



Katmai Team News

August 22, 2016



KATMAI TEACHERS

Mrs. Michelle Foss
Language Arts
foss_michelle@asdk12.org

Mr. James McDonald
Science
mcdonald_james@asdk12.org

Mr. Nick Stout
Social Studies
stout_nick@asdk12.org

Mrs. Laura Wrenn
Math
wrenn_laura@asdk12.org

Mrs. Rosanne Gressett
Collaborator
gressett_rosanne@asdk12.org

Mrs. Pat Sloan
7th grade Counselor
Phone: 742-3606
sloan_pat@asdk12.org

To reach us by phone, please
call 742-3600.

Katmai

Welcome to the Katmai Team!

We are very excited and pleased to be working with you and your child. Our primary goals as Katmai Team teachers are to foster the development of responsibility, organizational skills, and study habits in all of our students.

As partners in your child's education, we value your support as we work together to make this year productive and successful.

RULES: we don't have rules; instead we have 3 guiding statements for our team:

Be respectful of yourself and others by:

- appreciating yourself and others
- recognizing differences in ideas and abilities in other people
- using courtesy and good manners

Be responsible and active learners by:

- arriving promptly, prepared for class
- completing assignments on time
- keeping your parents informed about how you are doing in school

Always do your best by:

- working hard on all assignments
- taking pride in your work

TEAMING means teachers work together to plan assignments and schedule tests and projects so the workload will be spread out during the week. We meet daily to discuss the needs of the Katmai Team students, to plan as a team, and to meet with parents as needed. For questions, or to schedule a meeting, please contact any of us by email.

KATMAI TEAM NEWS

We want to keep you informed about what's happening on the team and in our classes. Your child's planner is the first line of communication. In addition, Mrs. Wrenn and Mrs. Foss maintain web pages on the ASD site. On them you will find homework assignments and updates about what we are doing in our classes as well as Katmai Team News. Go to www.asdk12.org, click on Middle schools, then Gruening, then click on our names on the staff list to get to our web pages.

How to get to any ASD teacher's website:

www.asdk12.org/staff/lastname_firstname

ZANGLE

The Anchorage School District uses Zangle for keeping parents informed about student progress. We rely on parents to check Zangle regularly so that there are no end of quarter surprises as your child adapts to middle school. Please make sure you know your and your child's Zangle password to get access to this information.

We update our grades on a regular basis, but our first priority is preparing, teaching and assessing lessons, so please be aware that there is a time lag between receiving work, grading and posting grades.

- **STUDENT DECORUM**

All students are expected to listen and participate respectfully in class.

OUR CLASSROOM POLICY IS AS FOLLOWS:

1 st Offense:	Verbal Warning
2 nd Offense:	Time out, conference with student
3 rd Offense:	School Detention, parent notified
4 th Offense:	Referral to Office

Depending on the nature of the offense, teachers may skip to a more severe consequence. Severe disruption or non-compliant behavior will result in security/office being called and student will be escorted out of classroom.

- **ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK**

Each student will receive a handbook that outlines specifically many important ASD policies. Please review this handbook with your child. Students are expected to know and follow these policies.

- **PASSES**

Each student will be allowed two hall passes per quarter per class that may be used to leave the room when necessary. Gruening's policy is "no passes the first and last 10 minutes of each class".

- **NOTEBOOK ORGANIZATION**

Students will need to bring their binders and writing supplies to each core class. You will need a designated section for each of your core subjects and electives with plenty of loose-leaf paper. There should be no loose papers in your notebook. Your teachers will give you further instruction as to what is expected for each class.

- **PAPER HEADING**

Student's full name, class and period, and date must be in the upper right corner on all papers. All teachers have a place for "no-name" papers and a way for students to claim them for credit.

- **HOMEWORK AND PLANNER**

The Katmai team expects an average of 1-1 ½ hours per day spent on homework or study (prealgebra students should expect a little more). This includes time spent on self-paced, long-term projects for language arts, social studies, and science, as well as daily assignments in math and other subjects. Teachers will make every effort to coordinate assignments to ensure an even load throughout the week but there may be times when this is not possible.

Students should write their assignments in their planner each period, every day. Be sure to write the day work is due and any special materials that are needed. If there is no homework, that should be noted. Students are responsible for bringing home all materials necessary to complete their assignments. Having a reliable friend to call in case you forget something is useful, too.

- **LATE WORK**

Becoming a responsible citizen involves learning to meet deadlines. Some teachers and parents allow children with late assignments to submit late work at the child's convenience. Typically, a generous mix of nagging, pleading, bribing and prodding is included in this process. What follows is a pattern, enabling a student to participate in a Push-Resist Cycle.

By accepting, evaluating, and recording scores for late work, teachers and parents become willing participants in an endless cycle. Late work creates little more than a backlog of paperwork and does little to reinforce good work habits in a student. Children learn to rely on adult pressure to perform vs. weathering the natural consequences of their behavior. This is not good for their self-esteem, nor does it prepare them for the world they must face when they reach adulthood.

