

Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School Information Packet Index

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Fronteras Staff

Jennifer Schmidt-Hutchins, Principal
Solveig Eidsness, Administrative Secretary
Shawn Sasser, Secretary 1
Kami Koecher, Secretary 1
Yeimy Francisco, Language Acquisition Tutor K-8
Hector Pantoja, Language Acquisition Tutor K-8
Sheila Smith, Language Acquisition Tutor 4-8th
Jill Bang, Tutor Advisor
Colene Mead, Art
Tyler Desjarlais, Music
Hyrum Neilson, P.E.
Philippe Onfray, Kindergarten
Cassie Husmann, Kindergarten
Natalie Martinez, 1st Grade
Jen Rene'e, 1st Grade
Elizabeth Morey, 2nd/3rd Grade
Mayra Cabret, 2nd/3rd Grade
Amanda Strickler, 2nd/3rd Grade
Omaira Rivera, 2nd/3rd Grade
Sandra Page Carranza, 4th/5th Grade
Nerissa Torres, 4th/5th Grade
Danae Rudd, 4th/5th Grade
J.D. McBride, 6th Grade
Brittany Pierce, 7th Grade
Sonya Cook, 8th Grade
Rebecca Lyrenmann, Speech
Shannon Isley, School Psychologist
Jenny Nugent, Occupational Therapist
Gwen Schneider, Special Education
Melonna Miles, Recess/Lunch Supervisor
Kenda Kline, Recess/Lunch Supervisor
Renee' Fink, Recess/Lunch Supervisor
Charles Ward, Recess/Lunch Supervisor
Natalie Shier, Recess/Lunch Supervisor
Lynda Denny, Recess/Lunch Supervisor
Dalayon Miles, Recess/Lunch Supervisor
MaryCarmen Hernandez & Alan Figon, Custodians

Additional Instructional Support Staff Fronteras provides students with additional academic and language support in the classroom and in small group settings. This additional support is designed to meet a student's learning style and skill level. It is our goal to meet each child's needs and to keep them challenged in both their Spanish and English academics.

First Day of Instruction for grades 1st through 8th is Thursday, August 16th. School begins at 8:00am. Students are dismissed at 2:35pm.

Open House During the Open House, families meet staff, visit classrooms, and get the rundown on important school items.

Arrival Times and Pick Up Times All grades K-8 begin class at 8:00a.m. Students may arrive at 7:45a.m. Pick up is at 2:35p.m. Picking up your child(ren) on time is very important. We realize occasional situations occur in which you might run late. Please make every effort to be on time.

Dropping Off Items or Picking Your Child Up Early We understand lunches, homework, snow pants, etc. are often left behind. If you need to bring something to your child, please bring the item(s) to the front desk. We will make certain your child receives the item as soon as an instruction break occurs. It is our goal to minimize classroom interruptions. If you need to pick your child up early, please allow a few extra minutes for your child to come from the classroom with their belongings. We will call your student to the front desk as soon as you arrive. You will need to sign your child out prior to leaving. Please do not go to the classroom prior to regular dismissal unless you are volunteering for the day. We feel every minute of instruction time is precious and we know you do too.

Parents/Visitors It is MSB School District policy that all visitors and guests sign in at the front desk prior to going to the classroom. You will be given a guest sticker to wear. If you do not have a sticker or it is not visible, a staff member may ask you to sign in. This is to protect our students, staff, and all visitors. As a visitor, confidential information comes in many forms. All education materials are confidential by Alaska statute. Non-staff individuals may not have access to areas where these materials are kept, such as: desks, file cabinets, work tables, etc.

Kindergarten Roll-In Kindergarten Roll-In is Thursday, August 16th through Wednesday, August 22nd. First day for full Kindergarten is Thursday, August 23rd. School begins at 8:00am. Students are dismissed at 2:35pm.

Kindergarten Roll-In is designed to provide our Kindergarten teachers time to meet individually with parents and students for a brief orientation and completion of the assessment profile for each student. The Developmental Profile is required by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. This scheduled time allows interaction with the students, both one-on-one, and in small groups. Our teachers will use this time to compile information and make decisions on the appropriate instructional level of each student. The information obtained during the Roll-In will provide a baseline for instruction and be used to determine grouping for various academic areas. The goal is to develop and establish a positive partnership between the home and school, with an easy transition into Kindergarten while developing learning plans that are tailored specifically to make certain each child will be challenged and successful.

Professional Development Days There are five (5) district professional development days during the school year after students begin. In order to better meet the goals for Fronteras' English and Spanish curriculums, we have incorporated additional professional development opportunities by way of early release the first Friday of some of the months. See 2018-19 school calendar on website for early release dates. Early release pick up time is 12:30p.m.

