Superintendent Report

January 5, 2022
SSD
District-wide In-service
GCI’s ASAA’s Student of the Month

Stephen Harmon

GCI’s ‘ASAA Student of the Month’ for December is Sitka Wolves Senior, Stephen Harmon!! Stephen Harmon is a great Student/Athlete who goes above and beyond in the classroom and on the playing field. While participating in varsity baseball, basketball, and cross-country all four years he has also maintained high honor roll every semester. He leads by example and represents his family, school, and community with pride. Stephen is loved around the school by all, and his enthusiasm is contagious. GCI and ASAA would like to congratulate Stephen on his accomplishments in his school and community! Go Wolves! Congratulations to the other December Nominees: Derek Seppilu Jr-Savoonga and Zoe Smith-Tanalian! *Nominations for this award are submitted by schools Principles and Athletic Directors.

#ASAA #WinForLife #GCIStudentOfTheMonth GCI
SSD Strategic Plan

Strategies

- We will identify strategies to close learning gaps.
- We will strengthen culturally responsive programing.
- We will expand and strengthen partnerships.
- We will produce a professional development/mentorship/induction program for SSD staff.
- We will develop an internal and external district communication plan.
- We will expand opportunities and remove participation barriers for students.
COVID-19 Update

“An ounce of data is worth a thousand pounds of opinion.”

- Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health
Epidemic Face Mask, 1919

Amidst the deadly 1918 global influenza pandemic, Johnson & Johnson introduced the Epidemic Mask. Made from sterile gauze, the mask helped prevent the flu's spread. At a time when most vaccines were undiscovered, simple public health products like this inexpensive mask were vital tools in the fight against disease. Because the masks proved so effective in blocking the spread of germs, they were used in subsequent outbreaks.
“Don Hoover and Joe Sistrunk of Starke, Florida, are ready for school during the 1918 flu outbreak.”
7-Day COVID-19 case rate - Sitka City and Borough

Current Alert Level: High
1032.5 per 100,000 population
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cases Last 7 Days</th>
<th>New Cases on this Date</th>
<th>Case Rate (Last 7 Days/100,000)</th>
<th>X axis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/04/22</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1055.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/03/22</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>891.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/02/22</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>868.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/01/22</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>868.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31/21</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>821.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/30/21</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>727.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/29/21</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>750.91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/28/21</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>610.11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/27/21</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>445.85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/26/21</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>340.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/25/21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>305.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/24/21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>305.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/23/21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>305.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/22/21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>222.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21/21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>234.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20/21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>293.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>269.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18/21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>293.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Countries on four continents are registering record Covid-19 cases

Daily cases per 100k residents, seven-day rolling average

Source: FT Covid tracker; full list of sources: flmzMzowG1Y
Silver Lining:

- Sitka Incident Commander Craig Warren: “People aren’t getting quite as sick.” He added, “But I want to caution that, with the numbers going up, we could still see higher hospitalizations just because of the sheer number of patients.”

- “In some countries, omicron has surged and peaked relatively quickly” (Anchorage Daily News, 2 January).
City and Borough of Sitka Ordinance 2021-32:
“All individuals must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when they are indoors in public settings or communal spaces outside the home. The ordinance expires when the risk level as defined by the Sitka Emergency Operations Center drops below high.”

Sitka Unified Command:
“Due to the High Alert Level in Sitka, Sitka Unified Command recommends continued mitigation: face coverings were strongly encouraged for individuals regardless of vaccination status” (29 Dec. News Release).

Alaska DHSS:
“Wearing a mask when in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status is an important step to take to slow the spread of COVID-19. Most Alaskans live in an area with substantial or high community transmission where this action is needed to protect your health and the health of others” (Weekly Update).

Consistent Guidance
K-12 Pandemic Related Public Schools Disruptions

(A pandemic related school disruption is defined as a school moving away from regular in-person instruction caused in some way by the pandemic (i.e., closures due to weather, natural disaster, security threats, etc. are NOT included)

Last Updated: 1-4-22 at 6:00 pm

School Disruptions by Disruption Start Week
Announcements

December 1st School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Centennial Hall

Agenda
This link will enable you to join the meeting by Zoom. When prompted, enter meeting passcode: 123456
meeting ID: 860 3678 4906
You can also listen to the meeting by calling in at 1-253-215-8782, long distance charges may apply.

SSD COVID-19 Policies & Mitigation Plans

SSD Alert Level Protocols - Quick Reference

City of Sitka COVID-19 Dashboard

State of Alaska COVID Dashboard

Education Acronyms & Glossary

The world of Education has its own language. Use these handy guides when you need help decoding acronyms and the meaning of words used in the educational environment.

