

Date: November 7, 2024

To: LPSD School Board

From: Kacy Lou Leyba

Regarding: October / November Student Services Report

October flew by, but my perspective on that might have something to do with how many planes I found myself on throughout the month. Weather cooperated and I was able to get to Port Heiden, Chignik Lagoon, and Perryville for site visits as planned. Due to a tragedy in Kokhanok, I also made a three day visit there to check in with the student body and talk about handling “big emotions” like grief, frustration, and anger. All of these site visits provided me with excellent face-time with students, as well as the opportunity to “get into their worlds”, which I felt was immediately beneficial to ongoing conversations. I am so grateful for the funding from the new School-Based Mental Health Grant that made this a possibility, and also to our wonderful staff who hosted me as I visited our different sites. At this point, the only sites I have not visited this year are Chignik Lake, Levelock, Nondalton, and Igiugig; I am hopeful that my spring schedule will allow for those visits.

Elisabeth continues to do a fantastic job facilitating our district-wide social / emotional learning (SEL) lessons over Zoom each week for students grades PreK through 8. Her individual student meeting caseload has continued to grow throughout this semester. At the moment she is regularly meeting with ten individual students and five independent classrooms / small groups outside of district-wide SEL. She has also been working independently with students of all different grades on academic support and is excited to be hosting a family engagement event on the evening of November 7th at Newhalen School. In September Elisabeth found a program called Kicks4Kids which helps provide athletic shoes and winter boots for students. As of early November, our team has been able to submit nearly eighty applications to ensure LPSD students are outfitted with what they need to be warm, healthy, and active throughout the school year.

October also brought the second BBRCTE Intensive Week, which sixteen LPSD students participated in. On top of coordinating and chaperoning the Intensive Week, Patty was also been on the move this last month and was able to travel to Port Heiden, Chignik Lagoon, and Kokhanok to support students in preparing their post-secondary plans, teaching small group employability lessons, enrolling students in dual-enrollment courses for spring semester, and more. Most recently she has put together a Post-Secondary Planning Series for students on Zoom featuring admissions teams from AVTEC, Fort Lewis College, and University of Alaska.. We are looking forward to hosting her and our students from across LPSD for Mixed-3 and Mixed-6 Volleyball Districts in Port Alsworth next week.

In regards to professional development, Elisabeth and I were planning to attend the ASIST Suicide Prevention training in Anchorage last week, but it was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute. We will likely reschedule our attendance for a spring session once CITC releases their event calendar, as we recognize how important this training is in our field. Please let us know if there are other training priorities you see as pertinent for our team in the meantime. We are absolutely open to other options.

For the kids,
Kacy Lou Leyba