

April 2020 Board Report
Assistant Principal/Coordinator

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, what is known from the local to global level has evolved; and responses at all levels have evolved, and will continue to evolve, also.

As of today there has not been any national or state mandate/guidance regarding the issuance of grades or credit for the remainder of the school year. This is similar to the situation the district faced prior to the statewide March 13th announcement regarding school closure and distance education; we have strong indications of what is most likely forthcoming and an array of options to choose from but we are free to chart our own course - and we will chart a course - unless or until a course is chosen at the state level. The state has given all districts tremendous leeway in developing these policies and it is predicted (based on recent advice and on past practices) that the state will not reverse a temporary policy adopted by a district in response to the conditions precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our teachers are a very hearty and adaptable bunch. Each of them have worked in your school and community for over half of the academic year (and in most cases much longer). They know the skills and abilities of each of their students, and more recently the students' level of access to technology, as well as the level of support in the students' home environments. They also know the reliability and limits of your instructional effectiveness in a distance-based format. Given these factors, teachers are to evaluate each of their students as if each student had an IEP which took those factors into consideration, then set individual expectations for them regarding progress and grading accordingly.

Site Reports

Howard Valentine

Teachers continue to prepare students for post secondary life by helping them adapt to a new "normal" as far as school goes for the rest of the year, learning to be flexible and how to adapt to changing circumstances. Students continue to receive educational instruction and support.

Teachers provide sufficient/effective staff support by continuing to keep staff informed of the latest information from the district. Staff are being given the opportunity to complete trainings via eLearning, while encouraging them to self isolate and work from home if they have traveled or been in contact with people from affected areas.

We have set up “office hours” through Google Classroom to improve communication district and community wide. Using this video conferencing medium, students are able to have face to face contact with their teacher, and their classmates for socializing. Increasing visibility to share lifestyle and increase enrollment is being pursued by having a strong presence via, Facebook, email, phone calls, and Google Classroom; multiple modalities to fit the norms and expectations of all members of our community. We are currently not accepting students into the building at this time, however if you would like to enroll your children into the Howard Valentine School we are continuously offering educational services!

Naukati

Every day is a new day of learning: about technology, distant learning, and oneself. There are so many great webinars on many topics to participate in and many more great resources to be found. There are those nagging issues we could focus on but positivity is where we really need to spend our time. When mistakes are made, there are at least two amazing things that can help to make those same mistakes less of a problem. The grand hope is that everyone else is also having that same good fortune. As we are reaching out, we are watching the students and families’ work through this interesting time of distance education with tenacity. Family check-ins have been producing resource sharing and finding creative solutions to new issues and WE ARE ALL LEARNING!

The daylight is stretching on into our long Alaskan days, the birds have returned and are relentlessly searching the upturned dirt for their meals and there is proof that more and more people are shaking off that winter lull and running, full bore into Spring. We are wishing you all a healthy and wonderful Spring but also a supportive, full of learning, continuation of the school year.

Brought to you by Laura Anania and the Naukati Bay School Staff

Port Alexander

Just because the school has shut down, that doesn’t mean we aren’t still making headway! Kids are still doing their daily math lessons as well as reading an on-level novel/story with comprehension questions. We are making the best of the situation, and will keep working our hardest to keep chugging along!

K--6 Elementary: As spring quickly approached, Port Alexander was making headway in many subjects! In science, we put on our paleontologist cap on and extracted “artifacts” from cookies. For Dr. Seuss week, we dressed wacky everyday and read a book after

lunch with an activity to follow. One of the days, we completed an egg drop activity. The kids loved the wacky Dr. Seuss week! Also, we embraced our time with Dancing with the Spirits!

7--12 Middle/High: Our students were all successfully set up with 2 online courses to work on. Once they are up and running, we plan to add a third class to finish the year. Parents have been being very creative in helping their children make the most of multiple learning opportunities. Living remotely is what we do on a regular basis here in PA so this is not an obstacle we cannot embrace!

