

Site Report – Newhalen – October, 2021

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke and LPSD School Board Members	From: Ed Lester, Principal and Evelynn Trefon, Administrative Assistant
Outstanding Activities and Events	
<p>Newhalen School opened its doors on September 7 to staff and students. We were able to offer 7 whole class days before we had to close our doors to a community wide COVID outbreak. At the peak of the outbreak, there were 73 active cases of COVID in Iliamna/Newhalen. We were able to offer two weeks of homebound education due a community wide outbreak of COVID-19. Staff did an outstanding job supporting students and each other during this difficult time.</p> <p>Before we had to close, part of our cross country team was able to travel to Anchorage/Wasilla for a cross country event. We are grateful many runners were able to travel for regionals in Igiugig on October 2. We had two students, Kaleigh and Aileen, who qualified for state. They head to Anchorage on 10/8 to compete.</p> <p>Volleyball and wrestling practice has begun.</p>	
Personnel	
<p>We are happy to have Mr. Nathan Knickerbocker from New York here as a student teacher. He is doing a wonderful job and has jumped right into the classroom. We have hired 2 instructional aides, Mr. Nathan John and Mr. Henry Olympic. Mrs. Tracy Askoak has moved from PE Aide to Instructional Aide as well. They are/will all make a great addition to that team. Ms. Ayla Rickteroff has joined our team as PE Aide. Miss Leah was highered as the Newhalen School Mix 6 volleyball coach.</p>	
Standards Based System/Curriculum Progress	
<p>Teachers have been working hard and collaborating to help students progress the standards. Teachers have been focused to support students despite the struggles with attendance and in person learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We closed the school during MAPS testing week and are diligently working to get them completed this week. We are having parent teacher conferences</p>	
Technology Progress	
<p>We continue to try to work on ways to make our internet be the most effective for teaching and learning. DRS and the IT tech department are good resources to check on our continual slow internet. With around 150 devices on the network at a time (students and staff) we often have buffering issues and lags. We do not allow students to have their phones connected to the school internet.</p>	
Facility Update	
<p>With the support of Tim McDermott we have been able to maintain the facility for students learning.</p>	
LSAC Activity	
<p>LSAC cancelled their meeting on September 20th due to COVID-19 community outbreak. Elections are taking place next week and an LSAC meeting will happen soon after that.</p>	
Volunteer Report	
<p>We have limited due to COVID. Volunteers at the Cross Country regionals in Igiugig were great.</p>	
Professional Development	
<p>We look forward to continuing utilizing our professional development time.</p>	
Pupil Attendance	

Pupil in-person attendance has been poor due to COVID in our community. Case counts are trending down here as well as Alaska and the US. We are hopeful this will continue to trend downward. We currently have 91 students enrolled (73 K-12 and 18 PreK). Due to COVID Closure, Preschool had their first day of school on October 4, 2021.

Student and Staff Safety

We have focused on safety talk on COVID restrictions and safety. To decrease transmission of COVID-19 at school a mask mandate has been put into place.

Subsistence Calendar

Due to the COVID outbreak, our students have much additional school students miss due to travel, etc. Many of our community members would like to see us transition back to a 170 day school year.

Other

Thank you for serving on the school board.