

Site Report – Newhalen – April, 2025

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Newhalen School Staff

Photos & Description of Activities and Events

Pagan Lester student hosted a Sunday Afternoon freestyle wrestling clinic.



Personnel Update

Newhalen is still currently searching to close one upper elementary teaching position.

Current staff is as follows:

Ed Lester

Job

Previous Jobs

Your high school:

Favorite color

Pets

Hobby

Guilty pleasure

Pet peeves

Favorite summertime activity

James Barthelman



Job - Special Education the last 7 years in Newhalen, Girls basketball coach

Previous Jobs - Kipnuk 3 years, Quinhagak 10 years - All upper elementary/sped

Your high school: Kearney High Bearcats, Kearney, Nebraska

Favorite color - Blue

Pets - None, they are all Steph and Josey's

Hobby - Outdoors

Guilty pleasure - Sugar

Pet peeves - My wife and daughter's inability to put things away

Favorite summertime activity - Floating the river below the house, catching grayling

Marcie Lester



Job: Preschool Teacher

Previous Jobs: NYO Coach, Newhalen Elementary Teacher, Newhalen School to Life Coordinator, Kokhanok Elementary Teacher, Paraprofessional Kokhanok, Perryville Student Teacher, Paraprofessional Perryville, In-home special needs caregiver.

Your high school: Mt. Edgecumbe High School—Go Braves!!

Favorite color: Purple

Pets 3 Dogs

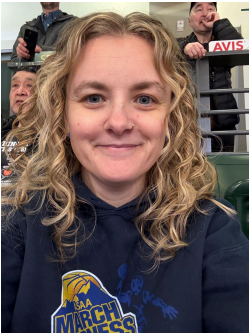
Hobbies: Beading and sewing

Guilty pleasure watching TV

Pet peeves: Ed taking silly photos of me and using them in his reports.

Favorite summertime activity: Spending time at fish camp being in the great outdoors and living without electricity for weeks at a time!

Stephanie Barthelman



Job: Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher

Previous Jobs : Kipnuk for 3 years, Quinhagak for 10 years, and Newhalen since 2018, all elementary

Your high school: Grand Island Senior High, the Islanders in Grand Island Nebraska (better than those Kearney High Bearcats !)

Favorite color: Teal and purple

Pets: 3 dogs (Townes, Lulu, and Kiska), 1 bunny (fluff), 1 chinchilla (chinch), and 18 unnamed hens

Hobby: Reading, taking care of animals

Guilty pleasure: binge watching TV series, and Gilmore Girls on repeat always

Pet peeves: James Barthelman's need to have everything put away in its place all the time

Favorite summertime activity: agate hunting on the beaches of Lake Iliamna

Alexis Pursell



Job: Elem Teacher

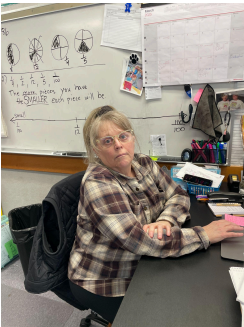
Previous Jobs: Worked at Sky Zone Trampoline Park in HS, Levelock Elem teacher
Your high school: Catasauqua High, PA
Favorite color: Grey
Pets: Moose (my dog)
Hobby: Scrolling on social media, working out
Guilty pleasure: Sweet treats, spending money
Pet peeves: When my principal takes my picture in the middle of class (just kidding i love paparazzi)
Favorite summertime activity: sleeping in, camping, hiking, berry picking

Gabrielle Calhoon



Job - Elementary Teacher
Previous Jobs - Bookseller, Nanny, Lowes
Your high school: Twin Valley High School - Morgantown, PA
Favorite color - Lavender
Pets - all 4 pups await me in Pennsylvania
Hobby - Crocheting, knitting and reading
Guilty pleasure - Reality dating TV
Pet peeves - People who are late all the time
Favorite summertime activity - reading at the beach :-)

Michele Hughes



Job 3/4th teacher Newhalen
Previous Jobs 1st,3rd, 4th and 5th reading and math, RETIREMENT
Your high school: John Overton HS Nashville TN
Favorite color yellow
Pets Dogs!
Hobby Fly fishing, Fly tying, pontooning, hiking, camping, hunting, gardening
Favorite summertime activity Lake sports, gardening