Cancellation of School Due to Weather or Disaster The local radio stations announce the closure of Mat-Su schools. The Superintendent, along with the recommendation from the Troopers, makes the decision whether or not there will be school closures due to weather. The school district will also send out an Ed-Connect message notifying families of the closure.

Room Parent Information – Responsibilities and Job Description There are two room parents for each classroom. Being a room parent is a very important and vital responsibility at Fronteras. If you would like to be a room parent, please contact Misty Adams at: mistysue39@gmail.com You must attend the Room Parent Meeting (TBA). We really count on the room parents to help with the communication and activity planning. The two room parents divide up the tasks however they choose. We strongly recommend that you designate other parents in the class to help with the various activities, and any other special events that may occur throughout the school year.

Does this mean the room parent has to do all of the above tasks by themselves? No. Room parents are the organizers and taskmasters. Some room parents choose to do most of the games themselves, others ask parents in the class to help. Most parents are glad to help if they're asked or designated to do something specific. It will take the room parent to call and get the other classroom parents involved and organized. This can be a really fun job and it is a very important one!

Amigos This volunteer group works to provide special events and activities as well as assist with all school functions as needed. Amigos is responsible for sending out mass email notices regarding upcoming events and special dates to remember. There are times when it will be necessary to send out multiple emails in a day asking for immediate help or reminders for next day events. We do our best to be as efficient as possible, but as with life, things come up that we cannot control. We ask for your patience and understanding. Misty Adams will invite all interested folks to attend the first meeting and subsequent meetings will be scheduled thereafter.

Logging Your Volunteer Hours This process is simple and totally based on the honor system. Simply pick up the Volunteer Log Book at the front desk. Find your child's name and write down your hours. If you are a stay at home type of person or limited to your home due to younger children, signing up as a room parent that makes calls in the evening is a great way to get hours. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, everyone is welcome to fulfill the 36 volunteer hours.

A great time to come in and help is during lunch. Extra folks helping during lunch ensures that students are assisted more quickly and the overall safety increases. Reading a story aloud is another great way to help! However, we do ask that when you volunteer in our classrooms that you do not bring younger siblings. The focus must be on our enrolled students. One day your younger child will be our student and we will have the same expectation in their classroom.

Early Release Days Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School will release all students at 12:30p.m. The first early release Friday is September 7, 2018. There are a total of five (5) early release Fridays. These occur in September, October, February, April, and May. Early release days are designed to allow the staff to work cooperatively on unit projects as well as be trained in specific professional areas. Bus service for students will still be available on all early release days. However, the bus **does not** drop students off at Boys and Girls Club on early release days.

Traditional Parties - All dates and participating grades announced by classroom teacher(s)

Halloween (October)

Family Feast (November)

Pajama Day (December)

Valentine's Day (February)

Dr. Seuss Day (March)

Student Conferences Student/Parent/Teacher conferences are held in November and February this school year. These conferences allow the student to share, along with the teacher's guidance and encouragement, progress and achievements. The classroom teacher will arrange conference times and attempt to accommodate everyone's busy schedules. Please make certain to bring your child with you to the conference in February.

Report Cards Fronteras' report card is based on standards and goals set for the curriculum. The report card is the formal record of your student's progress and achievements in regard to state standards and benchmarks.

Bi-Weekly Newsletters The school newsletter is an important tool in communicating events, activities, and classroom projects/lessons. The newsletter is electronic and is emailed every other Friday afternoon. Please read the newsletter for important announcements, information, and celebrations.

Fund Raising There are various fundraising events that occur throughout the school year. Fundraising ranges from classroom and/or grade level to school wide benefits. All fundraising suggestions will be forwarded to the APC Board for determination.

Field Trips Our field trips are planned specifically to fulfill the curriculum and learning goals for our school. Strong social skills are an important part of our school culture, and field trips are a great way for real life teaching and learning to occur. Not every grade level will necessarily go on a field trip during the school year. Field trips are designated for students enrolled in that grade level.

Money and Permission Slips All field trip permission slips are turned into the front office. Fees associated with the field trip can be paid via credit card through Schoolcash Online or a check or cash can be turned into the front office. Additional permission slip are available on the website.

Outdoor Clothing Per MSBSD policy, our students go outside for recess unless it is -10 degrees or colder. Students need hats, gloves, boots, snow pants/suit, and a warm coat every day once it snows. Thank you for keeping your child safe and warm.