K--6 Elementary: As spring quickly approached, Port Alexander was making headway in many subjects! In science, we put on our paleontologist cap on and extracted "artifacts" from cookies. For Dr. Seuss week, we dressed wacky everyday and read a book after lunch with an activity to follow. One of the days, we completed an egg drop activity. The kids loved the wacky Dr. Seuss week! Also, we embraced our time with Dancing with the Spirits!

Hyder

Hyder students have transitioned well into completing their school work from home. Teachers and paraprofessionals have daily contact with all students via phone and/or email. Parent/student conferences are conducted weekly for the high school students in person (10 feet apart at a designated outdoor meeting spot). Elementary parent conferences are done in person at a distance outdoors or on the phone. Students are receiving speech therapy services through Zoom. Work packets are delivered every Monday and parents all have daily check off sheets for all goals. We are able to keep close tabs on online learning in IXL-Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science and several students work daily on the MySciLearn website that enhances reading skills. Another focus is on keyboarding. Every student has access to a computer and the internet at home thanks to the Hyder Community Center sharing their WiFi. Elementary students have checked out S.T.E.M. bins and continue daily projects and all students are continuing their musical studies that include recorder, guitar, ukulele, and/or piano. One family volunteered to take home our Aerogarden Farm and record and share what is going on with our garden (tomatoes, lettuce and herbs).

Food services are going well and we are serving our Hyder families with food boxes for the week distributed every Monday.

We will continue to share exciting things we see happening in the homes of our Hyder students on the Hyder School Facebook page.

Whale Pass

The following are being done to prepare students for post-secondary life. Our 11th grader, JD Alford is working on his Career /Portfolio class. He is seeking individuals to write reference letters. We have several ways of communication going with the MS/HS students. Mr. Cook is working through Google Hangouts, telephoning, email, and Facebook messenger. We continue to push forward with classes and alternate assignments that can be done through distance learning including ixl.com and workbooks. Elementary students have been working on a program called Fast ForWord that enhances their reading skills and speech skills. The teachers easily manage the online programs and student progress can be monitored.

We would like to recognize the following efforts to provide sufficient/effective staff support. We are in constant contact with Jonathon for food service inventory. We currently have Tamara and Christine preparing breakfasts and lunches for the week for 18 students. We accumulated an extra family due to the mandate sent by the state. We are currently working on supporting our staff by helping them with their work hours. Several staff members have three or more children and will be working to get them through the school day. Another staff member is overseeing our greenhouse and chickens. We have met briefly to discuss planting and supplies for the greenhouse. I am trying by best to contact all staff via email, phone, or in person during the week. It is very important that we contact and support our staff during this time. Several of our staff have spouses working away from home.

We are taking the following actions to improve communication district and community wide. Our Facebook page has all the current state and health mandates, as well as, current updates from the district. <https://www.facebook.com/WhalePassSchool/>

Our next ASC meeting and gun drawing will be April 28th at 3:30. We will send the information to call in or view via Facebook. Mr. Cook has been a fountain of information on the Covid19 crisis. Thanks Andy for keeping us up to date.

Dancing with the Spirit—We will be writing a check from our account to pay for the DWTS sessions. Yearbook—the students are continuing to work on the yearbook from home. We've received some good ideas for pictures.

Food Service—Our breakfast and lunches are going out on Mondays. We have had to be a little creative, but what a great time to clean out the freezer.

The elementary students have been communicating via letters each week to each other and practicing writing skills.

Our status on increasing visibility to share lifestyle and increase enrollment is as follows. Our current enrollment is 20 students PreK-11 th grades. We have 5 High school students, 4 Middle school students and 11 elementary. Mr. Cook and I are currently making contact with students every school day plus homeschooling our own children. I find that parents really appreciate the daily calls and emails. It is also important to encourage parents and staff that may be having difficulties coping with stress right now.

We are currently working on HS needs for next year. At present, we may have an extra one or two students depending on the opening of Mt. Edgecumbe. We are currently adding them to our counts for planning for next year.