Chelsea Nelson



Job: Level 4 and 5- 1st year in district

Previous Jobs: K-9 special education at different schools within Jonesboro Public School District Jonesboro Arkansas

Your high school: Holcomb High Holcomb Missouri

Favorite color: Pink and Teal

Pets: Josie Faye and Louie

Hobby: Crafting

Guilty pleasure: Taco Bell

Pet peeves: People that are late

Favorite summertime activity: Traveling

Kate Cornell



Job: Secondary ELA/SS Teacher (Year 19 with LPSD)

Previous Jobs: Daycare Leader, Weed picker, Housekeeping, Curriculum Coordinator, Itinerant Principal

Your high school: Choteau High School

Favorite color: Yellows...almost all of them...except the dark ones...

Pets: None at the moment.

Hobby: Running, Reading, Sewing

Guilty pleasure: Chocolate—in any form...and reality TV...usually enjoyed together.

Pet peeves: Gen Z speak...

Favorite summertime activity: Hiking, honda rides, boating

Sydney Boone



Job: Science teacher

Previous Jobs: Swim instructor, Red Robin Server, Pool operator

Your high school: Avon High School, Avon, NY

Favorite color: Blue or yellow

Pets: None

Hobby: Getting outside

Guilty pleasure: Gummies or boba tea

Pet peeves: Being cold

Favorite summertime activity: Swimming

Kristin Moore



Job: Secondary Math at Newhalen School

Previous Jobs: 14 years teaching 7th Math in Mississippi (6 years) and Arkansas (8 years)

Your high school: Falkner High Eagles in Falkner, Mississippi

Favorite color: Purple or Turquoise

Pets: Louie and Josie Faye

Hobby: Traveling

Guilty pleasure: Sweet treats

Pet peeves: My alarm clock

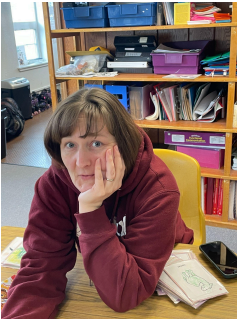
Favorite summertime activity: Being outside!

Henry Olympic



Job SPED Aide
Previous Jobs US NAVY
Your high school: Newhalen
Favorite color Blue
Pets Dogs
Hobby Commercial Fishing
Guilty pleasure Commercial Fishing
Pet peeves I'd rather not say
Favorite summertime activity Commercial Fishing

Sarah John



Job- Paraprofessional
Previous Jobs- various jobs in education and utility customer service
Your high school- Newhalen
Favorite color- fireweed
Pets- 1 very spoiled english bulldog named Mai
Hobby- baking, berry picking
Guilty pleasure- Gilmore Girls on rerun
Pet peeves- people who say, "I told you so"
Favorite summertime activity- berry picking

Kelsea Wassillie



Job: Paraprofessional Aide

Previous Jobs: Postal Clerk

Your high school: Newhalen

Favorite color: Pink

Pets: Two dogs

Hobby: Being with my kids playing outside and sewing

Guilty pleasure: late night binge show watching

Pet peeves: lip smacking when chewing

Favorite summertime activity: Being outdoors with my kids and taking them on picnics and swimming.

Natalia Askoak



Job: Paraprofessional Aide

Previous Jobs: Health Aide

Your high school: Chief Ivan Blunka School/High School Diploma

Favorite color: Forest Green

Pets: Three dogs named Scruffy, Snoopy, and Pongo.

Hobby: Crocheting, reading, and hanging out with my family.

Guilty pleasure: buying yarn and new books.

Pet peeves: Adum do it again.

Favorite summertime activity: Fish splitting, berry picking, gathering food for the long winter with family.

Bee Wassillie



Job PE Teachers aide

Previous Jobs Kitchen helper, bingo worker

Your high school: High school diploma

Favorite color Blue/ grey

Pets Dogs. Moose, Brandy and Bear

Hobby Outdoors and subsistence

Guilty pleasure Bingo and Rummy

Pet peeves loud chewing or snoring

Favorite summertime activity

Katie Hanson



Job Night Gym Aide

Previous Jobs

Your high school: Koligenak/Newhalen

Favorite color Magenta

Pets 1 Dog

Hobby Berry Picking

Guilty pleasure-Romance novels...OMG Fabio!!!!

