

Site Report – Meshik School – October, 2020

**To: Superintendent Ty Mase
and LPSD School Board Members**

**From: Kristin Henke, Head Teacher
Jack Walsh, Principal**

Outstanding Activities and Events

Since our last report, the Meshik School has added 4 new students and that brings our enrollment to 24 students including five pre-schoolers. We feel very fortunate that we are back in school everyday and we are doing our best to maintain a safe environment so we can continue to stay open all year. I believe that this is a great sign for the hard work that parents, staff, and students are doing to keep everyone safe. We have lots of great things happening in our school every week. We appreciate the support of the community and LSAC.



Personnel

We wanted to highlight a couple amazing staff members who have made a real difference for us during the first part of the year. Kitza Durkop has been filling in for Katie Zimmerman during Katie's time on maternity leave. Kitza's teaching experience was a great asset for Meshik School and our students. Kitza will be leaving at the Thanksgiving break. Thanks, hardly seems to be an adequate word to convey how grateful we are for her help. Another person who needs mentioning this month is Richard Zimmerman who has been our custodian, maintenance man, and bus driver (to just name a few roles). With the birth of their baby, the Zimmerman's world has changed dramatically. Richard has been transitioning from his work for the district.

We appreciate his years of service and his help with everything around the school and community. Due to the coronavirus we were looking for additional help in the custodial area and appreciate that Melissa O'Domin has joined the staff. We have also been reinforced by another new employee, Alysa who is serving as a classroom aide. Her work with students is going to make a big difference this year and beyond.

Standards Based System/Curriculum Progress

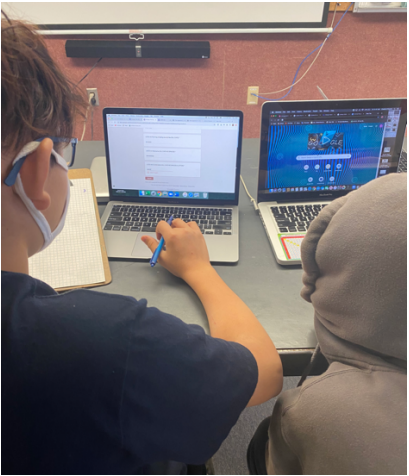
We have some great indicators that many students enrolled in online classes are keeping pace with the work and progressing. There are other indicators in every classroom that students are learning and making expected progress.

- We are happy to report two elementary students have passed their end of level reading assessments.
- We also have middle school students who are virtually engaged in Science/Math lessons with Lake Clark National Park biologists on current brown bear research.
- High School students are working on service projects required for graduation that add to school spirit and positive school climate for all of our students. These include posters for our hallway and name celebrations of each student.

Another great opportunity some of our older students are taking advantage of is our small engines class through the CTE program. The district has provided our site with a small engine and tools for students and the course is offered later in the day and after the typical school day so as not to create too many conflicts for other courses.

Technology Progress

Our technology is working well in most situations. We seem to have an adequate signal for most activities and the hardware we need for our daily routines. We are also working with families to determine which families could use assistance with their home internet signal for those times that students are working from home. Whether they use GCI, Hughes Net, or another provider, this is a valued support for our students enrolled in online courses. We appreciate this great opportunity the district is supporting with the help of a new grant and it is a great investment in students and their families.



Facility Update

Our school is still being cleaned and disinfected each evening. Teachers and students also wipe down frequently touched surfaces such as desktops, doorknobs, and light switches throughout the day. There is newer guidance from the CDC suggesting that the virus is less likely to spread from surfaces and touch than originally imagined. Still, we are grateful the district commitment to sanitation remains unwavering and our facility remains clean and safe.

LSAC Activity

Port Heiden LSAC held their first meeting of the school year on August 31st and a second meeting on October 8. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 12. The local COVID advisory group also met this month to discuss concerns and we appreciated that the district Covid team also joined us to discuss safety measures. The support we get from our local community leaders and the district is always appreciated.

Volunteer Report

There were a lot of volunteer hours put in last year by community members and staff who knew it would make a difference. While it is a greater challenge this year, we know that our volunteers are here and ready to help. As stated before, our LSAC and our local Covid Advisory group continue to be called on regularly to help us and they never let us down. Marlene Adams, and other parents and leaders also dedicate time to our students and that will continue throughout the year.

Professional Development

Staff attended District inservice on October 15 and 16 virtually. We had lots of opportunities for time with our own site and collaborative time with people across the district. The new schedule this year with late starts on Mondays has given us more time for professional development as a district and individual site. We know this will help us be even better prepared as a staff and really dig into our issues with student performance, curriculum, attendance, and behavior.

Pupil Attendance

We have five students enrolled in Preschool and 19 students in grades k-12. Covid is a new challenge for all of us and our daily screening process has helped us stay on top of symptoms and spread at the school. Attendance is a challenge we are always struggling with and the new requirements to quarantine and isolate will add to the issue. We are committed to work with students and families to improve in this area. Our subsistence calendar has a built in expectation that students will attend school unless there are emergencies they are dealing with. We hope to see improvements in this data from the first quarter on.

Student and Staff Safety

There are no injuries or incidents to report this month and we have remained covid free which was a high priority, too. We also know that it is important that we maintain a school environment that is bully free and respectful of all staff and students. This is a commitment we ask of everyone and we will hold people to high expectations in this area.

Subsistence Calendar

We are working with staff and the LSAC to adapt the current calendar to better address the travel plans around the holidays for staff and students. We should have that finalized at our next LSAC meeting.

Other

Nothing is a better message about school than the smiling faces of our students. Here's a couple pictures of students enjoying a great day at Meshik School.

