

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**2023-2024 School Annual  
Reports to the Superintendent**

*Clayton Holland*

*Superintendent*



# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Aurora Borealis Charter School

Principal: Cody McCanna

Girls Basketball- 1<sup>st</sup> place for small schools

Boys Basketball – 1<sup>st</sup> place for small schools

Robotics Team- Qualified for First Lego League State

Future Problem Solving:

Action Plan Project-2<sup>nd</sup> place in State

Team Global Issues- 1<sup>st</sup> place in State

Invited to compete at International Competition at Indiana University

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Battle of the Books District Champs, 6<sup>th</sup> at State

Middle School Science Olympiad: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at State competition in Fairbanks

AK Star Assessment Results:

	Aurora Scores	State Scores
Math:	89% Proficient	33% Proficient
Language:	72% Proficient	32% Proficient
Science:	83% Proficient	37% Proficient

Art Show: 13 middle school students had their artwork chosen to be displayed at the district art show.

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Chapman School

Principal: Heidi Stokes

## Grants:

- \$5000- Homer Foundation, Martha H. Briscoe Opportunity Fund. This grant was used to help fund the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Expedition Yellowstone. 14 students were able to attend an immersive science camp in Yellowstone National Park. They explored, hiked, and experimented alongside park rangers for 4 days. 8<sup>th</sup> graders described this opportunity as transformative.
- \$5000- Yellowstone Forever. Yellowstone Forever assisted with the cost of lodging for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade educational experience, Expedition Yellowstone.
- \$1280: Alaska Sea Life Center Scholarship: This scholarship allowed our second through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to participate in the Nocturne program at the Sealife Center in Seward. Students participated in after-hours programming and spent the night in the Seward Sealife Center.
- \$8000- Donors Choose. Eight Chapman teachers participated in the Donors choose program where they submitted \$1000 dollar wish lists. Teachers were able to purchase flexible seating options, greenhouse supplies, learning games and science equipment.

## Districtwide, Statewide, and National academic awards

- Student Based Awards:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Overall winner for Mind -A-Mazes in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade division.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place overall winner for Battle of the Books for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Samuel Smith, top 20 in the State Spelling Bee
- Staff Based Awards:
  - Allen Haskins KPBSD principal of the year: Heidi Stokes
  - Alaska State Paraprofessional of the Year Nominee: Mackenzie Henley

## Regional and state athletic titles,

- Soccer: 1<sup>st</sup> place in small school's middle school coed division (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Track:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place in Female's Discus: Dayten VanOstrand, 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place in Female's Shotput: Dayten VanOstrand, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

## Special school-wide projects:

- Artist in the Schools: This program was made available through Bunnell Street Arts Center with support from the Alaska Legislature which funds Alaska State Council on the Arts, thus providing matching support from Rasmuson Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Ulmer's Drug and Hardware,

Kenai Fine Arts Center, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Because of this partnership, students at Chapman had the opportunity to engage in artistic exploration with talented local artist, Sharlene Cline. The product of this partnership was a collaborative mural that is now featured in the Chapman library.

- Expedition Yellowstone: 14 Chapman 8<sup>th</sup> graders were able to travel to Yellowstone National Park to spend 5 days learning, hiking, exploring, and experimenting with Park Rangers. Through fundraising, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were able to participate.
- Swimming Lessons for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade: 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade partnered with their families and the Chapman parent group to raise the funds to participate in two weeks of swimming lessons at the Homer High Pool. Swimming lessons was established as a priority for our site as there are many students who live near, or recreate near, water. Student safety was a concern as many Chapman students do not have access to swimming lessons. 60 kids participated in these lessons.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Connections Homeschool Program

Principal: Doug Hayman

Connections Homeschool has completed the reaccreditation process and has been recommended for reaccreditation for the cycle of accreditation beginning next year. This process involved all stakeholders, parents, students, and staff. The three main areas of focus for the following years will be developing a system to support parents in the use of formative assessment, developing a system to support parents in Reading instruction (special focus on K-3), and developing a system to improve the graduation rate.

One of the main themes of our work this year was to prepare students for post-high school life. We held “Fuel Your Future” events at all three Connections sites in September. Our main speaker was Jean Burk who is a published author and national speaker on succeeding on ACT/SAT assessments and college prep. In addition to college preparation, our events featured career path resources in vocational and service industries.

Several of our Connections Seniors qualified for early graduation. In addition to completing their required credit courses, these students were able to articulate their plans, the resources they would need to achieve these goals and the family support that is in place. As part of the process for early graduation, our I-Team reviewed each applicants requests and agreed that they are likely to be successful in the next step of their journey to becoming contributing members of our society. Graduating early is not a good choice for all students who qualify, but for these students who have a plan for their future, we are happy that they are already on the road to success.

Connections Homeschool Program communicates with our families in several ways including a website, weekly newsletter, Facebook, and in-person PAC (Parent Advisory Committee.) Our staff has a unique communication system. Besides the electronic communication that is shared with all our stakeholders, we talk to each other, in real time. This system is fostered in an open-concept type office setting. At each site, all of our staff work in the same room, arena style. This style does have its drawbacks but overall in affords the ability to problem solve issues in real time, share discussions, decisions, and workload. Nearly every Friday, our staff participate in what we call “a working lunch,” where we sit around the same table, enjoy our lunch and each other’s ideas and conversations. Observing this collaborative environment is really the best way to understand the system and the benefits derived from it.

Connections had several championships in academic areas such as Math competitions and Battle of Books. Connections students were also part of nearly every KPBSD school athletic team. Including state championship teams. Connections is everywhere.

Our program will continue to involve our families from the moment they register to the day they walk across the graduation ceremony stage. Our events are all focused around bringing people together for the purpose of improving education.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Cooper Landing

Principal: Cindy McKibben

- Cooper Landing School began our year on rocky terrain without having a teacher for our K-3 classroom. We had a substitute who helped us get the year started which included completely setting up a classroom after the previous teacher of 17 years moved to a different school. We finally secured a teacher at the beginning of October. She and the students worked together to implement the new CKLA and iReady curriculums and they ended the school year with no students in the well-below-benchmark performance category in mCLASS. In April, students in this classroom began a plant growing project which led to a revival of the school's greenhouse. We are hopeful this continues and have community support with the operations during the summer.
- Cooper Landing School had Battle of the Books teams at every level this year, and the middle school team won second place in the district competition.
- We had another successful year of our skiing program with Hope and Moose Pass Schools. We are unsure of the possibility of continuing the program due to Alyeska's rising costs. Fundraising for the cost of skiing begins in the summer and continues throughout the year. With such a small community, we try to stay cognizant of not draining the community with lots of fundraising opportunities but have to balance this with the rising costs.
- Cooper Landing School, as well as Hope and Moose Pass, have a continuing partnership with the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm program (KMTA) where their education specialist works with our school to develop programming that is not only interesting and fun but aligns with our academic standards as well. We are planning a trip in early September for all students to ride the train to Spencer Glacier. KMTA is especially interested in helping our small schools continue to partner to enrich the social circles of our small communities as well as learn the history and geology of the area where we live.
- The 4-8 teacher successfully planned for and carried out an 8th-grade trip to Harry Potter World which is part of Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida. The trip was the culmination of completing all of the books in the series over a couple of years. The teacher created thematic units for the books and much of the reading was completed outside of the school day. The students read in a small group and took on the roles of each of the characters while they read. We would like to share the trip and the content the teacher developed to accompany the books with the school board next fall.

- Our school saw 2 students progress from middle school to high school at the end of our year. One student will be attending Soldotna High School while the other student is applying for high schools in Sitka and Anchorage.
- Cooper Landing School graduated one senior this year, Cooper Gossard. He graduated with an incredible 30 college credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.96. He earned the following scholarships and plans to use them to further his education in computer science at UAA.
  - UA Scholars - \$3,000/year up to \$12,000
  - Alaska Performance Scholarship - \$4,755/year up to \$19,020
  - Kenai Borough Employees Association scholarship - \$750
  - Masonic Lodge scholarship - \$1,000
  - Soldotna Chamber's Community Cares CTE Scholarship - \$3,750.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Fireweed Academy

Principal: Kyle Darbonne

This was a great year of growth and building upon momentum of the last few years. Fireweed students saw significant growth in reading from 53% of students at or above benchmark at the beginning of year to 75% at or above benchmark (45% above) at the end of the year. Our thematic units of Habitat, Conservation, Structures, and Cycles resulted in a revival of some past traditions like the Structures Expo as well as new events like our outdoor Habitat role play. We welcomed local artists into our school for Artist in the Schools projects, hosted multiple community events like the Harvest Festival and May Day Celebration, and participated in the Link Up concert alongside the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra. Our Frescoes program performed many times throughout the year including at a local pre-school and for the final Admin Meeting of the year at Homer High.

A few local community awards:

- Two of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students took first place at the iDidaContest from Alaska Society for Technology in Education for their podcast.
- One 1<sup>st</sup> place and two 3<sup>rd</sup> place Poetry winners in the Homer Council on the Arts Writing Contest



# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Homer Flex

Principal: Christopher Brown

## School

- Alaska Alternative Schools Grant
- Collaboration with RELNW to identify, adopt, implement, and revise research-based trauma engaged practices
- Donor-advised Homer Foundation Grants (David & Mary Schroer and Homer Incentive Fund)
- “For the Parents” Nights – a three part series with Brian Partridge: “The Teenage Brain,” “The Impact of Trauma on the Brain, and “Technology and Teens: What the Research Says”
- Food Security program (weekly Pancake Breakfast, Culinary Arts)
- Sources of Strength: student-led group focused on the promotion of a positive school environment through student voice
- Continued focus on positive school environment through PBIS (including affective language), trauma informed care, and restorative practices
- Staff PLC on “Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska”
- Adopt a Highway spit cleanup
- Artist in the School with Kim McNett (watercolor) and The Bunnell Street Arts Center
- Thirteenth Annual “Flex First Friday”
- Community-based physical education activities (Kevin Bell Arena, SPARC, HERC, etc)

## Student

Homer Elks Student of the Year – Ashe Dias  
Masonic Outstanding Student Award – Wyatt Counts  
Open Hand Scholarship (\$1500) – Archer Matysczak  
Kachemak Bay Board of Realtors (\$1000) – Wyatt Vogl  
Division III First Team All-State (Inside Linebacker) – Wyatt Vogl  
Division III Second Team All-State (Defensive Back) – Landon Branstetter  
DDF State Competition participant – Ashe Dias  
Homer Youth Court member – Ashe Dias

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Homer High School

Principal: Douglas Waclawski

## **School Awards**

- \* US World News & Report 2024 “Best High School” Category  
-9th Best School in Alaska

## **ACADEMIC**

- \* National Merit Scholar Finalists
  - \* Lucas Story
  - \* Spencer Co
  - \* Blaise Banks
- \* National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award 2023

## **FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Alivia Fefelov – Columbia
- Blaise Banks – Washington State University

## **SPORTS/ACTIVITIES**

- \* Region 3 Champions – Girls Track & Field
- \* State Runner-Up Girls Track
- \* State Command Performance – William Bradshaw – Musical Theater
- \* State Command Performance – Dayus Geysbeek – Musical Theater
- \* State Command Performance – Clark Milstead – Trombone

## **INDIVIDUAL REGION / STATE AWARDS**

- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Place State – Emma Grimes - Ceramics
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Place State – Roane Cook – Wrestling 185
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Place State – Saoirse Cook – Wrestling 126
- \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Place State – Brayden Woods – Wrestling 152
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Place State – 300m Hurdles – Gracie Miotke
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Place State – 4 x 800 relay – Girls Track & Field
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Place State – 4 X 400 relay – Girls Track & Field

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Homer Middle School

Principal: Meghan Redmond

- Grant: Homer Foundation \$3,000 David & Mary Schroer Grant
- School-wide Project: Revitalizing student council
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mock Interview day
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Cold Water Survival training
- Award: Charlie Rustand named HMS Masonic Outstanding Student
- Award: Ames Kincaid named Homer Elks Student on the Move Award
- Girls Soccer Borough Champs
- Boys Soccer Borough Champs
- Track Girls team Borough Champs
- Girls Cross Country Borough Champ Etta Bynagle
- Girls Nordic Ski Borough Champ: Myra Kalafut

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent

2023-2024

School Name: Hope School

Principal: Cindy McKibben

## Scholarships and Awards

- Landon Stroh received the UA Scholars Award and the Alaska Performance Scholarship. Tristen Peterson received the Alaska Performance Scholarship. Both students will also receive a \$250 book scholarship from Hope, Inc. to use towards college textbooks.
- All Hope School students made the Honor Roll. Many high school students have cumulative GPAs between 3.5 and 4.0, despite taking challenging courses. Our students obtained college credits through the KPBSD Career Technical College and Middle College Program, which has promoted confidence and enthusiasm in pursuing higher education.
- Landon Stroh and Tristen Peterson received the President's Award for Educational Excellence for Outstanding Academic Excellence, based on their GPA and other relevant criteria.
- Tristen Peterson, Aaden Nolan, and Eleanor Stehn received the Masonic Award of Excellence from Kenai Masonic Lodge No 11 F&AM for the kindness, concern, acceptance, and inclusiveness they demonstrate daily.

