

Date: May 1, 2025

To: LPSD School Board

From: Kacy Lou Leyba

Regarding: May Student Services Report

ACT and ACT WorkKeys

We successfully completed our district's ACT and ACT WorkKeys testing in April. This spring we had 10 LPSD juniors and seniors take the ACT and 19 take the ACT WorkKeys. (More in depth descriptions of each of these tests can be found in Patty's April Counseling Report.) We are looking forward to receiving these scores back in the coming weeks. But more importantly than the scores, our team was so encouraged by students remarking that they "felt really good at things" following the WorkKeys assessment. One student remarked that they felt like they could go into a job with more confidence, even after just taking the exam and not receiving their scores yet, because they better understood what employers are looking for as far as skill sets. Once these scores are received, our team will be working with students this fall to update resumes and to pair them with the WorkKeys' professional team to better understand the certifications they have earned and how they can benefit them in the workplace.

VOA Behavioral Health Partnership

Our team has been so grateful to have found the VOA: Alaska Behavioral Health School Based and Family Services program. Over the last month we have been able to partner with them by utilizing their Rapid Response telehealth team to stop-gap student mental health crises. This has proven to be a positive partnership which has already helped bridge the gap for students and families as we have worked to connect them to their area health provider's behavioral health program in the event of a crisis. VOA has encouraged our team to further develop this partnership by allowing us to refer students to their telehealth program for the summer to ensure student mental health needs are being met while our team is out of the office. This telehealth program can be billed to both private insurance and Medicaid, and will be something we will continue to walk alongside families to navigate if they are interested.

Summer referrals

That being said, if you are made aware of an LPSD student who may be in need of counseling services through the summer and who would benefit from a referral to an outside organization or a quick check in before the last day of school, please feel free to reach out to Kacy Lou directly at KacyLouLeyba@lpsd.com.

SNAP Meet

SNAP Meet is always a week of beautiful chaos, but this year the Student Services Team played a more active role in its execution as we supported students and staff through the important, but heavy conversations surrounding post-secondary planning, healthy relationships, and substance abuse in addition to post-secondary testing, hosting the National Honor Society induction, and putting together the Post-Secondary Planning Fair. Thank you to Southcentral Foundation's Rural Behavioral Health Team for sending us Anne Hillman and Ronnie Spearing (both of whom are our region's itinerant behavioral health clinicians) to help us support students as they navigated these topics. Thank you to our itinerant public health nurse, Kumi Rattenbury for being willing to come out and educate our secondary

students on the importance of healthy relationships and the warning signs of dating / domestic violence. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the 28 participants in our Post-Secondary Planning Fair. We had a few more folks get turned back once again by bad weather the day before our events were to begin, but we were still so encouraged by the turnout of presenters and participants. Thank you to the US Air Force (Shout out to Newhalen School alumni Chester Hornberger of the US Air Force who joined our local recruiter for the week!), University of Alaska - Southeast, University of Alaska's Kodiak College CAMP Program, Tanalian Leadership Center, INNEC, Southcentral Foundation's Nilavena Clinic, Southcentral Foundation's Behavioral Health, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Foundation, Alaska Public Health, Newhalen's VPSO, Alaska State Trooper Ty Corbridge, and all the community members and LPSD staff who helped us to make this annual event a success.

Looking to the Future

Our team is looking forward to returning this fall in our same capacities with Kacy Lou as the Coordinator, Elisabeth as the Social Worker (in training), and Patty as our BBRCTE Career Guide / Student Counseling Practicum Student. We look forward to seeing you around the Lake Area(s) this summer as we frolic with our friends and families. Quyanavaa for all of you and all that you do!