Pet peeves Ed

Favorite summertime activity: Visiting family and doing subsistence activities with them.

Dean John



Job: Maintenance

Previous Jobs: HVAC Mechanic ANMC, State of Alaska DOT

Your high school: Newhalen

Favorite color: Blue white

Pets 1 dog

Hobby Taking Sarah John moose hunting (especially on my anniversary, and birthday)

Favorite summertime activity Honda rides, boat rides

Chester Balluta



Job Custodian

Previous Jobs USMC Devil Dog, Fed Ex team Leader

Your high school: Newhalen

Favorite color: Blue

Pets: Dog Rock

Hobby: Anything outside

Guilty pleasure: Shotting

Pet peeves: Annoying people

Favorite summertime activity: Fishing

Basil Ishnook



Job Custodian

Previous Jobs custodian

Your high school: Newhalen school

Favorite color navy blue

Pets none

Hobby hunting and fishing

Guilty pleasure: Looking for new goose calls

Pet peeves: Bird hunters that cant stay still

Favorite summertime activity putting fish away

Janelle Ludvick



Job: Part-time Custodian

Previous Jobs: Fedex, McDonalds

Your high school: Newhalen

Favorite color: purple

Pets: none

Hobby: Basketball

Guilty pleasure: coffee

Pet peeves: people talking

Favorite summertime activity: Splitting fish.

Evelynn Trefon



Job- Secretary

Previous Jobs- I have worked here as secretary since 2013.

Your high school: Olathe North High School in Kansas

Favorite color: cornflower blue

Pets: 2 dogs

Hobby: advocating for my community; helping people

Favorite summertime activity: hosting my produce market, enjoying the sunshine and traveling.

Dawn Wassillie



Job Cook

Previous Jobs Aide, Baker,

Your high school: Bristol Bay High School

Favorite color: Green

Pets: 3 dogs

Hobby-Baking

Guilty pleasure: Coca Cola for Breakfast

Pet peeves: People chewing in my ears

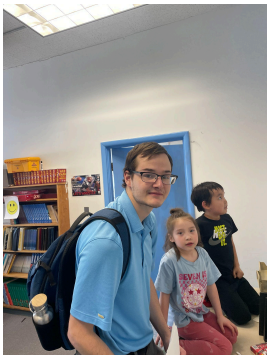
Favorite summertime activity: Putting up fish, baking at PPT

Sheena Ishnook-



Job Assistant Cook
Previous Jobs MMA Fighter
Your high school: Newhalen
Favorite color Blue
Pets
Hobby Getting wood
Guilty pleasure
Pet peeves
Favorite summertime activity

Seth Klosner



Job: Tutor
Previous Jobs: Moe's Southwest Grill, Golf Course Maintenance
Your high school: Penfield High School
Favorite color: Blue
Pets: Pippa (dog)
Hobby: Rock and Mineral Collection
Guilty pleasure: Eating a bag of trolli worms
Pet peeves: Smacking of Lips
Favorite summertime activity: Camping

Elisabeth Ludwig



Job: LPSD Social Worker

Previous Jobs: Elementary teacher, Daycare worker, Gym associate

Your high school: Riverside High School

Favorite color: blue and green

Pets: Dog- Khan, Snake-Vermithor, Hedgehog- Hemlock

Hobby: puzzles and reading

Guilty pleasure: Eating Oreos after my daughter goes to bed

Pet peeves: Rudeness

Favorite summertime activity: Gardening



Patty McCasland

Job: Career Guide for BBRCTE

Previous Jobs: Secondary Generalist at Newhalen School

Your high school: Fairport High School in New York

Favorite color: Forest Green

Pets: Bauer, Alaskan Husky (4 years old)

Hobby: Hiking, walking with Bauer, adventuring, photography

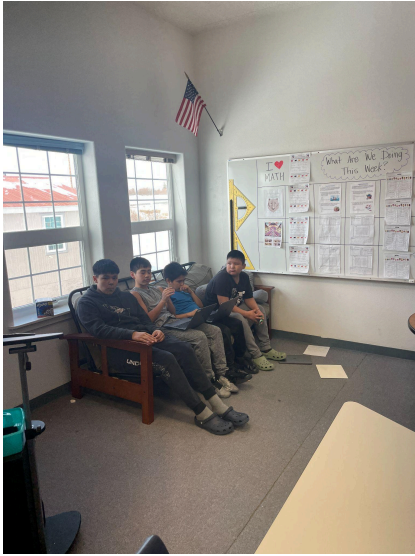
Guilty pleasure: Lotuses in Anchorage & Taco Bell

Pet peeves: People who are always late, people who lack social awareness, & people who are dishonest

Favorite summertime activity: Traveling, this summer I am hiking the Camino Invierno with Joann Lester and visiting my best friend in Montana!