## Student Achievements

- Jolee Peterson, the youngest person to do so, obtained and maintains Emergency Trauma Technician certification at the Hope & Sunrise Fire and EMS station. She has encouraged other students to seek First Aid and Basic Life Support training, and Kodi Airth has obtained Basic Life Support Certification.
- Two Hope School students placed fifth in the Battle of the Books event, which engages and connects students throughout the district while promoting reading, cooperation, and competitiveness.
- All students who participated in the Readathon were awarded prizes and pizza. Many of our students read at incredible paces and above-average reading levels. PTO sponsorship of this challenge is appreciated, as it impacts student learning acceleration and promotes reading as a group and personal goal.

## Field Day at Moose Pass

Our three small schools - Hope, Moose Pass, and Cooper Landing - had the opportunity to participate in a field day at Moose Pass. Our students always look forward to visiting other schools and taking part in district and statewide events. This may be their most anticipated social event of the year. It gave our students a strong sense of belonging to the district and school community, which is an amazing character-building experience. Thank you for allowing us this incredible opportunity.

Thank you for taking the time to review our students' outstanding academic and personal achievements. We appreciate your dedication to Hope School and all schools in our district. We are grateful to our Superintendent for staying involved, connected, and taking pride in our students. Have a wonderful summer.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Kachemak Selo

Principal: Michael Wojciak

- Project Grad CHILL participants
- MS soccer participants
- Summer School participants
- HS Alyeska ski trip participant
- Beach/Community cleanup
- Borough acquisition of property for new school
- Land's End graduation
- Parent/Family engagement nights
- CKLA implementation with Amplify rep.
- KESA school visit
- Bookmobile opportunity
- Exit date of June 28<sup>th</sup> from old HS building

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Kaleidoscope Charter School

Principal: Dawn Grimm

Battle of the Books 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Dimond Dance Project Artist in Residence

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent**

## **2023-2024**

School Name: K-Beach Elementary

Principal: Janae Van Slyke

### **School Awards**

- Elizabeth Kvamme was awarded the AAESP 2023 National Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year. In September, Mrs. Kvamme was recognized by the Alaska State Legislature for her achievement.
- K-Beach Elementary's sixth grade Kenai Peninsula Masonic Lodge Outstanding Student is Miriam Huhtagaard.
- Judson Smith was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in KPBSD Trimathalon for Word Problems.
- Ethan Handsaker represented K-Beach as our Spelling Bee winner for the state competition.

### **School-wide Projects**

- K-Beach Elementary had 181 Positive Office Referral for this school year.
- Author Dora Wilbur visited our school on September 21<sup>st</sup> and hosted an assembly for grades K-3.
- K-Beach partnered with Kenaitze to provide instructional support during the school. During P.E. classes in November students learned games played in NYO. In the month of February, we had cultural days where Kenaitze staff led our students in traditional dance as well as some of the games and activities that continue to be an important part of the culture, history, and traditions of the Kenaitze people.
- The Lathrop High School Ballroom Dance Team performed for students in an assembly.
- Battle of the Books- Many 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders participated in intramural Battle of the Books, and teams competed in the district competition.



## School Annual Report to the Supt.

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- K-Beach partnered with Operation Children First and donated 25 full Thanksgiving meals.
- Mrs. Smreka's sixth grade class organized a recycling program at K-Beach.
- Stream Keepers- All 5<sup>th</sup> grade students of K-Beach Elementary partnered with the Kenai Watershed Forum to care for the local Slikok Creek. With the help of community members and teachers, students worked to keep the stream healthy.
- Our Caribou Migration fun run raised \$8,417. All students and all staff, along with the participation of many families and community members, participated in this event. This event promoted positive school and community relationships while encouraging healthy lifestyles.
- Brianna Kjostad was the new queen of reading at K-Beach. Breanna read 14,100 minutes last summer. All students and staff read a combined total of 254,104 minutes.
- K-Beach Elementary's student leadership volunteered to help younger students at recess, helped with Kindergarten Round Up, and worked to beautify the school grounds. Students also volunteered at the Kenai Pumpkin Festival where they hosted a face-painting booth for the community. These students also organized a pet food drive in the fall and donated the supplies to the City of Kenai Animal Shelter.
- K-Beach hosted several family engagement nights such as Bingo for Books, Family Sledding Night, Reading Game Night, Spring STEAM Activity Night, and Book Fairs.
- K-Beach Elementary hosted a variety of intramurals and clubs such as Gaming Club, Spanish Club, Music Club, Film Club and Battle of the Books.
- K-Beach student artwork displayed in the Capital Building in Juneau.
- Third graders dissected salmon with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

**School Name:** Kenai Alternative High School

**Principal:** Kyle McFall

## **Grants Awarded**

- Alternative Schools of Alaska Grant - \$23,300
- Alaska School Improvement Grant - \$25,000

## **Individual Awards and Recognition:**

- 2024 Masonic Outstanding Student of the Year – Sonia Montague
- 2024 ELKS Lodge #2425 Student of the Year – Kayley Rogers
  - Student of the Month recipients – Ryan Yeager, Zach Welch, Layla Allain, Kayley Rogers, Jaxson Nunley, Malcolm Leach, Joseph Desmidt, Claire Pellegrom, and Bella Stauss
- 2024 UAA Scholar – Eli Semeraro

## **School-Wide Projects**

KAHS offers a morning breakfast program which is run by various community members including Eileen Bryson, Scott Earsley, Megan Mueller, Mitch Michaud, Ann Shew, and Hal and Susie Smalley. This group works together to ensure that students are provided a hot breakfast every morning. While a portion of the food and supplies is financed by funding from the Alternative Schools grant, food for Thursday and Friday is donated by Dave Schilling. He then coordinates with Peterkin Distributors to ensure that food is delivered to the school on a weekly basis. The food for Tuesday breakfasts was purchased this year through a monetary donation from the Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. The breakfast program has been in existence for nearly 30 years, and we are proud that the majority of our volunteer group will be back again next year, ensuring that the Breakfast Program will continue.

Kenai Alternative continues to remain a member of the Alaska Alternative Schools Coalition. This coalition is made up of over a dozen alternative schools from around the state and holds an annual meeting. This year's meeting was held in September in Anchorage and it provided staff members at these schools time to share success stories and collaborate. It also served as an opportunity for the AASC to present a new partnership with REL NW and provide information on a 3-year project. The purpose of the project is to implement effective trauma-engaged practices in each alternative school and monitor the impact on the staff and students. In order to help fund this project, the AASC awarded a grant to each member school. From this grant, Kenai Alternative funded several programs including the aforementioned Breakfast Program, the Alaska Outdoor Adventure Program, and the new Mentorship period. Kenai Alternative leadership met with REL NW quarterly to review progress in the implementation process and discuss action steps moving forward.

One of the programs financed by the AASC grant was the Alaska Outdoor Adventure Program which helped expose students to physical activities based in outdoor settings. Trips funded by this program included a hiking trip in Cooper Landing (Hidden Creek Trail), ice skating at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex, and rafting on the Kenai River. These trips sought to provide students alternatives to exercise while exploring various regions of the Kenai Peninsula. In addition, the program promoted community partnerships and engaged students with community members in a positive and collaborative environment.

The Kenai Alternative Sources of Strength program focused on developing student self-efficacy and leadership opportunities through team-based activities and community partnerships. Students participated in school-wide morning meetings and mentorship classes that incorporated SEL curriculum. In addition, students participated in school-wide activities organized by the Sources of Strength group. Staff and students also organized service and career-based projects that led to the development of community partnerships. These projects included:

- The annual community Thanksgiving dinner
- The Giving Tree Service Project
  - This was a collaborative project between KAHS, the Kenai Elks Lodge, and the Kenai Community Library.
  - Over 100 children in the Kenai community were provided a gift for Christmas.
- Post-secondary mentorship tutoring with Shannon Dodge and Scott Pitsch (Teacher Prep and Career Prep Coordinators at Kenaitze)
- Community Connection Events – community nights that provided information about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and building resiliency towards it. Organizations that were involved in these events included:
  - Peninsula Points on Prevention, Change 4 the Kenai, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, KPBSD Sources of Strength, SAFR, The LeeShore Center, and Orca Theater
- Career Prep Days – included certification training and job shadowing opportunities. Community members/businesses involved in this project included:
  - Shannon Dodge from Kenaitze
  - The State of Alaska Independent Living Center
  - Kenai Police Department, Central Emergency Services, Rusty Ravin, the Alaska National Guard, and The Goods

For the 2023-24 school year, Kenai Alternative High School had 18 graduates.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Kenai Central High School  
Principal: Daniel Beck

## **ACADEMIC:**

UA Scholars (\$12,000) Robert Carson, Lynnea Hack, Vincent Hensley, Boston McEwen, Taylor McNeel, Chloe Moffett, Emily Moss, Adeline Smith, Kylee Verkuilen, James Wright, Ashlin Potton

## **ATHLETIC:**

### **Football**

DIII State Champions

### **Volleyball:**

Region Champions

Region MVP - Emma Beck

3A State Champions – 2 years in a row

2023 ASAA State Tournament Academic Award

3A State Tournament Best Hitter - Emma Beck

Alaska Gatorade Player of the Year – Emma Beck

### **Nordic Skiing:**

DII Boy's State Champions

Gregory Fallon First Place

DII Girl's State Champions

Emily Moss First Place

### **Basketball Cheer:**

DII State Champions – four years in a row

### **E-Sports:**

Fall State Tournament 2<sup>nd</sup> Place “Smash Bros”

Fall State Tournament Champions “League of Legends”

### **Hockey:**

Region MVP Logan Mese

### **Wrestling:**

Boy's Region 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

State Champions

140 lb. Daniel Stephenson

**Track and Field:**

Region Champions:

Girls Discus Emma Beck  
Boy's 800 M Gregory Fallon  
Boy's Discus Willian Roberts

State Champions:

Girls Discus Emma Beck  
Boy's 800 M Gregory Fallon  
Boy's Discus Willian Roberts  
Boy's Shot Put James Write  
Boy's High Jump Hayden Hughes

**Boy's Soccer:**

Region MVP Aloschia Cross  
State Tournament Participants

**Girl's Soccer:**

Region Champions  
Region MVP Kylee Verkuilen  
DII State Champions

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Kenai Middle School

Principal: Vaughn Dosko

<u>SPORTS</u>	
Soccer	Girls – Second at Boroughs Boys – Second at Boroughs
XC Running	Finished in Top 10
Track	Boys – Second at Borough Girls – Second at Borough
Basketball	Girls – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Boys – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Volleyball	2 <sup>nd</sup> at Boroughs
Wrestling	5 borough champs and 1 state champ
XC Skiing	Finished in Top 10
<u>ACADEMICS</u>	
Math Counts	Met Weekly/ State Math Champions
Math Bowl	Held at KMS
FPS (Future Problem Solving)	2nd Place
Spelling Bee	1st Place – Joslynn Bernhardt
Battle of the Books	7th & 8th Grade – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
After School Tutorial	November 6 – March 22 (Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's)
Masonic Award	– 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Nyomi Hunt
<u>EXTRA-CURRICULAR</u>	
Band Concerts	4 Band Concerts throughout the year
Choir Concerts	4 Choir Concerts throughout the year
<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	
WAK (Welcoming All Kids)	August 11
Open House/BBQ	August 24 and April 25
Spirit Week	September 11-15 April 15- 19

Activity Nights	Quarterly
Hay Maze	October 25
Red Ribbon Week	October 23-25
Canned Food Drive	December 11-15
Character Counts	Weekly Awards
SOM (Students of the Month)	Awarded Monthly in each grade level.
Celebrations	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter.
Ice Fishing	March 22 (7th Grade)
Clubs	January 17 – February 14
Volunteer Celebration	May 8
New Student Visitation	April 22-25
Aluminum Can Drive	April
Mini courses	May 14-15
6th Camp	May 08-10
Farewell Ceremony	May 13
<u>MEETINGS</u>	
Staff Meetings	(monthly – first Wednesday of each month)
<u>DRILLS</u>	
Fire Drills	Monthly
Earthquake Drills	October
ALICE Training	4 times per year
BUILDING USE	Many community users utilizing the building

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Marathon School

Principal: Melissa Linton

Marathon School housed at the Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility (KPYPF) is a small alternative school serving grades 7-12. One certified teacher staffs Marathon School as well as several qualified KPYPF staff.

