

ALKI MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

www.alki/vansd.org



WHERE OUR LEGACY IS VALUING EVERY STUDENT

MARCH 2023

Greetings Alki families!

Here it is the end of February and winter has finally arrived! It is difficult to maintain routine and focus when our days are being impacted by snowy or icy weather. I love the snow, but I am looking forward to the signs of spring that are hopefully right around the corner. Be safe during these cold winter days!

As we begin a new month, I want to share some good news from our recently completed winter iReady diagnostic assessment in math and reading. All students take the iReady diagnostic assessment in math and reading three times per year: fall, winter, and spring. This assessment helps teachers diagnose where student strengths and weaknesses lie in order to better inform classroom instruction. It also gives us a baseline for the grade level proficiency for each student as a way to monitor progress and help with forecasting for the next grade level. Finally, it allows us to monitor growth in math and reading achievement over time. Desired growth is determined by where a student starts on the fall diagnostic and the expected increase in scores to show a year's worth of growth. On this year's **Math** iReady fall to winter diagnostic, **65%** of our students are on pace to meet or exceed their growth targets for the year. In **reading** **59%** of our students are on pace to meet or exceed their growth targets for the year. What these numbers indicate is that **learning** is happening and students are **growing**. My hope is we keep pushing hard with the academic focus through the end of the school year, and we see these averages go up even more when we look at fall to spring results. Check with your student to see how they did. **Recognize their hard work and praise their effort.** OR, if need be, prod their effort to work a little harder and focus a little more. Either way, we will continue to work very hard every day to provide meaningful learning experiences to push academic progress with all students.

SIP AND SOUP

I am thrilled to let you know we are going to partner with the PTSA to do a parent listening session to solicit your feedback on how things are going at our school. Please plan to attend the March 28th PTSA general meeting to enjoy SOUP provided by the PTSA, and to engage in discussion about our SIP (School Improvement Plans). We are very interested in getting your feedback on the following:

1. What is going well for you and your student?
2. Where are there opportunities for us to improve our systems and practices to better support you and your student?
3. What specific feedback do you have about the following initiatives at Alki: 7 period school day with 2 elective choices, Monday morning social emotional learning time with Second Step curriculum, Standards based grading practices, universal screening assessments in Panorama (social emotional) and iReady (Math and Reading), extra curricular activities (sports, NJHS, leadership, spirit activities, clubs, etc.)
4. How do we improve parent involvement and partnership in our school?

The meeting will be in the media center at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28th. We really hope to see you there!

Making a difference for kids,
Mark Cain

Principal, Alki Middle School

360-313-3200

mark.cain@vansd.org

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WHERE OUR LEGACY IS VALUING EVERY STUDENT

ALKI MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT:

MARCH 2023

Striving to create a learning environment that empowers every student by providing engaging academic programs and positive social experiences for all

Mark Cain - Principal
Doug Warner - Associate Principal
Scott Sartorius - Athletic Director



Our Office Staff is always ready to serve you!

Fawn McKay - Secretary
Kelly Newcomb - Registrar

OFFICE HOURS:
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Main Office - 313-3200

Fax - 313-3201

Jennifer Stelter - Attendance
AlkiAttendance@vansd.org
 313-3220

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS:
 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Erin Redd - Business Office
 313-3210

Please try to keep phone calls and items dropped off to a minimum. With the exception of urgently needed items, we will only call students down before lunch and at the end of the school day. This prevents classroom interruptions for optimal student learning. Commercial deliveries (such as balloons, flowers or Door Dash) are not allowed. Thank you for your help!

Bus Notes -

If your student needs to temporarily ride a different bus or use a different bus stop, please email alki.attendance@vansd.org for approval by 11:30am. Students will not be allowed to ride a different bus without prior approval. If the bus is in overload a temporary pass can not be granted.

