

# CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL

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*Home of the Panthers!*

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## Craig High School April School Board Report

The close of March saw the departure and return of the **Washington DC Close Up** group. Sixteen students left for Washington DC on March 26 and returned to Craig April 1. The group arrived a day before the official program began and were able to use their time to visit the Holocaust Museum, the Museum of African American History, and the National Museum of the American Indian. During the program, the group visited many monuments, Arlington national Cemetery, and met with our congressional delegation. As the DC component of the program concluded, the group then traveled to New York City, where they visited notable sites and attended *The Great Gatsby* on Broadway. Thank you Shelby Beck for organizing this group as well as the three adults to traveled with them, Kara McCoy, Josh Bergtold, and Elizabeth Alduenda.

We interviewed for two open CHS and CCSD positions last week and I am happy to share that we have received two signed letters of intent. The first is for **K-12 PE and Health Teacher John Morgan**. Mr. Morgan is a veteran teacher who will be joining us from Florida. He has several years experience teaching in Alaska and we are very excited that he has chosen to sign with us. The second candidate, **Chrissy Kensinger, has agreed to fill our English Language Arts** position. Ms. Kensinger is coming from Georgia and also has Alaska experience. The committee interviewed four candidates for the ELA position and excited about this selection. Thank you to all those who served on these two committees.

**State testing was conducted the week of April 14.** CHS 9th grade students tested in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Sophomores took the Science test. Thank you Christy House for ensuring that this testing session ran smoothly, as well as Melissa Peavey, Nicole Nelson, Stephen DeHart, and Jessica Hughes for administering the tests.

**The 2025 Youth Gathering Culture Day took place April 18.** It is always a pleasure to be involved in an event of this scope. The school partnered with multiple agencies and many individuals from our island and from across the region. Thank you to Shaan Seet and Craig Tribal Association for the financial support that allowed us to distribute t-shirts (with design by CHS Junior Chelsea Thompson) to all participants. Thank you to members of the Indigenous Education Committee for committing to this event and organizing the day.

**Art Festival takes place in Wrangell Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, April 27.** Mr. Fairbanks is taking seven students to participate in the event. This is an event that people look forward to all year and I am excited to see some of the work that is created this time around.

**The season's first track and field meet will be in Juneau April 25 and 26.** Coach Tina Steffen has 14 on the team and will be taking 12 to this first meet. Good luck Panthers!

Excitement is building for our **April 28 inservice!** That isn't a sentence I get the pleasure of writing very often, but when your guest speaker is Charles Fay of Love and Logic, it's true! Thank you Ms. Hanson for arranging an end-of-year inservice that is engaging, immediately useful, and entertaining!

**FBI Victim Specialist Erin Terry will be speaking to CHS students Wednesday, April 30.** Ms. Terry has spoken to our students in the past and she is a lively, engaging speaker. Her message includes opioid substance abuse education and prevention, online safety, and career path opportunities in the FBI. Thank you Gretchen Klein with the City of Craig for making this speaker available.

The **Junior Class will be hosting Prom** for Island students May 3. This year's theme is, *A Night in Rio*. Thank you to advisors Stephen DeHart and Ronnie Fairbanks.

The **Spring 5th Grade, CMS, and CHS Band Concert is scheduled for 6PM, May 20.** Thank you to Ms. Lauren Mackie for stepping in to ensure our 5th grade and middle school continued with music for the spring semester. I am looking forward to an evening of fantastic music!

The week of April 21 is **Administrative Professionals Week!** The CHS family was strengthened when Liz Thomsen was hired as the CHS Administrative Assistant this year. Liz brings a calm, professional demeanor to the job that helps to establish an supportive, inclusive environment at our school. Liz is competent and continues to take on more and more responsibilities as the year progresses. She has become a trusted employee who will only continue to become more integral to the smooth functioning of our school. Thank you Liz!

