



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Report August 16, 2021 Sherry Becker, Superintendent

Vision: Students are equipped to realize their dreams and aspirations.

Mission: Together we will foster student skills to achieve their goals and adapt to an ever-changing world.



Summer Food Service Program:

Three SISD schools provided Summer Food Services Program (SFSP) for children 0-18

- Hollis School - daily breakfast and lunch provided for all children 0-18
- Thorne Bay School - daily breakfast and lunch provided for all children 0-18 - one pick-up per day (included both meals)
- Whale Pass School - weekly boxes - 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches for each child



Summer Classes/Activities:

Drone Pilot Training Intro

Matt Gore and Dr. Mark Standley held a Drone Pilot Training intro class for adults and another for students. Students and adults learned about the exciting opportunities that exist for anyone interested in working with drones as either a business, to assist in search and rescue activities, or just as a hobby. We are excited for the fall semester elective which will be focused on getting both students and adults licensed to fly drones. This license will prepare our students for employment worldwide!



Hollis Summer Camp

Under the leadership of Lisa Cates, Hollis School staff, students, and volunteers provided amazingly rich and engaging activities for Hollis youth this summer. It was a very well attended event and kept everyone very busy for weeks! The camp included activities like hiking, cooking, swimming, gardening, beachcombing, singing, an art show, homemade ice cream making, and autographed tie died shirts. I was given an autographed t-shirt and it will always be a favorite! Once the camp was finished, the Hollis Public Library held their annual reading camp which was a weekly event. It was amazing to see what the community of Hollis pulled together for their children this summer. Hopefully this can be done in other SISD communities in coming years.

Rifle & Shotgun Training:

John Stevens offered an NRA Basic Rifle Shooting Course. Course Description: This course teaches the basic knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for the safe use of a rifle in target shooting. Students learn NRA's rules for safe gun handling; rifle parts and operation; ammunition; shooting fundamentals; range rules; shooting from the bench rest, prone, sitting, standing, and kneeling positions; cleaning; and continued opportunities for skill development. Students will receive the Basics of Rifle Shooting handbook, NRA Gun Safety Rules brochure, Winchester/NRA Marksmanship

Qualification booklet, take a Basics of Rifle Shooting Student Examination, and receive a course completion certificate.

John Stevens also taught an NRA Basic Shotgun Shooting Course. Course Description: This course teaches the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude for the safe and proper use of a shotgun in shooting a moving target. Students learn NRA's rules for safe gun handling; shotgun parts and operation; shotgun shell components; shotgun shell malfunctions; shooting fundamentals; range rules; shooting at straight away and angled targets; cleaning; and continued opportunities for skill development. Students will receive the Basics of Shotgun Shooting handbook, NRA Gun Safety Rules brochure, Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification booklet, take a Basics of Shotgun Shooting Student Examination and receive a course completion certificate.

Beaver Fur Mitten Sewing:

Sharlet Collins taught a Beaver Fur Mitten Making class for students. Students used beaver pelts and cut in into mitten parts. The hand-sewed the fur parts to the leather, the fabric to the fabric, then to the fur and leather. Students learned about the Yup'ik culture and the importance of fur mitten making.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers that shared your time and your talents with SISD students, staff, and community members this summer!

Planning for 2021-22 School Year:

[Fall Inservice Agenda August 2021](#)

Fall 2021-22 Leadership Retreat - August 24 & 25 - All district lead teachers, admin and some of our department leaders.

SISD COVID Mitigation Plan DRAFT:

An End of Year Survey was given to all district stakeholders at the end of the 2020-21 school year. This feedback is incorporated in to the document linked below. A draft of the plan was sent out to distributed to stakeholders on July 12, 2021. A revised draft was distributed to all stakeholders on August 12, 2021, and another revision was distributed on August 14, 2021. All stakeholder input is included in the document linked below. A final draft incorporating as much stakeholder input as possible will be provided to the School Board for the Work Session scheduled for August 16, 2021 @ 4:30pm. The district administration asks that the School Board approve the draft including the revisions discussed at the Work Session during the regular Board meeting on the same day at 5:30pm.

Stakeholder Input - This is a live document and will be updated as more comments come in:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jw1onxx1nI8OqsP43BrRNzilsvK2v1YGaVfBrXPpUNA/edit?usp=sharing>

Staff Openings for 2021-22 (to date):

As of 8/12/21, the following certified teaching positions are available and are being advertised for the 2021-22 school year:

- Whale Pass School: Multi-Grade/Special Education - The position was accepted by a candidate and that candidate decided at the last minute that he could not accept due to personal reasons. We had one new eligible candidate apply - an interview was held with most of the community present and participating on the interview panel - reference checks being completed.
- Thorne Bay School: Elementary Teacher - position offered, pending acceptance
- Naukati/Whale Pass School - Special Education Teacher - potential candidate - scheduling an interview
- Distance Math Teacher - 1 class only - interviews scheduled - this position is to provide extra support for those students in our outer sites with students enrolled in upper level math courses like Algebra II and Geometry - this was expressed as a need from numerous parents, students and staff over the last couple of years.
- [Current Classified Openings](#)

Student Update:

First day of school for students is Monday, August 30, 2021. We are expecting a total of apx. 175-185 students in grades K-12 and apx. 16 students in Pre-K district wide. This estimate fluctuates on an almost daily basis due to new information coming in from each of our communities regarding individuals/families that have recently moved in/out of the community and individuals that have decided that they will/will not attend school with another district/homeschool.