Classroom Highlights

Classrooms have been extremely busy working on end of the year projects and wrapping up standards.



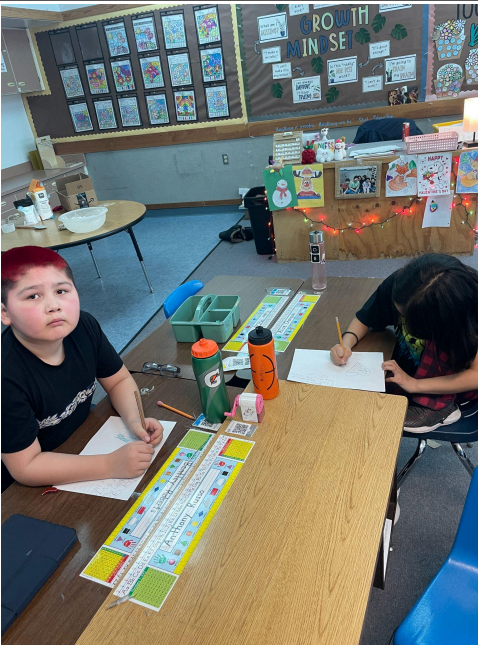
Peer to peer support with online math work.



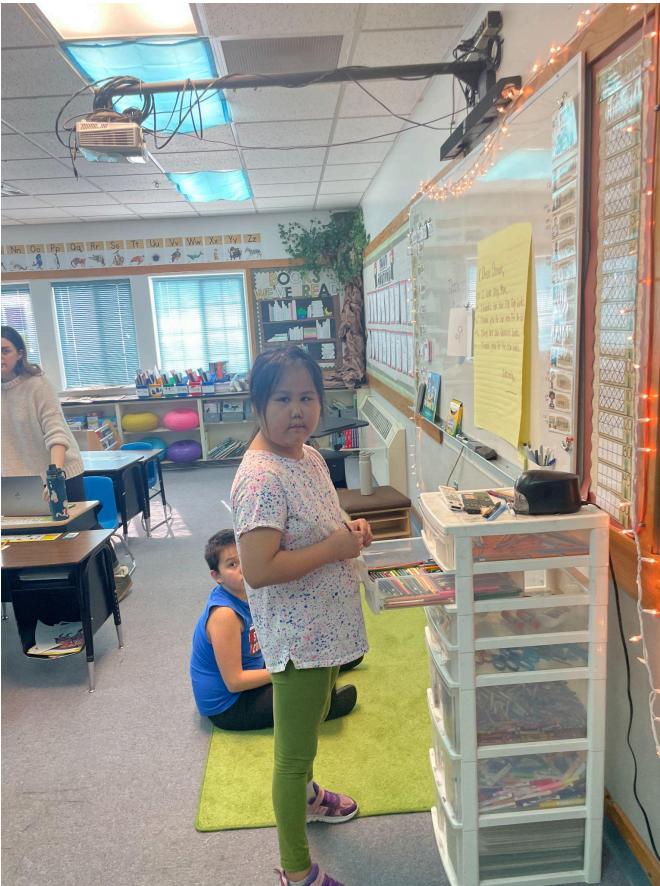
Students leading tutoring sessions



Student eagerly heading to class



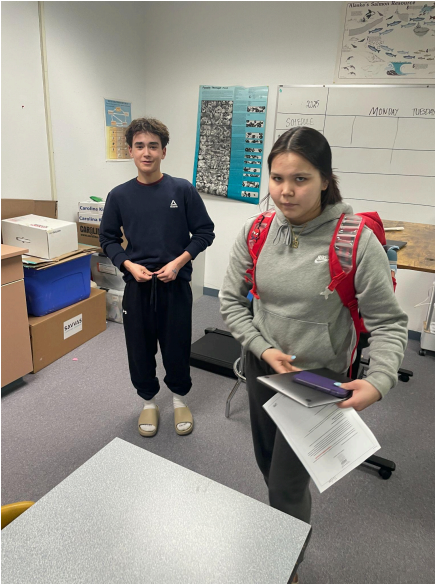
Peer writing activity.



