

July 27, 2017

Dear Polaris Parents and Students:

I hope that you are all enjoying your summer! I am looking forward to seeing everyone as we begin a new and exciting year. Polaris is an amazing school and I look forward to continuing our journey together.

We will be holding **registration** on campus August 1-3 for families who need assistance. Please register on-line at <https://parentconnect.asdk12.org/> before August 3rd. Contact the office at 742-8714 if you need your username and password. Registration needs to be completed in order for your student to be placed on a class list (kindergarten through twelfth grade). If your student is new to ASD you will need to complete enrollment before registering.

**Class rosters** for grades 2-5 will be posted on the front door of the school after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. K/1 rosters will be posted by Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, after 4:00 p.m. Classroom supply information will also be posted. Advisors for new to Polaris secondary students or those who were displaced will be assigned by the first day of school on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Students in grades 6-12 worked with their advisors last spring to complete a class schedule and will be available on Zangle soon. Scheduling questions can be discussed with your child's advisor or our counselor, Susy. Susy will be available Aug. 1-3 to help new students with scheduling. Students entering grade 6 will be participating in 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp and will work on their schedules at that time. There will be a 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting on Tuesday, August 29, at 9:30 a.m. Intensive schedules will be available by August 11.

During registration, please **check that your email address is current** in order to ensure that you receive school notices and updates. Our school web site contains a wealth of information. Be sure to bookmark <http://www.polarisk-12.org/> and check it regularly as it is frequently updated. Each week you will receive the "Wolf Weekly" through email. Please take a few minutes to read it for updates, upcoming events and information. If you are not receiving the Wolf Weekly (after checking your spam folder), please call the office at 742-8714. A Polaris calendar is attached for your reference. (Please note intensive dates, conference dates, and early release/PLC dates).

It is important that your child attends school daily but we understand that illnesses occur. If your child will be absent, please call or email the office staff. If you need to pick up your child early, you will need to stop in the office and sign them out. **Students will not be dismissed from class until a parent or other approved adult is present.** This allows your child to remain in class as long as possible and to ensure their safety when leaving campus.

Please note **all Kindergarten and First Grade students at Polaris will begin classes on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**. Your child's teacher will contact families to set up a time to meet prior to this start date. This will allow teachers to meet new students and show them the class and school, revisit with returning students, and begin some formal and informal assessments. This information will be used to guide instruction and get the school year off to a great start.

The first day of school for all students will be: **Monday, August 21**. Elementary classes open at 8:10 a.m. and dismiss at 3:00 p.m. In the past, elementary students have been able to wait by their classrooms in the morning before school. Due to safety concerns, we have had to make a change to this practice. **Unless accompanied by their parent, any elementary student arriving prior to 8:05, must stay in the gym, library, or art room.**

Secondary classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and end between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., depending on the student's schedule. Students who are not scheduled in a 5th period class must leave campus promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Secondary students in grades 6-12 will begin the first day of school in their Intensive class. Due to a reduction in staff at Polaris, **secondary intensives will now take place 8:30 am -2:00 pm**. Any student remaining on campus after 2:00 pm, will be required to stay in the library or gym. Students who are planning to drive to school will need to complete the **vehicle registration** form and pay the parking fee during registration. Payment can also be made online through your Zangle account.

We are in need of **noon duties** to help ensure the safety of our students during lunch and recess! If you are interested, please contact the office or Nara.

Please take time to review **parking lot safety rules and etiquette** at <http://www.polarisk-12.org/safety-and-security.html>. While we know that the parking lot can be congested, busy, and even frustrating, student safety must be our priority. Please be conscientious and intentional in your actions as you pick up or drop off your student. Together we can keep our parking lot safe.

Polaris completed our Accreditation review. This has been an informative and validating process. This year we look forward to developing goals that support our areas of strength as well as areas of potential growth. Keep your eye on the Wolf Weekly for a future meeting date.

Polaris is considering the possibility of offering a **breakfast program**. Please read the enclosed information and complete the [survey at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd\\_eVka1j\\_UnQJg2UcoKM6i0VpATExWXK7prz0LKG9KuyBCpQ/viewform?usp=pp\\_url&entry.249764110&entry.1205509728](#). (Offering this program is based on level of interest.)

We have some **staff changes** to share with you. As you may be aware, the Anchorage School District has faced budget deficits and has worked hard to ensure that students are not directly impacted. Unfortunately, reductions have had to occur across the district and Polaris has not been immune. Mike Hellings and Siri Khalsa have retired and their positions will not be replaced. Additionally, Coach Melissa will now be teaching at Chugiak Elementary and Coach Damon will be teaching all of our K-12 P.E. classes. We have been lucky to have Germaine Mullican as a member of our office staff for many years. Due to unforeseen circumstances she has had to retire. She will be greatly missed! Angela Borjon will be taking on that position and are working to hiring a new secretary. We are also excited to have Todd Saur join our Special Education Teacher Team.

I am excited to work together to ensure that every child reaches his/her fullest potential. I look forward to seeing you throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Carol Bartholomew  
Principal, Polaris K-12

Mark Your Calendar:  
September 13 6:00-8:00 Open House and Ice Cream Social

Attachments:  
Polaris Calendar  
Traffic Information  
PLC Form