For any questions or concerns regarding bus delays, please contact transportation directly at 360-313-4800.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **March 10th** - 8th Grade Forecasting
- **March 12th** - Daylight Savings Time Begins - Clocks move ahead one hour
- **March 13th** - Last Day of 2nd Trimester
- **March 13th** - Registration opens for 6/7/8 Boys and Girls Track and Field
- **March 24th** - Report Cards Go Home
- **March 27th-31st** - Spirit Week
- **March 31st** - School Social in the afternoon (during the school day)

All Monday's from Sept. 12th through May 22nd will be 40 minute early release. School will end at 2:50 pm

FREE FOOD PANTRIES!

¡Despensas de comida gratis!

Бесплатные продовольственные кладовые!

Open to ALL Vancouver Public School Families!

¡Abierto a todas las familias de las escuelas públicas de Vancouver!

Открыт для всех семей в государственных школах Ванкувера!

Sarah J Anderson Elementary (2215 NE 104th St #5641, Vancouver, WA 98686) 11am – 12pm
March 7, April 4* (at St John's Lutheran Church), May 2

Washington Elementary (2908 S St #2932, Vancouver, WA 98663) 2:30pm – 3:30pm
March 1, March 29, May 3

The Plaza at Roosevelt (2921 Falk Rd. Vancouver, WA 98661) 7:30-8:00pm
Mar 2, May 4

Sacajawea Elementary (700 NE 112th St, Vancouver, WA 98685) 11am – 12pm
March 8, April 12, May 10

Jim Parsley Community Center (4100 Plomondon St. Vancouver, WA 98661) 1:30pm-2:30pm
March 9, April 13, May 11

McLoughlin Middle + Marshall Elementary (5802 MacArthur Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661) 1:30pm-2:30pm
March 16, April 20, May 18

Harney Elementary (3212 E Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661) 2:30pm-3:30pm
March 28, April 25, May 23

Walnut Grove Elementary (6103 NE 72nd Ave #1998, Vancouver, WA 98661) 12pm – 1pm
March 23, April 27, May 25

Acceso comunitario a alimentos | Community Food Access | Доступ к еде в сообществе
Clark County Food Bank Drive-Thru (6502 NE 47th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98661)
Todos los martes de 3 pm a 4 pm | Every Tuesday 3pm-4pm | Каждый вторник с 15.00 до 16.00





VPS Is Hiring!

Are you, or do you know someone who would be a great addition to our Vancouver Public Schools (VPS) team? Did you know that VPS hosts monthly Substitute and Classified Candidate Day interviews for qualified applicants?

Vancouver Public Schools is now hiring for full-time, part-time, substitute, and seasonal employees in the following areas:**

**Paraeducators
Bus drivers
Coaches**

**Cafeteria Assistants
Custodial Assistants**

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Vancouver Public Schools is an equal opportunity district in education programs, activities, services, and employment. The district does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, age, families with children, honorably discharged veterans or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. The district complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Older Worker Protection Act, and all other state, federal, and local equal opportunity laws. You may contact any of the following people at 2901 Park Rd., Vancouver, Washington, 98661, or by writing to them at Vancouver School District, PO Box 8937, Vancouver, Washington 98668-8937 or by calling 360-313-1300: ADA-Ruthy Everidge (ruthy.everidge@vpsd.org); Title VII, 504-Steve Vance (steve.vance@vpsd.org); EEOA-Daniel Bettle (daniel.bettle@vpsd.org); Affirmative Action/Title IX-Ruthy Everidge (ruthy.everidge@vpsd.org); Title IX (Elementary)-Krisla Lindholm (krisla.lindholm@vpsd.org); Title IX (Secondary)-Bill Olsen (bill.olsen@vpsd.org); Athletic Equity-Jim Gray (james.gray@vpsd.org). This notification can be provided in the appropriate language for communities of national origin and minority persons with limited English language skills by contacting 360-313-1250.

[Click Here to Apply Online](#)

Hello Alki Families!

Every now and again, one of our students will have an accident where they need to change their clothes at school. Because of this, we are in need of new or gently used leggings and sweatpants for our health room. It would be helpful if they were in a unisex color. If you have any that you would like to donate, we would greatly appreciate it!

