

HAWK PRIDE

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Houston High School

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank You and Welcome Back

Thank you for another wonderful semester with your children. A lot has happened in the last few months that is worth celebrating and we would like to share a few of those things with you.

Your child's teachers have been working tirelessly to make this the best place in the valley to go to school. We are not flawless, of course, but as a veteran educator, I can tell you that the staff here at Houston is second-to-none. Their passion and concern for the future of your child is extraordinary and it is a pleasure to work with them each day.

IMPORTANT LINKS

We would also like to make you aware of some important information that you can access on the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development web site.

This link will give you the most up to date Report Card to the Public for Houston High School.

<https://education.alaska.gov/ReportCardToThePublic/Report/2015-2016/33/330250>

Link to Video explaining the importance of PEAK's testing in the spring.

<https://vimeo.com/193465985>

Link to everything your child's teachers know about PEAK's preparation.

<https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>

“The important thing is to strive towards a goal whis is not immediately visible. That goal is not the concern of the mind, but of the spirit.”

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Coffee Conversations

We started Coffee Conversations on the first Monday of each month this year. We really appreciate those of you who have joined us for those events and we would love for you to continue to do so. We plan to be more direct in our agenda this next semester.

Please let us know if you would like to be part of that group or if there are things you'd like to have us address as a school during that time.

MAP GOAL AND PEAK'S

Every year, every semester, every day at Houston, our greatest purpose is student growth. We are able to measure that growth in various ways throughout the year through observations, conversations, assessments and even state and national standardized tests.

We set a lofty goal this year to increase our MAP achievement data in every area by 90%, meaning that 90% of our students would reach their target growth goal. We have not yet met that goal, but we are well on our way.

Our winter 2017-18 growth shows that our 9th grade students **exceeded their projected math** growth by 3.1 points and the 10th grade broke even. In **reading the 9th grade again exceeded** by 2.5 points and the 10 grade by .8. In Language usage the 9th grade broke even and our 19th grade exceeded by .3.

This might not seem like a lot, but the way the points are calculated the average yearly growth is only a few points. For our kids to be EXCEEDING the projected growth at all is significant and worth celebration.

What made this possible? Your children and HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS. The teachers have been relentless in their expectations for students and have been encouraging them daily to do their very best.

We entered the year with some discouraging PEAK's data in front of us but the staff took it as a challenge to show the community that those scores were not an accurate indicator of the level of student Houston was producing. MAP tests are very similar to the PEAK's tests the students will take this spring.

If you have a 9th grade student here at Houston, it is incredibly important that he or she take the PEAK's test and that they do their very best. We appreciate the work your children are doing and we plan to continue and support them in every way.

Thank you for an awesome first semester. We appreciate your commitment and support.

HONESTY ATTITUDE, WORK ETHIC, KNOWLEDGE, SUCCESS