

McNeil Canyon Elementary: Academic Results Outdoor Programs Community Strength

Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board
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A "Typical Winter Day"

Building Student Engagement:

Students learn in a place where outdoor learning is part of the school's identity

- Outdoor learning on a teaching deck while squirrels chatter in the spruces
- Ice rink skate blades carve swirls across the ice, hockey stops, toe picks and laughter are common sounds
- Nordic skiers cruise 35K of volunteer kept trails as part of training and fitness
- Biathlon program allows students the opportunity to combine endurance skiing with marksmanship practice at our nearby range...watch out Olympics
- Football games-organized by students where ungloved hands make great catches

These programs support school connection, student motivation and healthy habits while keeping McNeil memorable and a one-of-a-kind school

Strong Academics First: High Expectations + Curriculum Fidelity

Before students go to the rink or trails they are fully engaged in classrooms where academic expectations are rigorous and success is the standard

Teachers use Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) with fidelity: meaning they consistently teach it as designed across all classrooms

The school's work reflects state and district initiatives focused on achievement and readiness

How progress is tracked

- MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) tracks student growth over time
- mCLASS early literacy assessment used K–5 to monitor reading skills
- AK STAR Alaska's statewide assessment measuring learning and growth

Measurable Achievement: Assessment Data Highlights

MAPS Reading

- 81st percentile nationally in reading achievement
- 49% of students scoring above grade level

MAPS Math

- 71st percentile nationally in math
- 35% of students scoring above grade level

MAPS Language Usage

- 80th percentile nationally in language usage
- 47% of students scoring above grade level

mCLASS (K–5 reading)

- 81% proficient or above grade level
- Compared to 55% nationally and 56% district-wide

AK STAR growth

- 80% of students showed growth in math
- 73% of students showed growth in language arts

This reflects the Governor's call to strategically allocate resources to promote student achievement and prepare students for success in school and beyond

Beyond Test Scores: Literacy Culture, Staff Strength, and Family Partnership

Engaged learners (evidence of a reading culture)

- McNeil library ranks 3rd in total book checkouts among all district schools
- Battle of the Books: Out of 27 districtwide 3rd/4th grade teams McNeil placed two teams in the top ten including one team in 2nd place behind Aurora Borealis Charter School

Teacher retention and stability (why consistency matters)

- 71% of staff are current or former McNeil parents
- 19% of staff are McNeil alumni
- 53% of staff have served at McNeil for at least 10 years
- 81% of staff have worked in the district for at least 7 years
- A founding member of McNeil is still teaching here

Family-supported enrichment (some examples)

- Quest enrichment for qualifying students
- K–3 swim lessons
- Multi-step project-based art instruction
- School musical, talent show are annual events
- Extracurriculars: skiing, skating, biathlon, chess, archery, basketball, and drama

Enrollment Stability + Request to the Board

KPBSD District projections show steady enrollment for the next five years

Recent census data indicates a 16% population increase in McNeil's service area suggesting projections may be conservative

School choice demand

- Many families relocate due to McNeil's academic performance, art/music integration and programming
- 13% of students travel from outside the attendance area because McNeil aligns with their family values and student needs

McNeil Canyon Elementary School request of the KPBSD Board

- Recognize McNeil's exceptional performance in academics and community engagement
- Support McNeil's role as a mentor school within the district