Late work will be accepted for credit ONLY if students have an excused absence, in which case we will follow the Gruening Middle School late work policy. Students will get two late work passes per quarter for each subject for when "life happens." These late passes allow the student to turn in a regular class assignment after the due date. These passes are not acceptable for projects, tests, or long-term assignments. Katmai teachers will review the late policy on a quarterly basis and will notify the students of any changes. Please see your teacher if there are extenuating circumstances that caused you to be unable to complete an assignment and you are out of late passes.

• **GRUENING MIDDLE SCHOOL LATE WORK POLICY**

Students with illness, pre-acknowledged, or activity absences may make-up work. One day of make-up privilege will be granted for each day of absence, plus one day, regardless of length of absence. If notification of a test was given before the absence, the students will be expected to take the test the day he/she returns to school. If an assignment was due the day of the absence, it is the student's responsibility to turn the assignment in the day the student returns to school.

• **REQUESTING HOMEWORK FOR ILLNESS OR PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCES**

If your child is going to be out sick for several days and you would like to request that work be assembled, please contact the attendance office. They will notify us of your request or you can contact us via voice mail or email. We would greatly appreciate being given at least a 24-hour period from the time of your contact, so that we can adequately assemble any needed materials for your child. Please be advised that not all assignments can be sent home, and may need to be completed upon your child's return to school.

Please have your child get the form for prearranged absences from the office 3 – 5 days before you leave. We may be able to give your child work for while they are gone. However, many assignments require being in class for instruction and some may not be able to be completed if students miss class. When students are absent it is their responsibility to find out what they missed.

• **BLUE PASSES**

These are required for students who need to leave school during the day for a doctor's appointment, etc. Blue pass requests must be made to the office. Teachers cannot release students from class unless they have a Blue Pass. We know it is hard to get after-school appointments but it is much less disruptive for your child if they do not miss class.

ATTENDANCE IS VITAL FOR SUCCESS IN 7TH GRADE, SO BE THERE OR BE A QUADRILATERAL WITH 4 CONGRUENT SIDES AND 4 CONGRUENT ANGLES!

Katmai 7th Grade Team Supply List

These will be used throughout the year and are required supplies for students on all 7th grade teams.

- 3-ring binder with divider tabs (1)
- Zippered Binder Pouch with the following:
 - Pencils (#2 or mechanical)
 - Pens, 8 – 12, black or blue (NO gel pens)
 - Red pens, 4 – 6
 - Colored pencils
 - Colored markers
 - Highlighters (at least 2)
 - Protractor
 - Sharpener, small, hand-held, with cover
 - Scissors, small, rounded point
 - Glue sticks, 4 – 6
- Composition book (3) (no spirals)(for Math, LA & Science)
- College-ruled binder paper (buy extra to keep in your locker)
- Clear plastic Report Cover with 3-prong butterfly tabs (1 for LA)
- Graph paper, ¼" grid (hole punched preferred)
- Basic Scientific Calculator (recommended: TI30X)
- Ruler, metric & standard (hole punched for binder is best)
- 2 Book Covers, must be extra large (paper bag ones are fine)
- 2 Boxes of tissues (give to 2nd period teacher)
- 1 pkg Wet Wipes & 1 roll paper towels (give to Science teacher)
- Donations of any classroom supplies are greatly appreciated by the teachers.

Donations of classroom supplies of these are especially appreciated:

- Pencils
- Pens
- Lined paper
- Glue sticks

Students sometimes run out, being able to borrow supplies in class means they can keep working ☺

Please sign the form below and return along with your team fee/t-shirt information.

KATMAI TEAM FEE - One and Then Done!

One of the great things about middle school is that students are part of a team. Middle school teams develop an identity in many ways, including field trips and wearing team t-shirts to show team spirit. We are asking students for a one-time payment of \$40. This covers our field trips and a short-sleeved Katmai team t-shirt. You have two payment options:

Pay with cash or check. Make checks payable to GMS account #7410 and attach it to this form.

OR

Pay online:

1. Sign into your Zangle Parent Connect Account (received at registration)
2. Select the online payment tab at the top
3. Select your student attending Gruening Middle School
4. Click on what you would like to pay for (**Katmai Team Fee**)
5. Add to your shopping cart and pay with a credit card
6. **Print out a receipt and attach it to this form. This is how we know you have paid.**

Katmai Team Short-sleeved T-shirt - included in your \$40 team fee!

As a part of middle school teaming we encourage all students to wear team shirts on Fridays! Our Katmai shirts are awesome! Please check your size below (adult sizes, 50/50, preshrunk tees). **The \$40 team fee includes a t-shirt. If you wish, you can order an additional (optional) team hoodie (see below).**

Student First and Last Name: (Please Print) _____

Adult T-Shirt Size: SMALL _____ MEDIUM _____ LARGE _____ XL _____

- I have paid the team fee online
- I have attached the \$40 team fee (cash or check to GMS) and/or
- I am ordering an additional hoodie for \$35. I have attached cash or check to GMS.

Adult Hoodie Size: SMALL _____ MEDIUM _____ LARGE _____ XL _____

Please return all orders and payments no later than Thursday, August 25th to your 1st period teacher.

We have read this Katmai Team Newsletter and have discussed its contents. We understand that we can contact the Katmai Team teachers if we have any questions.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Student Name _____

Please have your child return this form to his/her 3rd period teacher by Thursday, August, 25th. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a productive and positive year with you and your child.