Staff Update:

We will have a total of 19 certified teachers across the district. Each of our 7 schools will have at least one part-time custodian, cook, and one or more classroom paraprofessionals. We also have two bus drivers and both full-time and part-time maintenance staff that serve the entire district.

SISD welcomes the following new staff for the 2021-22 school year:

- Barry C. Stewart Kasaan School: Karen Freese, Elementary Teacher
- Thorne Bay School: Sam White, Secondary Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher and Joel Jenson, Elementary Teacher
- District-Wide staff: Deidre Jenson will be our new Area Principal/Federal Programs Coordinator and will be serving as the Principal for Kasaan, Hollis, Naukati, Coffman Cove and Whale Pass Schools. Both Deidre and Joel are returning to the school district once again. They were both teachers in our district (for Naukati/Thorne Bay) in past years.

New District Assignments:

Sharlet Collins is new to Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School. Ms. Collins taught in our Port Alexander School last year.

Julia and Patrick Trischman have transferred back to Port Alexander School from Thorne Bay. They were in Port Alexander during the 2019-20 school year and are excited to be returning to Port Alexander.

Thorne Bay School: Heather Mendonsa will be teaching elementary this year. Mrs. Mendonsa taught secondary classes at Thorne Bay School during this past school year. Aly Howell will be teaching pre-k at Thorne Bay School which is a change from the elementary teacher position she held at Thorne Bay School

last year. Mrs. Howell will also be the district-wide Pre-K Coordinator and the Activities Director for SISD this year.

Program Updates:

The Alaska Alexander Archipelago Tongass and Tidal Science Academy (AAATTSA) at Port Alexander School is welcoming 6 new high school students from all over the U.S. (one high school student from each of the following: Phoenix, Arizona; Sheridan, Montana; Minneapolis, Minnesota, Montague, California, Bethel, Alaska and Hollis, Alaska). All six students will live with the two teachers and their two young children in Port Alexander. The students will participate in the Environmental and Ecological Studies curriculum developed by Julia Trischman. This curriculum includes some of the following activities:

- scavenger hunts
- kayak training
- artwork
- journaling
- hiking
- outdoor survival skills training
- Marine Safety training and certification - provided by Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA)
- research projects
- animal dissections
- underwater drones/robots taught by Matt Gore and Dr. Mark Standley
- hatchery visits
- harvesting
- canning and smoking fish
- ecosystem and effects on our environment
- impacts of change in glacier ice
- kelp farm visit and study of acidification
- researching and presenting about marine debris - led by the Sitka Science Center Scientists in the Schools program
- Leadership/mentorship activities and collaboration with the Outer Coast College in Sitka

The culminating event of the AAATTSA program will include the Sitka Whalefest. What a great experience for these students and for the students that live in Port Alexander!

AK- TRAILS Correspondence/Homeschool Program:



We have a correspondence/homeschool teacher in the following communities that will be providing correspondence/homeschool support for students and families. These teachers are dedicated to helping our homeschool students and parents get the support they need to be successful. Many extra-curricular activities will be included for homeschool students (camping, kayaking, hiking, archery, sports, amazing new elective opportunities, college courses, and much more)! We are accepting students for this program on a part time basis, dual enrollment, or full time. AK-TRAILS students can attend a portion of the day at their local school and then a portion of their day of homeschool. Parents make the schedule, parents choose the curriculum, parents decide what is best for their child. More information on our website:

<https://www.sisd.org/o/aktrails>

Brand New Electives Available for Secondary Students District-Wide!!!

In the past few years, Thursday electives were offered at Thorne Bay School and students would travel across island to attend classes in Thorne Bay. This past year we were unable to do this due to COVID. This year, Thorne Bay School switched to a 6-period day vs. a block schedule so they will be teaching 6 periods per day Monday - Thursday. They will be offering electives for secondary students each day but in shorter class periods. Most schools other than Thorne Bay will remain on the block schedule and offer electives on Thursdays with academics primarily on Monday - Wednesday. Due to this shift in scheduling, the availability of elective instructors, and the desire to decrease the workload for all our teachers, we are offering electives in a new and exciting way this year!

Electives will be spread out throughout the first and second semester. For a student to earn elective credit, they must participate in a minimum of 80 hours of instruction. These 80 hours may be spread throughout the semester as the instructor has the availability. For example, there may be an in-person drone piloting course on Friday and Saturday one week each month and students may take the remainder of the required 80-hours online throughout the week. Teachers and other staff/community members that are taking the course with the students can supervise and assist in the training while our formal instructor teaches by distance when he is unable to be here in person. Another class may be offered for ceramics and this class may be every Saturday afternoon for a full semester. These are just examples.