Students are offered a wide variety of academic and social-emotional programming. Students are encouraged to continue with courses they are enrolled in, but also have access to credit recovery programs to help get them back on track for graduation. In addition to academics, the school provides multiple opportunities including hands-on career and technical education (CTE) training, certifications, and job skills development. A strong emphasis is placed on fostering social and emotional wellness through activities such as goal-setting, relationship-building, and developing crucial soft skills like communication and problem-solving. While enrolled, students are encouraged not only to focus on academics and earning credits but also to build essential skills for future success. These include self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making. By prioritizing both academic instruction and holistic personal growth, Marathon School aims to fully prepare students for smooth transitions and achievements after leaving the school.

Next school year, the school is expanding offerings to students in fine and practical arts. For example, Mr. Mike Morgan, local musician, provided students with weekly ukulele lessons. Ms. Derks sponsored poetry slams for students to write and perform with DJJ staff, and Mr. Koch, a Canadian guest speaker, spent the day with our students to speak about resilience and self-efficacy. Students wrote a small grant to fund the purchase of garden materials and grow their own microgreens and other vegetables for their meals. Robotics, welding and other digital simulators will also be available depending on student interest and skills.



Finally, we are very proud to announce that three students successfully completed graduation requirements and transitioned from Marathon Schools with their high school diploma!

Marathon School will continue to strive to provide a supportive environment focused on academic achievement, personal growth, and successful transitions tailored to individual student needs.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: McNeil Canyon Elementary School

Principal: Pete Swanson

## **Staff Achievements**

- Anne Love and Lenore Swanson collaborated with parent volunteer Miriam Linder on 31st consecutive, successful Artist-in-Schools grant that provided the opportunity for all students to work with our guest Artist in Residence, Elizabeth Nelson. Elizabeth provided an opportunity for all our students to work on developmentally appropriate dramatic presentations. McNeil students were very actively involved in this two-week program. This AIS grant program has had a tremendous impact on the entire school and continues to be a very real tradition.

## **Student Accomplishments**

- Hadley Darr qualified for the State Spelling Bee. Hadley is a 6th grade student.

## **Co-Curricular Accolades**

- 3-4 and 5-6 grade students competed in Battle of the Books. Our 5-6 team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Moose Pass

Principal: Douglas Hayman

Please list the outstanding achievements of students, staff and/or your school for the past year. It is important that you share the following information; grants awarded, districtwide, statewide and national academic awards, regional and state athletic titles, special school-wide projects, etc. It is not necessary to list each member of a team or group unless it is pertinent to an individual award. Your submission may not be longer than two (2) pages in length. This electronic form must be emailed to Lisa Gabriel, Administrative Secretary for the Superintendent, on or before June 1.

Moose Pass School had a productive school year with many achievements to be proud of. We were fully staffed with a full time teacher, instructional tutor, and secretary, and a part time SPED aide, custodian, and FS Manager. We had a total of 23 students at the start of the year, with 11 in the K-1 and 12 in the 2-5 grades. Two 1<sup>st</sup> graders moved mid-year and we ended the school year with 21 students.

All students participated in putting on a holiday program with singing and dancing. Our Instructional Tutor, who has a lot of experience with school plays, volunteered to direct the production. Students helped design and build sets with the help of our SPED aide, who also volunteers to teach art to the students. The students learned and practiced songs, dances and lines, and put on a performance that the community was very proud of.

All students were fitted for cross country skis this school year and participated in cross country skiing as part of their physical education. The School received a grant through Seward Community Foundation to purchase new ski boots and replace old ones.

All students participated in the downhill skiing program at Alyeska. This included six ski lessons starting at the end of February and ending in April. Students gained skills and confidence, and had a great time! We received a generous donation of \$3500 from the Moose Pass Sportsman's Club to help fund the program. Site Based Council held a Halloween Carnival in October to raise the remaining funds necessary.

Students enjoyed many art lessons taught by our part time SPED aide and super sub who was subbing for the secretary whenever she was out. All students learned art skills as well as art history and art appreciation. All students participated in the Forest Service Fish Art Contest and 5 students won awards:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1174914>

Most students participated in a LEGO robotics program taught by a community volunteer. The 4th and 5th grade LEGO robotics team (Moose Bots) competed at the Alaska Robot Rendezvous First LEGO League Championship Tournament and won the Motivate Award. The fifth grade students participated in the Kenai Qualifier and won the project award for their idea to design a mural for the school. This project is in its' beginning stages and will hopefully be completed next year.

All students participated in the district wide Battle of the Books competition. All students enjoyed reading all of the titles which were available at our school library. The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> team, made up of our three 5<sup>th</sup> graders and coached by a volunteer parent, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the district wide battle.

All students participated in an Artisit in Residence program. We had a music teacher from Seward come and teach rhythm and music with recorders.

All students attended a special performance of Alice in Wonderland at Seward High School thanks to the generosity of the drama department at Seward High School.

All students went on a field trip to the Anchorage Performing Arts Center to see a Broadway production of Aladdin, thanks to generous donations from the community and a Valentine's Day chocolate covered strawberry fundraiser.

Moose Pass School hosted an end of year Field Day with Hope and Cooper Landing Schools with a barbecue, pot luck and games for all ages.

It was a fun and productive year. We are so thankful for all of the people who help make Moose Pass School a great place to grow and learn!

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Mountain View Elementary School

Principal: Hannah Dolphin

## **Alaska Reads Act**

Mountain View Elementary educators have fully committed to meeting the requirements of the Alaska Reads Act to ensure that all students are receiving the best instruction they can in early literacy. All K-3 teachers have either begun or completed their pathway for reading certification. All staff are trained in mCLASS administration and participated in benchmarking and progress monitoring their students. Mountain View Elementary had 100% compliance with implementation of Amplify CKLA.

## **Student Achievements**

The 2023-2024 school year was a busy one for Mountain View students. To start the year, Mountain View's gifted and talented students participated in the KPBSD Mind-A-Maze competition. The same group of students also filmed, edited, and screened films for the KPBSD Film Festival in Seward. The Mountain View Elementary gifted and talented program also hosted the KPBSD Trimathalon, hosting elementary and middle schools from all over the peninsula. Fourth grader, Liam Macias placed first in chess. 5<sup>th</sup> grader, Waylon Dobkins placed second in chess, and 5<sup>th</sup> grader Gideon Blum placed fourth in chess. Fourth grader, Danika Ashkenasy placed second in word problems. The fourth-grade team, "The Mathletes" placed third overall in the district. Mountain View Elementary's 5<sup>th</sup> grade Battle of the Books team placed first in the district. Each February, Mountain View Elementary students participate in the Iditaread. This year boasted the most successful readers and participation in Mountain View's history. iReady's mascot, Plory, came to visit to celebrate students who reached their annual growth by the winter benchmarking window. Students were celebrated monthly with a pizza luncheon for positive behavior based on teacher nomination.

## **School Culture**

To start the school year, teachers adjust to a new set of adopted materials for literacy instruction, and a new literacy screener. This required teachers to pivot, and spend a significant amount of time planning and learning. This caused a significant amount of stress for instructional staff. The administration listened, used federal funding to provide teachers with an additional planning day to collaborate with their colleagues. This, coupled with an administration who listened to concerns, and patience and grace, the staff slowly came to accept this change. At each staff meeting, Mountain View Elementary's assistant principal modeled an SEL strategy for staff. Teacher Appreciation was a big event at Mountain View Elementary. All staff were invited to compete in challenges to benefit the school community, earning prizes and bragging rights. Every spring the staff compete in a kickball game against the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a wonderful lesson in sportsmanship. The PTO hosted a T-Shirt design competition, won by second-grader Jack Miller. All Mountain View students received a free Jack Miller T-Shirt. Staff were spotlighted each week, with a mystery staff member. Clues were shared over the morning announcements and the staff member was announced on Friday and shared to Facebook. The Mountain View Elementary Climate Committee planned monthly potlucks for staff which were occasionally coupled with a competition. The staff

competed in salsa, dessert, and salad competitions. Students' positive behavior was honored through Student Leadership for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders modeling helpful, kind, and leadership qualities. All students were honored through positive office referrals when their actions were above and beyond.

### **Family and Community Engagement**

#### **Family Engagement:**

As part of Mountain View's goal to improve students' academic achievement and social emotional well-being, the Mountain View Leadership team determined that a key factor would be increased family engagement opportunities. In the fall, we hosted an Ice Cream Social, inviting all families to come, meet school staff, learn about our Title I program, and enjoy ice cream! In October, Mountain View hosted our annual fall carnival, full of games and food. During the second quarter, staff prepared popcorn and provided free books for families at our Bingo for Books Night. The Kenai Community Library also attended with a Library Card Pop-Up booth. During the third quarter, we hosted an Iditaread family night, coupled with carnival snacks, a scavenger hunt, and free books. Our fourth quarter family engagement took shape as One School, One Book. Staff provided clues, students asked questions, and the title was revealed in a skit performed by school staff. Each Mountain View Elementary family received a copy of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Families were given trivia questions via Facebook, with Scholastic Book Fair Coupons as prizes. Students answered trivia questions each day at school. The culmination was a movie night with free food for all.

#### **Community Engagement:**

The Kenai Home Depot created a mural for the halls of Mountain View Elementary with our school sign off, "Be Kind" and "Be Helpful" written in Dena'ina. The Kenai Police Department provided DARE education for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and helped us host our annual Bike Rodeo with the help of Kenai Peninsula Safe Kids. In August, Mountain View staff volunteered at Kenai's Industry Appreciation and painted faces. Near the winter holidays, the Mountain View Elementary second graders traveled to local businesses and sang carols. Mountain View Elementary hosted tutors from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe during the 2023-2024 school year, between these staff members and the KPBSD Indigenous Education staff, students were able to learn about and create traditional crafts and foods. For Love of Reading Month, community members visited our school to read to students. We also welcomed instructional visits from AK Fish and Game, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Kenai Community Library, The Kenai Central Marching Band and the Lathrop High School Ballroom Dancing Team. Students attended field trips to the following places: Kenai Fjords Tours, Alaska Horn & Antler, Alaska Sealife Center, Islands and Oceans, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Challenger Learning Center, Alaska Zoo and the Kenai River Clean Up.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Nanwalek School

Principal: Penny Bearden

## **Staff:**

Randall Brown is continuing his Master's in Special Education through University of Alaska Southeast. He is working as our Special Education Teacher with a waiver sponsored by the district.

Pauline Berestoff and Kyle Lawrence (paraprofessionals) both completed their first semester at the University of Alaska Southeast. They are both working towards teaching degrees.

## **Grants and Partnerships:**

We continued our grant with Youth Empowerment Services at Cook Inlet Tribal Council for our Innovation Station. CITC supported the grant through additional supplies, additional training for teachers, and supporting SeaWeek by working with students to complete traditional projects using the FabLab.

Friends of Homer Library gave books for each Nanwalek Student in K-12.

English Bay General store continues to supply snacks for K-12 students.

English Bay Corporation purchased new basketball uniforms for middle and high school basketball teams.

Project GRAD continues to support with SEL lessons for K-3; PHLIGHT clubs, field trips, academic support for 6-12, and additional PD opportunities for staff.

We school wide Title I. Used funds to support a wide variety of school projects. The most impactful was to hire an additional teacher to create smaller class sizes in the K-5.

North Pacific Rim Housing supports our students and teachers with school supplies and foods for our Sugpiaq Dinner during SeaWeek and for our Thanksgiving Feast.

Chugachmiut helps with resources and supplies for our Native Language program.

IGAP (Indian General Assistance Program) and AmeriCorp are 'helping hands' that help during open house, Halloween Carnival, SeaWeek, etc.

## **Academics:**

Paula Evans was our UAA Scholar.

**Athletics:**

HS Boys Basketball

Macarius Evans earned All-Tournament and All-Conference team during the Region II Peninsula Conference.

