

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*2025-2026 School Annual
Reports to the Superintendent*

*Clayton Holland,
Superintendent*



School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-26

School Name: Aurora Borealis Charter School

Principal: Cody McCanna

Girls Basketball Small Schools Champions

Boys Basketball Small Schools 2nd place

3rd-4th Grade Battle of the Books District Champions/ 5th at State

Robotics- First Lego League Peninsula champions/ 3rd at State

Science Olympiad Team- 3rd at UAF State Competition

mCLASS Data for K-3: 100% of students out of red by EOY

96% of K & 2nd graders At Benchmark or Above

91% of 1st graders At Benchmark or Above

95% of 3rd graders At Benchmark or Above

AK STAR "Projected" Proficiency Scores from MAP: Reading 80%; Math 90%

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Chapman

Principal: Heidi Stokes

Grants Awarded:

Chapman is accessing the grant for Hunter's Education for the coming school year. This money will be used to pay the fee for 18 students to participate in the Hunter's Education Program. Funds will also be used to cover the cost of bussing to attend the field day certification event.

The Kachemak Bay Running club awarded Chapman with a \$300 grant last school year. A portion of these funds were utilized last year to encourage healthy lifestyles in Chapman students. The remainder of the grant was utilized this year to continue the program.

The 5th grade class applied for a grant to attend the Kenai Challenger Center. Prior to this class being able to travel to the Challenger Center, it was unexpectedly closed. The Challenger Center Coordinator reached out to communicate that the Center would like to donate 8 separate STEAM kits. Chapman gladly accepted these kits that focus on robotics, coding, and space.

Chapman 2nd and 3rd graders benefited from a grant from the Seward Sea Life Center to participate in an overnight stay at the Center. Students participated in various learning activities all while enjoying the nocturne atmosphere of the center.

Chapman also took advantage of various travel-based grants to participate in various activities offered by Kachemak Bay Coastal Studies. Including, the 6th grade class touring the Tiglax Research Vessel.

Academic Awards:

Chapman participated in a school level spelling bee and had 1 student qualify for the State Spelling Bee. Leesa Wafford, an 8th grader at Chapman, was among the top 10 spellers in the state.

Chapman attended the Math Meet that was sponsored by Quest. Aurora Hart, a 6th grader, was on the 1st place math team. She demonstrated advanced mathematical problem solving and critical thinking.

Regional Athletic Titles:

Small School's Volleyball:

Chapman is the Borough champion for the 25-26 school year for the small schools.

Track and Field:

Aubrey Johnson (7th grade): Borough Champion in Girl's High Jump with the jump of 4' 4".

Rox Shafer (7th grade) was one of our premier athletes this year but caught the flu the day before finals. Based on her times from preliminaries, she would have awarded her 2nd place in the 200-meter girls' race, 1st place in girls' 400 meters.

We are excited about next year's competition.

Special School-wide Projects.

Chapman added another mural this year after working with local artist, Sharlene Cline. This opportunity was made possible through the Artist in the School's program in partnership with the Bunnell Street Art Gallery. Students were able to create individual tiles to create this collaborative project.

It is in our middle school hallway and is representative of the dedication that Chapman and the Anchor Point community has for continuing direct instruction in music, violin, and band.



School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Connections Homeschool

Principal: Doug Hayman

Overview

The Connections Homeschool Program continues to demonstrate strong student outcomes, program growth, and meaningful family engagement. The program remains focused on personalized learning, expanded opportunities, and system improvements to better serve families across the district.

Key Achievements

- Student Recognition:
 - Sara DeVolld named *Miss Teen Alaska* and 1st runner-up in the Miss America's Teen competition.
 - Xiling Tanner awarded early entrance (end of Junior year) to MIT (also awarded acceptance letters to Columbia University, and Harvard)
 - Grant Award:
 - Cory Rice awarded the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Spark Grant (\$4,000) for a student-led business venture.
 - Athletics (Districtwide Success, almost every championship team had Connections students on it) examples include:
 - Homer High and Soldotna High – State Football Champions
 - Seward High – State Runner-Up
 - Kenai High School- State Volleyball Champions
-

Program Growth & Initiatives

- New Learning Resource:
 - Launch of the Connections Podcast Menu, providing families with accessible, on-demand content on academics, extracurriculars, and district initiatives.
 - System Modernization:
 - Implementation of ClassWallet for student allotment management (pilot underway; full rollout 2026–27).
 - Transition to PowerSchool for ILPs and communication tracking to improve efficiency and accessibility.
 - Enrollment & Funding:
 - Successful participation in the October Count process, ensuring accurate enrollment reporting tied to state funding.
-

