

Site Report – Tanalian School – September, 2025

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Nate Davis, Principal

Photos & Description of Activities and Events

Tanalian students Hazel, Ray and Noah had a great week at CTE learning 3D printing, building trades, and welding.

Regional XC races in Newhalen went great - Erik placed first in the HS boys race, and Hazel was 9th in the HS girls race and both are going to the Alaska State Championships! Malachi placed 14th in HS and then Augustine, Nolan, and Caleb were 3rd, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively in the JH races. A spectacular shout-out to these tough runners and their faithful coach, Heidi Wilder. A big thanks to Newhalen volunteers for hosting.



Personnel Update

Student teacher Natalie has been doing a great job in the classroom and even picked up some classified hours to help us out. She is only here for a couple more weeks, but we wish her the best as she moves on to her next classroom placement to finish out her semester.

In the building:

Lisa Rivas - 16th year as Cook, Night Gym, Custodian

Riley Morigeau - 5th year as PE Aide, Custodian, 4th year as Boys BB coach

Alison Fowler - 13 years as Pre-K Aide, previously a Class and Sped Aide

Patti Brock - 8th year at Tanalian K-2nd Teacher, Student Government Advisor, Apprentice Mentor

Brandey Voran - 8th year as 3-5th Teacher, Algebra II teacher, Jr. VB coach; former para for many years

Nicole Metzgar - 11th year at PTA, Meshik Principal, 3rd year Girls BB coach, LPSD Curriculum Director

Cam Metzgar - 11th year as Tanalian teacher, Jr. Hi Teacher, Tanalian Tech Liaison

Sarah Wardell - 5th year as Tanalian Sped Teacher, previously a Sped Aide for several years

Matthew Grossmann - 12th year PTA Teacher, Elementary/Jr. H./HS teacher for science, social studies, math

Kacy Leyba - 4th year as LPSD counselor

Sherri Davis - 12th year as K-2nd Class aide

Chloe Mullins - Alumni, 8th year as Class and Sped Aide

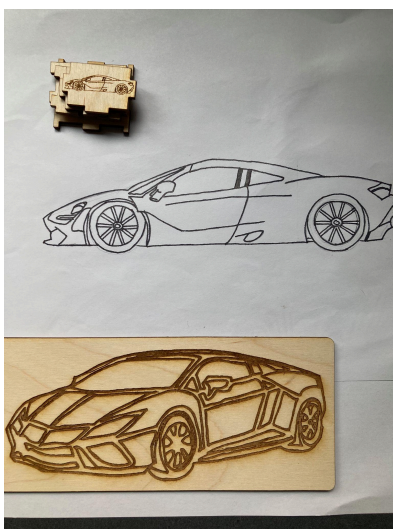
Darcy Lorentzen - 11th year as Sped Aide

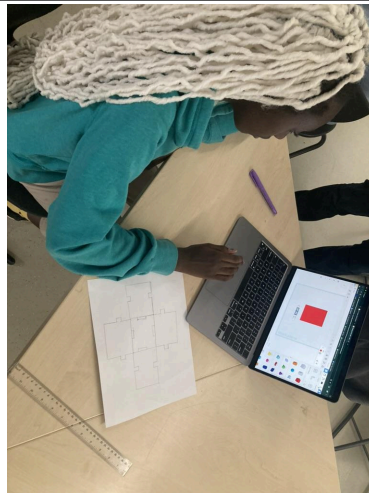
Laura Wilder - Alumni, 7th year as Secretary

Nate Davis - 13th year as Tanalian Principal, also LakeView Principal and Distance Principal

