Enrollment Update: Current enrollment is 1,186.25. Our projected enrollment was 1,187. Count date is: October 1-26.

Since the last School Board meeting:

- Thank you to Dr. Jenn McNichol for your years of service on the School Board and most importantly for your leadership as Chair and your advocacy for public education and funding. You will be missed... Also, thank you to both of the candidates who ran for School Board. The time and dedication that School Board members make to our district is significant, and just running for a position says a lot about the individual’s belief in the power of learning.
- Families should have received their child’s individual assessment results for the statewide student assessment for English Language Arts and Math that is called the Performance Evaluation for Alaska’s Schools (PEAKS) that is administered in grades 3-9, and for the Science assessment that is called the Alaska Science Assessment (ASA) that is administered in grades 4, 8, and 10. Summative results will be shared with the School Board and public at the November School Board meeting, along with the school designations for the State’s accountability measures.
- At our September 27th Inservice, principals and their Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) school-based teams offered professional learning in support of our MTSS for student behavior and well-being work. Specifically, teachers learned more about their new Social Emotional Learning instructional materials, made sure that their Tier I or classroom-based supports were in place, completed survey’s regarding beliefs about student behavior, as well as identified students in need of Tier II supports. We are in year 2 of our work to improve our practices to support student behavior needs, so it isn’t brand new to us this year; however, we are still refining our practices.

Current Happenings:

- In partnership with Sealaska Heritage Institute and the Juneau School District, we will be part of an Alaska Native Education Program (ANEP) 3-year grant designed to build Math skills in our students of Alaska Native heritage. The grant is titled STEAM-Making: A Culturally Responsive Approach to STEAM Education in Southeast Alaska’s Middle Schools, and will allow us to hire a K-5 Math Interventionist who will teach a STEAM-Making Math class at Blatchley. Our STEAM-Making grant-funded teacher will earn a graduate certificate in ethnomathematics-STEM throughout the process. Through the grant, we will also collaborate with Chatham, Wrangell, Hoonah, and Klawock school districts.
- I traveled to Juneau for the Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC) Board meeting on September 5-6. By state statute, all districts in SE must have a representative on the SERRC Board, and SERRC pays travel and lodging costs for me to attend the meetings. At the meeting we discussed issues important for districts in Alaska.
- I traveled to Los Angeles, CA to attend the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Board Meeting on September 12-14. ISTE paid all costs for me to attend the meeting, and while there we toured LA schools where I was able to bring back resources for our District Technology Committee’s work on Digital Citizenship.
- I traveled to Fairbanks to attend the Alaska Superintendents Association’s Conference on September 25-29. I stayed in Anchorage en route home to attend an Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) meeting on September 30. Although there was no cost to travel, hotel costs to attend the ASCA meeting are covered because I am a Trustee.

Things on the Radar:

- We will have an early release on Friday, October 18th for Alaska Day. Students will be released after lunch, and families are encouraged to look for the specific dismissal time from their child’s school. The parade starts at 1:30 pm.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held during the week of October 21st. Families are encouraged to check with their child’s school regarding actual dates and times, and to partner with our teachers to support your child’s learning.
- Cultural Director Nancy Douglas and I will be traveling to Washington DC on October 14-18 where we will present at the National Press Club and attend the Fall League of Innovative Schools meeting. At the National Press Club, we will share our work to close the achievement gap. Specifically, we will be sharing about our Summer STEAM Culture Camps and our Arts, Culture, and Technology professional learning for teachers. We will also tour schools and collaborate with League colleagues to further our own work in Sitka Schools regarding innovation in learning.