Student Opportunities

- Expanded access to experiential and enrichment learning, including:
 - Field trips (Kenai Fjords Marine Trip)
 - Outdoor and safety education programs
 - Skiing, skating, tubing, and seasonal activities
 - Academic enrichment such as the spelling bee and Battle of Books
 - Hands-on workshops (e.g., small engine projects)

- Continued partnerships with KPBSD schools allow students to:
 - Take in-person classes
 - Participate fully in extracurricular and athletic programs
-

Community Engagement

- Strong participation in Back-to-School Socials and ongoing family engagement efforts
 - Stakeholder meetings and feedback sessions to guide program improvements including ongoing surveys
 - Encouragement of family participation in district budget discussions
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Key Updates

- Graduation Ceremony: May 14, 2026, at the Soldotna Field House (expanded capacity)
 - Re-enrollment: Ongoing, with required ILP meetings and summer scheduling options
 - System Transition: ClassWallet rollout continuing, with full implementation planned for 2026–27
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Summary

Connections Homeschool Program continues to excel in supporting student achievement while expanding opportunities and modernizing systems. The program remains a strong, flexible option within the district, grounded in family partnership and committed to continuous improvement.

Connections Homeschool Program is planning for the future by modernizing its financial systems, student records, and communication platforms. These improvements aim to enhance the level of service provided to families while also reducing overall operational costs. At the same time, Connections is working to expand program capacity and improve service delivery by collaborating with KPBSD administrators and local government agencies to secure a larger, more sustainable facility. This expanded space will support material and equipment lending, as well as cooperative learning opportunities, strengthening the overall quality and accessibility of the program.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Cooper Landing

Principal: Cindy McKibben

- ❖ On August 26, to celebrate the beginning of the school year, Alaska Rivers Company took 15 students and 2 staff members on an adventurous trip through the Kenai River canyon.
- ❖ On December 15, families and community members joined us for a Morning Read-In for our Semester 1, Title-1 activity. A variety of short stories were available for groups to read with morning treats.
- ❖ The PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) worked hard to raise funds for our annual ski lessons at Alyeska. As a result, students and staff were able to continue the tradition as part of our physical education curriculum. All students participated in six ski lessons with free ski in the afternoons.
- ❖ On December 18, we had a well-attended Christmas Program and spaghetti dinner fundraiser.
- ❖ Battle of the Books – Our middle school team, Molly Sullivan, Liam Bear, and Jack Swain were district champions and continued on to the state championship where they came in fourth place!
- ❖ On April 10, we hosted a Community Spring Dance where semi-formal dress was encouraged. Students from Hope and Moose Pass joined us along with community members.
- ❖ On May 8, we hosted a fun-filled Community Jeopardy Night for our Semester 2, Title-1 activity. It was an adults vs. kids trivia challenge and we had a wonderful turn-out. The content was curated from what students learned throughout the year.
- ❖ On May 12, Hope School hosted our annual three-school field day with Cooper Landing School and Moose Pass School.
- ❖ On May 20, we held our annual Written & Illustrated Author's Tea. Students worked extremely hard on their works and compliments were heard throughout as parents and community members browsed the books. We also held our kindergarten graduation and awards ceremony that night.
- ❖ Volunteers were very generous with their time this year. Of special mention is Sylve Montalbo, Al Nierenberg, Ed and Sandra Holsten, Rachel Altmann, Gary Galbraith, and Cooper Landing Emergency Services.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-26

School Name: Fireweed Academy

Principal: Kyle Darbonne

This year, our team spent time intentionally revitalizing aspects of our charter such as Socratic Seminars and Project Based Learning in order to better fit the needs of our community.

Grants

- Alaska Farm Borough
- Homer Foundation Forquer/Seaton Public School Educational Enhancement Grant
- Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Two Fireweed graduates were the two co-valedictorians for Homer High.

We had multiple artist in the schools including one who did stop motion animation film with students as well as one who did ceramic tiles with our K-2 students. Our 5th and 6th grade students built 4 planter boxes during a measurement unit and gifted them to Little Fireweed where they were decorated with the tiles from the Artist in the Schools unit.

Students at Big Fireweed researched plant and animal adaptations and then created an invention with a prototype that was inspired by an adaptation to solve a real world problem for humans. Students then presented these during the final weeks of school.