Thank you!

MAKE SCHOOL COUNT: ATTENDANCE MATTERS, YOU MATTER

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Building this habit starts with the first day of school so they can learn right away that arriving at school on time, every day, is important. Good attendance is critical to school success. The parent is expected to notify the school of the reason for the absence within three (3) school days.

To excuse an absence at Alki Middle School:

- A written note by Parent/Guardian stating the date(s) and reason for the absence.
- Call the attendance line at 360-313-3220
- E-mail Attendance Clerk at Alki.Attendance@vansd.org
- Skyward Family Access request for student absence

Absences can be excused for the following reasons:

- Illness (a doctor's note is required after 5 absences)
- Health care appointments (as much as possible, try to schedule these outside the school day)
- Emergencies
- Religious activity
- Pre-arranged approved activity (family vacations **must** be pre-arranged to be excused)
- Family Related

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, become a problem for student success. At five unexcused absences within the school year, the "Unexcused Absence Report and Agreement" begins. Ten or more unexcused absences within the school year will result in the school district enforcing the compulsory school attendance law through truancy court.

When picking up your student from school it is required by VPS to have your ID ready and you must be on the student's approved pick up list.

Parents can now "Request an Absence" for their student. This can be done through Skyward Family Access.

****Notice****

Due to the importance of student's academic class time and school safety, students will not be excused from class until Parent/Guardian is in the office to sign them out.

Please review Alki's Tardy Policy:

- * 1st Tardy - Verbal warning
- * 2nd Tardy - Parent is notified via e-mail
- * 3rd Tardy - Lunch detention assigned to student
- * 4th Tardy - Referral to the office for his/her total and discipline will be assigned. Parent is contacted.
- * 5th Tardy - Referral to the office for After School Detention. Parent is contacted.



Free meals will be available to all K-12 students again this year! Meal payments online or by cash or check will not be collected by schools.

Free or reduced-price meal applications will not be collected this year. We do ask that **all** of our families complete the Family Income Survey. This survey provides your child's school a way to collect household income information. This information makes sure your child's school receives the full amount of federal and state funding and makes sure your child receives services they are entitled to when free/reduced price applications are not collected.

If you have not already completed the survey, you can also obtain a copy in the school office. Please return completed paper surveys to the school office.

Parents and guardians need to complete only one survey for all school-aged children in their household. For further Information, please call 360-313-1190 or email nutrition.services@vansd.org.

ATTENTION 6th GRADE FAMILIES!

Vaccination Reminder:

6th grade student routinely get a TDAP booster at age 11 from their healthcare provider. Please remember to drop off a copy of the TDAP booster to the office or via email to joy.feltz@vansd.org or Kelly.newcomb@vansd.org. The vaccination will be uploaded into VPS student records. **This vaccine is required in order for your student to start 7th grade!**

If you need assistance finding a vaccine clinic, please contact the office.

