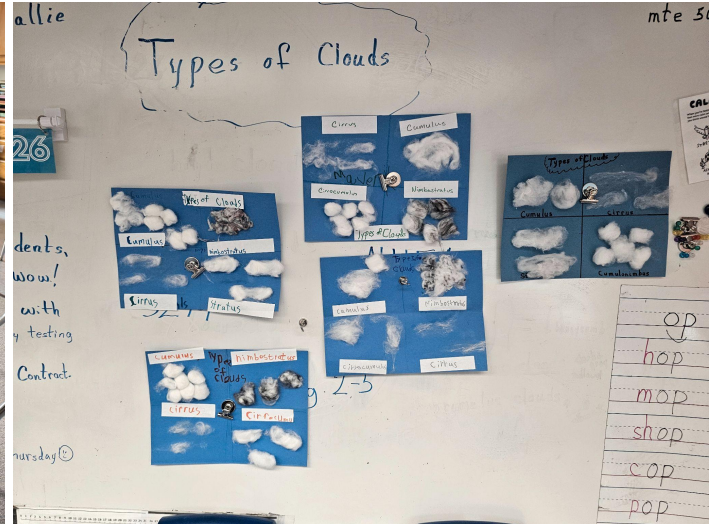


Site Report – Meshik – September, 2026

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: JW Newton, Principal

Photos & Description of Activities and Events



Personnel Update

Teachers:

K-3 Linda Gies (Returning veteran teacher)

4-5 Callie Gates (First year teacher)

6-12 JW Newton (Fourth year teacher currently serving as Principal, Student Government/School Store Coordinator and community Emergency Medical Responder)

Seth Wilsoncroft - Student Teacher with an emphasis on Social Studies (6-12). Seth will also coach cross country and volleyball in addition to monitoring Night Gym.

Classified:

We recently hired Nadia O'Domin as custodian. She is scheduled to start Monday, September 21.

All other classified positions remain unfilled, including cook. Teachers are currently fulfilling these important and time consuming obligations.

Classroom Highlights

Linda Gies and Callie Gates are spearheading our elementary efforts. Elementary students are strengthening early reading and writing skills through CKLA curriculum, using hands-on activities to explore earth science concepts (clouds this week), developing positive classroom routines and encouraging collaboration across all elementary grade levels.

Middle and High School students are focused on a variety of topics and interests. Several students are also engaged with distance courses and Amplify Tutoring. Secondary students are engaged with distance courses addressing Math and ELA. Current classroom instruction includes Alaska History, World History/International Relations, and Biology, in addition to Technology and Cultural Awareness. Students are also engaged in all aspects of our school store and fund raising activities.

LSAC Activity

LSAC members are very active in the school community. We have not scheduled our first meeting. However, Meshik staff and students appreciate the guidance and support to Meshik School whenever it is needed.

Community Engagement

Meshik hosted a potluck and community discussion on Thursday, September 10. The event was very well attended by students and community members. We had very thoughtful and productive discussions about our school vision, staffing concerns and future plans for activities focused on bringing our southern schools together.

Callie Gates, our new elementary teacher, is also a linguist focused on language revitalization. She has initiated the Alutiiq Language Club for students and community members. The first meeting is currently being planned.

Professional Development

JW Newton is enrolled in the University of Alaska's Educational Leadership graduate program.

Pupil % Attendance K-12

Meshik School's current total enrollment is at 19 students.

Student and Staff Safety

Our school playground was recently removed due to safety concerns. We appreciate the skilled help from Micarlo Christensen and Radley Christensen.



Other

Meshik School would like to thank the Village of Port Heiden for assisting with our efforts to hire and retain classified staff and supporting our school lunch program.

Beginning this Fall 2026 Meshik and Newhalen students will begin a two year collaborative project led by Appalachian State University. The project is titled "The Empathic Planet: Harnessing Immersive 360° Videos to Amplify Environmental Awareness & Engagement in Youth" and will also include schools from North Carolina and South Carolina.