

West Homer Elementary School

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

995 Soundview Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

<http://westhomerelementary.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpnu/>



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Principal

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Welcome to West Homer!

Dear West Homer Elementary families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at West Homer. It was a treat and a surprise late this summer when I had a chance encounter with a huge pod of Orcas on Kachemak Bay, a sign to me that it was time to head back to the familiar walls of West Homer. The new carpet in the main hallways looks fantastic and we are excited to begin another year!

I continue to embrace the honor of working in this professional, caring, fun, active, musical, creative, literary, inclusive, cooperative learning community.

Departmentalized 6th Grade

Our 6th grade team has worked hard to structure this program in such a way to give students a chance to experience instruction from multiple teachers. Students will maintain a homeroom and be rotating through each of our 6th grade teachers for reading, writing, and math instruction. Not only will this take advantage of our staff expertise, it will also help prepare our 6th graders for more of a middle school model they will experience in 7th and 8th grade.

Apple Bus

Apple Bus has adjusted some of their routes to better balance their ridership and even out ride times. Please double check your child's bus route as they may be riding a different bus than last year. You can take advantage the bus portal on the KPBSD website to find accurate times. Go to Departments > Planning and Operations > Pupil Transportation. You just need to enter your address and it will provide route and time information. It is important that you keep Powerschool updated with your current physical address for this to be accurate. You can also pick up hard copies of the bus routes at the school if you would like. We are encouraging you to use the bus system as this will lessen the congestion in the parking lot. If you have questions about your route or times please call Apple Bus Co. at 235-0124.

Personalized Learning in KPBSD

Our journey with personalized learning continues. All teachers at West Homer have been implementing new elements of personalized learning into their classrooms to better meet the individual needs and interests of all students. Key elements your child will experience include:

- **Teachers integrate digital content**, which allows for a differentiated path and pace based on individual student needs
- **Teachers use targeted instruction** based on specific student needs and learning goals
- **Teachers use current and relevant data** to help inform instructional decisions and groupings
- **Students engage in ongoing self-reflection** that promotes ownership of their learning

Are you curious, or do you have a question? Learn more through the link to Personalized Learning on the KPBSD homepage: www.kpbsd.org. I recognize that you may have questions concerning personalized learning and what this will entail for your student(s). Please contact me directly with your questions.

New Staff

We have a number of new staff members joining our team this year. Please welcome: 6th grade teacher Jon Sharp, 3rd /4th grade teacher Rachel Allmendinger, 4th grade teacher Jessica Bertram, 3rd/4th grade resource teacher Beth Schott, 5th/6th grade resource teacher Marcy True, Special Services teacher Sherry Roach, Special Services teacher Emily Walle, and half time custodian Berkley Davis.

Parent Teacher Organization

Our PTO continues to work hard to support all children through a variety of exciting ways, and I would encourage you to join. Contact the office for more information.

Volunteer Screening

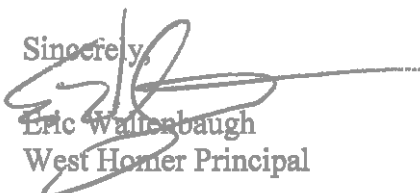
To aid in keeping all students as safe as possible, KPBSD requires a yearly volunteer screening. This screening only looks at criminal activity and the information is kept totally confidential and can only be accessed by the Human Resource Department. To complete this screening process please visit the school district's web site at www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us and click Employment then click on Volunteer, then click Volunteer Openings and find the location that you wish to volunteer.

Meet your Teacher Day

West Homer Elementary School will be hosting our fall Meet Your Teacher Day on Monday August 20th from 2:30 – 3:30 PM. Class lists will be posted on the door at 2:00pm. We hope to see you there!

In closing, it continues to be an honor to be serving as your principal. All of us here at West Homer Elementary School are looking forward to working closely with you to provide an exceptional educational experience for your child.

Sincerely,



Eric Wallenbaugh
West Homer Principal