Region II Sportsmanship award during regional tournament.

HS Girls Basketball

Alyson Seville and Royanna Berestoff earned All-Tournament team during the Region II Peninsula Conference and Alyson Seville earned a spot on the All-Conference team.

**School Wide Projects:**

Our largest school wide undertaking this year is our Community and Culture Wednesdays. Community members come in an hour on Wednesdays to lead classes with students. Our local fire department taught safety, we had elder story telling, many cooking, beading, dancing, and craft classes led by community members.

School wide morning meetings to support SEL goals.

Positive Office Referrals; shared during morning meetings and positive phone calls on Fridays. We had over 200 office referrals and positive phone calls.

SeaWeek – a week of collaboration around honoring local culture.

Love of Reading / iDidaRead events.

Staff collaborated around Jimmy Casas book, “Recalibrate The Culture. Our Work. Our Why. Our Values.

Thanksgiving Feast, Winter Music Program, Back to School Picnic, Halloween Carnival, Senior Breakfast, Prom.

All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students participated in a Student Leadership course that focused on leadership philosophies, developing a personal leadership philosophy and included a community service project.

All students worked with a local artist from Homer to design and paint a mural for our entryway.



# Superintendent's Annual Report

## 2023-2024

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School Name Nikiski Middle/High School Principal Michael Crain

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### Middle School

**NMHS Spelling Bee:** Rainy Jenness

**EF Tours:** Mr. Bailey and 9 students will travel to Washington DC and New York City for a Historical and Cultured Exploration this summer.

### Middle School Athletics

**Track & Field:** Middle School had a great season with Mrs. Abel and Ms. Boyle. We had 9 athletes this season.

### High School

**Fine Arts:** There were works from 3 middles schoolers in the show (no awards) and work from 9 High schoolers, there were three that earned awards, all in digital photography: Everett Chamberlain - 2<sup>nd</sup> Emma Hornung - 3<sup>rd</sup> Kailey Stynsberg - Honorable Mention

**Performing Arts:** Over 45 students performed in the spring play of Mama Mia. This show was almost sold out all 4 nights.

**Battle of the Books:** Ashlynn Playle, Sabrina McMillian-Jenkins, Ryder Maguire, Addison Perkins

**National Honor Society:** New inductees, Shania Weathers, Kyler Allen, Kailey Stynsberg

**Honor Choir:** Zoey Riley, Kyler Allen, Jackson Hooper, Oceanna Broussard  
All State Choir – Zoey Riley, Oceanna Broussard, Kyler Allen  
All State Band – Leora McCaughey  
Honor Band – Leora McCaughey, Maggie Grenier, Kyler Allen

## **High School Athletics**

**Wrestling:** Mayaac Schmitt and Truit McCaughey 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at State. Frank St Denis 4<sup>th</sup> Place at State. Rex Wittmer 6<sup>th</sup> Place at State. Destiny Langston 5<sup>th</sup> at State.

**Volleyball:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Regions- All Region Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Team Alexa Iyatunguk, Maggie Grenier, Ashlyne Playle. 2<sup>nd</sup> Team: Kailey Stynsberg, Zoey Ellis. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at State- 1<sup>st</sup> Team All State Kailey Stynsberg. 4<sup>th</sup> Place finish at State

**Football:** Truit McCaughey – Co Defensive POY, 1<sup>st</sup> Team: Seth Payne, Ethan Ellis, Oliver Parrish, Truit McCaughey, Wyatt Maguire. 2<sup>nd</sup> Team: Everett Chamberlain, Jerry Snodgrass, Robert Isabell, Oliver Parrish, Kaiden Parrish.

**Caring for the Kenai:** Ava Spurgeon was a runner up with her Blizzard Prep Kit.

**Giving Back:** Senior Brooke Abel's NHS project this year was getting donations and purchasing supplies to make Christmas Stockings for Mr. Nelsons and his Alaska Air Guard Unit, who were on deployment in Jordan. She was able to put 75 stocking with goodies together.

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Nikiski North Star Elementary School  
Principal: Jenna Fabian

- Before the start of the 2023-2024 school year, NNS participated in the “Family Fun in the Midnight Sun” event with a bubble booth and held a “Popsicles with the Principal” event.
- Admin at both NNS and NMHS showed up at the North Pen Rec Back to School BBQ-Spoke and welcomed community to our schools.
- NNS was present at the Industry Appreciation Day event at the end of August. Terrific opportunity to show up and be present in the community.
- NNS Students were invited to “Future Bulldog Day” to support Nikiski High School Football- Discounted concessions, free admission, and face painting.
- Principal Fabian, the 2023 recipient of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Alan Haskins Principal of the Year Award, was presented with an Alaskan Legislature Citation, sponsored by Senator Jesse Bjorkman.
- In September, NNS once again had a Kenai River Marathon Relay Team, "Team Nikiski North Star." This year, Nikiski Middle High also had a team.
- In October, NNS staff and our PTO held a Fall Carnival with a variety of games and attractions that involved a plethora of community support.
- NNS vs. Nikiski Middle-High School Staff Pumpkin Carving Contest-Featured 10 pumpkins with Celebrity Judges- Superintendent Holland and Assistant Superintendent Dendurent determined a Nikiski Schools Pumpkin Carving Champion. NNS and NMHS determined a "Nikiski Schools Choice" Champion and Facebook voted a Community Choice Champion.
- Continued to highlight "Mystery Staff Member," where we shared a fact each day of the week and classes guessed who it was. Thirty-four staff participated and were highlighted each week. This helped our whole school get to know staff members.
- Announcement Themes: Empowering Education Focus of Week; “Wacky Wednesday”-kids submit jokes. Student Helpers would help share three jokes that were submitted by students. Fun Fact Friday: Based on student input, we continue to share a variety of fun facts each Friday.
- NNS held their annual Jog-a-Thon Fundraiser to support a variety of opportunities for our students. Rain/snow did not spoil our Jog-a-thon fun! With the help of DJ Calvin from North Road Sound and NMHS Mascot-Big Jake, our gym turned into a dance party!
- Teams from NNS participated in the KPBSD “Mind-A-Mazes” Meet-~~u~~\*Out of twenty-five junior level teams, an NNS team had the second highest team score on the Spontaneous Challenge!
- With the support of staff that chaired a committee, NNS continued its Veterans Day Celebration, which included several classes singing songs, sharing poems, and honoring Veterans, both near and far. Despite a school closure due to the weather, we rescheduled the highly attended event.
- NNS hosted a Family Game Night on December 7, which welcomed twenty families spanning from grades K-5. Sixty-eight total people were in our building from 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- NNS is proud of our four students (and everyone else!) that were cast in “The Wizard of Oz.”
- NNS hosted a “Muffins in the Morning/Donuts with Grownups” Morning Reading event.
- Our students were treated to a sneak peek of Nikiski Bulldog Theater’s upcoming production, *Elf*.
- NNS Teacher, Colby Way, collaborated with the community, North Pen Rec, and NNS colleagues to support week-long swimming/water safety lessons for each grade level, which ran from January 8-February 8. With the tremendous support of our community, these lessons were provided at no cost to families.

- NNS participated in “Love of Reading Month” with a Dr. Seuss Spirit Week and “Drop Everything and Read Fridays. Special reading guests- Borough Assemblyman Peter Ribbens and Superintendent Holland. A culminating activity was a Bingo for Books event, sponsored by Title I and the NNS PTO. We ended up having over twenty families visit us as indicated by the sign-in page.
- NNS continues to partner with local bakery-Kivi Creations and local restaurant-Treehouse Restaurant, for special birthday treats for staff and students.
- NNS is very thankful for the Nikiski Fire Department. They volunteer at our school often, from Fire Prevention week, supporting our building during monthly drills, which included a visit with full gear so that students know what to expect, to cooking food on the last day of school.
- The Kenai River Brown Bears hockey team visited our building on two different occasions. The team was split up into teaching groups and was able to interact with each class.
- Mr. Way, with the help of several other teachers, continued a season of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Cross Country Running, Cross Country Skiing, and two sessions of Basketball: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade sessions. Due to so many 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, basketball was split into two groups with different practice times. We saw 45+ students signed up! Both NHS Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball teams, as well as parent volunteers and Board Member Tauriainen helped with referee and coaching responsibilities. This year, our Cross-Country team partnered with area schools and held Tsalteshi/NMHS Invitationals. Our Cross-Country Ski Team hosted two Ski events at North Pen Rec Trailhead. The events were open to the community.
- NNS Title I Family Resource Center officially launched on February 2, 2024. At least twenty families checked out materials/resources on a consistent basis.
- NNS hosted a variety of Special Guest Presenters including Challenger Center Staff, Junior Achievement, Nikiski Fire Department, Nikiski High School Athletics, Tom and Jake with AK Department of Fish and Game, North Peninsula Recreation, Peninsula Community Health Services Dental Center, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Forest Service & Smokey the Bear, Triumvirate Theater, Rachel Pioch-Indigenous Education, Ranger Michelle Ostrowski, Kenai Lions Club and Kenai Masonic Lodge.
- Three NNS students were part of the cast of NMHS’s production of *Mama Mia!*
- Shoutout to Nikiski High School student, Jackson Hooper, supported the integration of arts at NNS! Jackson created and facilitated a Drama Camp for students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- NNS hosted their first annual STEAM Showcase-Open house style, student led family engagement night-Highlighting students’ projects, portfolios, and talents- We ended up having forty-three families and 70 NNS students visit us as indicated by the sign-in page. Many families brought in other siblings, along with aunts/uncles and grandparents.
- Zoey Baker received the American Legion Auxiliary’s Good Deed Award, recognizing Zoey for demonstrating a kind caring act of selflessness.
- Masons: Larry Knudson and Gene Browning formally recognized our Masonic Outstanding Student, James Brewer
- Our PBIS Team supported "Schoolwide Celebrations" when our umbrella filled with pompoms. Each pompom earned was paired with behavior-specific praise. This year, NNS recorded 7,000+ instances of behavior specific praise! Also, sixty-seven positive office referrals!
- During our Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony, NNS recognized our STEAM Teacher, Dr. Rachel Gilbert, who recently graduated from Colorado University-Denver with her Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Executive Leadership.
- Our school highlighted "Star Students of the Month" this year. Staff were tasked with identifying students that exhibited Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and Caring behavior. Each Star Student had their nomination read aloud and received a wearable, keepsake button for families. Principal contacted each Star Student's family, which resulted in 131 personal phone calls/Bloomz messages. e-mails to parents/guardians.

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Ninilchik School

Principal: Jim Hanks

**Cognia**– September 15 kicked off the schools Accreditation process through Cognia.

**Spirit Week** – Student Council held our first Spirit Week of the school year 8/28-9/1.

**Myron Dueck** - On August 29, teachers and secondary students met with and learned from Myron Dueck

**Santa Store** – Dec. 13, The Ninilchik Domestic Engineers hosted a Santa Store for all elementary and middle school students to be able to purchase gifts for family members for a quarter.

**Honor Roll** – In January, NS held its first Honor Roll and On-a-Roll (Elem.) assembly, recognizing hard working students from the first 2 quarters.

**Chris Koch** – Ninilchik School students enjoyed a very inspiring and funny visit from Chris Koch.

**Sources of Strength** – 9 MS/HS students attended the Sources of Strength training in Homer, leading to regular meetings and school-wide activities for the remainder of the school year.

**NAEP** – Ninilchik 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were selected to take this year's NAEP math and reading tests on Feb. 12.

**Ninilchik High School** boys basketball team competed at the state tournament in Anchorage.

**Cognia** – Ninilchik School had its successful accreditation review on March 18.

**NTC** – Ninilchik school developed a partnership with the Ninilchik Traditional Council to provide support for athletics travel and summer activity supervision and management to free up some time in the summer for coaches.

**Dr. Brooks Gibbs** – Project GRAD with the support of Title 1 and our site-based council brought Brooks Gibbs to the school to talk about how to be strong and resilient, especially when facing negative attitudes and behaviors from others.

**New Laptops** – Title 1 funds provided an additional 22 laptops and Chromebooks.

**Close-Up** – Mrs. DenBoer brought 3 Ninilchik High School students to the nation's capital and then New York City for the Spring, 2024 Close-up convention.

