

The Husky Iditarod



Official Newsletter of the Aurora Husky Pups
"Meeting the Challenge, Exceeding Expectations"

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www.aurorahuskies.org

 @Aurora_Elem

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The Principal's Corner

As educators we can't help but recognize the important contributions parents make toward a child's success in school. This was especially evident last spring during the Enrichment Learning period. There is no question about it; the success children experience at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling.

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interest of children. The close partnership between home and school is something that we can all be proud of! Aurora Elementary has a strong tradition of supportive, hard working parents.

Communication is key and we want to keep you informed throughout the year! District and building level information will be shared through a variety of avenues. Infinite Campus will still be the primary tool used to disseminate information. Through Infinite Campus, we are able to send voice messages, text messages and email. District and building level communication will be posted on our school website under the School Operations Plan. This is also where you can see what color our district is functioning in. In addition, we will also be posting information on our elementary Face Book page as well as providing our monthly newsletter, "The Husky Iditarod", which is distributed electronically with a link to our school website.

Beginning in September, we would typically look forward to welcoming parents to visit their child's classroom or join them for lunch. Unfortunately, due the current situation, our buildings are closed to outside visitors, with the exception of those providing student programming, services or other support. If you do need to come into the school to sign your child in or out when picking them up, we request that you wear a face covering.

If at any time you have a question pertaining to your child's classroom, please begin by contacting his/her teacher. If after talking to their teacher you still have a question or concern, please feel free to contact Mrs. Teahon or myself, as we are happy to answer your questions.

The school year has gotten off to a fantastic start! It's our privilege to be able to work with your child. Parents, thank you for entrusting them to us! We take our job of providing them with an outstanding education while at the same time doing our part to keep them safe and healthy very serious! We are excited about the educational opportunities your child will experience this year at Aurora Elementary!

Thank you for your continued support!

Mark Standage
Principal

Dates to Remember

September 7
Labor Day
No School K-12

September 14-18
Fall MAP Testing
3rd-5th Graders

September 25
Homecoming

REMINDER

Wednesday dismissal at the Elementary is 2:30 p.m. for the first semester.

Middle School and High School are dismissed at 2:45 p.m.

Back to School Student Handbook Highlights

As we begin a new school year, please be reminded of the following school policies and procedures. We appreciate you reviewing these with your children.

Face Masks: Students must enter the building each morning wearing a face mask (unless they have opted out). Students should have at least one extra mask at school that can be kept in their desk. Students should also come to school each day wearing a clean mask. Here are some mask requirements as outlined in our district plan:

- All students must wear a face mask. Parents may opt their child out in the green phase only by filling out an opt out form.
- All students must wear a face mask when riding district transportation. This includes those students who have opted out, even when in green.
- Masks must be an actual mask designed to cover the mouth and nose (no bandanas, shirts sleeves, gaiters, or other types of face coverings are allowed).
- Mask must be school appropriate and adhere to the school dress code.

Water bottles: Students will need to bring a water bottle to school each day as the drinking fountains have been closed! Water bottles must be spill proof having a lid that will close completely (no straws please). Please make sure your child's first and last name is on their water bottle before they bring it to school. In addition, please encourage your child to bring it home daily so that it can be washed, filled and returned to school the next day!

Backpacks: Students will NOT need to bring their backpack to school every day. This will help free up space in our coatrooms! We will only be sending home important notes/information, student work or other things on MONDAY and FRIDAY (or the first or last day of the week). So, unless your child needs to bring something to school, such as lunch money, which we would encourage you to submit on-line or send on Monday or Friday, they won't need a backpack every day! It's our goal to get all schoolwork done at school this year, so backpacks won't be needed to transport homework!

Pets - Please see that **dogs and other pets are kept at home and not allowed to be on school grounds at arrival and dismissal times.** Many children are allergic or are afraid of animals. For the safety and health of everyone involved, pets or other animals are not to be brought to school for show and tell unless requested by a teacher. **Pets are not to be on the playground at any time.**

Birthday Treats: You are welcome to continue to send **Birthday Treats.** If you choose to do so, however, **ALL birthday treats must be individually wrapped, prepackaged store bought treats.** (For example; Little Debbie's, fruit snack, Fruit Bars, Granola Bars, & etc...) **Sorry, no homemade birthday treats!** If you prefer not to send treats, it's not a big deal!

Cell phones or other communication devices: Cell phones or other electronic communication devices and Smart Watches such as the Apple Watch, GizmoPal, GizmoGadget or other devices similar to these are not permitted at school (including in backpacks) or on the school bus. This includes inactivated cell phones. We appreciate you reminding your children of this policy and ensuring that these items are left at home and not placed in their backpack.

