



SEPTEMBER
2020

Respecting Educational Alternatives and Choices in Homeschooling

Welcome Back!

Hello REACH families!

School Year 2020/21 is here and busy schedules are about to get busier with afterschool activities and new learning opportunities around every corner.

I am taking on the roll as Coordinator through December for Jamie Eells who is taking maternity leave. I have worked with REACH in the past and am happy to be helping out this fall.

The REACH team includes: Beau Hedrick, as the Sitka High School Liaison for those students enrolled dually with Sitka High; Amy Rowe-Danielson as the REACH Secretary; and we are happy to introduce you to KJ Hunt our AmeriCorps Volunteer for the year. We are here to help you in any way we can.

Please note, with COVID19, we need to have appointments scheduled ahead of time and follow the protocols at the screening desk. Just call or email to schedule appointments.

If you have not yet submitted your child's Individual Learning Plan (ILP), please do so by September 15.

As a reminder, as stated in our Handbook, 1/3 of allotment funds are available with the completion of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The next 1/3 of allotment funds are available with the completion of the first progress report due Oct. 24 and then the remainder of allotment funds will be available with the completion of the December progress report.

Beginning with October, this newsletter will be email, unless you notify us that you would like yours mailed to you.

Warm regards,

Connie McCarty

Connie McCarty-REACH Coordinator/Long Term Sub for Jamie Eells

Dates to remember

- ◆ **September 15th**- Enrollment Paperwork and ILP due today to ensure eligibility for allotment (if available).
- ◆ **September 18th** —Picture Day— In the Commons at BES at Noon -Contact REACH with questions.
- ◆ **September 30th**—Enrollment paperwork and ILPs due to ensure eligibility for allotments (if applicable)
- ◆ **October 10th**—Pacing Reports sent out for high school students
- ◆ **October 24th**— Progress Report #1 due

Progress Reports with work samples due each quarter: **October 24, December 18, March 12, and May 14** (Note: All Seniors PR#4 due May 7)



CONTACT

INFORMATION

The REACH office is located at Baranof Elementary School,
Room 30
907.747.7514

Meetings/Lending
Library Browsing
By Appointment Only
MASKS REQUIRED

REACH Coordinator
Connie McCarty 907.966.1330
mccartyc@sitkaschools.org

REACH Secretary
Amy Rowe Danielson
907.966.1338
rowedanielson@sitkaschools.org

REACH AmeriCorps Volunteer
KJ Hunt
huntk@sitkaschools.org

Sitka High School Liaison
Beau Hedrick
907.966.1939
hedrickb@sitkaschools.org

REACH Website
<https://www.sitkaschools.org/>
Choose REACH as the School



LENDING LIBRARY

REACH families are able to check out curriculum, manipulatives, books, science kits, games, and more from the Lending Library.

The \$50 deposit paid upon enrollment gives REACH families full access to check out resources. You can check with Amy on options to pay this with a credit card or you may drop off a check.

Consumables such as workbooks and general supplies are also

available for purchase.

The Lending Library is a unique resource for a homeschool program and it helps your allotment funds go further.

The REACH Team can help you find the right resource—just ask!

Before you buy, see what treasures the Lending Library may hold!

“REACH families are able to check out curriculum, manipulatives, books, science kits, games, and more. This year REACH families have 1:1 devices (iPad/laptops)”

Reimbursements:

Families are reminded to check the Handbook online for specifics regarding reimbursements. If you need a printed copy, we have these in our office.

All items requested for reimbursements must also be listed in the ILP to qualify for reimbursement. Your ILP can be adjusted as many times as you like throughout the year. If you have a question about a potential purchase and if it would qualify for reimbursement, contact Connie.

If a reimbursement is turned in and the specific item is not listed on the ILP, this will slow down your reimbursement.

THE REACH TEAM

REACH Coordinator—Connie McCarty

The REACH Coordinator is a resource for homeschooling families and can assist with Individual Learning Plans, curriculum options, and resources in the Lending Library. The coordinator also acts as the Teacher of Record for all homeschool courses and conducts state and district assessments.

907.966.1330

mccartyc@sitkaschools.org

REACH High School Liaison—Beau Hedrick

The High School Liaison is the REACH contact for all high school students and parents/guardians. With the High School Liaison, students check in weekly, schedule test-taking session, and turn in Progress Reports with work samples.

907.966.1939

hedrickb@sitkaschools.org

REACH Secretary— Amy Rowe-Danielson

Amy handles allotments, purchase orders and reimbursements for REACH as well as all things records related. She also knows her way around the Lending Library and can help you find the right resources for your lessons or topic of study.

