

# Taku Elementary School 2007-2008



Taku Elementary provides a welcoming, safe and positive K-6 environment for instruction. We focus on the acquisition of essential academic skills. We have classroom teachers; music, art, library and PE teachers; and two bilingual tutors. We also added a Health/Social-Emotional Learning teacher this year. Other services provided at the school include a school psychologist, speech, occupational and physical therapy, band and orchestra.

Taku is a Title I school. It hosts the On Target program in collaboration with South Central Counseling Center. Taku is home to a 21st Century after-school program, and is fortunate to have an active PTA. We work together for the benefit of all students, providing many enriching experiences. With UAA and other Alaska schools as our partners, Taku provides professional development through the Alaska Innovative Network. Effective staff development is emphasized, driven by data on student achievement, particularly in regard to our school goals. Taku is a host to interns in the UAA Elementary Education Program.

What was the focus of your AEIN work?

## **Professional development:**

*Through collaboration to increase student achievement in target area of math*

## **Data focus:**

*Data collection on GLEs in math, to be applied towards the creation of collaborative instruction models to increase student achievement.*

An in-service was devoted to our initial goal of reading and math. We began by graphing student data and pinpointing target areas.

Then teachers chose below proficient students (slightly below) and in collaborative grade level groups chose GLEs to track for those students in the target areas of reading and math.

Then we designated one staff meeting a month for reading and one per month for math collaborative times, to reflect on data gained and share teaching strategies...

Soon we realized we were overzealous in our goals and narrowed our focus to math. We also realized reading is covered through the implementation of HM with the assistance of a CORE consultant.



What are you learning...

Designated, focused time for teacher collaboration is beneficial and essential. It is also difficult to provide, with all the other services our staff offers and programs run at Taku. We know this from teacher feedback.

We need to do more consolidating of the wide variety of input and programs we utilize (such as using AEIN knowledge to work with 21st century). To combine collaboration groups for CORE, ASD resource, AEIN, etc. To combine the knowledge in all these individual efforts and then filter that info to the staff. To find a retreat setting in which to do this, so that teams are not drained. To use this knowledge effectively, without creating staff burnout. We want to help a staff that works very hard, and is stretched.

Who is Involved?

Entire staff, including Bilingual, Title 1, SpEd resource, Indian Ed, Speech and language, ASD math specialists, CORE consultant, district technology (Larson Math, Lexia, Ellis).



What further questions does your work pose? What are you excited to pursue more deeply?

*Math Network (Illuminate)*

*(Finding other schools with schedules that will fit, funding for technology)*

*Working with collaboratively with 21st century to increase enrichment activities and provide more data driven skill focused instruction after school.*

