

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How does Fireweed Academy differ from other schools?

A: We have a limited number students and have a low pupil to teacher ratio, 18:1. We have multi-age classes with dynamic cooperative groups. Students are placed with the same teachers and students for several years. We use alternative methods and curricula.

Q: Does it cost to attend Fireweed Academy?

A: There is no tuition at Fireweed Academy. It is a public school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Q: What about scheduling and bus-ing?

A: We use the same district calendar and bus service so siblings are on the same schedule and bus.



*Face painting
at the May Day
celebration*

Visit our school at:
www.schools.kpbsd.org/fireweed

Kenai Peninsula
Borough School
District

FIREWEED ACADEMY

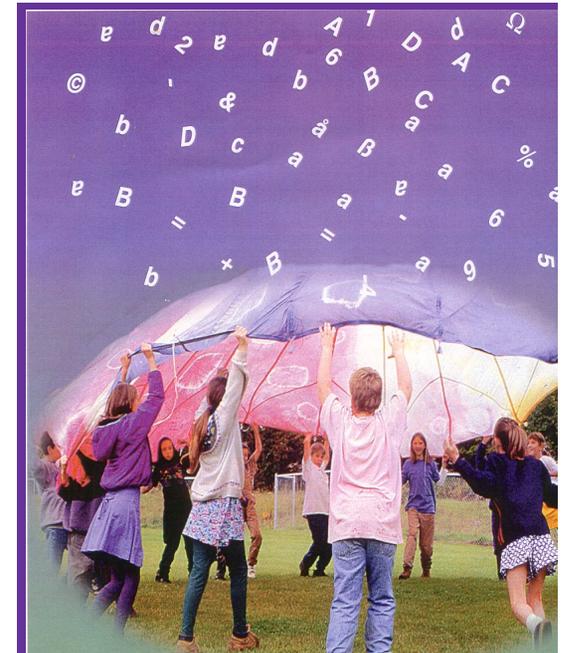
Our Mission Statement

To provide a compassionate learning environment that gives students, parents, teachers, and community members opportunities to develop: Self-reliance, cooperation, creativity, reasoning ability, personal growth and academic achievement.

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Kenai Peninsula Borough School District FIREWEED ACADEMY

An alternative public charter school



*Where students learn to view
themselves as readers, writers,
and problem solvers.*

Fireweed Academy

An alternative public charter school founded in 1997

Fireweed Academy, formerly the Homer Charter School, was founded in 1997 by parents just like you, by teachers in our community, and by members of the community who want the Homer area to have choices in educational opportunities. Although members of the public sometimes mistake it for a private school, it enjoys public funding just like other public schools, its teachers must meet state certification standards, and its students undergo the same standardized testing.

On the other hand, Fireweed Academy is operated by an Academic Policy Committee. Even though we are required to address state standards and meet state benchmarks, we have a flexibility that allows us to set our own goals and use alternative resources, methods and assessments.



Dads and kids reading fairy tales

Among our Methods

Theme Immersion: Each quarter our students embark on an in depth study of a broad based theme. They generate essential questions to guide their study and all content is integrated into the theme. This interdisciplinary approach teaches students to think critically, solve problems and make connections.



Catie Bursch works with a student as the 5th/6th grade prepares to lead a Discovery Lab at Islands and Oceans

Authentic Experiences: Each week we strive to have a guest speaker, mentor or field trip to tie our study to real life experiences. Kids see that learning is real and purposeful.

Project/Problem based Learning: Through the theme immersion, students are given opportunities to use a variety of methods and learning styles to complete simple and complex projects and problems.

Socratic Seminars: Socrates taught us how to think by asking questions and listening to each other's responses. Students participate in formal discussion that develops their ability to cooperate, reason, and communicate.

Reading and Writing Process: We use a whole language approach to teach reading, writing, listening and speaking throughout our theme immersion studies.

Mathematics focuses on concept development, applications, and problem solving. The foundation is the Visual Math program, a stimulating and challenging math curriculum. Core skills and problem solving are an ongoing emphasis.

Integrated Arts: Movement, music and arts are all integrated through centers, projects, and whole group activities.

Sharlene Cline demonstrates Sumi Painting techniques.