Our K-2 Fireweed Frescoes, sponsored by Homer Opus, continued to play Violin twice a week and performed many times throughout the year at various community events. One highlight was when our kindergarten students went to Library Story Time at the Homer Public Library and played background music for a reading of Where the Wild Things Are in addition to a concert of a few other songs.

Our 6th graders culminated the year with a 3 day, 2 night, camping trip in tents near Tutka Bay, which included paddle boarding, fishing, tide-pooling, and leadership games led by Homer Wilderness Leaders.

One thing that made this year especially fun was that we got chickens! We had parent volunteers help build a chicken coop and run that allowed students to take care of 4 chickens throughout the year! Every spring, our 1st grade teacher, Becky King, incubates chicken eggs with her class so it was fun to take that momentum into a fun new project. This project taught responsibility through caring for the flock as well as cooking with the eggs at the end of each month.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-26

School Name: Homer Flex

Principal: Christopher Brown

- Alaska Alternative Schools Grant: used to increase counselor FTE
- CSI Grad Rate Grant: used in conjunction with the AASC grant to cover increased counselor FTE
- Collaboration with Alt Schools Coalition to identify, adopt, implement, and revise research-based trauma engaged practices
- “For the Families” Nights – a multi-part series for parents/guardians and their kids. Topics included financial aid, nervous system regulation, teen mental health, and adulting conversations.
- Food Security program (weekly Pancake Breakfast, Culinary Arts)
- Teen Mental Health First Aid certification for all students
- 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.
- Continued school-wide advisories focused on student health and wellness.
- Implemented school-wide weekly intervention times (during advisory)
- Swing Choir: three students went to state solo/ensemble
- Band: one student went to state solo/ensemble, honor choir in Montana
- Adopt a Highway: Homer Spit cleanup
- Fifteenth Annual “Flex First Friday”
- Community-based physical education activities (Kevin Bell Arena, hiking, etc)
- *these PE activities were severely limited due to budgetary constraints

Student

Masonic Outstanding Student Award – Cutter Shelby

UA Scholar Award – Bree Cathey

Homer Elk’s Student on the Move Award – Thomas Allowan, Olivia Morris

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-26

School Name: Homer High School

Principal: Eric Pederson

State Championships:

Football

Girls Cross Country

Boys Cross Country

Girls and Boys Nordic Ski 2nd place

One Female Wrestler

Girls Track

Boys Track 3rd

Regional Championships:

Football

Girls Cross Country

Boys Cross Country

Girls Track

Baseball

Academic Awards:

Football

Girls Nordic Ski

State Solo Ensemble:

2 x 2nd place

1 x 3rd place

Superior Ranking at State:

17 students

Grants:

Shorer Fund for school culture

Schoolwide Projects:

Changing of FOL to Mariner/Anchor Time

School Musical Footloose

Community partnership and district school partnership Mozart Requiem

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Homer Middle School

Principal: Meghan Redmond

- Grant: Homer Foundation \$3,000 David & Mary Schroer Grant
- American Legion Post #16: \$1,000 donation
- 8th grade Mock Interview day
- 7th grade Cold Water Survival training
- Advisory service projects completed (senior center decorations, animal shelter treats, thank you cards, community clean up)
- Award: Maria Hernandez-Zamora named HMS Masonic Outstanding Student
- Award: Maria Hernandez-Zamora and Cohen McBride named Homer Elks Student on the Move Award
- Girls Nordic Ski Borough Champ: Maggie Lints
- Boys Soccer Borough Champs
- 99% participation (and completion) of Spring AKSTAR/MAP assessment
- Alaska STATE Spelling Bee runner up (Maria Hernandez-Zamora)

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025 - 2026

School Name: Hope School

Principal: Cindy McKibben

Date: May 20, 2026

Deadline: June 1

Email to: Nikkol Sipes

Executive Summary

Hope School has concluded an exceptional 2025-2026 school year. This report highlights the outstanding academic, athletic, and creative achievements of our students. Through dedication and community support, our students have excelled locally, regionally, and statewide.

Academic Excellence & Honor Roll

Our students demonstrated exceptional academic performance across all grade levels this year.

- **4.0 GPA & Highest Honors:** Four students achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA and were awarded Highest Honors Honor Roll certificates:
 - Lillie Stroh
 - Avery M. Everett
 - Jasmine Davidson
 - Eleanor Stehn
 - Beverly Jabaay

- **3.5 - 3.85 GPA & High Honors:** Three students achieved High Honors Honor Roll status:
 - Kodi Airth
 - Lincoln Jabaay

- **Presidential Award:** Awarded to all students in Grades 9–12 for overall academic excellence.