**Accelerated Reading** – the NS Elementary celebrated reading hundreds of books with the May 10 AR End of the Year Assembly

**PROM** – Student Council hosted this year's prom at the Fair Grounds on Saturday, May 11

**Graduation** – 5 Fantastic Wolverines graduated from Ninilchik High School on May 13.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Paul Banks Elementary School

Principal: Sean Campbell

- Homer Foundation Grant for school library
- Annual Read-a-thon
- Second Year Outdoor Classroom Celebration
- Annual Halloween Parade
- Annual Art Extravaganza
- Paul Banks Preludes Violin Program with Homer OPUS
- PTA Parent University
- Alaska Reading Ambassador: PTA

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Razdolna School

Principal: Sturm

UA Scholar – Vitaly Basargin

Enrolment projected to be stable for next year.

Project GRAD Chill Time / Field Trips

Project based learning is taking hold and has more secondary kids engaged, improving attendance.

Growth in math and reading scores.

Entire Kindergarten is at or above grade level in reading and mat

Attendance above 85% average

PBIS program

Parent Involvement in Site Council Meetings

Increased communication between school and community via village leadership meetings inclusion of Dr. Sturm.

Collaborative & Positive Staff Culture!!

Staff BBQ's and picnicks

Migrant Ed/ title 1 funded welders to check out, Remote Learning Kits, Life jackets, Marine Classes, books etc.

Harvest Fair, winter wonderland, Seminar week

Artist in the school

Afterschool trapping program

Afterschool Ski club

Afterschool knitting/crafts

Daily after school tutoring- Tier 2 and Tier 3.

School wide adoption of SOR, reading intervention strategies for all classrooms and intervention models. Growth of readers in all grade levels.

Numerous small donations of materials and equipment from local businesses and community members to get our welding program off the ground.

Foundations and funds gathered to add a new construction elective next year

Successful Agriculture program began this year and will be expanding next year.



# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Redoubt Elementary School  
Principal: Jason Williams

## **Staff Achievements:**

Various Grants were awarded to teachers for field trips.  
Retiring this year is Darilynn Matthews and Sharon Hale with 25 years of service each. Also leaving us this year is Sadie Updike, Michael Decker, Nivia Martin, Naomi Parrish, Steve Evans, Judy Cox, Bobbie Spence, and Sami McKeon-Brantley.

## **Student Accomplishments:**

The Spelling Bee winner this year was Maleena Cazares.  
Our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades participated in Forensics.  
Redoubt's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in Battle of the Books.  
We did not have a Masonic Student of the Year winner this year.  
Our summer reading program was a big success with participants earning a reading t-shirt and pizza party.  
Sixth grade students' art were displayed at the State Capitol in Juneau.

## **School Programs and Activities:**

Redoubt held three successful Scholastics Book Fairs this year.  
Family game night was a big success with students, siblings, parents, and staff attending.  
We gave away approximately 100 books at Bingo for Books.  
Our PTA held their annual Carnival in the fall with games, drinks, food, and door prizes.  
Redoubt held their annual wrapping paper school wide fundraiser.  
October was Walk Your Child to School month. Approximately 100 students, parents and staff participated in this activity. Our PTA then supplied hot cocoa and donut holes to everyone.  
Redoubt's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class held a movie night fundraiser that was a huge success.  
Our PTA held a Holiday Gift Shop week, and our 6<sup>th</sup> grade held a Holiday Spirit Week.  
One School One Book this year was "The Water Horse" with prizes for each chapter.  
Mrs. Oberts presented a six weeklong Title 1 parent, Family and School Expectations workshop with great success.  
Our bike rodeo this year was a huge success. Stations consisted of air tire check, chain and brake check, helmet check and helmets for sale along with an obstacle safety course.  
5<sup>th</sup> grade held their wax museum that was opened to the public.  
Families donated 1,413 lbs. of food for our local food bank during our annual food drive.

Redoubt held two Fun Fest this year with new games and prizes added. Ten students had perfect attendance (including Pre K).

**Community Support:**

Holiday Kindness this year supported 20 students with community donations for families in need at Christmas.

Fred Meyers rewards programs continues to be an invaluable support to our school. Former students from Redoubt helped with delivering the canned goods to our Food Bank.

Dr. Suess birthday was celebrated with Cat in the Hat wear along with SPD and Fire Department coming to our classrooms to read Dr. Suess books.

Local Police, Fire Department employees and community members helped support our semiannual bike rodeo.

We began a senior reading program this spring with 2 senior members coming to read to students once a week.

Community volunteers and visitors supported our annual fall carnival.

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: River City Academy

Principal: Shea Nash

River City Academy is a small school with a mission of giving students the tools to achieve academic success through their own self-directed effort. Therefore, most of our important information and achievements are very personalized to each student finding success and growth. I asked my staff to highlight those achievements and what I received is the following:

My highlights for the year- Increased enrollment as community is learning about RCA. We've added some amazing kids throughout the year that didn't start with us.

Explorations is always a highlight. I enjoy interacting with kids while they learn by doing. It's good exercise for us all. The social skills learned are very valuable.

Graduation- There were many kids who I didn't think would graduate but with RCA support and encouragement they made it. Also, the student sharing time and the personalized, community ceremony always warms my heart.

Film festival- Seeing the final movie at the end to see the growth of film making and acting since that year is impressive. We have very creative students at RCA.

Michelle Gist - special education teacher

Year highlights:

-Partnered with KPC to visit Dena'ina sites for our AK studies class - Visited the fire station and learned about volunteer and career opportunities - Visited KPC process tech  
- 8 kids signed up to clean up trash along the highway and cleared a total of 10 full, large trash bags!

Donica Nash – History/ELA teacher

• We had a successful trip to the Fire Department in Soldotna. • Dungeons and Dragons campaigns in exploration weeks saw students creatively working together. • Several science projects went really well as students worked toward completing standards: Anatomy Amusement Parks, Phys Sci Laws of Motion Seatbelt safety PSAs, Create your own body system in Biology, Create a sport you could play on the Moon in Middle School, and Sports in Space in Phys Sci.

Suzanne Phillips – science teacher

- Seeing students' creativity as they completed projects using the Cricut Makers and the sewing machines. - Getting to mentor the same students for two years in a row now and

seeing their growth - both academically and socially. - A student having such appreciation for the study of the trig functions and the relationships in the unit circle, that he remarked he wanted to name his first-born child "Unit Circle". 😊

Kayli Wiseman – Math Teacher

Here are some events/happenings/trends that stood out as shining moments throughout the school year -

Experiments in Suzanne's Physical Science: students were always very engaged in classroom activities, but the final product of the year, making alka-seltzer rockets, felt special. The kids debated their hypotheses and what variable to test, decorated and designed their own rockets and had a ton of fun launching while working together to time and write observations. Being creatively challenging and encouraging personal expression while working in teams, it was a quintessential RCA classroom event!

Older Students Mentoring the Youngers: I noticed a great deal of participation and encouragement between grade levels this, namely from Juniors and Seniors towards our seventh grade class who would often take mentor roles - at every turn our upperclassmen were quick to point out behavior that doesn't align with RCA's core values, play games (pool, ping-pong, board games, etc.) together, or celebrate their successes!

ELA Film as Lit: Many great discussions broke out in ELA 11/12, but showing classic films *Rope* and *Dead Poets Society* inspired some great analysis and debate! Overall students presented their impressions of the movies, explored intertextuality and film/literary criticism while having fun and watching movies! Super successful project and excellent performance from students on individual slideshows.

Fun Mentoring Days: Michelle's mentoring group had a great deal of alliterative-events throughout the year; Tea Tuesdays, Waffle Wednesdays, Meme Mondays - these all added variety to the block, incorporated student input, and reduced stress over school work, as all students were asked to take an extended break. These activities always resulted in groups of students playing board games or chatting with each other who might not have otherwise!

Hans Hess – Special Education aide

Thank you for the opportunity to share about our year!

Shea Nash – River City Academy Principal

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Seward Elementary

Principal: Cook

- Corbin Hartman (5<sup>th</sup> grade student) nominated to attend National Youth Leadership Forum in Seattle. The forum provides students STEM learning opportunities and exploration
- Aurora Bucak (5<sup>th</sup> grade student) played the lead, Alice, in Seward High School Theatre Collectives version of Alice in Wonderland. Multiple other students played roles in the production.
- \$1500 grant to assist in 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend Alaska Outdoor School, a 2 night science/outdoor experience provided by KMTA
- Multiple grants for field trips
- Youth 360 provided funds for after school Science Club
- Youth 360 and Seward El worked together to promote the Icelandic Prevention Model by hosting community events. Scheduled family play opportunities at the school and conducting regularly scheduled Parent Collaboratives to focus on the importance of community/family involvement throughout the school and community.
- Seward Community Foundation provided funds for Snow School
- Seward Artists in Schools. Multiple local artists and authors volunteered their time to come into the school to provide instruction and exploration opportunities. These included (but not limited to):
  - Drumming
  - Ceramics
  - Print Making
  - Song Writing
  - Biographical writing and interviews of community elders
  - Painting
  - Theatre Arts
  - Music foundations
  - Created a new school sign to be displayed on the highway
- Partnership with Animal Shelter to allow students to pet and care for animals. This was set up by Christy Jordan (counselor) to allow students that experience anxiety and other difficulties.
- Families at schools: Early Release Assemblies, Muffins in the Morning, Movie Nights, Student Art Show, etc...
- National Park Service Rangers (Ranger C.J.) regularly scheduled in all classes to learn about our community, resources, opportunities and science
- Visits from local law enforcement and fire department personnel

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Seward High School

Principal: Dr. Henry Burns Jr.

2X Girls Cross Country State Champions (2022, 2023)

As for Cross country - The team was defending their title from the previous year. Only one other time in the school's history has the team won back-to-back titles.

Football State Champions 2023

At Seward we have only been in the state finals game one other time (2002) and we lost to Nikiski in OT. We also had the school's first undefeated season.

Wrestling State Champions 2023

First time all wrestlers in the state tournament were seeded. First time all wrestlers in the state tournament medaled.

Individual State Champions in Boys Swimming 2023

The Intervention Team's dedication at Seward High extends beyond traditional approaches, as evidenced by their proactive measures to diversify educational options for students. While the school is already positioned as a hybrid high school, incorporating both traditional and online classes for credit attainment, the ongoing efforts of the staff and administration to integrate blended learning options into the master schedule signify a commitment to innovation.

Blended learning, which combines face-to-face interactions with digital instruction, offers a dynamic and flexible approach to education. The introduction of this learning modality not only expands the range of choices available to students but also aligns with the evolving educational landscape of the 21st century.

By embracing blended learning, Seward High is equipping itself with a versatile tool to cater to the diverse needs of students. This strategic move acknowledges the importance of adaptability and personalized learning experiences, providing students with the schedule flexibility needed to thrive in an ever-changing educational environment.

Seward High's consistent achievement of Annual Yearly Progress, as gauged by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's Annual Measurable Objectives, reflects a commendable commitment to educational excellence. The notable progress in graduation rates and performance on state benchmark exams underscores the efficacy of strategic initiatives such as the School Improvement Plan and the dedicated efforts of the Intervention Team.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Seward Middle School

Principal: Dr. Henry Burns Jr.

- Kids to Slopes (two days) – grades 6-8
- Field trip to the library – grades 6-8
- Artists in Schools – grades 6-8
- Super Saturday Clean-up – Grades 6-8
- Mystery Skype with schools in Colorado, New York City, and Massachusetts – grades 6-8
- Kenai Fjord Tours Marine Science Program – Grade 8
- Lego Build the Change – Grade 6
- Published the 2023-2024 Yearbook (student-created)
- CPR/First Aid Certification Course – grade 8

Educator Awards/Professional Roles:

- Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms (TGC) – Uruguay
- Fulbright TGC Symposium – Washington DC
- National Council for the Social Studies Conference Proposal Reviewer
- Geo Civics Conference Presenter (National Conference through Arizona State University)

Boys Basketball – Borough Champions

Students plant identification in Seward, including whether they're edible and what their medicinal uses are. I also applied what I learned in an AK GEO field course this summer to the class, and taught students about forest fires in Alaska.

- All our 8<sup>th</sup> graders in First Aid and CPR.
- Hosted local author Sean Ulman to work with students on poetry.
- Created a print-to-publish book with short stories written by students. Students/families were able to order the books.
- Worked with local authors to showcase student poetry at the public library during Poetry Month.
- Used Donor Choose to buy \$500+ of yarn and crocheting/knitting tools, and taught students how to crochet.

The School Improvement Plan has played a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape by formalizing interventions for at-risk students. Leveraging the Advisory framework and instituting Personal Learning and Career Plans exemplify proactive measures aimed at addressing individual student needs. This personalized approach not only fosters academic growth but also nurtures students towards their future career paths.

