

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education Members

DATE: April 29 and 30th, 2024

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Student Services

Perrian Windhausen, Director of Student Services reports on the following:

Data and Assessment:

- Initiation AK STAR and AK Science testing
 - Verified that former IEP students do not have any accommodations in the testing system
 - Reviewed Home School students who will test at our schools
 - Uploaded student data into the AK STAR system and AK Science system
 - Created test sessions in the AK Science testing system
 - Answered questions from Building Test Coordinators regarding test administration
 - Reviewed site testing schedules
 - Transferring of students between schools and verifying which test(s) they have completed
 - Adding text-to-speech accommodation to students who did not have TTS already assigned
 - Created and shared directions for Building Test Coordinators to find students who have not yet taken or finished a test.
- Verified and updated report card settings so that teachers can print any report card. Report cards include attendance data that teachers need when making parent contact.
- Continued work on 3rd quarter grades
 - Worked with sites to continue verifying that Q3 grades were correct
- Staffing changes as needed, create and remove staff as employee status change.

Counselors:

- **AKIMA – Pegasus Aircraft Maintenance Technician Program.** 13 students applied for acceptance into the University of Alaska – Anchorage, Pegasus Aircraft Maintenance Technician Program. Individual interviews have been set up at various schools throughout the district with AKIMA representatives.

- **Scholarships** – Students have completed scholarships for: June Nelson Memorial Scholarship, AKIMA, UA Scholars, RAHI, Aqqulak Trust, My Journey Scholarship, KEA Scholarship, Frank Ferguson Scholarship, GEI Scholarship, Liam Hood Scholarship.
- **Senior Portfolios** – Senior Portfolios checks were completed on 117 seniors throughout the district.
- **Counseling Presentations** – Approximately, 648 classroom presentations have occurred throughout schools in the NW Arctic Borough School District by School Counselors and Deans. Topics have included: social – emotional skills training, vocational awareness, suicide prevention, behavioral regulation, making friends, being kind, developing healthy relationships, problem solving, accepting consequences, identifying feelings, applying for university, etc.
- **University Applications and Acceptance** – Students have completed 63 applications to local and state universities. Currently, 9 letters of acceptance have been received.
- **Rural Alaska Honors Institute** – 5 students completed paperwork for acceptance. Currently, two students from Noorvik and one student from Ambler have been accepted into the program.
- **Master Schedules** - Master Schedules have been completed by School Principals, School Counselors and Deans for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Meals to you Alaska (M2YA)** – Meals to you Alaska will provide children attending school in the Northwest Arctic Borough School District 5 shelf stable breakfasts and 5 shelf stable lunches throughout the summer until school begins next Fall. Applications and information have been shared with all school counselors at each school to distribute information to students and their parents.
- **Rural Alaska High School Counselor Fly-In Program** – 5 school counselors and counseling interns attended this program at the University of Fairbanks from April 14-17, 2024, at no cost to the school district.
- **Red Dog Mine** – 78 students from 11 different schools in our district participated in the Job Awareness Training at Red Dog Mine.



Ambler / Shungnak Students

- “I liked hearing how people started working here. I also liked the walks to the place here. I would like to work in the Mill because it looks fun to mix the zinc stuff. Or I would like to work in the warehouse because it looks very chill.”
- “My favorite part of Red Dog was seeing all the girls laughing, smiling and interacting with our guides.” ~School Counselor
- “The best thing about Red Dog is visiting the equipment shop. After school I would stick with equipment shop because I wanted to be a heavy equipment operator.”
- “I like the mechanic stuff that we checked out. I will not come to work here because I’ll be joining the military.”
- “I liked the fire department; it is super cool. I like all the equipment. If I were to work in the future, I don’t know what I would want to do. There are many options.”
- “I enjoyed meeting people from different places. I want to go to college for architecture.”
- “What I like most about this trip was just learning everything people work on and touring. NMS is just one of my faves. I want to learn to cook more. I would like to work here in the future.”



Kiana / Noorvik Students

Students were asked, What did you like most about your visit to Red Dog?

- The best part about the trip is the people around it. Knowing that I can put my trust in working here. Seeing my opportunities for my future career.
- How friendly everyone here was, the next best thing has to be the food.
- Playing ball with all the nice people.
- I liked the people and the many work options here.
- Seeing all the jobs and careers I could possibly have here.
- Seeing how close everyone treat each other and flexible work schedules.
- The people who work here. The mine and the food.

Do you think you could see yourself working at Red Dog in the future? If so, what would you like to do?

- I do see myself working here in the future. I saw three great opportunities, the mill, warehouse and heavy equipment operator.
- I am very interested in welding or heavy equipment operating.
- Yes, the people are nice. I would want to be a truck driver.
- I could see myself being a heavy equipment operator or a welder.
- Maybe in civil engineering or NMS. I am going to college soon.
- Yes. I would like to see my options as I try new work experiences.
- Yup, I am going to try and fill out for the mine driving triple 7s. It looks like fun to work here.

Special Education:

Special Education reports the following activities:

- Contract issued for 2024-25 specialist (Behaviors specialist, autism specialist, Speech Pathologist, Vision and Hearing).
- Supplemental Worksheet (Summer State Compliance Reporting) initiated.
- Caseloads updates including IEP/ESER dates into PowerSchool.
- Interviews continue for 2024-25 certified Special Education teaching staff at sites.

Early Learning and Family (ELF):

- Enrollment is approximately 14 children with several referrals in the works. We have been working closely with providers at Maniilaq Health Center on the Well-Child and referral process. This has resulted in more referrals. Families continue to be more reluctant to engage post-COVID, though we are finally experiencing more people willing to have us visit as well as attend playgroups.
- We have had a provider in Selawik who has been running playgroups, offering screenings and meeting with families. The number of families coming out with their young children has increased steadily.
- Our Speech/Language Pathologist, continues to see ELF students virtually between her On-site visits. She now also sees some children enrolled at the local childcare center to provide weekly services.
- We are working on transitioning several 2.5 year old children into special education around the region.
- We have been traveling when weather allows, cancellations have been frequent due to weather or difficulty getting a seat due to full flights.
- We will be working with Maniilaq providers on improving the developmental screening process in the region.
- Nauyaq is working with the local childcare to do a pilot of virtual playgroups in the region. These became popularized during COVID and continue to be widely used in other parts of the state. This also empowers parents to start learning at home.
- Tracey attended the MTSS conference which was a valuable source of information regarding the connection and regulation educators need to be trauma informed educators that allow them to experience more job satisfaction and be more effective in the classroom. The information from this conference and other resources are shared weekly during the Trauma-Informed, Resilience Focused Office Hours on Teams each Tuesday morning which has led to some great conversation about supporting students and supporting ourselves which leads to more success in our work.

Action Item for Board Approval:

- Selection of recipients of the June Nelson Scholarship 2024, application materials will be presented during executive session due to FERPA.