

THRIVE Grant, Testing, and Counseling

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Counseling

I am so impressed with the SISD staff and students and how they are banding together to make this the best year possible! People are smiling, caring for each other, and asking good questions.

We have spent many hours working through bugs with PowerSchool...actually, with our understanding of the capabilities of PowerSchool! We have developed a **Scheduling Team** consisting of Matt Gore, Amy Jennings, Charles Becker and myself. We meet weekly and are making a ton of progress. We are working on some new processes that will ensure students are entered in appropriate courses in a reasonable amount of time. This process will have a few bumps, but in the end it will be so much better for staff, students, and families.

Testing

Our **testing committee** met on October 30th and had a great discussion about testing in SISD. Prior to our meeting, we sent out a survey to all certified staff to gather data on thoughts, opinions, and usage of the different testing protocols in SISD. We had some very good conversations while looking at our data.

A few takeaways to share:

MAP

- It is nationally normed
- It is a formative assessment
- It takes a lot of instructional time
- It is a grant reporting requirement of various grants we have
- The test results are used sporadically

iReady

- It is a new protocol that we will implement due to the Comprehensive Statewide Literacy Grant that SISD has
- People who have used it have been impressed
- It is a grant reporting requirement for the literacy grant
- Training will be provided

PEAK

- It is required by the state
- It is a summative assessment
- The test results are not very helpful in driving instruction

Other Protocols

- Teachers are using various protocols for progress monitoring

I have been in contact with NWEA about some professional development around MAP testing. We are requesting some individualized training so that teachers can dig deeper into the data they receive for their students.

Carol Randolph, our **ELL testing coordinator**, is digging into the testing for English language learners as the state requires all of our exchange students to be assessed.

THRIVE Grant

The THRIVE grant has offered some great opportunities for our students and staff this month!

On October 23rd we hosted a **PHlight Club** at Sandy Beach. We had about 40 students and 10 adults from Craig, Klawock and SISD attend and the weather was cold and BEAUTIFUL! We used masks and practiced physical distancing and had a wonderful event. See some pictures below.

On October 29th we hosted a **WebMasters** event at the Vo-Tech Center in Klawock. Fourteen youth and 7 adults participated in this event. We did connecting activities, had Derek Peterson, founder of PHlight Club and Integrative Youth Development, Zoom in to teach us more deeply about the importance of healthy connections between youth and adults, and Eva Rowan from Klawock joined us to provide an activity to learn more about local Tlingit culture. See some pictures below.

On November 3rd we hosted a **PHlight Camp** for students in grades 4 - 6 from Klawock and Thorne Bay. Twenty five students and 8 adults joined us for this event. It was a blast! See some pictures below.

In preparation for some of these events I have gotten to go into some classrooms and teach some lessons. I'm excited about that!

We had an opportunity to join a Zoom presentation from **Nick Hansen, Eskimo Ninja Warrior**, on November 5th. He has a great story and relates well to youth. His story resonates well with youth in rural Alaska. We first hear from Nick Hansen at the Safety and Wellbeing Summit sponsored by DEED.

Just this last Thursday, many schools in our district and around POW participated in the streamed play of **Spirit of the Valley sponsored by Perseverance Theater** in Juneau. It was a wonderful experience for our youth to see a live production.

The second professional development opportunity offered in conjunction with Brightways Learning, **reVitalize: The Kaleidoscope Behind Educator Resilience**, will be offered on Saturday, November 21 and will be facilitated by David Pavish and Derek Peterson.

Here's a link to learn more:

<https://www.brightwayslearning.org/events/2020/5/6/ed-snax-bite-sized-pd-experiences-for-educators-june-8-10-amp-17-2020-5rhal>

I've done some virtual presentations recently, one of which was for the National Indian Education Association conference. I did two presentations for that conference. Others have included an organization of superintendents in Montana, and teacher inservice for Muncie, IN. I am currently preparing a presentation for the Safe Schools Conference on December 8th - 10th. Exciting stuff

PHlight Club!



WebMasters!



PHlight Camp!