The success story of Seward High showcases the significance of comprehensive educational strategies and collaborative efforts. It serves as a testament to the positive impact that thoughtful planning and targeted interventions can have on student outcomes.



# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Skyview

Principal: Mrs. Shonia Werner

## Important information and achievements:

- **Grants Awarded / Donations Received**

Skyview Middle School did not receive any grant funding for this year. We are perusing our grant options to augment our 2024-2025 budget to bring greater opportunities to our students and bolster the Skyview learning experience. We were graced with several gracious donations. Coke-a-Cola of Alaska and Walmart of Kenai, donated products for our Activity Nights. Hutchings Auto Group, Jack White Real Estate, Kenai Peninsula CHARR, Little Knife Custom Builder provided monetary funds to purchase basketball uniforms. G.F. Sherman Signs donated vinyl that was used to produce our locker signs. Stack LLC, Tauna Meade of Century 21 and the Duck Inn sponsored our Basketball teams.

- **National Academic Awards:**

The recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program (RAMP) recognizes schools committed to delivering school counseling programs aligned with the ASCA National Model framework. The RAMP designation demonstrates to administrators, school boards, families, and the community at large that the school is committed to supporting the mission of the school and district. To date, approximately 1,300 schools have earned the RAMP designation nationally. Skyview is proud to once again have earned **RAMP designation**.

Patrick Herding was selected to be Verizon's Alaska teacher representative to the Victra = Ron Clark Academy Professional Development seminar.

- **Districtwide, Statewide Academic Awards:**

Skyview participated in a variety of Academic and Co-curricular activities in 2023-2024 ranging from Spelling Bee, Math Counts, Battle of the Books to Mass Band and Choir with great success. These activities and competitions accentuate the school experience for many of our students. Distinguished members of this group of students are as follows.

- **Presidential Gold Recipients**

Eva Abel  
Maegan Powell  
Grace Altobelli  
Jacob Slegers  
Dorothy Brown  
Kylie Smith  
Noah Crabtree  
Natalee Strouse

Kylie Frasher  
Kayli VanVleet  
Brooklyn Kusmider  
Paul Wertenan  
Shea Linton  
Violet Williams  
Isabella Olson-Pulliam  
Jayden Yeager

- **Presidential Silver Recipients**

Josh Active  
Noella Lastinger  
Olivia Bologna

Calvin Lyman  
Keegan Bross  
Rowen Marks

Zach Capsul  
Brock Martin  
Zoey Cottam  
Clayton McDonald  
Alice Curtis  
Cayden Miller  
Chase Dixon  
Keegan Myrick  
Daniel Douglas  
Noble Pankratz  
Tenley Fabian  
Josephine Payne  
Kenneth Fine  
Jasmine Rettinger

Kaydee Harris  
Eli Richards  
Zoe Hayes  
Damian Rogers  
Adella Huhtagaard  
Alexis Verba  
Carter Ivy  
Mikah Walgenback  
Leif Johnson  
Riley Whitehead  
Sophia Kocinski  
Zander Wold  
Elias Kratsas  
Quentin Wolverton

○ **Chamber Student of the Quarter**

Cody Tunks- Quarter 1  
Paul Wertenan- Quarter 2  
Mikah Walgenback- Quarter 3  
Dorothy Brown- Quarter 4

○ **Masonic Outstanding Student of the Year**

Natalee Strouse

○ **District Art Show**

Eva Abel- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceramics  
Sierra Smith 1<sup>st</sup> Open Photo  
Violet Williams-Ceramics  
Honorable mention

Olivia Sheldon 1<sup>st</sup> Sculpture  
Scott Bergsrud- 1<sup>st</sup> Sculpture  
Mykah Walgenback- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sculpture

○ **Math Counts**

Charlie Wang- Champion team member

● **Regional and State Athletic Titles:**

The athletic programs at Skyview are well established. An entrenched work ethic and emphasis on inclusion and sportsmanship foster programs that are successful far beyond the titles and accolades.

○ **Girls Sports**

**Boroughs results-**

Team Results: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Soccer

Individual Champions:

Afton Luck- 4<sup>th</sup> Cross Country  
Jada Notter- 10<sup>th</sup> Cross Country  
Kylie Smith- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nordic Ski  
Breckin Sulley- 7<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski  
Eva Abel- 14<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski  
River Abel- 15<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski

Adella Huhtagaard- 16<sup>th</sup> Nordic  
Ski  
Adsara Germain- 22<sup>nd</sup> Nordic Ski  
Harper Wight- 23<sup>rd</sup> Nordic Ski  
Naomi Keller- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling  
Katara Lepule- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling

- **Boys Sports**

- Boroughs Results-**

- Team Championships: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Soccer

- Individual Champions:

- Ollie Dahl- 1<sup>st</sup> Nordic Ski, 5<sup>th</sup> Cross Country
  - Paul Wertenan- 1<sup>st</sup> Cross Country, 12<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski
  - Corbin Ebenezer- 7<sup>th</sup> Cross Country
  - John Holt- 11<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski
  - Tyler Tuia 16<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski
  - Jake Slegers- 20<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski
  - Caleb Abel- 21<sup>st</sup> Nordic Ski

- Brock Martin- 46<sup>th</sup> Nordic Ski
  - Colman LeClair- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Hudson Morris- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Jayden Yeager- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Wyatt Boone- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Eli Richards- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Liam Bellinger- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Sylas Hughes- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Gunnar Lervig- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling
  - Calvin Lyman- 1<sup>st</sup> Wrestling

- State Results-**

- Individual Champions:

- Coleman LeClair- Wrestling
  - Hudson Morris- Wrestling

- Jayden Yeager- Wrestling

- **Special School-Wide Projects:**

Skyview Middle School has set goals within and supporting our School Improvement Plan. These projects were chosen because of their direct impact on Skyview's academic and social emotional climate.

- **Failure Prevention**

- Weekly grade reports
  - iTeam Student Intervention
  - Before School Tutoring

- After School Tutoring
  - Parent PowerSchool Academy

- **Social Emotional Development**

- Panther Celebration
  - Sources of Strength
  - Student Council / Leadership
  - Schoolwide dances
  - Intramural Sports
  - Calming Strategies lessons
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Visitation
  - Problem Solving Flow Chart group lessons

- Think Sheet Problem Solving group lessons
  - Anger Management Chart group lessons
  - Bullying, Peer Mediation group lessons
  - Coping strategies Group

- **Development of Volunteerism and Parent Involvement**

- Started the Skyview Booster Club
  - Coffee Club

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Soldotna Elementary

Principal: Austin Stevenson

Students at Soldotna Elementary continue to demonstrate remarkable academic growth in Math compared to their national peers. According to MAP reports, students who completed a full year at SOEL achieved a median conditional growth percentile of 71 in Math, indicating significantly above-average improvement throughout the school year.

In Reading, scores were more varied this year and notably lower than last year as we adapted to the new rollout of CKLA. Conditional growth percentiles in Reading ranged from a high at the 71st percentile in 6th grade to a low at the 47th percentile in 4th grade. Overall, SOEL's median Reading score was at the 51st percentile.

Our school has partnered with the University of Wyoming to enhance our students' language skills, ensuring they can effectively access the curriculum. This collaboration complements the extensive data we already collect, including iReady, MAP, AIMSweb, and Amplify results, to tailor instruction to each student's needs.

In extracurricular achievements, our Spelling Bee champion, Harper Bross, advanced significantly in the state competition. She secured her victory at our school by correctly spelling "amphitheater."

This year, we also expanded our extracurricular activities to include yearbook, leadership, Battle of the Books, coding, gymnastics, volleyball, and basketball, providing students with a wide range of opportunities to explore their interests and develop new skills.

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Soldotna High School

Principal: Sargeant Truesdell

Soldotna High School is a comprehensive high school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District serving 632 full-time students and 69 part-time students in grades 9-12. Over the past school year, SOHI has continued to provide students with a wide array of core course offerings as well as elective courses in fields such as music, foreign language, and Career and Technical Education.

## **Staff Accomplishments and Focus:**

This was Mr. Truesdell's final year as a high school principal and his 26th year in education. This was Mrs. Blades's fourth year as Assistant Principal at SOHI but her 21st overall year. This is Mrs. Smith's second year as an administrator and her 18th year overall. Administratively, we had a large number of very proud moments which will be highlighted throughout the report, but one thing we are very proud of is this year's addition of the Lisa Thomas Soldotna High School Teacher of the Year program.

In an effort to provide our faculty with opportunities to laud one another's great work—and give administration the opportunity to sing the praises of these incredible educators—we developed this initiative, and it has been such a fun and meaningful nod to the hard work happening all over our campus. Each month, the staff nominates the faculty member they feel is deserving of the Teacher of the Month title. As an administrative team, we review all the nominations and confer. Once we have come to a consensus, Mr. Truesdell announces the Teacher of the Month publicly over the intercom system, and Mrs. Blades and Mrs. Smith burst into the teacher's classroom like Prize Patrol with a certificate of appreciation that includes the written words of their colleagues in the nominations and a small token of our sincerest thanks.

At the end of the year, we sent the list of our Teachers of the Month to our full student body and our staff. We asked them to choose the recipient of the award based on the five characteristics we most loved about our dear friend, Lisa Thomas—a long-time, outstanding SOHI teacher and a great friend. These metrics were: 1. Displays a passion for education as a tool for change; 2. Has a heart for students; 3. Delivers lessons that are engaging and relevant; 4. Is invested in the school as a whole; and 5. Is filled with SOHI pride. We received hundreds of responses, and the overwhelming winner of the very first Lisa Thomas Soldotna High School Teacher of the Year was Phil Leck. Mr. Leck serves as our Anatomy and Physiology teacher as well as our Athletic Director. He puts in countless hours of hard work to ensure that SOHI is a school we can all be proud of. We were thrilled to celebrate him during our annual Awards Day presentation in front of the entire school.

The full faculty continued their efforts this year on SOHI's School Development Goal of getting the community involved in school and expanding our CTE course exposure. Over the course of this school year, our students have been exposed to over 100 hours of community member expertise on topics ranging from engineering to cosmetology, aviation to world government, and beyond. Having these guests in our classrooms has enriched our students' educational experience and has lent relevance to their coursework from a real-world perspective.

Additionally this year, we added two industry-based partnerships. Epperheimer Sandblasting, based out of Nikiski, and Hilcorp Alaska each sent representatives from their companies to educate our seniors in entry-level opportunities and provided training which led to certifications that will make them more marketable graduates. We hope to expand this type of partnership within other industries moving forward.

## **Onward and Upward:**

Once again, SOHI students shined like the STARS they are in all areas of student life.

### **Activities and Academics:**

- The graduating class of 2023 collected a whopping \$525,000 in scholarships.

- Our faculty and staff were happy to recognize four students as Chamber Students of the Quarter: Jeren Nash, Haedyn Horstman, Sarah Brown, and Koda Lepule.
- SOHI's Drama department stormed the stage producing a musical in the fall with *The Wizard of Oz* and a one act, alternating ending play in the spring with *Clue!*
- SOHI's Battle of the Books Club took 2nd place in district competition.
- Student Council took on the daunting task of continuing old traditions as well as creating new ones this year. As in the past, StuCo planned assemblies for the entire student body, but this year, they focused their efforts on creating a sense of community within our school using Students vs. Staff games. Throughout the year, these contests pitted us against one another in spirit competitions, costume competitions, sports, and games. Even though we were competing, we could definitely feel the culture and relationships strengthening as a result.
- Five Soldotna High freshmen were selected as finalists in the 2024 Caring for the Kenai competition, pulled from almost 300 entries from across the Kenai Peninsula. Lucia Micciche took the 2nd place prize.
- Soldotna High School's art program flourished this year with thirteen District Art Show Winners!
- Our ever-growing music program shined bright this year as well. We had more than ten students qualify for district Solo and Ensemble in instrumental music and seven more in the vocal category. Additionally, our vocal music teacher, Mrs. Audra Calloway, led a group of 25 choir members to Honolulu, Hawaii to perform and participate in the National Vietnam Veterans' Day Parade as representatives of the great State of Alaska. We are so proud of them!
- Our newest extracurricular group, Drama, Debate, and Forensics (DDF), had a wonderful second season of competition with four members qualifying for the state competition in Anchorage.
- Soldotna High School hosted its fourth annual Rising Stars Day which allowed incoming freshmen from Skyview Middle, IDEA, Connections, and Aurora Borealis Charter to come together to meet faculty and staff, form some bonds, and get questions about starting high school answered.

