

Birchtree Parent Guild and Birchtree Charter School

7107 East Palmer Wasilla Highway, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Project Director: Susan McCauley * 907-735-1831 * susan.mccauley@matsuk12.us

Project Title: Birchtree Charter School Implementation Project

Birchtree's mission is to nurture and promote the development of healthy, responsible and creative human beings. Specially trained teachers use developmentally attuned approaches and the arts to encourage academic achievement, creativity, social intelligence and ecological awareness. The curriculum and grounding philosophy of the school is the internationally recognized Waldorf model. The focus of this innovative, standards based approach to education is on educating the whole child- intellectually, physically, and emotionally. Waldorf curriculum was developed out of the philosophy that in order to develop critical thinking, a child needs an active imagination. In providing a holistic learning environment based on developmentally appropriate instruction, all students can achieve and work to their maximum potential.

Project Objectives:

1. Maintain a culture of excellence and high expectations for all students.
2. Assure quality, Waldorf trained teachers in every classroom.
3. Promote parent involvement in and satisfaction with Birchtree Charter School.

Expected Outcomes:

1. All of Birchtree students will be proficient or advanced proficient on Alaska Standard Based Assessments and find their schooling experiences meaningful.
2. All of Birchtree's teachers will receive a Waldorf Certification.
3. Birchtree's parents will be actively involved in the school, performing 36 hours of volunteer service each year, attend school related functions, and feel satisfied with their experiences with Birchtree.

Birchtree's Project establishes a high quality charter school in which students will realize their fullest potential.