

West Homer Elementary School

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

995 Soundview Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

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



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Principal

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Welcome to West Homer!

Dear West Homer Elementary families,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at West Homer. It was a pleasure to walk back into the building for the first time and be greeted by our entryway mural; it reminds me of why I choose to be here at West Homer Elementary. The facility looks fantastic and the newly painted exterior doors are a nice marker of another new, clean start. We accomplished so many great things last year and I am ready for another year of growth. It has truly been an honor to work in this professional, caring, fun, active, musical, creative, literary, inclusive, cooperative learning community.

Personalized Learning in KPBSD

One concept you will hear this year is Personalized Learning. Personalized Learning in KPBSD empowers every student to reach their lifelong learning potential.

We want to directly connect your child to rigorous learning that is relevant and an excellent preparation for life, college, and the careers they will encounter after high school. The deliberate integration of personalized learning (PL) into every classroom in the school district over the next three years will accomplish this KPBSD goal. We are excited to be one of the first schools in the district to be moving forward with personalized learning this school year.

Many teachers at West Homer implement elements of personalized learning regularly. This design of instruction allows educators to respond to the individual needs of students—instead of expecting students to fit the current mold or adapt to unsuccessful learning structures. PL does not replace teachers with computers. Over the course of the next few years we will be building systematically on this foundation to create an even better learning environment. 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? Please visit the [KPBSD Personalized Learning Blog](#), and check out the [FAQs](#). There's also a link 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.

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. This is a dynamic, creative group that came up with a number of fantastic events last year.

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 21st 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 Waltenbaugh
West Homer Principal