

Site Report – Newhalen – September, 2023

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Ed Lester, Principal
and Evelyn Trefon, Administrative Assistant

Outstanding Activities and Events

As we opened the doors on August 29, we are grateful to the maintenance and custodian staff for putting a large effort of cleaning and repairs over the summer. The school smells fresh and we are excited for what this school year will bring in student and staff learning and growth.



Newhalen School had a wonderful first day of School.

We currently have 103 students enrolled in Newhalen School with the possibility of 3 more joining us in the next few weeks.

13- preschool

52- kindergarten to 5th grade

24- 6th to 8th grade

14- 9th to 12th grade

Total 90 kindergarten thru 12th grade

Grand total 103 preschool thru 12th grade

Personnel Concerns/Accomplishments

We welcomed our new/transfer staff this school year.

Sydney Boone joins us from New York. She was a tutor last school year in Port Alsworth. She will be teaching our high school and middle school students.

Alexis Pursell transferred to Newhalen School from Levelock School. She has made a wonderful splash into our elementary crew and is teaching levels 1.

Kate Cornell has transitioned from the LPSD curriculum coordinator to join our HS/MS crew as a teacher.

Newhalen is currently looking to hire a temporary cook assistant and a volleyball coach.

We are excited for the opportunity that Nate McArthur has received. We are saddened to learn of his relocation to Palmer. He has been a great resource to have on site when we have computer and technical issues. We are sad to see him go.

Additionally, we are concerned with the sudden separation of Stephen Fink (school counselor) from the Lake and Peninsula School District. He will leave a void in much needed services that he has been providing at Newhalen School and other sites. We are disappointed to see him leave.

Standards Based System/Curriculum Progress

Many students took their first round of MAPS benchmark tests the week of September 11. These are super helpful to have administered within the first few weeks of school so that we are able to make sure that we have placed our new students in the correct levels to help them succeed.

Technology Progress

With the giant leapfrog of internet upgrades over the past 18 months, Newhalen School has been able to keep a (mostly) stable and faster connection with One Dish and Starlink as network options for our school. We are thankful to be able to have these options here.

Facility Update

SUMMER MAINTENANCE STAFF

Our summer maintenance staff put in a great effort of painting, grass cutting, cleaning, and miscellaneous projects throughout the summer. We were hoping to have more of a clean out and organizational effort in May but due to lack of payroll funds, this was not able to happen this past summer.

CLASSROOM SPACE

All ten of our classrooms are being used by a certified teacher. We do not have much room or options to pull out or one on one time with students except to have them sit in the main hallway.

CAMPUS HOUSING

The fourplex housing unit is fully occupied. The two stand alone houses are occupied as well. The house formerly known as the Newhalen House is now our school library, Bill Cornell's office, and the language lab (funded by the Igiugig Village Council language revitalization project). We anticipate needing to increase our teacher count by 1-2 staff members in the next few years and will need more teacher housing. Currently, we have 4 teachers living off campus in their own homes, 5 teachers renting an on campus house, and one renting a house through the school district but the housing unit is privately owned

PROJECTED SCHOOL YEAR STUDENT COUNT

School year 2024-2025

14- preschool (1 teacher)

47- kindergarten thru 5th grade (4 teachers)

22- 6th to 8th grade (2 teachers)

19- 9th to 12th grade (2 teachers)

Total 88 kindergarten thru 12th grade

Grand total 102 preschool thru 12th grade

Estimated teachers need (for the 1:10 ratio) = 9 for preschool - 12th grade + 1 SPED Teacher

PROJECTED SCHOOL YEAR STUDENT COUNT

<p>School year 2025-2026</p> <p>7- Preschool (1 teacher)</p> <p>49- kindergarten thru 5th grade (5 teachers)</p> <p>24- 6th to 8th grade (2 teachers)</p> <p>23- 9th to 12th grade (2 teachers)</p> <p>Total 96 kindergarten thru 12th grade</p> <p>Grand total 103 preschool thru 12th grade</p> <p>Estimated teachers need (for the 1:10 ratio) = 10 teachers p-12 + 1 SPED Teacher</p> <p>PROJECTED SCHOOL YEAR STUDENT COUNT</p> <p>School year 2026-2027</p> <p>7- Preschool (1 teacher)</p> <p>44- kindergarten thru 5th grade (5 teachers)</p> <p>25- 6th to 8th grade (2 teachers)</p> <p>27- 9th to 12th grade (3 teachers)</p> <p>Total 96 kindergarten thru 12th grade</p> <p>Grand total 103 preschool thru 12th grade</p> <p>Estimated teachers need (for the 1:10 ratio) = 11 teachers P-12 + 1 SPED Teacher</p>
LSAC Activity
The Newhalen School LSAC has not met this school year yet.
Volunteer Report
Over the summer, our community had the option to participate in Campfire, a Whatever it takes Basketball Camp, and a Yup'ik Language/Basketball Camp. We appreciate our community members coming together to offer summer activity options to our youth.
Professional Development
PD at this time is focused on beginning of the year items like PowerSchool, writing across the curriculum, and site collaboration.
Pupil Attendance
We currently have about 103 students enrolled. Attendance has been good overall. The first couple of weeks we were at about 80% attendance. Today we are at about 90%.
Student and Staff Safety
Currently we are spending time with students on self regulation.
Subsistence Calendar
Parents were encouraged at the back to school night to have their students fill out paperwork for experiencing out and migrant education opportunities.

Other- NIYAC/Booster Club Activities

Our local booster club sponsored a 4 day trip to Anchorage and Palmer for our Cross Country Team. They were also able to tour the ANSEP facilities and IBEW training facility.