- **Masonic Achievement Award:** Jasmine Davidson, Valor Jabaay, and Franklin Maguire were recognized as outstanding students at Hope School.

- **Graduating Senior Success:** Our graduating senior achieved a 4.0 GPA and received the prestigious UA Scholars Award, the Alaska Performance Scholarship, and the Hope School PTO Scholarship.

District & State Academic Competitions

Hope School students proudly represented our school in regional and district academic events.

- **Readathon Awards:** Top honors for first-place readers across three divisions:
 - *High School:* Avery M. Everett
 - *Middle School:* Nigel Hogan
 - *Elementary School:* Everly Farber
- **Battle of the Books:** Competitors Eleanor Stehn and Beverly Jabaay secured a strong 6th-place finish.
- **KPBSD Film Festival:** Nigel Hogan competed and represented Hope School with an amazing cinematic project.

Athletic Achievements

Our student-athletes showed incredible grit and determination in regional sports and multi-sport events.

- **Rock Climbing Excellence:** Valor Jabaay earned top spots in multiple advanced youth climbing competitions:
 - *Frigid Flash Rock Climbing Competition:* 1st Place (Male Youth Advanced)
 - *Pumpkin Pump 2025 Rock Climbing Competition:* 2nd Place (Male Youth Advanced)
- **Anchorage Triathlon:** Everly Farber captured 3rd Place in the Elementary age category.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: K-Beach Elementary

Principal: Janae Van Slyke

Grants

- \$2,500 Marathon grant for Reading is Great in Summer Program.
- \$2,000 Alaska Community Foundation grant for Mr. Andrew Shook's classroom and basketball program.
- \$4,499 Alaska Community Foundation grant for 4th grade field trip.
- \$700 Alaska Community Foundation grant for Mrs. Krieger's kindergarten class.
- \$700 Alaska Community Foundation grant for Mrs. Biswas fifth grade class.

School Awards

- Masonic Award winner Jaxon Milage
- 5th/6th grade Battle of the Books Team (Iris Hansen, Winter Rasmussen, Janessa Reyna, Molly Cuver) placed 2nd in the district meet.
- 3rd/4th grade Battle of the Books Team (Hudson Wilcox, Makayla Zibell, Brooklyn Matiaco, Elliana Earl) placed 3rd in the district meet.
- KPBSD Math Meet: Winter Rasmussen – 1st Prime Factorization, 3rd Ryker Denison – Word Problems, Levi Huestis – 3rd Team Problem Solving, Makayla Zibell – 2nd Team Problem Solving, Josie Crabtree – 1st Team Problem Solving.

School-wide Projects

- K-Beach Elementary had 116 Positive Office Referrals for this school year.
- K-Beach partnered with Operation Children First and donated 50 full Thanksgiving meals and the ELKS donated five.
- Hands Helping Alaska Market: 5th and 6th grade students made crafts and baked goods to support our neighbors in western Alaska due to the villages impacted by flooding.
- Stream Keepers- All 5th 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 \$5,068. 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.

- Warwick Voight was the new king of reading at K-Beach. Warwick read 8,785 minutes last summer. Students and staff read a combined total of 251,161 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, and helped put on assemblies. Students also volunteered at the Kenai Pumpkin Festival where they hosted a face-painting booth for the community.
- K-Beach hosted several family engagement nights such as Bingo for Books, Family Game Night, Spring Dance, Brunch with Santa and Christmas Caroling, Family Skate Night, and Book Fairs.
- K-Beach Elementary hosted a variety of intramurals and clubs such as 5th and 6th Grade Leadership, Film Club, Basketball, Volleyball, and Battle of the Books third through sixth grade.
- Third graders dissected salmon with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Community Partners: Representative Ruffridge, Ranger Michelle, Department of Fish and Game, SOHI National Honor Society, Kenaitze Tribe, and Kenai River Brown Bears all volunteered at K-Beach.
- Veterans Day Assembly focused on honoring our local veterans.
- Healthy Heart Challenge with the American Heart Association.
- Love of Reading Month: Spirit week, 20 is plenty reading log calendar, guest readers, love of reading assembly, classroom activities, and door decorating contest.
- Title I Family Resource Center was established.
- AKStar testing incentives: Testing Bingo, breakfast provided daily, do your best drawings, and afternoon activities.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Kachemak Selo