General Education Acronyms
Special Education Acronyms

Upcoming Events

Today
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM School Board Meeting

December 20, 2021
Winter Break

December 21, 2021
Winter Break

December 22, 2021
Winter Break

December 23, 2021
Winter Break

December 24, 2021
Winter Break

December 27, 2021
Winter Break

view calendar

Welcome

The Sitka School District (SSD) is a K-12 public school district serving about 1,150 students who live in Sitka, Alaska. Sitka is one of the top five largest cities in Alaska with about 9,000 residents. Sitka is located on the western edge of Baranof Island and faces the Gulf of Alaska.

Picturesque and welcoming, Sitka has a strong sense of community and commitment to our students. We live on a rock at the edge of the Pacific Ocean, and we know what is important in life!

Enrollment for the upcoming school year (2021-2022)

The Sitka School District's current alert level is

High

For the 2021-22 school year, the district's alert level will be aligned with the City of Sitka's COVID-19 alert level.

Active Cases Connected to SSD Buildings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Active Cases Connected to a SSD building</th>
<th>Current Instructional Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baranof Elementary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keet Gooshi Hoon Elementary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bat煅chey Middle School</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka High School</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last updated: 11/25/21 @ 5:00pm

During the 2021-22 school year, the Sitka School District will be implementing layered mitigations at all buildings. Parents can review the mitigation summary page on our COVID-19 resources tab for more information or contact the District Office at 747-8622 with any other questions.

The table below will be updated daily with information received from Sitka Public Health and will indicate any active cases reported of staff or students that were identified as COVID-19 positive and are completing their 10 day isolation period. If a positive case is identified with a SSD building, parents will receive a letter from the building principal notifying them of this information. Parents of any student that is identified as a close contact of a positive case will receive a phone call from the school notifying them of this information and what next steps are recommended by public health. If a positive case is reported and a parent is not contacted by public health or the building directly, no further action is required for that student.

Active Cases by Building:

Beginning with cases reported on or after August 23rd, 2021, this table will be updated daily while schools are in session. It includes the number of students and staff by building that have tested positive and are in their 10 day isolation period. Staff or students that test positive but were not attending in person for two days prior to testing positive or being symptomatic, will not be counted on this table.

Welcome

The Sitka School District (SSD) is a K-12 public school district serving about 1,150 students who live in Sitka, Alaska. Sitka is one of the top five largest cities in Alaska with about 9,000 residents. Sitka is located on the western edge of Baranof Island and faces the Gulf of Alaska.

Picturesque and welcoming, Sitka has a strong sense of community and commitment to our students. We live on a rock at the edge of the Pacific Ocean, and we know what is important in life!

Enrollment for the upcoming school year (2021-2022) is
“CDC recommends that the best mask is the one that you will wear consistently and correctly,” according to CDC spokesperson Jade Fulce.

“All masks work, but not equally well. My prioritization continues to be: N95/KF94 (watch for counterfeit KN95s) > surgical > cloth,” according to Dr. Joseph Allen, of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
AT-HOME COVID TESTS ARE THE NEW TOILET PAPER

Due to limited supply, we are limiting the purchase of all over-the-counter COVID-19 tests to four per transaction.
We apologize for any inconvenience.
Sitka City and Borough

Resident (12-18) Vaccination Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1+ Dose</th>
<th>Fully Vaccinated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Residents Vaccinated Over Time

1+ Dose and Fully Vaccinated

Links to External Resources

- DHSS School Health Information: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/covid-19/schoolyear.aspx
- COVID-19 Back to School Information: https://education.alaska.gov/backtoschool
Sitka City and Borough

Resident (5-11) Vaccination Status

1+ Dose: 32.5%
Fully Vaccinated: 27.9%

Percentage of Residents Vaccinated Over Time
1+ Dose and Fully Vaccinated

Links to External Resources

DHSS School Health Information: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/ld/pages/covid-19/schoolyear.aspx
COVID-19 Back to School Information: https://avacitation.alaska.gov/hacktinschool
Updated Guidance

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

**Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:**

Stay home for 5 days and isolate (Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons)

If asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving after 5 days (without fever for 24 hours), you can leave isolation (Day 6)

“If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an antigen test towards the end of the 5-day isolation period”

Fever? Must resolve to end isolation

Wear well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days
"Sharp spike in cases, lasting weeks not months."
- Dr. Joseph Allen, of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

"I think we're going to be through this certainly by mid-February. That's going to become more apparent as we get into next week."
- Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former FDA Commissioner
Congratulations to Miss America, Emma Broyles!

Olympic Gold and Silver medalist Lydia Jacoby will be visiting Sitka to speak to students on January 27.

We’re excited to welcome students back tomorrow!