

Date: May 8, 2023

To: LPSD School Board

From: Kacy Lou Leyba on behalf of the LPSD Counseling Team

Regarding: April /May Counseling Report

As our school year has sped towards an end, both Stephen and I have been busy continuing to meet with students to discuss their post-secondary plans while also coordinating care with parents and Southcentral Foundation for those in need of ongoing mental health support throughout the summer. I have continually been impressed with our growing partnership with the SCF Behavioral Health team and local clinics (as the majority of the LPSD sites I work with are within the SCF boundary). I have also been incredibly grateful for their quick response and knowledge as we have navigated several behavioral health emergencies this month. Stephen flew to Kokhanok April 26th through the 28th to meet with students and staff following such events and we have continued to Zoom with several students in Kokhanok and at other affected sites to offer support, space to process, and coping strategies.

On a lighter note, I was able to personally fly to Nondalton for their graduation ceremony on the 21st to celebrate the three wonderful seniors I've had the privilege of working with this year. This was certainly a highlight of my spring. Another main highlight of both April and the school year was spending the week in Newhalen for this year's SNAP Meet. Our career fair went off without a hitch; this year we were able to bring in speakers from Lake Clark National Park, AlaskaWorks, the Department of Corrections, Tanalian Leadership Center's aviation program, the US Air Force, Lake & Peninsula Airlines, Bristol Bay Region CTE and Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Newhalen's Village Police Safety Officer, and Southcentral Foundation to speak with the students about a variety of career paths. The week of SNAP Meet, 25 sophomores and juniors also took part in the ASVAB test to begin assessing possible career paths in and outside of branches of the military. The counseling team was also excited to celebrate Jeanette Kalmakoff (Perryville) and Tatianna Anderson (Chignik Lagoon)'s induction into the National Honor Society the evening of Prom.

Following the SNAP Meet, Stephen had the opportunity to co-chaperoned the Perryville high school's class trip to Hawaii. He reported this being an excellent opportunity to continue to deepen relationships with our Perryville students while walking alongside them as they had new and exciting cultural and life experiences.

As we have begun to set program goals for FY24, we had the opportunity to meet with Amber Kresl and have begun to solidify official plans for social/ emotional learning support for all of our district's Pre-K students. The end of April also brought the release of this year's School Climate and Connectedness Survey results. I have spent the last several days combing over our district's collective data, as well as that of individual sites to see how we can best develop data-driven and specific counseling programming for students at each of our unique schools. One item to celebrate as I have begun my dive into this SCCS data is that by and large LPSD students express feeling seen and encouraged to do their very best by the LPSD team members in their spheres of influence.

I, personally, have been grateful for the feedback from the board regarding ideas for counseling lesson topics for next school year. If you have any questions or suggestions for how we can better

support students and build out program goals for this upcoming school year, please don't hesitate to reach out to us throughout the summer.

For the kids,
Kacy Lou Leyba