



Yukon Koyukuk School District
Administrative & Support Offices
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent
kboyd@yksd.com

Telephone: (907) 374-9400
Fax: (907) 374-9440

January 9, 2015

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We are excited to start the second semester and look forward to supporting and offering many opportunities to our students. At the December YKSD Annual Regional School Board Retreat, the school board reviewed district-wide school data including attendance, graduation rates, budgets, achievement data, and school climate information. Current school goals and methods to make improvements to the practices we already have in place were also discussed.

ATTENDANCE:

There are a lot of students in the district working really hard in class every day and parents right behind them encouraging them to do well in school. However, after reviewing the attendance data at each of the sites, it is apparent that there are issues with absenteeism and tardiness. If the students are not in school, they are not learning.

After much consideration, the school board is placing additional funds into the local school budget to provide incentives for student success and to improve attendance. The CSC will be working with the school to develop a plan for the use of the additional funds.

A new semester has begun and all students have a fresh attendance slate for the remainder of the year. While they may not all be eligible for the ultimate reward of the snow machine to be announced in May, please let them know that the school has its own incentives in place for rewarding students for the second semester.

ONLINE ACCESS to GRADES and ATTENDANCE:

To help parents monitor attendance, progress, and performance of students more easily, the technology department is creating a PowerSchool account for every parent in the district to provide access. Be on the look out for more details to come from your principal.

ASSESSMENTS and EARLY LITERACY:

The MAP assessment will be administered to students in grades 3-11 during the winter benchmark window. These assessments are administered to students three times per year to help teachers drive instruction and to know students better. During parent teacher conferences, teachers will provide you with an individual student assessment report.

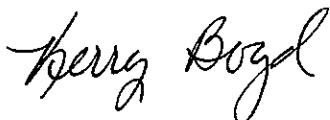
Additionally, schools will continue identifying students in grades K-2 who are below the 35% per Primary Measures of Academic Performance (PMAP) assessment results. These students will receive extra instruction to improve their literacy skills. The school board has also approved to set aside funding for early literacy for children not yet old enough for school. Parents will receive information about the importance of reading at early ages, and the children will receive age appropriate books each year. We anticipate that the more we expose our upcoming students to reading materials, the better prepared they will be once they enter our doors. Students in the Head Start Program already have a great advantage of early learning that prepares them for Kindergarten.

COLLEGE & CAREER READY:

As our students are graduating high school, we need to increase their success rate of entering the workforce and college. Every high school student should have a solid post secondary plan and be using Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) regularly. I recommend that you take an active role with your high school student and ask them about their aspirations and encourage them. Work with your student's teachers and counselor to help create a plan and make sure your student has the resources for their goals.

With your partnership, we will ensure our students have a great experience with YKSD and are prepared for the workforce, college and life. I would like to extend my gratitude to the YKSD regional school board for always being student focused. The additional funding and attention to student instructional needs will have lasting impact on the success of our students.

Yours in education,



Kerry Boyd
Superintendent