Principal: Michael Wojciak

- Project Grad CHILL participants
- Beach/Community cleanup
- Parent/Family engagement events
- HOB MS soccer participants
- Title family events
- Semester 1 Elk on the Move Recognition
- M.S First Aid & CPR training
- Bookmobile opportunities at Voznesenka School
- Site visits by Amplify and iReady reps
- Eighth grade & Kindergarten promotion
- School Board presentation
- Elementary acrobatics participants at Voznesenka

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science

Principal: Marcie McLendon

- 3rd, 4th, & 5th - Battle of the Books – 5th grade tied for 4th place in the district
- 3rd – 5th Running Club
- Celebration of Learning – held at the end of each quarter
- 4th & 5th – Beginning Band
- 5th grade – Advanced Band
- DARE Program
- Family Engagement & Community Events
 - Progress Days
 - Volunteer Training
 - Pumpkin Festival
 - Winter Gear Swap
 - Treats on the Trail
 - School Musical – Jukebox Time Machine
 - Family Cookie Decorating Night
 - Bingo for Books
 - PreSchool Playtime (Two Saturdays in February)
 - Science Night
 - DARE graduation
 - Bike Rodeo
 - 5th Grade Musical & Graduation
 - 3rd-5th After Testing Fun Night
 - Wax museum
 - APC Pizza Party
 - Volunteer Luncheon
- Adopted reading curriculum – CKLA 3E
- FY27 – Kaleidoscope will move from an ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement) designation to a TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) designation.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2025-2026

School Name: Kenai Alternative

Principal: John Galahan

Grants Awarded

- Alternative Schools of Alaska Grant - \$36,250
- Alaska School Improvement Grant - \$2,558

Individual Awards and Recognition:

- 2026 Masonic Outstanding Student of the Year – Adelynn DeHoyos
- 2026 ELKS Lodge #2425 Student of the Year – Kaelynn Hensley
 - Student of the Rotation recipients – Makenna Miller, Adelynn DeHoyos, Kealynn Hensley, Aubrey Geurin and Kyla Karella.

School-Wide Projects

KAHS continues to offer 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 with a hot breakfast every morning. While a portion of the food and supplies are 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 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 again 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 provide information on a 3-year project. After a year away, the partnership with REL NW will be returning. 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 school member. From this grant, Kenai Alternative funded several programs including the afore mentioned Breakfast Program, the Alaska Outdoor Adventure Program, and continuing our Mentorship period.

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 to the Kenai Visitor Center, ice skating at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex, recreating on the Beaches at Kenai and culminating with a wildlife tour out of Seward at the end of the year. These trips sought to provide students with 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 Seward trip was for some the first time these students have been on a large boat and toured Resurrection bay.

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
- Safe Alaska Driving
- Chickaloonies
- Post-secondary mentorship tutoring with Shannon Dodge and Scott Pitsch (Teacher Prep and Career Prep Coordinators at Kenaitze)
- Sources of Strength week. where speakers from Leashore, Public Health, Officer Chad Larsen, Central Peninsula General Hospital, CICADA and Kenaitze all presented to students.

For the 2025-26 school year, Kenai Alternative High School had 9 graduates, with a commitment from 7 students to return as 5th year seniors.

KALT used it's resourced to purchase two Glowforges and a 3-D printer to develop a CTE Entrepreneurship based class to be introduced next year.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025 – 2026

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025–2026

School Name: Kenai Central High School

Principal: Daniel Beck

Overview

Kenai Central High School continued to demonstrate excellence across academics, career and technical education, and athletics during the 2025–2026 school year. Our students achieved recognition at the state and national levels, while our staff and community partnerships supported meaningful projects that enhanced student learning and school pride.

Grants and Special Projects

Kenai Central High School was awarded the **Ed Hollier Grant** in the amount of approximately **\$6,500**. These funds will be used to support improvements and student-centered activities at Ed Hollier Field, contributing to enhanced athletic and community use of the facility.

The school also implemented the **Strive for 5 attendance initiative**, a school-wide effort focused on improving student attendance and engagement. This initiative emphasized the importance of consistent attendance in supporting academic success and strengthening overall school culture.

Academic and Career & Technical Achievements

Students excelled in statewide competitions, demonstrating high levels of skill, preparation, and commitment:

- **SkillsUSA**
 - **Bradley Morrison** – *State Welding Champion*
 - Currently representing Alaska at the **SkillsUSA National Competition**
- **Educators Rising State Competition**
 - **Caitlyn Eskelin** – *1st Place, Children's Literature*
 - **Stephanie Huffer** – *2nd Place, Lesson Planning and Delivery (Arts)*

These accomplishments reflect strong instructional programs and a commitment to preparing students for both careers and postsecondary opportunities.

