

SiteReport–Chignik Lake–September, 2026

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Shakim Blackwell, Principal

Photos & Description of Activities and Events



Personnel Update

New Staff

Shakim Blackwell, Principal
Isabela Bodily, Lower Elementary Teacher
Jana Ewing, Upper Elementary Teacher
Kathy Freeman, Itinerant SPED Teacher
Jordan Branca, Student Teacher for Secondary

Returning Staff

Diana Hejtmanek, Secondary and Head Teacher
Nina Garner, Preschool Teacher
Inez O'Domin, Cook
Myra Constantine, Custodian



Classroom Highlights

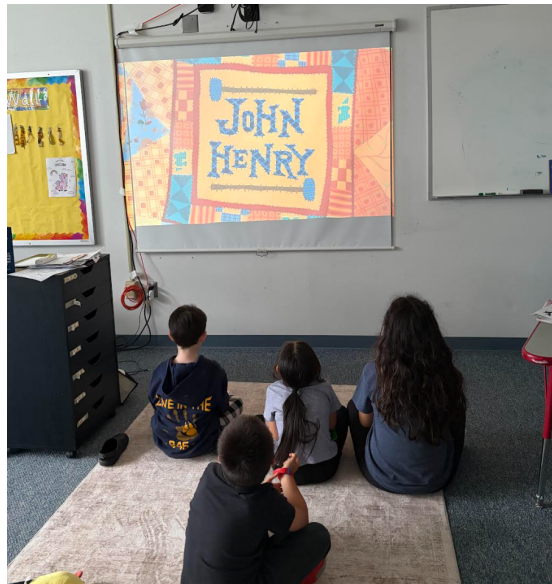
Elementary

The elementary students have started very strong! As everyone gets comfortable with each other, our routines have really impacted our classroom mood. I am so excited to begin my first year teaching in such a beautiful place with wonderful students.

We have been gauging standards and reviewing skills and standards learned last year, tying them into what we are learning now. We are currently in our Fairy Tales and Tall Tales unit for knowledge. The class really enjoyed the story of John Henry that was included, as well as the short film they saw about his life story. The students are loving the stories that come with the new ELA curriculum. CKLA has been a wonderful tool in the classroom, and I am excited to see the results it gives at the end of the school year.

Students are also learning about the plant cycle and the importance of caring for our planet. They made nature bracelets while observing different stages of the plant cycle, had so much fun, and cleaned up the school playground as a way to give back.

We are off to a great start!



Secondary

We are off to a wonderful start to the school year! The students have been excited and engaged as they settle into their classes and begin the year with a positive outlook.

During these first few weeks in our science classes, students have been preparing for their upcoming Physical Science coursework by participating in a variety of hands-on measurement activities. They have practiced measuring in several different ways, including using water displacement, weighing

objects with a triple-beam balance, and calculating speed. These activities have allowed students to apply scientific concepts in a practical, engaging way.

Our class is also working on individual projects inspired by our summer trip to Hawai'i. Students are developing projects that highlight their experiences and what they learned during our time on O'ahu. We are looking forward to putting together a community night where students can share not only the highlights of our trip, but also the different cultures, perspectives, and ideas they encountered and learned about while in Hawai'i.

The students have also really enjoyed having our student teacher, Jordan Branca, in the classroom. Jordan has quickly become a wonderful addition to our school community, and the students have appreciated getting to know him and learn from him. He has been teaching our History and Social Studies classes, giving students another opportunity to engage with the material through a fresh perspective and teaching style. The students have responded very positively to having him lead their classes, and it has been exciting to see them build a strong rapport with him. We are grateful to have Jordan with us and look forward to all that he will contribute throughout the remainder of the school year.

LSAC Activity

Our first meeting took place on September 8, 2026.

Members:

- Seat A: Vacant
- Seat B: Vacant
- Seat C: Nina Garner
- Seat D: Vacant
- Seat E: Miranda Lind

We want to thank Marty Takak and Mary Isaac for their service on the Chignik Lake School Board! However, we did not have enough members to form a quorum, so this became an informational session. We are currently looking to fill the vacant positions.

Community Engagement

Parents joined us for a school roundtable to discuss our school improvement plans and share ideas for family engagement, including events and other ways families can take a more active role in our school.

Professional Development

We started the year with New Teacher In-Service to help our new staff get settled and ready for the year. Our regular in-services have also given teachers time to prepare, work together, and get ready for students. Thanks to everyone who helped put it all together!



In addition, staff met in Anchorage to discuss the school improvement process and new math curriculum. We also visited the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School to observe how they integrate Elders, culture bearers, and culturally responsive teaching into their routines.

Pupil Overall Enrollment Number and % Attendance # K-12

We have 5 Pre-K students and 19 students enrolled in K-12. We have had a roughly 90% attendance rate to date.

Student and Staff Safety

Staff attended the FY27 Alaska School Safety & Well-Being Summit, where we learned new ideas and strategies for creating safer, more supportive schools for our students and staff.

Other