Academic Policy Committee Academic Policy Committee meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of most months at 6:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

APC Executive Board Members

Chair - Heather Charton

V. Chair - Philippe Onfray

Secreatry - Jody Soeder

Treasurer - Misty Adams

Lunches Please remember to send your child with a cold lunch or items that heat quickly and easily. Keep in mind that heated food must cool before it can be eaten which cuts into the 30 minute lunch period. We request that foods such as Top Ramen be prepared ahead of time and put in a Thermos. Please do not send soda in lunches or for snack.

Checking Your Child's Progress

iParent (online grade book)

We cannot stress enough the importance of checking *iParent*, the online grade book that you check from home or work. *iParent* will show your child's weekly work, test results, work habits, and missing work. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to use one at the school to access your child's information. As there is a direct correlation with class work completion and learning, please make every effort to check *iParent* a couple of times a week to monitor that your child has successfully completed and turned in all of his/her work. Thank you for your constant support and effort in following up *with your child* regarding their missing work.

Missing Work Due to Illness If a student is absent due to illness, the student has the number of days absent to complete the missed work and turn it in without being considered late.

Example: two days out sick = two school days to complete and turn in missed work.

Middle School (6-8 grades) Assignment Policies This policy differs from the elementary grades and is explained during the Open House.

Afterschool Clubs There are many opportunities each quarter for students to participate in various clubs for a 60 min. period immediately following their school day. Notification of enrollment periods will be advertised. Parents are responsible for picking their participating child(ren) up immediately after the club ends. **Siblings not enrolled in an after school club may not stay after school. They must be picked up at dismissal time.** Contact Jen Manion with questions at: jen.manion.svg8@statefarm.com

In the Event of an Emergency Evacuation of Our School Career Technical High School is our emergency evacuation destination. Each school in the district is required to perform specific safety drills. These include: monthly fire drills, bomb threat, earthquake, and ALICE (formerly known as Lockdown). Keeping with district policy, Fronteras has an Emergency Operations Plan with an Incident Command Structure. In the event of such an emergency (which would require our own facility to be determined as unsafe), we will evacuate to Career Tech High School and the Emergency Plan would be put into effect.

Fronteras Clothing Fronteras Spirit Gear is for sale periodically throughout the school year. Misty Adams will provide information early and often as clothing options become available. Students are encouraged to wear Fronteras clothing any day of the week, but especially while on field trips. The signature black, gold, and red colors make the students easily identifiable.

Volunteer Hours Each family is asked to complete 36 hours (4 hrs./month) of volunteer time. This time can be completed on and/or off campus. Shoveling snow, grading papers, driving for field trips, assisting students and teachers in class, sitting on volunteer committees, etc. are all ways in which volunteer hours can be fulfilled. Family members are welcome to complete the hours as well.

Library Fronteras' library is open daily to students and guests. We are always looking for parents and/or other adult family members to volunteer their time to assist students locate and check out books, shelve returned books, and read aloud to our primary grade students. Please email parent Jody Soeder at babybird@mtaonline.net if you are interested in volunteering in our library.

Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School - Preparing Students for a Diverse Society

Dear Families,

I hope you all enjoyed an exciting summer! As you can see by the statement above, our focus is to provide an education that supports current learning trends and challenges in order to enhance future opportunities. We believe it is never too early to begin preparing students for a prosperous future. Whether students are college bound or trade bound - being employable is key. Again, our goal at Fronteras is to prepare our students for a successful future. That means they must be equipped with the skills necessary for the challenge of a competitive job market. We strive to offer our students all the advantages that are within our ability.

At Fronteras we take the time to learn each student's strengths and work to eliminate weaknesses. We celebrate successes and encourage constant improvement. We value hard work, good attendance, cooperation, positive attitudes, and helpfulness. Our students are encouraged to demonstrate **RISE** behaviors in and out of school. These behaviors include: showing **R**espect, having **I**ntegrity, being **S**elf-Disciplined, and being **E**ngaged in one's own education.

While our students are taught academics in both English and Spanish, we rely on the home for extra support and encouragement as needed. We view education as a team approach, and it is our goal to help our students understand that hard work is the key to success. We expect students to take pride in their work and give their best effort with each assignment and project.

It is through the strength and intellect of the group that we maintain our highest standards of education and decision making. Methodology and teaching curriculum are continually discussed, debated, and argued. After all is said and done, we remain professional colleagues in all respects. We welcome new ideas and new approaches. Every decision made is based on what is good for student learning. Your child's education comes first.

Looking forward to a fabulous school year!

Most Sincerely,

Jennifer Schmidt-Hutchins