

Date: January 30, 2024

To: LPSD School Board

From: Kacy Lou Leyba

Regarding: January Counseling Report

Second semester is upon us and the counseling department has been busy meeting with juniors and seniors about their post-secondary plans, PSAT scores, ACT/WorkKeys/SAT/ASVAB enrollment, BBRCTE applications, and more! Just this month I began hosting Thursday Zoom classes for any interested 6th-12th grade students in which we are walking through the Alaska Commission for Postsecondary Education's *Kids2Careers* curriculum. Attendance has varied due to athletic and activities travel, but I have been recording these sessions and have heard from several sites that they are watching these sessions in their classrooms, then using them as catalysts for continued conversations. Because this class is 100% over Zoom, we have been intentional about ensuring that Lakeview Homeschool students have access to the full paper curriculum and online sessions as well.

Another way the counseling department is continuing to support LPSD's classroom instruction is through one-on-one PEP (largely employability) instruction sessions at our sites that have recently experienced secondary teacher turnover. This ensures students are continuing to progress through levels, while also allowing our team to build deeper relationships with our students and support new staff; a true win-win-win!

Weekly Zoom SEL sessions are also hosted on Zoom for Pre-K (Mondays at 11:00), K-2 (Fridays at 1:00), and 3-5 (Tuesdays at 1:00), in addition to individual SEL lessons and mental health check-ins with kiddos across the district. Our team is seeking to be more intentional about district-wide screening to assist in early intervention and because it is a component of the School-Based Mental Health grant we've received in conjunction with Dillingham City Schools. We are in the midst of finalizing an LPSD-specific format of the SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire), which all LPSD students grades 3 and up will take later in February. This questionnaire is a data-driven way to hear student voices and gauge school climate, since we will not be participating in the School Climate and Connectedness Survey this year as we have in the past. I will be meeting with Kasie and our principal team next week to discuss the best way to engage our whole school community in this questionnaire and its results.

Another large undertaking this semester continues to be our SNAP Meet Post-Secondary Options Fair (formerly called the College and Career Fair). With the assistance of Ed, Evelyn, and so many others, I am seeking to expand this exploration time to span SNAP's Wednesday evening and Thursday morning time slots, and I'm hoping to make it more interactive for students than in the past. So far we have invited every branch of the military, local apprenticeship and workforce options, local universities, colleges, and trade schools, as well as tribal universities from Alaska and the Lower 48. If you have connections to any of these industries or institutions, I would love it if you would consider connecting us personally!

While this year has had its unexpected challenges, I continue to be really grateful for the opportunity to continue to step into a season of strategic planning as a counseling team. I have been pleased with the small moments of growth (like more uniform work-flow and technology systems), as well as the larger opportunities for growth (like movement toward culturally-fortifying counseling curriculum and solidifying student support structures/ techniques such as universal screening and goal-

oriented problem-solving strategies). One of these revolutionary goal-centered counseling structures is BRISC (Brief Intervention for School Clinicians); I was able to attend a BRISC training in November and have seen great success in implementing it with several students since.

I am looking forward to continuing to step into all of these new and exciting avenues with students and our team as the third quarter progresses. I cannot overstate how mutually beneficial our partnership with BBRCTE has been for our students— especially with Patty McCasland as our district's Career Development Specialist. We spent time in our weekly counseling connection meeting this week celebrating victories throughout our schools, and they are abundant.

Thank you for your continued support of our communities and LPSD students. It is an honor to do the work I do everyday alongside you all.