We have developed an "Elective Classes 2021-22" google calendar that will be available to all instructors to select dates/times they are available to teach a specific class. Students district-wide will then be able to look at the calendar and select the electives they would like to participate in. This will allow them to take a few different electives that fit their schedule. Our instructors will be spreading the electives out as much as possible as not to overlap with other electives/sports, etc. This will take some special maneuvering, but it will incredibly enhance the opportunities our students have available to them.

In one new Career Awareness class offering, staff and members of our communities will be asked to teach a class and/or to spend one class session explaining and demonstrating what they do for a living. Students will be able to experience different jobs/careers and learn hands-on what is involved in the various types of work available on the island. Guest speakers and virtual tours can be integrated into the class to allow the students an opportunity to learn about jobs/careers that they may not have been able to see or experience otherwise.

We are very excited to be offering the following brand-new electives for high school students districtwide: Drone Pilot Training, Marksmanship, Rifle/Shotgun Training, Beginner/Advanced Art classes - various mediums, Music, Kayak Fishing, Kayak Repair, Outdoor Survival Skills, Entrepreneurship, Ceramics, 6-Pack License, etc. These are in addition to our typical extra-curricular activities like volleyball, basketball, wrestling, scuba, welding, etc.

Greenhouse/Ag Program Update:

Loni and Peter Nguyen have been working diligently in the Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School greenhouse. They have submitted a report for this Board meeting for your review. If you have the opportunity to visit them in Coffman Cove, I encourage you to do so. They are a remarkable team and are doing so much for our communities. We are looking forward to the future of our agricultural program. I would also like to acknowledge the work that our volunteers Priscilla Gouling and Shane Williams have done in Thorne Bay. They have organized a community of volunteers to run the ag program in Thorne Bay.

They have also dedicated many hours to researching and troubleshooting various problems that come up throughout the district. Please take a moment to thank these individuals if you have a chance to do so.

AmeriCorps:

We currently have three (3) different AmeriCorps programs running in the district.

1. The Resilient Alaska Youth AmeriCorps (RAY) Program works to address high suicide rates and substance abuse in Rural Alaska through a positive youth development program. AmeriCorps partners with rural tribal governments, schools, and non-profits to provide a locally recruited paid position that works with youth in the community. This position facilitates youth learning, growth and resilience through in-school, afterschool, and out-of-school programming. This position is at no cost to the partner organization (SISD). SISD currently has 2 year-round AmeriCorps RAY positions, and these are Sabrina Marconi in Hollis and Maria Lineker in Kasaan. Both Maria and Sabrina are starting their second year with SISD. Maria was in Thorne Bay this past year. Peter Nguyen will be a 3rd RAY position this year and will be stationed in Coffman Cove.
2. The summer 2021 Hunger Free America and AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates Program provided SISD with one individual, Peter Nguyen full time in Coffman Cove this summer. The AmeriCorps VISTA program is a voluntary national service to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate poverty and poverty related human, social, and environmental problems. There is a small cost-share to the district for this program. Using the fresh vegetables grown in the Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School, Peter ran a farmer's market in Coffman Cove twice per week and on the weekend in Klawock. Part of the expectations of this program was to provide nutritional educational information and outreach to families regarding other food security programs such as:
 - [Women, Infants and Children Program \(WIC\)](#)
 - [Commodity Supplemental Food Program \(CSFP\)](#)
 - [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education \(SNAP-Ed\)](#)
 - [Nutrition Education \(SOA\)](#)
3. A new program was introduced to the district this year and Loni Nguyen in Coffman Cove has applied for this program. This is a year-round AmeriCorps VISTA position. The goal of this program is to build long-term sustainability to ensure it continues after VISTA resources end. This program is for capacity-building support in a food service program. For example, they can help us with a variety of things including developing a farmers' market; improving ag/greenhouse systems; grant writing (for the districts agriculture/food prog); research, support on POW for food service systems, etc. We are excited to see what comes from this program!

\$\$\$ Last but certainly not least... A huge thank you to Loni and Peter Nguyen for their generous donation of a 7 Day/6 Night 3-Bedroom Condo at the Worldmark Windsor Resort in Sonoma County California. This will be a raffle to benefit the SISD Island Fresh Student Enterprises and the district ag program. You should start seeing the raffle flyer everywhere you go and if not, we ask that you help us spread the word. It will be posted on our website, in every community and will be sent out as a notification on our SISD app. This will be a raffle available to anyone - either buying a ticket in person from students/staff/Board members - or buying raffle tickets online. Island Fresh now has its own Paypal account that has been very useful for the farmer's markets and now you can also buy raffle tickets - please be sure to share the flyer with all your friends worldwide! \$\$\$