Athletic Achievements

Kenai Central High School athletes and teams had an exceptional year, earning recognition at regional and state levels across multiple sports.

Team Highlights

- **Volleyball**
 - *3A State Champions*
 - *2nd Place, Regional Tournament*
- **Cross Country Skiing**
 - *Boys DII State Champions*
 - *Girls DII State Champions*
- **Wrestling**
 - *2nd Place, DII State Tournament*
- **Basketball**
 - *Boys – Regional Champions*
 - *Girls – 2nd Place, Regions*
- **Soccer (Girls)**
 - *2nd Place, State Tournament*
- **Diving**
 - *2nd Place, Regions*

Individual Athletic Honors

- **Volleyball**
 - *Sophie Tapley – State Tournament Best Hitter*
 - *Grace Every – State Tournament Best Setter*
- **Cross Country Skiing**
 - *Isla Crouse – 1st Place, DII Girls Classic and Skate*
 - *Jack Laker – DII State Champion, Classic and Skate*
- **Wrestling**
 - *Daniel Stephanson – State Champion*
 - *Thaddeus Lingenfelter – State Champion*
- **Track and Field**
 - *Gage Ivy – 2nd Place, DII Triple Jump*
 - *Aiden Jackmen – 2nd Place, DII 200m Dash*

Summary

The 2025–2026 school year was marked by outstanding student achievement in academics, career and technical education, and athletics. Kenai Central High School students consistently demonstrated excellence, leadership, and dedication, while staff fostered opportunities for growth and success. We are proud of these accomplishments and remain committed to supporting all students in reaching their full potential.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2025-2026

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 – First at Borough
Basketball	Girls – 1st Place Boys – 1st Place
Volleyball	1st at Boroughs
Wrestling	6 borough champs (1state champ)
XC Skiing	Finished in Top 10
<u>ACADEMICS</u>	
Math Counts	Met Weekly/ State Math Champions
Math Bowl	Top Math school in the district
Spelling Bee	1st Place – Aiden Cole (1 st in State)
Battle of the Books	7th & 8th Grade – 2 nd Place
After School Tutorial	November 4 – March 19 (Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's)
Masonic Award	– 8 th Grade – Aiden Cole
<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 7
Open House/BBQ	August 28 and April 23
Spirit Week	September 08-12 April 13- 17

Activity Nights	Quarterly
Hay Maze	October 22
Red Ribbon Week	October 20-24
Canned Food Drive	December 15-19
Character Counts	Weekly Awards
SOM (Students of the Month)	Awarded Monthly in each grade level.
Celebrations	End of 2 nd and 3 rd quarter.
Tide Pooling	April 7
Clubs	January 14 – February 11
Volunteer Celebration	May 7
New Student Visitation	April 20-23
Aluminum Can Drive	April
Mini courses	May 19-20
6th Camp	May 13-15
Farewell Ceremony	May 18
<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

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Marathon School

Principal: Melissa Linton

Marathon School, located within the Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility (KPYF), is a small alternative school serving students in grades 5–12. The school operates through a highly collaborative framework, staffed by one certified teacher working alongside qualified KPYF staff members and Youth Probation Officers. Together, this multidisciplinary team ensures a secure, structured, and supportive environment tailored to each student's accountability and growth.

Students at Marathon School have access to a wide variety of academic and social-emotional programming. They are encouraged to continue their current district coursework and can also participate in targeted credit recovery programs to help them stay on track for graduation. Beyond traditional academics, the school offers many Career and Technical Education (CTE) training, industry certifications, and valuable job skills development.

Marathon staff continues to build school culture and began building their Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) program. Developed and implemented in close collaboration with KPYF facility staff and Youth Probation Officers, the PBIS framework establishes clear, consistent behavioral expectations, proactive interventions, and positive reinforcements that follow students throughout their day.

Complementing this system is a strong emphasis on social and emotional wellness. Through activities such as goal setting, relationship-building, and the development of crucial soft skills like communication and problem-solving, students are equipped for behavioral success. While enrolled, they are encouraged to build essential life skills—including self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making—ensuring a smooth transition and continued achievement after they leave the program.

