

CORDOVA SCHOOL

NONPROFIT ORG

DISTRICT

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PO Box 1330

PERMIT #12

CORDOVA, AK 99574-1330

CORDOVA BOX-HOLDER

CORDOVA, AK 99574

School Begins Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Cordova School District Website: www.cordovasd.org

Cordova School District Office 424-3265, Superintendent Jim Nygaard

Mt. Eccles Elementary School 424-3236, Principal Frank Wicks

Cordova Jr/Sr High School 424-3266, Principal Leif Jacobsen

Cordova Board of Education

President Pete Hoepfner: PO Box 1204, 424-3140

Vice President Dixon Sherman: PO Box 1186, 424-3759

Clerk Kate Alexander: PO Box 1168, 424-5433

Member Shawn Gilman: PO Box 223, 424-3307

Member Jon Nichols: PO Box 235, 424-7559

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

Welcome back to school! I hope you have had a summer filled with success, relaxation, and rejuvenation. With school just around the corner if there are any other "bucket list" items under consideration you had better get after them soon. Cordova Schools is excited to again provide one of the best learning environments in the State of Alaska. Curriculum additions, technology access/training, and great facilities complement even the more reluctant of learners.

I have listed several items that I want to update you on. If you have any questions remaining or any additional questions on items not listed, please contact this office.

Enjoy those last days of summer.

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools
Cordova School District

Website Access This information along with all current Cordova School District information is easily accessed at www.cordovasd.org. Further questions can be answered by contacting this office.

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.

Diogenes Laertius

School Registration

Elementary Registration: August 9 (9:00-4:00) at Mt. Eccles Elementary Office 424-3236

Please bring current immunizations, birth certificate and if a child is entering an Alaska public school for the first time a physical is required. Kindergarten students must be five years of age on or before September 1.

High School schedule changes, schedule pick up, and registration:
August 16: Grades 11 & 12
August 17: Grades 9 & 10
August 18: Grades 7 & 8

August 19: New students, and credit recovery students, please contact CHS Office 424-3266 to make an appointment. Office closed 12:30-1:15

Mt. Eccles Elementary School is in session from 8:40 am to 3:30 pm. Dismissal every Friday at 2:30 pm for teacher inservice and planning. School Bus will run at 2:30 pm on Fridays.

Cordova Jr/Sr High School is in session from 9:00 am to 3:10 pm. Dismissal every Friday at 2:45 pm for teacher inservice and planning. School Bus will run at 2:45 pm on Fridays.

Mt. Eccles Elementary Supply List: Available at Mt. Eccles office and the school website. www.cordovasd.org Click Mt. Eccles Website.

Jr/Sr High Supply List: Provided by teachers the first day of school.

PE Classes (grades 7-12) 1 pair gym shoes that will not scuff the gym floor (no skate shoes or outdoor shoes for gym use), shorts or sweats, and a t-shirt.

Student Handbooks: Each school has their own student handbook outlining in more detail the information pertaining to that school. These will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Student Insurance: Accident insurance (for a nominal cost) is available at the beginning of school during an open enrollment period for all students. The insurance is available on-line at: www.K12StudentInsurance.com. Contact Health Special Risk Inc. at 1-866-409-5733 if you have questions.

Immunizations: The State of Alaska mandates that each child have a series of vaccinations in order to attend school. **Up-to-date immunizations are required at time of registration.** All students must show proof of two doses of measles vaccine, hepatitis A & B series, DT shots, and polio shots and boosters. Effective July 1, 2009 school children (K-6) must be immunized against varicella. All new students and those entering Kindergarten or the 7th grade must be screened for tuberculosis.

Public Health Nurse: 424-4547; CCMC: 424-8200; Ilanka Health: 424-3622

Grant Programs: The school district offers many programs through various grants, i.e. Migrant Education, Title I, Indian Education, School-to-Work. Criteria to participate and information on grant programs will be available at the time of registration as well as being sent home at the beginning and during the school years.

2011-2012 School Calendar

On-line at: www.cordovasd.org

Upcoming Events

August 1.....Cross Country Begins
August 8.....Swimming Begins
August 8.....Volley Ball Begins
August 22....7th Grade Orientation
August 23.....CHS Open House
August 24.....First Day of School
August 30...Mt. Eccles Open House
TBA.....CHS Athletic Code Mtgs
September 5.....Labor Day Holiday
October 21.....First Quarter Ends

Building Use: Any building use requires the completion of a Building Use form. Forms and information may be obtained from the school you are requesting usage from.

Disclosure: Unless otherwise specifically noted by the parent/guardian the District will maintain permission to post/publish pictures of students involved with school sanctioned activities on our website (including but not limited to: website/parent newsletters/newspaper articles). Parents or eligible students have the right to instruct the District that they do not want any or all of the photos published. BP 5145.14

Substitutes Needed: Substitutes are needed in the following areas: classroom, kitchen, and custodial. Applications for substitutes are available at District Office.

School District Vans: Any individual (employee, volunteer, parent or coach) that may drive a school district van must complete all necessary paperwork, provide copies of a valid driver's license, current insurance card, and complete/pass a required on-line van safety course before any vehicle may be used. The on-line course requires an assigned user name and password from the District Office. If you anticipate driving this school year, please complete this process early.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) promises each of us that all students will be proficient by the end of school year 2013-2014. That is not very far away for those schools struggling to meet the minimum requirements (Cordova has never failed to meet AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) in each of the years governed by NCLB). Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently stated that 80% of all of America's schools will be considered "failing" based on NCLB requirements. The unintended consequences of NCLB have led to the public's eroding confidence in public education. With communities such as Cordova that typically lead the state in all areas, we have seen the unintended consequences from the federal level down to the state level with different sanctions/mandates. Even with Alaska's \$3.5b surplus, all state schools were "punished" due to failure to meet AYP. In Cordova we have plenty to celebrate with our student's success. I look forward to continued community support of our schools.