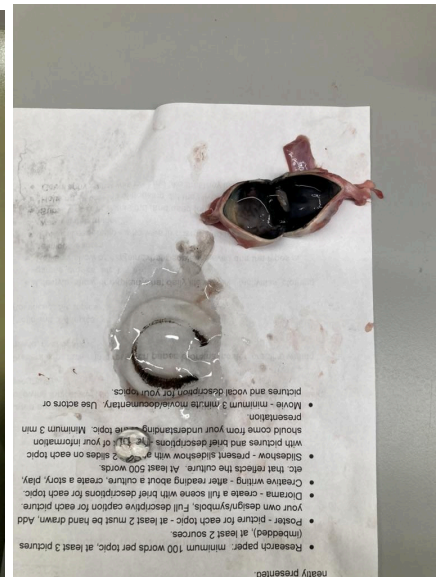
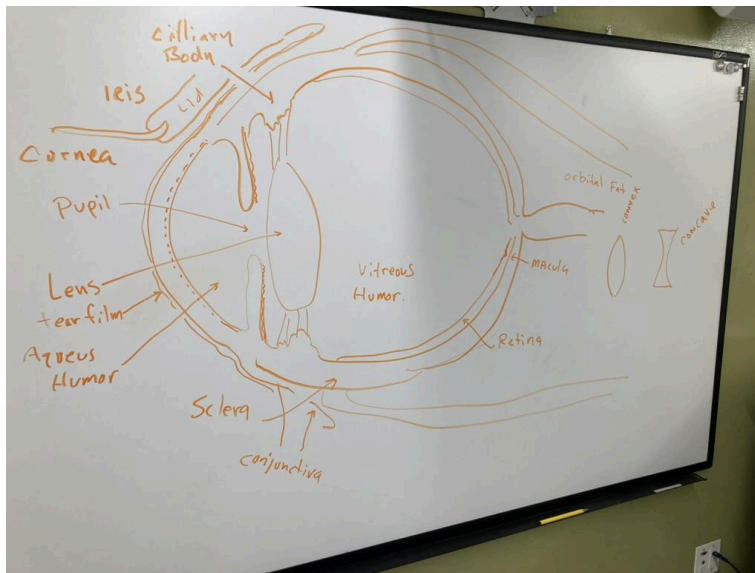
Classroom Highlights

Mr. Grossmann and Riley Morigeau are to be commended for taking the initiative to invite the Knik Tribe to Tanalian School to host a fantastic week of teaching and learning surrounding computer aided drawing (CAD) and a Glowforge laser cutter. The Knik instructors, Kat and Sandy, were fabulous. Students were very engaged, designing with their brains and computers, where measuring, mathematical precision, artistic design, and digital prowess were on display throughout the grade levels. These produced amazing creations from our first-time engineers:





Our high school biology class was blessed by Dr. Bob and Dr. Dan from Anchorage who had just killed a nice bull moose nearby. They brought a moose eye to the science lab and spent an hour teaching students how the eye works. Dr. Bob is an ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) and a great teacher, having been investing in the next generation for his whole career.



Dr. Bob's drawing of the major parts of the eye

The major parts of the moose eye displayed

LSAC Activity

Our first LSAC meeting of the year was Oct 1. LSAC members and teachers and our student rep heard/gave reports and discussed the upcoming School Board committee meetings and monthly meeting, VB Club application, the AIMES1 renting of teacher housing, the PTA Lunch Bank reporting, billing, and collection difficulties, and future events.

Community Engagement

PAIC hosted and provided a pizza & salad dinner at school for the community and brought in three people to speak on cyber security. They also purchased root beer float supplies for the student government to sell, gave 100% of the profits to school, where SG split the profits 50/50 with our Lunch Bank.

The National Park Service has contracted with AIMES1 to build two more large buildings at their HQ here at Port Alsworth. The contractors do not project enough housing for all the subcontractors coming through the project over the next several months, having exhausted local housing opportunities. So, to support the NPS, LPSD just made an arrangement to rent out two of our vacant teacher housing units to AIMES1 until December, with a month to month agreement beyond that.

Professional Development

PTA teachers and staff have been regular participants of the LPSD trainings.

Pupil % Attendance K-12

96.7% attendance rate for the school year

Student and Staff Safety

Striving for student safety:

Principal Davis sent out an awareness note to parents regarding some reckless driving that was observed off-campus on the weekend.

Laura sent out a note reminding parents of fall bear sightings, students walking in the dark, urging parents to pick up free reflector tape to place on student clothing, and to use lights on vehicles and to drive slowly as morning darkness with students en route to school creeps closer every day.

Other

Classroom science extension:

Mr. and Mrs. Davis hosted their traditional garden lessons for Mrs. Brock's first and second graders, letting students dig up their own potato plant and then a carrot for the walk home. Students also learned about the buzzing, volume, and tenacity of the white socks!