Students returning supplies to supply drawer.



Class working on a whole group writing lesson.



More students eagerly heading to class



Preschool working on writing with the iPad



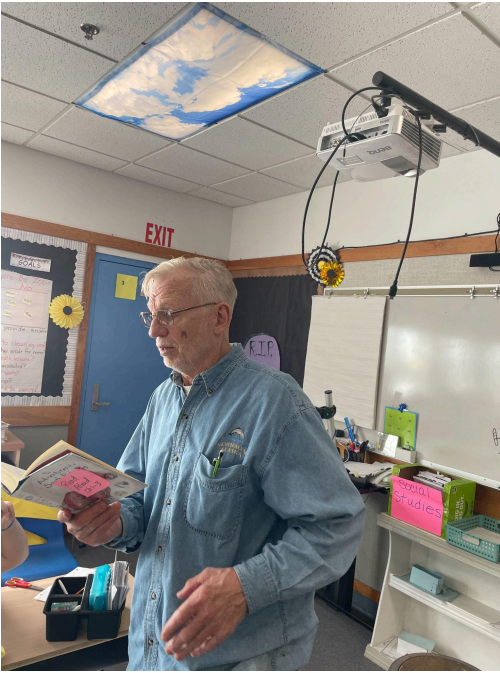
Students collaborating on interactive board for social studies.



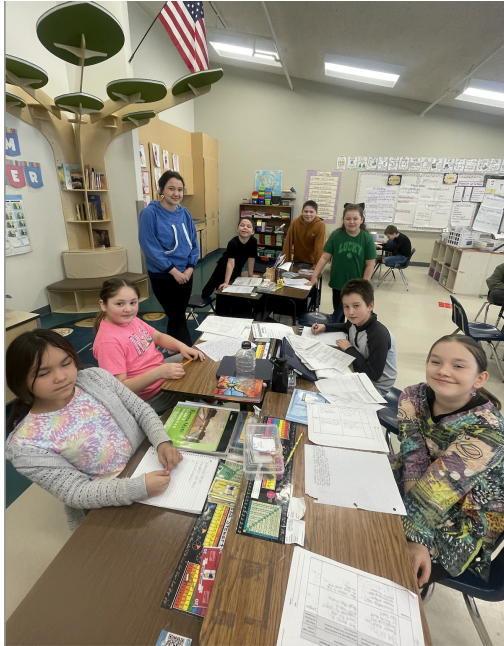
Students are excited about knocking off levels.



Small group time with the teacher.



Newhalen subs are staying steady.q



We have 8 students participating in BBRCTE classes these next two weeks. Chariessa is taking a Behavioral Health and Professionalism in Healthcare class; Bryce is taking Aviation Maintenance; Ivy, Pagan, and Ava are taking Building Culturally Responsive Education; Nicholas and Ryley are taking Skiff Build & Introduction to Ironwork; and Joe is taking Introduction to Bristol Bay Salmon. Way to go!

LSAC Activity

LSAC is meeting on April 4th. Big topic item is the school calendar.

Community Engagement

I would like to thank all the community support for our student athletes. Extra big thank you to the fans that made the trip into Anchorage to support our students during the state tournament.

Professional Development
Local staff continue to take advantage of the Wednesday professional development to grow and refine their craft.
Pupil % Attendance K-12
<p>The following students had perfect attendance for 3rd quarter:</p> <p>Chariessa Askoak David Askoak Michael Askoak Avena Tallekpalek Dannika Wassillie Emilee Wassillie</p> <p>Newhalen School had a 90% attendance rate this month.</p>
Student and Staff Safety
This month we talked about four wheeler safety and watch out for falling icicles.
Other
<p>Miss Patty took school pictures this month. QUYANA Miss Patty!</p> <p>Our Art Club Coordinator has partnered with Out School to begin afterschool art club classes.</p> <p>FreeStyle Wrestling Club began! The kids are loving it!</p>