The NCLB requirements get exceedingly stringent these last three years for all schools. For example, most expectations are now annually raised by 6-8% (reading and math overall scores), while graduation rate minimums have been raised from 58% to 85%. Look for official Department of Education (EED) release of information regarding our student's scores in the coming weeks. Be confident that Cordova will continue to meet AYP and lead the state!

New Curriculum for school year 2011-2012 include a high school AP Stats math class and the 4th R curriculum to complement our high school health.

With so much attention on math skills we are fortunate to be able to access existing staff (Mr. Carroll) for an additional subject to teach beginning this fall. The AP Stats will be taught on rotating years with Pre Calculus on the off years. The Stats class will be a great complement to our math program as it allows for a greater opportunity for increased student engagement in their learning.

The 4th R curriculum will be taught in conjunction with our existing health courses. The program is an evidence based program that complements youth efforts in making good decisions, maintaining positive relationships, and reducing at-risk behaviors (bullying/unsafe sexual behaviors/substance abuse) and will be taught by Mrs. Anderson.

School Activities are in full swing (volleyball/cross country). Along with ASAA's mandatory "Play For Keeps" meetings, one item to be aware of is the new law passed this past year by the legislature regarding concussions. It is said that the first concussion is difficult to avoid, but the second one (and potentially the most damaging) needs to be prevented. The law requires schools to provide concussion training for coaches, and to remove student athletes who sustained a head injury/concussion from play until a medical professional has cleared them. See the entire law... http://www.legis.state.ak.us/00_2011/bills_1900/19C8BB.html

MAP testing Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing will be introduced to Cordova Schools beginning school year 2011-2012. Our students participate in a series of mandated state/federal tests. When we get the results back we basically get a score...nothing more. MAP testing allows for a student test that gives individual results of each student. The test is computer generated that tests each student at their level. In doing so the reports generated allow for better understanding/planning of the student's strengths and areas of weakness. Look for great things from MAP testing!

Summer Free Meals Program Sandie Ponte and her staff again maintained a very successful summer lunch program. At the time of this writing the district was maintaining 250+ lunches per day and 50+ breakfasts per day. The program is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is in its fourth summer. It is only with Cordova's support of this program that makes it successful. Although unique to Alaska (delivery of meals to the kids at camp/daycare/ball fields/rec center/etc.) it has been highly successful for Cordova. The meals are free to everyone 18 years and younger (no eligibility). If you have not had a chance to participate there is still time. On-site meals are available daily at Mt. Eccles.

Construction Update It has been two short years since we broke ground with the Mt. Eccles construction efforts. I am happy to report that there are limited items remaining on the "punch list" for final completion. Look to see final work on the parking areas, art completion in the halls, and final playground items completed. It is another success story that is based on the support of the community that has allowed this great project to occur!

CHS will see its share of construction as well. The *old* district office modular has been removed from its location in preparation for new construction of the Innovative Learning Program classroom currently housed in a modular building. The new classroom (1800 sq. ft.) is scheduled for completion in late fall and is located behind the high school (this project will see no increase to local taxes).

CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 1330 * 675 Second Street
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-3265 * FAX (907) 424-3271

Cordova Jr/Sr High School
(907) 424-3266
FAX (907) 424-5215

Mt. Eccles Elementary
(907) 424-3236
FAX (907) 424-3117

Cordova School District is pleased to announce our participation in the National School Lunch Program. Meals will be available to all children at our following schools: Mt. Eccles Elementary and Cordova Jr/Sr High School. Meals meet nutritional standards set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our schools will participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

If your income is less than or equal to the following guidelines you are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. These guidelines are effective **July 1, 2011** through **June 30, 2012**. If you have children who are approved for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP), they are automatically able to receive free meals by filing an application that includes their assistance number from one of those programs. Students who are migrant, homeless, or runaways are automatically eligible and do not need to fill out an application. Foster children receive free meals regardless of the income of the household with which they reside. Note: Medicaid and Denali Kid Care case numbers do not qualify for eligibility.

Family Size	FREE MEALS			REDUCED PRICED MEALS		
	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	17,680	1,474	340	25,160	2,097	484
2	23,894	1,992	460	34,003	2,834	654
3	30,108	2,509	579	42,846	3,571	824
4	36,322	3,027	699	51,689	4,308	995
5	42,536	3,545	818	60,532	5,045	1,165
6	48,750	4,063	938	69,375	5,782	1,335
7	54,964	4,581	1,057	78,218	6,519	1,505
8	61,178	5,099	1,177	87,061	7,256	1,675
For each additional person	6,214	518	120	8,843	737	171

For more information, or to get an application for free or reduced-price school meals, contact us at: *Mt. Eccles Elementary 424-3236 or Cordova Jr/Sr High School 424-3266.*

We can't approve your application unless it's complete. The information you give us on your application may be checked at any time. You may apply for free or reduced price meals at any time during the school year if your situation changes. If you become unemployed, your child(ren) may be able to have free or reduced priced meals based on your unemployment income. If we deny your free or reduced price meals application, we will give you a chance to appeal the decision.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.