Student appearance: Please note that a student's hair may only be dyed natural born hair colors of black, auburn, blonde or brown. Students may enjoy coloring their hair Husker Red for a game or other colors such as orange, purple, pink, green, etc. for other occasions, but parents must realize when choosing products to do so that these colors must be washed out before returning to school. Students whose hair has been colored something other than a natural born hair color will be sent to the office. The school nurse will attempt to wash the color from his or her hair. If the color cannot be washed from his or her hair, the student's parents will be contacted, and the student will be sent home until the problem is resolved.

School Bus: In order to keep our district buses clean and free of food spills or messes, food and drink items cannot be consumed on the bus. For this reason, we ask that birthday treats be purchased items that are individually wrapped so that they can be placed in a book bag in the event that a student chooses to eat it at home. Students will not be allowed to eat birthday treats or other food items on the bus.

As many of our buses are full to capacity, we are reminding parents that district buses should not be used to transport children to and from your home for birthday parties, sleepovers or other activities being held at your home. In the event that a bus exceeds its capacity due to these types of arrangements, those children will not be able to ride the bus and parents will be notified to pick up their children.

A large majority of our elementary students ride the bus each day. Parents are asked to review the bus expectations with their children on p.8 of the elementary handbook and remind them that riding the bus is a privilege earned by following the bus rules and making good choices. Students who choose to exhibit inappropriate behavior on the bus will be subject to the following consequences:

1st Offense—Visit Principal's office and a bus conduct report mailed home.

2nd Offense—Same as first offense and a five (5) day suspension from the bus.

3rd Offense—Same as first offense and the student is suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the semester.

*Any extreme case of misconduct on district buses may result in temporary or permanent suspension on the first offense.

It is important that all students do their part to help create a safe, secure and enjoyable environment when riding any school bus. Please help us by reinforcing the importance of positive bus behavior with your child(ren).

School Safety

School Safety is on ALL of our minds and as educators, we recognize the responsibility we have in providing our students with a safe environment. As a school district, we are constantly evaluating our facilities and procedures while at the same time attending workshops and providing staff training.

As we start a new school year, I want to remind and inform you of our school safety protocol.

- All exterior doors to all our buildings are locked throughout the day.
Parents entering the elementary will gain access through a buzz in system at the front door.
- All interior doors are kept locked during the school day.
- Our district wide intercom system allows us to notify all students and staff (both inside and outside the building) from any location within the district in the event of an emergency.
- District employees received information and training regarding the statewide Standard Response Protocol. This protocol allows school districts to be consistent with the way emergency situations are handled.
- Emergency drills are conducted throughout the year including fire drills, intruder drills and tornado drills.

Thank you for our continued support as we recognize the importance of working together to provide a safe campus for everyone!



COUNSELOR CORNER

Welcome back to school!

My name is Joanna Carver and I am the Guidance Counselor at AES! We will be using Second Step in every grade for our lessons. If you would like more information please email me at jcarver@4rhuskies.org

Come Join the Band

A Note From Mrs. Metzger

As you drop your child off at school most mornings, you are serenaded by the high school band working very hard on the football field learning our fall marching show: America Strong. It was not all that long ago that those 9th through 12th grade students were meeting with myself and Mr. Sodomka, and a group of high school students and being introduced to all the different band instruments and starting on their musical journey. Fifth grade students have the opportunity to participate in the band program, and learn a band instrument. We hope that all students and parents will give this serious consideration. We are busy testing all the fifth graders and matching them with the appropriate band instruments. This year we will not be hosting a display night, due to health concerns. We will be getting all information out by email and notes home to students, hopefully answering all questions. If you have any questions about the band program in Aurora, please contact me by email at kmetzger@4rhuskies.org.

The fifth and sixth grade bands will be giving their holiday concert on Thursday, December 10th, at 7:00 p.m. The performance will be in the Middle School Theatre. Please mark this date on your calendar.

I am looking forward to a very fun and exciting year.

Kate Metzger



School is dismissed at 2:30 p.m. at the Elementary on Wednesdays for the first semester. If at all possible, give your child directions before they leave in the morning as to where they are to go after school, or send a note with them for their teacher. If your plans change, please call the school as early as you can. The later you wait in the day to call us, the less likely the message will be delivered on time!

Daily Student Health Screening

Before your child leaves the house to go to school each day, please ask these health screening questions to determine whether he/she is well enough to do so.



1. Does your child have any of the following symptoms?
 - * Fever (of 100 degrees or higher) or chills
 - * Fatigue, muscle or body aches
 - * Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - * Headache
 - * Loss of taste or smell
 - * Sore Throat
 - * Congestion or runny nose
 - * Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
2. Has your child been:
 - * Around anyone diagnosed with CoVid-19?
 - * Around anyone with symptoms of CoVid-19?
 - * Directed to self-isolate due to symptoms of CoVid-19?

If the answer is No to **ALL** of the questions or symptoms above, it's time for school! Before you leave the house, make sure your child remembers to:

- * Wear a mask to school
- * Wash and sanitize their hands frequently
- * Keep a safe, 6-foot distance from others as much as possible