Looking ahead to the next school year, Marathon School continues to provide personalized learning plans for all enrolled students while at the same time expanding its offerings in the fine and practical arts, as well as broader CTE opportunities.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-26

School Name: McNeil Canyon Elementary School

Principal: Pete Swanson

Staff Achievements

- Anne Love and Lenore Swanson collaborated with Brandon Young on 33rd consecutive, successful Artist-in-Schools grant that provided the opportunity for all students to work with our guest Artist in Residence, Terri Tibbet. We were thrilled to welcome Teri Tibbett, an accomplished Alaskan singer-songwriter and performer, as our Resident Artist this fall. She worked with our K-6th students to present a special program titled "American Literature Music," where students explored music rooted in American history and storytelling.

Student Accomplishments

- Occia Pariyar qualified for the State Spelling Bee. Occia is a 5th grade student. Yaella Bowman, a 6th grade student, was awarded the President's Educational Excellence Award

Co-Curricular Accolades

- 3-4 and 5-6 grade students competed in Battle of the Books. The 3-4 team finished second in a nail-biting tie-breaker round.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Moose Pass School

Principal: Matt Cook

Moose Pass School had a productive school year with many achievements to be proud of. Though we were not fully staffed with a Principal, full time teacher, instructional tutor, secretary, and custodian; unfortunately we lacked a part-time SPED aide for the school year. We had a total of 13 students this year, with 7 in the K-2 and 8 in the 3-5 grades.

- Partnership with Alaska Sea Life Center. ASLC provided unlimited use/access to their facilities to our students to have school away from school during the slow winter months. We made 2 field trips to their facilities, one day learning about the ocean and the animals that reside there, the other day we used their classroom to host a poetry clinic with a local artist.
- The Moose Pass Sportsmen's Club donated funding for bussing students to Alyeska for downhill ski lessons. We were able to attend 4 trips to Alyeska this year.
- The Site Based Council held our annual Halloween Carnival in October to raise funding for extra-curricular school activities.
- The Kenai Mountain Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA) took our students on a "Snow Day" field trip out to Devils Pass, along with 2 classroom days to support the lesson. Youth 360 donated funds to reduce the cost of this trip to students.
- Moose Pass School and Youth 360 partnered to offer "Tot-Time" at Moose Pass School. A space and dedicated time that pre-Kindergarten toddlers can come to use the gym and toys to interact with other children of like age, giving an escape from the cold winter as well as an introduction to the Moose Pass School where they may be attending in the coming years.
- 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.
- All students learned a forensics piece and participated in a school competition with community volunteers as judges.
- All students enjoyed bi-monthly visits from our amazing counselor, Christy Jordan, who taught them about social and emotional intelligence.
- All students attended the 3 School Field Day with Cooper Landing and Hope Schools. All students participated in field games.
- Most students participated in an adventurous end the year field trip by boat (thanks to Millers Landing) out to Kayakers Cove where they learned about tidepools and spent an over night. The following day students road the boat again to Caines Head State Park Recreation Area where they got to hike up the Fort

McGilvary and see the remains of the WWII fort. This experience was a first on many levels for every student and many chaperones on our trip.

- Moose Pass School Celebrating its 96th year on May 20th, “Moose Pass Territorial School Day” as proclaimed by the Governor in 2010. Alumni and past faculty members were invited to the school to share stories of their time at this historic school.

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

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Mountain View Elementary School

Principal: Hannah Dolphin



School Overview & Culture

- **Kenai's Neighborhood School:** Mountain View Elementary continues to serve as the only open-enrollment neighborhood elementary school in Kenai, guaranteeing all area students access to an inclusive, adaptive, and highly supportive educational environment.
- **Mission & Vision:** Mountain View remains steadfastly focused on providing all learners with a well-rounded foundation for lifelong success. The community cultivates an emotionally secure, welcoming environment designed to inspire individual academic growth, personal resilience, and behavioral integrity.
- **Kindness & Conflict Resolution:** "Kindness Rules" serves as the foundational motto at Mountain View. To foster empathy, staff and students utilize the school-wide "Conflict Wheel" framework to learn and practice constructive, positive responses to interpersonal conflicts.
- **Positive Climate Metrics:** According to recent school-wide data, the cultural framework is highly successful: 91% of students report genuinely caring about their school community, 90% feel their teachers care about their well-being, and 91% feel students at this school are encouraged to their very best.
- **Student Recognition:** Positive behavior, helpfulness, and daily acts of kindness are continually tracked and celebrated through the distribution of "Soaring Eagle" feathers. Over 80% of students received an eagle feather this year.



