

Date: October 1, 2024
To: LPSD School Board
From: Kacy Lou Leyba
Regarding: September / October Student Services Report

September was incredibly full, and with the four-day weeks with students, seems to have flown right by! Much of this month was dedicated to initial meetings with students and program development / set up for the year. We have students at five sites currently signed up to take the PSAT throughout the month of October. Our current testing schedule is as follows:

October 1 - Newhalen (5 students)
October 7 - Levelock (1 student)
October 15 - Chignik Lake (2 students)
October 23 - Igiugig (1 student)
October 28 - Tanalian (5 students, grades 9-11)

While our “sample size” is small, since Newhalen has been the only school to take the PSAT so far, we are already experiencing a remarkably smoother process administering the test and interacting with the Bluebook Testing software. (Thank you to the LPSD Tech Team for making sure all student laptops had the app downloaded and updated at the beginning of the school year!)

While our cross-country runners have already been flying around a fair amount, much more of the district will begin traveling this month with the upcoming volleyball jamborees and tournaments. I am personally planning the following site visits throughout the month of October to prioritize visiting South schools and jamborees before weather may restrict how easily I’m able to do so. This month, I will be in...

Port Heiden October 8th-10th
Chignik Lagoon October 10th-12th
Perryville October 21st-24th

Elisabeth has been doing a fantastic job at setting up a schedule for small group and district-wide social / emotional learning (SEL) lessons over Zoom. She is planning to begin these meetings in October as I am out and about in the district. Her current group schedule is:

PreK District Wide Mondays from 10:45am-11:00am
K-2 District Wide Fridays from 1:00pm-1:20pm
3-5 District Wide Wednesdays from 2:00pm-2:20pm
6-8 District Wide Tuesdays from 2:45pm-3:05pm

If you’re ever interested in stopping by any of our lessons via Zoom, feel free to contact us. We would love to have board members join and learn alongside our students.

In late September Elisabeth was able to travel to the Alaska School Safety & Well-Being Conference; we are looking forward to hearing more of what she gleaned from her time there in upcoming Student Services Team meetings. By way of professional development, I have resumed training classroom aides and teachers using the district’s Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) curriculum. Hopefully this information will help support our staff as they support students who may be struggling through big emotions and circumstances in their classrooms.

On September 30, Patty, Elisabeth, and I were able to meet via Zoom with many of our sites’ 8th graders to begin conversations about graduation requirements, PowerSchool Snapshot Matrices, taking a

rigorous course load through high school, the Alaska Performance Scholarship, and post-secondary pathways. With other potential shifts occurring in junior high activities throughout LPSD this year, we are endeavoring to be as intentional with our junior high students as we can be.

We look forward to continuing to walk alongside our students, staff, and communities this year. Please feel free to reach out if you have any ideas about how we can do so better.

For the kids,
Kacy Lou Leyba