### **Sports:**

- SOHI Football continued its strong tradition with varsity going undefeated this season winning their 18th straight conference title and finishing as State Champions. Go Stars!
- Volleyball had a strong year finishing as Region Runners-up and making an appearance at the ASAA State Tournament. Nicole Dickinson and Sadie Lane were named 1st team All Tournament winners and Kiara Forkner was named 2nd team All Tournament.
- XC Running girls finished the season as the Region 3 2nd place overall team and secured the 6th place overall at the ASAA D1 State Championships. The boys finished their season as the Region 3 5th place overall team and had one runner qualify for state.
- The SOHI boys wrestling team placed 3rd in the large school state meet with multiple individual state champions.
- The SOHI girls wrestling team won the state championship with five individual state champions. We are so proud to have our first state title in girls wrestling!
- SOHI Hockey finished as State Runners-up after their phenomenal season.
- Swim and Dive teams went to Juneau for the ASAA State Meet where Charisma Watkins broke the SOHI 200IM school record, and Abriella Werner won the Alaska State Diving title.
- Boys Basketball had a successful year, finishing fourth in the region after their recent change in C-Team, JV, and Varsity leadership. They remain focused on building the program and a return to fundamentals.
- Girls Basketball finished fourth in the Northern Lights Conference. They had quite a successful season as they moved forward with their plan to grow the program under newer leadership.

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

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## **Onward and Upward:**

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### **Activities and Academics:**

- The graduating class of 2023 collected a whopping \$525,000 in scholarships.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Soldotna Montessori Charter School

Principal: John DeVold

## **Achievements:**

The school was recognized as a 2024 U.S. News & World Report Best Elementary Schools Public & Charter, demonstrating that the school continues to thrive and performs at a high level, garnering recognition from entities that monitor school performance.

April Dixon has started year two of her Montessori certification program. She will complete the course sometime next school year and will have a Montessori certification for Lower & Upper Elementary.

Rachael DeRaeve has begun her Montessori certification, and she will be completed with the program sometime in the next school year.

## **Grants, Donations, & Partnerships**

The school has continued its partnership with the Peninsula Food Bank to purchase food to supply the SMCS Food Pantry station. The partnership allows the school to purchase food at a reduced rate.

The school also received various donations through the Alaska Community Foundation, Donor Advised Fund. These funds are processed as grant money, but are treated like a donation since the school did not pursue the funds. We received just over \$26,000 in donation for general use through the Donor Advised Fund, and \$500 in donation for students in need/Spirit of Kindness use through the Donor Advised Fund.

## **School Activities:**

International Day of Peace Night, Craft Night, Winter Program Concert, Concert Band & Choir Concert, Community Service Outreach: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Positive Community Messages, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Visits to the Food Bank, 6<sup>th</sup> Visits to local pre-school, Food Pantry, Lego Robotics, Battle of the Books, Scripps Spelling Bee, KPBSD Forensics Competition, Modern Band Concert, School Family Field Day/Picnic

The school held its annual International Day of Peace night, which provided an opportunity for students, together with their parents, to create "Peace Rocks" to spread throughout our community. We also shared a meal and sang our traditional "One Voice" song together.

The school participated in Lego Robotics. Approximately 30 students attended the after school robotics club. SCMS had a school winning team compete at the Kenai Qualifier; the team took 1st place and participated at the State competition in Anchorage. The team scored the most points of any prior SMCS team at the state competition, since restarting our robotics club.



SMCS held Battle of the Books sessions for students in grades 1-6. We had a total of 44 students participate. We did not field a Grade 5-6 competition team as all the members had other commitments that influenced their decision to compete. We did have a grade 3-4 team participate in the district competition.

Hadley Kornelis won the school spelling bee. She could not attend the state bee, and our school runner up, Rumley Jankowski (grade 3) participated in her place and made it to the third round of the state spelling bee competition.

SMCS had 14 students place in the KPBSD Forensics competition: students were place winners at the competition: 1st: Ben Schlegel, Cheyenne Gillham, Reese Ross, Avi Bloom, Isobel Brantley; 2nd: Finley Sexton, Liam Toews, Dylan Duffy, Oscar Williams, Nathan Nelson, Alyson Evans, Landon Fischer, Taryn Lewis; 3rd: Kemma Angleton.

SMCS Intermediate students carried out their annual 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter community outreach efforts. This year the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students continued with positive/encouraging messages in the community by decorating and sharing positive messages on insulated coffee sleeves that were supplied to area coffee vendors. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students visited and volunteered at the Food Bank in support for lunch service or stocking food. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students visited a local preschool and spent time reading with the students..

The SMCS food pantry continues to operate, and is filled daily by SMCS students. The students have placed 1051.3 lbs. of food in the food pantry to feed community members in need this school year from October to April. We did not track our throughput in August and September.

The SMCS Quest students participated in the Mind-a-mazes competition, the Film Festival, and TriMathalon. An SMCS team won the "Judges Choice" award at the MAM competition. SMCS teams were recognized at the Film Festival, with one group (Cooking with Kevin) winning the "Viewer's Choice" award. Lastly, the SMCS team took 2nd at the TriMathalon event and two students placed in Prime Factorization [Hadley Kornelis (1st), and Taryn Lewis (3rd)].

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: Sterling Elementary School

Principal: Denise Kelly

- We started the year with three new teachers – two 3/ 4 split and a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher.
- We hired a new library aide who was also our title 1 tutor. She has been the most creative person and has put a lot of work into the library and working with kids.
- We had a partnership with Americorps Resilient Alaska Youth (RAY) program this year which provided us with an Americorps volunteer to run an afterschool and summer club for our 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. They thoroughly enjoyed the additional activities with which to engage.
- Our teachers all completed their mClass training to learn to administer and better understand the mClass literacy assessment.
- In coordination with the Friends of Sterling Elementary PTO, we held our annual free Halloween Trunk or Treat activity for our community.
- We held our annual One School One Book activity in collaboration with Title 1 and our PTO, which provided all families with a copy of the book, *The Tale of Despereaux*, which culminated in a showing of the movie at the Orca Theater.
- We continue to host the Alaska BADGER team from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to track earthquakes.
- We continue to have an afterschool Native Youth Olympics team that competes locally and statewide. Our team includes any Sterling student or former student.
- The Sterling Judo Club started back with Judo this year in our gym! We hope to see this community program grow again!
- Sterling participated in the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge this year. Our initial goal was to raise \$3000. The kids met that within the first two weeks, so we increased our goal to \$4000. Our final amount raised was \$4,259.77! That's \$1,864.24 more than last year! Due to meeting our goals, Ms. Kelly and Mr. Nate were made into birthday cakes to celebrate 100 years of the Kids Heart Challenge.
- We had a 3/ 4 grade and 5/6 grade Battle of the Books team. Our 5/6 team took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the district.
- We had 14 students participate and place in the KPBSD borough forensics competition.
- Grade 5 and 6 students participated in the District's Trimathalon. 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the Middle School Math Meet.
- Four teams submitted films to the district's Quest Film Festival.
- We invited our families to join us on the day before Thanksgiving for our annual family day activities.
- Our PE/Music teacher pulled together a festive play for Christmas called *A Whoville Christmas*.
- Our Friends of Sterling PTO transformed our library into Santa's Workshop to allow students to purchase new and gently used items for family members for Christmas. It was hugely successful.

- Title 1 sponsored a Kagan training for our staff which included several staff from Paul Banks Elementary.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders participated in Link Up! with the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra at Kenai Central High School.
- Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test this year. We had 23 students take a math or a reading test with the proctors who provided the test.
- We completed another Kindness Challenge where students practiced kind acts to one another and created coffee sleeves for our local Brown's Grounds to give out with their coffee.
- We continue to work to reduce our school waste. We still recycle cans, plastics, glass, batteries, ink cartridges, paper and cardboard. We also collect cafeteria and kitchen waste for local hobby farmers.
- We had three falcon fun nights and a spring carnival hosted by our Friends of Sterling Elementary PTO.
- Our Artist in Residence, Sharlene Cline, allowed our students to each make a mosaic to take home. They loved their individual masterpieces!
- The NED Show shared their Mindset Mission with our students. We learned about keeping a growth mindset and remember to never give up, encourage others,
- Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students landed on Mars with Mr. Krauklis. Each class ran a two-day simulation of mission to Mars!
- Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, once again, volunteered to help teacher students and community members at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Salmon Celebration at Johnson Lake. We have been fulfilling this leadership role for more than 10 years!
- The highlight of our school year was our school's birthday party commemorating 60 years of being a Kenai Borough school. We targeted invitations to former staff and students. We had over 150 people join us in our celebration which included nearly 75 former Sterling staff and students.
- We promoted 21 6<sup>th</sup> graders at our last day of school promotion ceremony. We had a beautiful day for a family picnic and a variety talent show for all to enjoy.

The following individual and staff members were recognized this school year:

- Sarayu Christiansen earned our school's Masonic Student of the Year award which was presented by one of our local Masons at our last day awards assembly.
- The artwork of Katie Young will be featured on next year's Sterling Elementary School calendar magnet.
- Nurse Tamra Walters retired at the end of this school year with 18 years of experience in the KPBSD and 11 years at Sterling Elementary.
- Elizabeth Kvamme is welcomed as the principal of Sterling Elementary starting in August 2024!

Grants and donations:

- Several students secured supplies for science, social emotional learning, music and other activities from Donors Choose this year.

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Susan B. English, Seldovia

Principal: Michael Druce

Susan B. English was significantly impacted by the departure of thirty students, three teachers, and the principal. As a result, the school has been unable to field athletic teams. Four students plus two homeschool students comprised a girls' volleyball team. However, the team was unable to compete with teams with reserve players.

Academically, the year began with students mostly taking distance ed classes. Second semester students were able to take three in-person classes.

Currently the high school is comprised of one non-graduating senior; one junior; four sophomores; two freshmen; and one eighth grader.

No grants or awards have been awarded,

To date there have been no school-wide projects.

The secondary students worked together to plan and present the first prom on site in five years.

M. Druce

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Tebughna School K-12

Principal: Christy Gomez

Cook Inlet Tribal Council Innovation Station/ Fab Lab Grant: All students K-12 were engaged in our final year of our grant of all things STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) of culturally themed units where students learned valuable skills that progress their academic success, and cultivate their indigenous identity. The units were reflective of Alaska State Standards and SCOPES. Our visit on site this year was led by Fab Lab instructors on Pendulum painting, Native Youth Olympics, and mini magazines. Likewise, we did our traditional end of the year field trip to the Denetchin Lab for our students to experience the new fabrication space. The elementary students made a laser cut indigenous Halibut Hook, and the middle/high school students made Tsimshian Tinna copper ceremonial necklace.

Tyonek Native Corporation: We have had the outstanding support of our tribal leadership through the corporation's mission of honoring the past, present, and future Tebughna shareholders. We've had the honor to be granted the TNC Tebughna Distribution Education Trust that finances much needed funds in education, STEM, field trip studies, and culturally responsive activities for our students. We started the year with a Back to School Basketball Clinic hosted by former NBA guard Bronson Koenig for students and community. The generosity of this trust has financed our travel budget for our field trip to the CITC's Denetchin Lab in Anchorage for students to participate in the fabrication lab. Likewise, we have been able to purchase sweatshirts for this upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Also, the Anchorage Museum's outreach hosted their programming 'Space and Place' in our school gym. Finally the grant has been able to provide the funding needed to bring our Artist-in-School's Graham 'Gus' Dane, to provide foundational painting art class for a week. Within the time spent, students created self-portraits, science 'cell' paintings, and a landscape collaborative painting mural.

Code.org: We continued our computer science curriculum, supported by Code.org, with our elementary and middle school classes. Our elementary participated in CS Fundamentals and Hour of Code. They were able to complete beginner coding in Scratch with creating a 3D T-Rex game to Dance Party: AI Edition. Our middle school worked on Physical Computing using AppLab in practicing hardware inputs and outputs. We're to expand our computer science journeys with Lego Education in 2024-2025.