907.966.1338

rowedanielsona@sitkaschools.org

Open Swim Time

REACH is working with Blatchley Pool to provide an open swim time for our students. If you are interested, please contact our office.



NEW PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

At REACH, we love the flexibility of being able to choose the learning path that works best for your student and your family. This fall, participation in specials and other activities at other schools has been placed on hold as the district continues to evaluate the safest options for schools.

With the safety of all our district students in mind, please follow the protocols each school has in place. Outside visitors are not allowed at each school. Students taking classes with a district school will follow the same protocols as other students. Students arriving late will check in with each office and follow protocols.

REACH families are welcome to make a scheduled appointment to access our office and lending library. Please check in at the Screening Desk at Baranof School, get a temperature check, complete the screening page, and wear a mask.

REACH has hand sanitizer and we clean and wipe/spray surfaces, pencils, etc. following each scheduled appointment.

If you arrange ahead of time, we can meet you in the drop off zone in front of Baranof School, to grab any paperwork you may need to turn in or deliver items you need from the lending library.

Baranof Elementary School, Keet Gooshi Heen, Blatchley Middle School, Sitka High School and Pacific High School:

- ⇒ These schools are not accepting outside visitors.
- ⇒ Students taking classes at these schools must follow each school's established protocols; including temperature checks, answering screening questions, etc.

HIGH SCHOOL SHARED-STUDENTS

Required

Weekly Check-In

High school students taking one or more courses through REACH are considered Shared Students. This partnership with district high schools allows for greater flexibility to help students reach their educational goals.

Student responsibilities include:

- Check in weekly with the Mr. Hedrick– SHS Liaison- during office hours 1:30-2:10 or Mrs. McCarty at REACH or during another agreed upon time (required). It is recommended that students check in the same day and time each week and with the same person.

Students may also check in via email or phone!

- Provide evidence of weekly progress (hours log, grade summary printout, scoresheet, etc.).

Two weeks without contact requires a meeting with the student, parent/guardian, and REACH HS Liaison may affect student eligibility for extracurricular activities.

ASSESSMENTS

As part of the Sitka School District, REACH students are required to participate in all state-mandated assessments.

Keep the following timelines in mind as you plan your year, although with specific dates have not been established due to COVID-19 restrictions

STATE-MANDATED

Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS)

English Language Arts and Math
(Grades 3 – 9)

Alaska Science Assessment

(Grades 4, 8, and 10)
Spring testing dates

Alaska Development Profile

Kindergarten and new-to-district 1st grade students

(These will be mailed to you soon.)

DUE by October 30

DISTRICT-SPECIFIC

MAP Growth Assessments

ELA and Math
(All grade levels)
*September/
Early December/
End of April/Early May*

PROCTORED

ASSESSMENTS

High school students schedule proctored assessments with the High School Liaison, as required

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

REACH's Lending Library is constantly growing and our latest additions are the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's **Alaska Wildlife Curriculum** series.

These collections are place-based lessons aligned with AK State Standards for K-12 students.

Lessons are very user-friendly and specify grade level, subjects, skills, dura-

tion, group size, setting, and associated vocabulary.

Lessons are also available online.



REACH STORE

Need supplies for your lesson or art project? Come browse the REACH store!



Families can use allotment funds to purchase art and office supplies, including specialty art papers.

HANDS-ON LOAN PROGRAM

Imagine a museum in your own classroom! Sheldon Jackson Museum has 600+ loanable artifacts available through the **Hands-On Loan program**.



Visit www.museums.alaska.gov and click on Sheldon Jackson Museum or call 907.747.8981 to speak to the Curator of Collections.

CONTESTS

- **Ranger Rick Photo Contest** (ongoing)—Students age 13 and younger submit an original nature photo <https://rangerrick.org/photo-contest/>
- **Kudoswall**—a handy resource for current competitions and contests for students of all ages with categories ranging from STEM to writing and volunteering <https://kudoswall.com/index.php/easyblog/entry/50-competitions-your-child-can->

FOR GREAT SUBSCRIPTION IDEAS CHECK OUT THIS SITE:

https://boxes.mysubscriptionaddiction.com/subscription_boxes_for_kids/tag/educational



FREE LANGUAGE LESSONS, ANYONE?!



Our local library is full of resources for homeschooling families. If you're interested in learning a new language, the **Mango Languages** program is offered through the Sitka Public Library website—for FREE!

Linked through the main page on the library's website, create a login and link

your account to the Sitka Public Library. It even tracks your progress as you work toward fluency!

<http://www.cityofsitka.com/government/departments/library/index.html>

