

November 30, 2023

# American Charter Chats



## Upcoming Events

- ♦ 12/08 - Secondary Dance
- ♦ 12/14-19 - Spirit Week
- ♦ 12/21 - End of Quarter 2
- ♦ 12/21 - Early Release 11:30am
- ♦ 12/22 - 01/05 - Vacation
- ♦ 01/08 - No School, Teacher Workday
- ♦ 01/11 - Quarter 2 Report Cards Sent Home

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American Charter Academy

## Principal's Corner

Dr. Deena Bishop  
Commissioner

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STATE OF ALASKA



Department of Education  
and Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 20, 2023

## Alaska Leads Charter Student Performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress

According to New Ranking, "The Nation's Charter Report Card"

This is exciting news for AMC Staff & Families! Having the distinction of one of the best schools in Alaska and in the nation is quite an honor! Let's keep up the good work and continuously strive to 'Reach for the Stars' and pursue Academic Excellence. I am very excited to be finishing Semester 1 on a strong note, and I am honored and blessed to be AMC's administrator!!! Sincerely, Ms. Farren

Students in Mrs. Maynard's class learned about the pilgrims and their voyage to Plymouth on the Mayflower and celebrated by having their own classroom feast.



In secondary Health and PE classes, students are learning about the components of exercise and what types of activities are done to test these components. The Fitness Test, formally called "The Presidential Fitness Test" was designed to capture the best performance of core strength, aerobic capacity, upper-body strength, speed and agility, and flexibility. This week they began with aerobic capacity. They completed the Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run (PACER) which is a multistage run. The PACER is designed to measure aerobic capacity, which is characterized by endurance, performance, and fitness. Later this week the students will create their own fitness routine focusing on aerobic exercises, strength training, and flexibility. By the end of the quarter, they will complete the following tests: curl up, push up, pull up and one arm hang, the shuttle run, and sit and reach.



**STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS:** AMC has a nine-member student council, and two of the members, Tycen Chappell & Kylor McElvain are also on the Matsu District's Student Advisory Board (SAB). Following is a summary written by Kylor McElvain about the SAB meeting in November. The Student Advisory Board met this past November 15th. We discussed and voted for our constitution and by-laws. We have set up committees that will be addressing problems in our district and coming up with solutions.

**\*\*\* Consistent attendance and timeliness are keys to student success!!! \*\*\***



Ms. McCabe's students have been learning about birds for the past few weeks. They have studied migration, adaptations, and ecosystems. Students are currently working on individual research projects that will be presented to our K-1 classes next week. This week's work included owl pellet dissections. Students used identification charts to identify bones and analyze the remains left over from the owls' meals.



### Staff Spotlight



Mrs. Stephanie Maynard was born and raised in the small farming community of Bowman, North Dakota and attended Montana State University in Bozeman where she received her Bachelor's degree in elementary education.

After living in Bozeman for several years, she and her now husband, Lance, packed up their belongings in a trailer and moved to Alaska where they have been happily living for over 20 years. She has two children, Hadley, age 19 and Max, age 16. Mrs. Maynard has been working at AMC for 18 years, previously teaching middle school language arts and now teaching primary prep; she also serves on AMC's Academic Policy Committee (APC) as the board's Chairperson. When Mrs. Maynard isn't teaching, you can find her boating, fishing the rivers, riding her snowmachine, walking her dogs or spending time in her greenhouse.



Mrs. Carol Drake was born in Phoenix, Arizona. Her father was in the Army and her family traveled and moved frequently. Mrs. Drake attended 14 schools between first and ninth grades and spent much of her childhood in the south and pacific northwest. Mrs. Drake attended high school in Centralia Washington and went to college in Seattle. Her first career was in health administration, and her first job after graduating was at the Public Health Service Hospital in Kotzebue, Alaska, where she met and married her husband of 36 years, Mr. Drake. They moved to the Mat-Su Valley in 1989 and Mrs. Drake worked at a behavioral health hospital in Anchorage. While working there, Mrs. Drake participated in Junior Achievement working with elementary students. She decided to return to school and become a teacher. Her first teaching job was at Big Lake Elementary teaching technology. She then spent 4 years working at SeeUOnline, a new program in the Mat-Su Valley integrating on-line and in-person schooling. Mrs. Drake really preferred seeing students daily, so when the opportunity to teach at the first alternative middle school in the Valley, MidValley High School, Mrs. Drake jumped at the chance. MidValley later became American Charter Academy, and Mrs. Drake is in her 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at this school because it allows her to teach science in a hands-on manner and to do place-based education. Mrs. Drake loves American Charter Academy and its students. Her hobbies outside of school include photography, fostering cats and kittens, riding her side-by-side and spending time in Alaska's wilderness with her husband.