school year! As always, please feel free to stop in or call if you have questions or comments. Looking forward to meeting you!

Your Principal,, Andy Rothenberger



Marathon Helicopter's Mike Culver addresses Seward Middle's attendance and grade incentives.



Seward Middle 6th graders practice their combinations with parents and staff.



Games in the gym—just before the scavenger hunt.



TEACHERS NEWS

Parents/Students please take time to visit the teachers sites below. If absent this is where your child needs to check for assignments.

- Mrs. Liljemark's class pages: www.lilglobalvillage.com



- Mrs. Nichol's Canvas class page: <http://bit.ly/2bQkvi4>

- Ms. Walker's LA 7 Canvas page to access homework, upcoming assignments, and expectations: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33703> or with a QR code reader on your smart phone:



- Ms. Walker's LA 8 Canvas page to access homework, upcoming assignments, and expectations: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33701> or with a QR code reader on your smart phone:



- Mrs. Scrivo: www.scrivosuperstars.com
- Mrs. Barnwell: <https://sites.google.com/a/q.kpbsd.org/mr-b-s-6th-grade-09-10/>
- Ms. Hammer: <https://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/public/home.html>
- Mr. Skraba Reising: Algebra: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33292>

Geometry: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33102>

PowerSchool is also a place to check for grades, lunch balance and communicate with teachers if you haven't signed up please call the office at 224-9000 or check the parent packet your student brought home the first day of school. PowerSchool Web page: <https://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/public/home.html>

After school tutoring begins Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 2:30-3:00. Tutoring will be in the Library on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. A bus pass can be issued to ride the elementary bus or pickup your child at 3pm.

School Fees Due

The following school fees are due for sports and exploratories if you child is participating in any of the following:

Art \$25—Cooking \$10—Soccer \$60—Cross Country \$60

Please get these fees in as soon as possible, checks need to be made out to Seward Middle School.



LUNCHROOM NEWS

News from the Lunchroom:

Parents if you have not already done so please fill out and send in the lunch application that was included in your parent packet. **If your child was approved for free or reduced meals at the close of last school year, benefits will continue up to October 1st.** Please allow 10 working days for processing of applications.

If your child does not qualify breakfast is \$1.75 and lunch is \$3.35. Please make sure that your child has lunch money.

Applications can be completed online also: [Complete your online application now; it's simple and confidential.](#)

Students if you bring lunch money please pay the money on your account in the morning to free up the lunch line.

Thanks! Mira



SOCCER NEWS

August 20-Sept. 26

- ◆ Friday, Sept. 9—Skyview vs. Seward @ Seward 3pm
- ◆ Friday, Sept. 16—Kenai vs. Seward @ Seward 3pm
- ◆ Friday, Sept. 23—Nikiski vs. Seward @ Nikiski 3pm
- ◆ Saturday, Sept. 24—Seward vs. Homer @ Seward Noon
- ◆ Tuesday, Sept. 27—First round of borough tournament @ TBA
- ◆ Saturday, Oct. 1—Finals borough tournament @ Skyview 10am



Players must have paperwork and the \$60 fee paid before they can practice or play in the first game.

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

August 20-October 2

- ◆ Friday, Sept., 9—Skyview 3pm
- ◆ Friday, Sept. 16—Nikiski 3pm
- ◆ Friday, Sept. 23—Seward 3pm
- ◆ Friday, Sept.. 30—Homer 3:30pm
- ◆ Friday, Oct. 7-Boroughs @ Kenai 3pm

Parents of cross country runners, good news! You don't need to be a FB member to access our Facebook page for practice updates, meet schedules, and pictures of your favorite athletes: <https://www.facebook.com/SWMSXC/> or use a QR code reader on your smart phone:



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Picture day will be on
Wednesday, September
14th starting at 8am.

Pictures forms will go home
with students the week before so be on
the look out for them. Picture forms
will also be available at the office. Make
sure your child has their picture form
and money on Picture day!

Order online: mylifetouch.com

***Money and forms are not turned into
the office, they are given to the
photographer on picture day.**

Please take time to complete the survey
below!

Seward is a great community, and a wonderful spot for children to learn and grow! We need you to share with us your thoughts on how we can do better at Seward Middle School. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District values this information from its stakeholders. We especially value school specific information for the development of the School Improvement Plans. Please assist us in collecting information for the building of the School Improvement Plans by taking a few minutes and complete the survey. We value the information you provide. Thank You!

Here is your schools specific link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LN9ZKKY>

DISTRICT NEWS



Volunteer for the KPBSD calendar committee: The KPBSD is recruiting members to review the 2017-2018 school calendar and make recommendations to the Board of Education for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. [Details and the application can be found here.](#) Questions? Email NBates@kpbsd.k12.ak.us, or call 907-714-8858. Apply by October 3, 2016.

School Safety Closure or Delay Start information: Parents and guardians, school safety is a top priority in the KPBSD. It's important for you to know what to do before, during, and after a school emergency, weather related delay start, or school closure. [Learn more here.](#)

Collective Bargaining: Review current offers, and negotiation timeline at "[School District Collective Bargaining.](#)" Share your thoughts about issues to be addressed in collective bargaining: details and [online public comment link.](#)

Apply Now!: [Review open positions, apply online](#) and visit our new employment web pages with helpful information.

The Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association (KPSAA) is seeking a Parent Representative to serve the remainder of the current term ending with the current school year. Parent Representatives are an important voice on the KPSAA Board, and will seek information from other KPBSD parents to report back to the KPSAA Board at our quarterly meetings. For more information, please contact Tiffany Eck no later than September 9, 2016 via email teck@kpbsd.k12.ak.us or by phone 907-714-8884. Our first meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Soldotna Prep school.

The KPBSD Wellness Committee is seeking nominations for a Parent Representative. The Wellness Committee is responsible for reviewing Board Policy 5141.6 *Student Nutrition and Physical Activity* for districtwide compliance and seeks input from our schools, parents and community members. The committee meets 2-3 times per year, typically in the Central Peninsula area. For more information, please contact Tiffany Eck no later than September 15, 2016 via email teck@kpbsd.k12.ak.us or by phone 907-714-8884. Our first Wellness Committee meeting will be held on October 4, 2016 at the District Office building from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.