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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# NEWS RELEASE

## *Homer Middle School achieves 2018 National Blue Ribbon School recognition*

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**“It is with great pride for Homer Middle School to be recognized as a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Students, staff, parents, and the community of Homer are all responsible for this extraordinary achievement. This accomplishment is a result of support, hard work and dedication to high academic expectations that makes Homer Middle School one of the best schools in the Great State of Alaska.”** –Kari Dendurent, Homer Middle School principal

"Congratulations on your students' accomplishments and for your extraordinary commitment to meeting their unique needs," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in an October 1, 2018, [video message announcing the awardees](#). "We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives." Homer Middle School is a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School, based on overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

One of three schools in Alaska to receive this distinguished honor in 2018, Homer Middle School, in Homer, Alaska, joins ten other schools in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) to achieve the National Blue Ribbon excellence designation. Nationwide, 349 schools are honored with 2018 National Blue Ribbon School recognition.

"I am very proud of the effort our staff and students put in at Homer Middle School," said Sean Dusek, superintendent. "This is a very well deserved award that exemplifies what is happening around KPBSD. Congratulations Homer Middle School! Great job and I look forward to many more years of great leadership, excellent instruction, and significant student learning growth."



"These three diverse Alaskan schools are excellent examples of educational communities coming together to support all students, every day," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. "I am pleased that Homer Middle School, Pioneer Peak Elementary School and, for the second time, Stellar Secondary School are being recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools. Congratulations to the students, staff, and families of these schools. Alaska is very proud of you!"

**KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

**The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.**  
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM  
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

**FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 1, 2018**

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The U.S. Department of Education will honor the 300 public and 49 private schools at a recognition ceremony on November 7-8, 2018, in Washington, D.C.



## Homer Middle School

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U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School 2018

**Links:**

- 2018 National Blue Ribbon School announcement from U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos
- National Blue Ribbon Schools Program: [Homer Middle School, 2018 National Blue Ribbon School](#)
- Facebook: [Homer Middle School](#)
- [National Blue Ribbon School Program](#)
- <https://nationalblueribbonsschools.ed.gov/>

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