Tebughna Foundation: Dena'ina Language studies via Zoom with our instructors Edna Standifer and apprentice Crystal Standifer has been a continued success for our student scholars. In the Fall, TF sponsored a traditional Athabascan potlatch to celebrate unity and tribal membership. We appreciate their continued support in donating school day snacks for our students, sponsor our purchase of Tebughna school supply needs, and our book purchase of the Battle of the Books for our teams

this year. TF sponsored our end of the year Dena'ina Qenaga Language Potlatch with special elder culture bearer guests, Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, traditional foods/ gifts to share, and the ceremonial blessing of the traditional Dena'ina names to our middle school language students.

Battle of the Books: Our 3/4 team of Pedro Goozmer and Stephanie Stephan placed 4<sup>th</sup> among the elementary schools in the KPBSD. Our 5/6 Team of Bethany Moon, Selina Stephan, Andres Moon, Cage Standifer, and Benny Villalpando participated well in the competition, too. Our BOB teams can't wait to see what's to come in the future!

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District: TTCD continues to expand conservation science to our students. Our Lettuce Grow Hydroponics continue to provide greens and veggies for our student nutrition program—all year round! We continued with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and welcomed back our Salmon in the Classroom with great success! With generous funding from TTCD, we were able to release 189 Fry in Cheney Lake in Anchorage, following our awesome trip the Seward SeaLife Center with Nocturnal School and a visit to the Allutiiq Pride Maritime Museum. Finally, we had our annual spring seed starts to help kick start our Tyonek Garden summer growing season. Students and community were invited to our annual garden blessing for a good harvest season this year. The TTCD is also hosting Tebughna youth with internships this summer to maintain the Tyonek Garden from seed to harvest.

Senner Bird Lab/ University of South Carolina: Our students continued to participate in virtual collectives with dedicated and engaging graduate students on Ornithology and environment of the local shorebird, the Hudsonian Godwit. We finally had the chance on the last days of school to explore the local birds with our donated binoculars and the Senner Bird Technician's Feipeng Huang, Amital Shaver, and Wentao Yang, who were just beginning their field study in Beluga, Alaska.

Southcentral Foundation/ Indian Creek Health Department: Our local tribal health leadership was so supportive in our school's health education needs. We were able to participate in healthy choice activities, health fairs, and confers that promote indigenous ways of knowing in wellness as an Alaskan Native village.

Project GRAD: Our partnership with PGKP provided support for our students on social emotional learning curriculum (Second Step and Kelso's Choices), academic coaching, Family Nights, and post-secondary support in conjunction with the US Department of Education and the Alaska Native Education Program.

KPBSD Indigenous Education: Rachel Pioch, Indigenous Education Coordinator, had supported activities in cultural curriculum like on indigenous water- proof lesson, classroom lessons for check out, Dena'ina gingerbread activity, STEM kits, Family Engagement activities and book clubs for home, and participating in the Indigenous Language Film Festival.

Monthly Family Engagements: Books for Bingo, Book Walk, Family Movie Nights, Reading/ Math Family Night with games, activities, and books, Project GRAD STEAM Nights, Representative Justin Ruffridg visit to Tebughna School, KDLL Feature school

# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Tustumena Elementary 45

Principal: Devin Way

- Our classroom teachers implemented the district's new CKLA curriculum in our k-5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- We continued a Cross Country Running program where we even competed against Nikiski North Star and Soldotna Elementary students.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade visited the Kenai Wildlife Refuge
- Our PTO hosted the Halloween Carnival in full for the second time in several years and it was a huge success.
- The PTO also hosts a Turkey Bingo in November and a Ham Bingo in March
- We continue to have a strong partnership with B&G Club including their before and after school tutoring done by certified teachers.
- School-wide Reindeer games the last day of school before Christmas Break
- We continued the Cross Country Skiing program in the winter beginning in January.
- Intensive Needs and Resource teachers attended the Sped Conference
- We started an after school co-ed Volleyball club for 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade made Akutag with Rachel Pioch
- Hosted a Title I Family Game Night in the Library
- Hosted the district Forensics meet.
- We had a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade team participate in the Battle of the Books
- Our 3/4 grade class and the 1<sup>st</sup> graders became Book Buddies throughout the year.
- Our classroom teachers continued to implement the district's new math curriculum, i-Ready
- Partnership with Bunnell Street Arts Center and Sharlene Cline for an Artist in Residency Week followed by the Title I Tustumena Art Museum
- Our kindergarten round up was a success! We had a few families bring their soon-to-be Tustumena Kinder Lynx to our school for a visit to the classroom and their teacher along with our Pre-K students
- We promoted 12 sixth graders to 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- We recognized students in each class for various achievements at our mid and end of the year awards ceremonies
- 2 teachers plus the Principal attended the Reading Symposium
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher is assisting with unpacking CKLA
- Colin Abel earned our school's Masonic Outstanding Student of Year award
- Our Pre-K visited the Kasilof Fire Station.
- Our entire school participated in Dental Awareness with PCHS
- Grades 1-6 all participated in the Salmon Celebration at Johnson Lake Campground
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade went to Homer to work with ADF&G and tide pooling during minus tides
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades went on the Kenai Fjords Boat Field trip

- Primary took a walking field trip to Johnson Wayside for an end of the year picnic
- Field Day and whole-school BBQ the last day with students



# **School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024**

School Name: Voznesenka School

Principal: Michael Wojciak

- Migrant after school tutoring
- Project Grad CHILL program
- HHS girls' soccer participants
- HHS football participants
- HHS hockey participants
- MS soccer program at Voznesenka
- UA Scholars Award recipient
- Lions Club Scholarship recipient
- Kachemak Board of Realtors Scholarship recipient
- Emblem Club Scholarship recipient
- Rotary Club Scholarship recipient
- LFS Scholarship recipient
- Mai Ciechanski Scholarship recipient
- Drew Scalzi Memorial Maritime Scholarship recipient
- Denali Scholarship recipient
- Masonic Award recipient
- Bookmobile visit
- East End Road garbage cleanup
- HS Alyeska ski trip
- Land's End graduation
- Student rep on the BOE Small Schools Committee
- Student council
- Summer School program
- Construction class
- CKLA implementation
- Parent/Family engagement nights
- Rotary book distribution
- KESA school visit
- Consumer Science class
- Promethean Board updates

# School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2023-2024

School Name: West Homer Elementary

Principal: Eric Waltenbaugh

## Student Celebrations

- Eliot Young – State Spelling Bee
- Battle of the Books – over 30 students participated in the KPBSD 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade and 3rd/4<sup>th</sup> grade
- TriMathalon – 10 students participated, many placing

## Grants Received

- The Homer Foundation - \$3,000
- The Homer foundation - \$5,000 quick grant to purchase new ski equipment
- Elks – grant to support 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip across the bay \$4249.54
- Elks – grant to cover students lunch accounts in the negative \$500

## Activities

- Cross Country - ORCA Fun Run
- Soccer – matches with Chapman
- Chess – year long club held 2 competitions incorporating 5 schools.
- Basketball – scheduled games with McNeil
- Volleyball – first competitive games ever Vs. McNeil
- Japanese – year long club
- Dungeons and Dragons club
- Drama Club + community performances
- Mileage Club – most students ever to achieve the 26.2 mile mark and the 50 mile mark!
- Ski Club -

## Events

- March 2024 Gallery Walk (Arctic/Antarctic art)
- PTO talent Show – entirely student produced
- Orca Standing Ovarions Celebration of Achievement Assemblies 1x Quarter Goal setting and reflection – incorporated music performances. Opened to community for the first time.
- May 14, 2023 –6<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion
  - HHS Grads visit WHE
- May 15, 2024 –Field Day
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Campus Beatification Day

- Our faculty and staff were happy to recognize four students as Chamber Students of the Quarter: Jeren Nash, Haedyn Horstman, Sarah Brown, and Koda Lepule.
- SOHI's Drama department stormed the stage producing a musical in the fall with *The Wizard of Oz* and a one act, alternating ending play in the spring with *Clue!*
- SOHI's Battle of the Books Club took 2nd place in district competition.
- Student Council took on the daunting task of continuing old traditions as well as creating new ones this year. As in the past, StuCo planned assemblies for the entire student body, but this year, they focused their efforts on creating a sense of community within our school using Students vs. Staff games. Throughout the year, these contests pitted us against one another in spirit competitions, costume competitions, sports, and games. Even though we were competing, we could definitely feel the culture and relationships strengthening as a result.
- Five Soldotna High freshmen were selected as finalists in the 2024 Caring for the Kenai competition, pulled from almost 300 entries from across the Kenai Peninsula. Lucia Micciche took the 2nd place prize.
- Soldotna High School's art program flourished this year with thirteen District Art Show Winners!
- Our ever-growing music program shined bright this year as well. We had more than ten students qualify for district Solo and Ensemble in instrumental music and seven more in the vocal category. Additionally, our vocal music teacher, Mrs. Audra Calloway, led a group of 25 choir members to Honolulu, Hawaii to perform and participate in the National Vietnam Veterans' Day Parade as representatives of the great State of Alaska. We are so proud of them!
- Our newest extracurricular group, Drama, Debate, and Forensics (DDF), had a wonderful second season of competition with four members qualifying for the state competition in Anchorage.
- Soldotna High School hosted its fourth annual Rising Stars Day which allowed incoming freshmen from Skyview Middle, IDEA, Connections, and Aurora Borealis Charter to come together to meet faculty and staff, form some bonds, and get questions about starting high school answered.

### **Sports:**

- SOHI Football continued its strong tradition with varsity going undefeated this season winning their 18th straight conference title and finishing as State Champions. Go Stars!
- Volleyball had a strong year finishing as Region Runners-up and making an appearance at the ASAA State Tournament. Nicole Dickinson and Sadie Lane were named 1st team All Tournament winners and Kiara Forkner was named 2nd team All Tournament.
- XC Running girls finished the season as the Region 3 2nd place overall team and secured the 6th place overall at the ASAA D1 State Championships. The boys finished their season as the Region 3 5th place overall team and had one runner qualify for state.
- The SOHI boys wrestling team placed 3rd in the large school state meet with multiple individual state champions.
- The SOHI girls wrestling team won the state championship with five individual state champions. We are so proud to have our first state title in girls wrestling!
- SOHI Hockey finished as State Runners-up after their phenomenal season.
- Swim and Dive teams went to Juneau for the ASAA State Meet where Charisma Watkins broke the SOHI 200IM school record, and Abriella Werner won the Alaska State Diving title.
- Boys Basketball had a successful year, finishing fourth in the region after their recent change in C-Team, JV, and Varsity leadership. They remain focused on building the program and a return to fundamentals.
- Girls Basketball finished fourth in the Northern Lights Conference. They had quite a successful season as they moved forward with their plan to grow the program under newer leadership.

- SOHI's Cheerleading team has grown exponentially this year finishing 2nd in Regions. They attended the ASAA State Competition and made us very proud.
- The Nordic Ski team had some impressive performances this year at the state meet. In the 5K classic ski races, Tania Boonstra finished 16th with a time of 21 minutes and 17.9 seconds and Ariana Cannava placed 25th with a time of 22 minutes and 7 seconds. Both girls also went on to place in the 7.5K freestyle race with Tania Boonstra finishing 15th overall at 21: 26.6 and Ariana Cannava finishing 19th at 21:42.7.
- Boys Track and Field finished as Region champions and fourth overall at state capped off by three new school records in the 4x800, 4x200, and the 4x400.
- Girls Track and Field finished as Region Champions for the seventh consecutive year and fifth in the state as well.
- Baseball attended the State DII Tournament to defend their current state championship and are the NLC Region Champions for the very first time. They also brought the State Championship trophy home for the third year in a row! Go Blue!
- Softball recently competed in the Northern Lights Conference Tournament finishing 2nd overall. They traveled to Fairbanks to compete in the ASAA State Softball Championships and made us proud with their performance.
- Girls Soccer finished 3rd in the DII state championship. They made us proud as they attempted to defend their previous state championship.
- Boys Soccer finished as State Champions for the very first time in program history after an undefeated season. Way to go Stars!
- SOHI's Outstanding Senior Athletes for 2023-2024 were Abriella Werner and Zac Buckbee. Zac also was named Region III Male Athlete of the Year.

Overall, 460 students at SOHI participated in athletics this year, meaning that 65.6% of the total student population belongs to at least one team or activity on campus.

### **Looking into the Future:**

Soldotna High School faculty and administration have spent the greater part of the 2023-2024 school year planning for new ways to lend relevance to student learning and to staying abreast of national CTE trends as well as to prepare students for higher education. Staff have fully committed to maximizing student engagement and participating in Professional Learning Communities that keep the students' best interests at heart while advancing the school as a whole. The future for SOHI Stars looks bright!