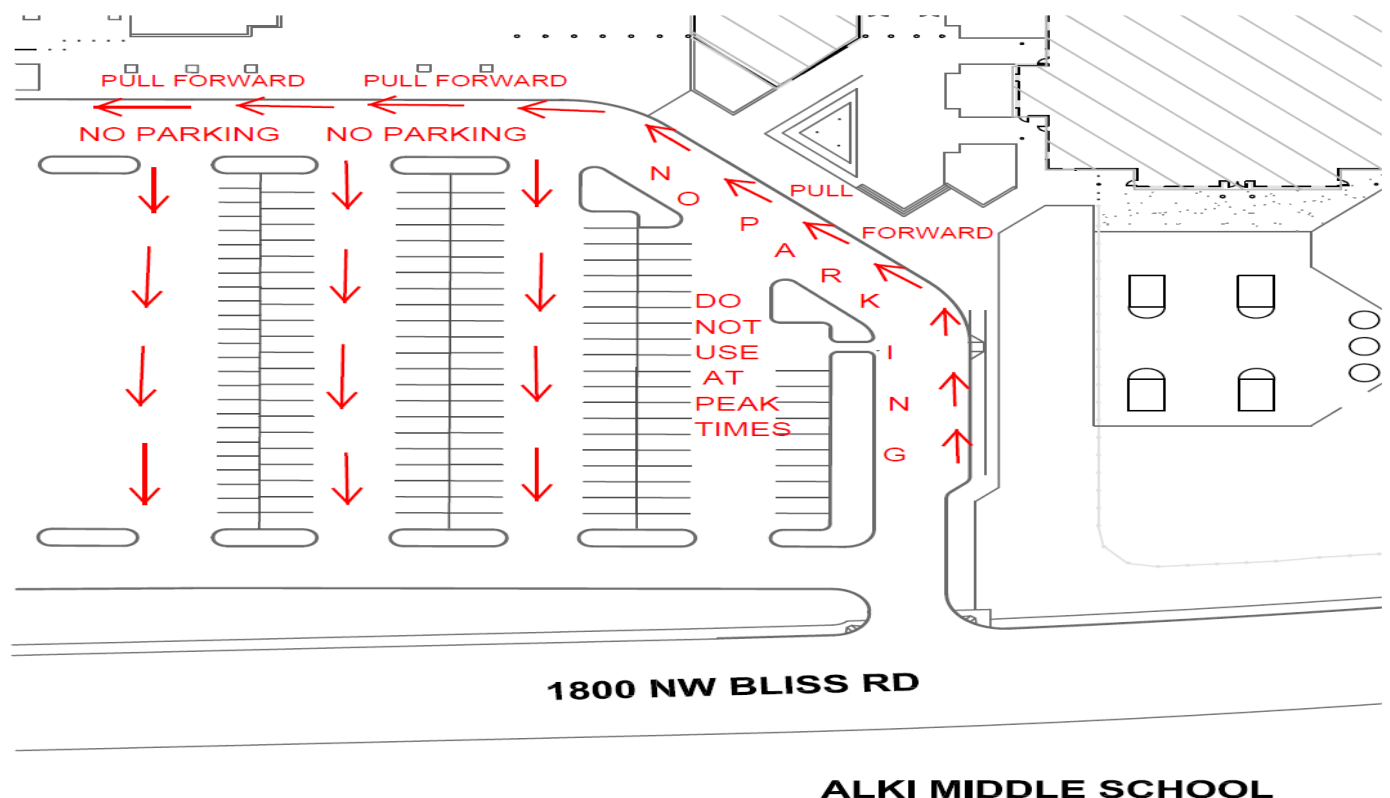
PARKING LOT SAFETY- Parent Drop off and Pick-up

Dear Alki Families:

In order to minimize hazards to students we are asking drivers to follow these procedures to ensure a safe pick up and drop off in the Alki parking lot:

- Pick up time in the afternoon is 3:30-3:40
- Please only travel east to west in the driveway when picking up and dropping off, then turn left to head south toward the exit, avoiding the first aisle.
- Pull as far forward as possible and continue doing so as cars pull out. We will be asking students to wait further west on the sidewalk rather than in front of the office.
- Form ONE line next to the curb when waiting in your car. Do not stop in the middle of the driveway to pick up or drop off your student.
- Remain in your car unless you are parked in a parking space
- Please find a parking space if there is no room along the curb. Students will be asked to use the cross walks to get to the parking area.
- Do not park or stop your car in front of any ORANGE CONES.

Please be aware that school zone traffic laws are in effect all year. Watch for the yellow flashing light and remember to slow down—20 miles per hour—and stop at crosswalks whenever students are present. Use caution when entering and parking in the Alki parking lot.





GIRLS BOWLING SCHEDULE 2023

All Matches are at Hazel Dell Lanes at 4:30 p.m.

February 22nd—Alki vs. Jason Lee MS

February 27th—Alki vs. McLoughlin MS

March 6th—Alki vs. Jefferson MS

March 13th—Alki vs. Discovery MS

March 20th—Alki vs. Gaiser MS

March 27th—District Bowling Tournament

Hazel Dell Lanes
6300 NE Hwy 99, Vancouver, WA 98665

SNACK DRIVE UPDATE!!

Students and staff donated over **2700** snacks during our Alki Snack Drive! These snacks will help our VPS students and families in need. Thank you to everyone who donated!

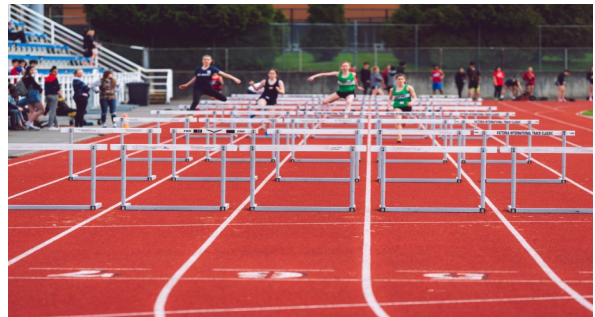


Registration for 6/7/8 Boys & Girls Track & Field begins March 13th. To register please visit <https://vancouver-wa.finalforms.com/>

The season begins on Tuesday, April 11th. The last day to register is April 14th.

New this year: All Track fees and ASB fees (if you have not already paid) are due at the time of registration unless your student qualifies for free/reduced lunch.

If you are not sure if you have paid the fees, you can always check online or call Erin Redd at 360-313-3210.





Alki Middle School PTSA 3.7.86



Next 8th Grade Celebration Meeting

March 21st at 6:30pm
Alki Media Center

IT'S PARTY TIME



Follow us on Social Media:
Facebook: Alki EighthGrade
Instagram: alki8thgrade
Email: Alki8thGrade2023@gmail.com



WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT

A new tax credit for Washington workers starts in 2023!

Working Families Tax Credit will provide payments up to \$1,200 to individuals and families who meet the requirements.

Who is eligible for a tax credit?

Individuals and families are eligible if they meet all of the following requirements:

- Lived in Washington a minimum of 183 days.
- Are at least 25 and under 65 years of age OR have a qualifying child in 2022.
- Filed a 2022 federal tax return with a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- Eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit on their 2022 tax return.
 - Go to www.irs.gov/eitc to learn more.
- Meet the income requirements (see table).

How much will individuals and families get back?

It depends on the number of qualifying children and income level. See table for estimates based on the 2022 income eligibility thresholds.

What are the income thresholds?

Number of qualifying children	Applicant must make less than the following		Maximum refund
	Single	Married (filing jointly)	
0	\$16,480	\$22,610	\$300
1	\$43,492	\$49,622	\$600
2	\$49,399	\$55,529	\$900
3 or more	\$53,057	\$59,187	\$1,200

Applications open on February 1, 2023 and are accepted through December 31, 2023.



To access additional information or sign-up for updates, visit our website: WorkingFamiliesCredit.wa.gov or call 360-763-7300.

Prepared by Customer Experience and Communications Division 11/22

**Department of
Revenue**
Washington State

FREE **LATINX** **LEGAL HELP** **& EMERGENCY FAMILY SAFETY PLANNING**

Saturday, March 4, 2023
9:00 am to 12:00 pm



Talk to Volunteer Lawyers About:

- **Your Family** (Custody, Divorce)
- **Injury** (From work or car accidents)
- **Housing** (Landlord/Tenant)
- **Bankruptcy**
- **Discrimination**
- **Disability Law**
- **Work** (Your rights)
- **Immigration**
- **Criminal Issues**
- **Wills/Powers of Attorney**

~and~

Plan for the Safety of your Family and your Assets:

- **Notaries available**
to notarize the
documents
right away



YWCA Clark County

3609 Main St

Vancouver WA. 98663

Walk-Ins welcome until 12pm

First Come, First Served



Childcare Available



Masks required at all times
while inside the YWCA Clark
County building