PTO & Community Engagement Initiatives

- **Annual T-Shirt Design Contest:** A hallmark of the school's inclusive culture, the student body participated in the annual T-shirt design contest to highlight priorities of learning, inclusion, and kindness. The Mountain View PTO generously funded and purchased a custom-designed spirit shirt for every single student in the building. This year's winner was Isabella Pijahn.
- **Triumvirate Theatre Partnership:** In a milestone event for local youth arts accessibility, every student from Mountain View Elementary attended a special production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Triumvirate Theatre this year. For many students, the performance served as their introduction to live theater. This event marks the official commencement of an ongoing partnership between Mountain View Elementary and the Triumvirate Theatre. The collaboration aims to institutionalize regular theater access for students, fostering long-term creative engagement and community connection within Kenai.
- **Sustained Family Action Events:** The Parent and Family Engagement Action Plan successfully connected families with school culture through highly attended seasonal events. Highlights from this year's calendar included:
 - The traditional back-to-school **Ice Cream Social**
 - The **Believe Kids Fundraiser** (launched in late September)
 - The community **Fall Carnival** in October

- Literacy-building initiatives include **Bingo for Books**, **IditaRead**, and the beloved **One School, One Book (OSOB)** shared reading program.

Afterschool & Enrichment Programs

- **Intramural Sports Framework:** Building on its established athletic foundation, the school's intramural sports program provided crucial physical outlets and structured teamwork opportunities, running soccer programs in the fall, basketball during the winter months, and volleyball in the spring. Mountain View competed with district elementary schools including West Homer, K-Beach Elementary, and Nikiski Northstar Elementary.

Academic Excellence & Student Achievement

- **Historic MAP Growth and Achievement:** Mountain View Elementary reached the high-growth and high-achievement quadrant for *both* reading and math on the NWEA MAP assessments, driven by successful Professional Learning Community (PLC) data reviews and planning.
- **Strong Early Literacy Outcomes:** Through the successful implementation of the ECRI curriculum, a commanding majority of K-2 students reached or exceeded benchmarks. Specifically, 83% of Kindergarteners, 88% of first graders, and 76% of second graders scored at or above benchmark, rising to an overall 82% benchmark rate for K-2 students with consistent attendance.

**** Mountain View Elementary's dedication to elevated academic benchmarks, and robust family engagement continues to foster a nurturing, responsive environment where Kenai's students thrive.*

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Nanwalek School

Principal: Penny Bearden

Grants and Partnerships:

Partnership entity:	What was the grant used for:	Contribution made:
Chugachmiut	Identity Project (an elective art intervention class)	An 8 hour employee to teach the class; curriculum; training; and materials.
Chugachmiut	Jr. and Sr. NYO. We used the money for travel and coaches.	About \$15,000
Homer Elks Lodge #2127	Student nutrition	\$800
Homer Lions Club	Student nutrition	\$250
Schweitzer Engineering	CTE / Science materials	\$200
Native Movement	Artist in Schools and Art Supplies	\$6,000
North Pacific Rim Housing	Open House Picnic, SeaWeek, After School Clubs	Snacks, food and prizes were provided
English Bay Store	Open House Picnic, SeaWeek, After School Clubs	Snacks, food
Project GRAD	SEL / Academic Supports	Provides SEL, Academic tutoring, field trips
Kachemak Bay Research Reserve	'Orchids in the Classroom'	Curriculum, Orchids, Grow lights and shelving, Scientist support

Staff:

Penny Bearden was awarded Region III Principal of the Year 2026 from the AASSP.

Athletics:

HS Basketball

Region II 1A All Tournament Team:

Boys: Macarius Evans, Kenji Ty Simmons, Noah Seville

Girls: Rhozalita Moonin, Olympiyada Killbear

Region II 1A All Conference Team

Boys: Macarius Evans, Kenji Ty Simmons, Noah Seville

Girls: Rhozalita Moonin

All Academic Award: Macarius Evans, Kenji-Ty Simmons

Sr. NYO State Results

5th Place Boys Wrist Carry Kayonte Simmons, Macarius Evans

4th Place Girls Inuit Stick Pull Rhozalita Moonin

3rd Place Boys Two Foot High Kick Kayonte Simmons

4th Place Boys One Foot High Kick Macarius Evans

4th Place Girls Dene Stick Pull Harleigh Romanoff-Moonin

Special School Wide Projects:

Continue ‘Students Driving Their Learning’ Students and teachers analyze students’ levels of engagement and procedures and strategies for students making goals, seeking feedback, analyzing. We incorporated “Teacher Clarity” into this training.

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

Morning Gym (6th-12th) Morning Games (K-5) and school wide morning meetings: to support SEL goals, academic, and attendance goals.

Love of Reading / IditaREAD events

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

Community and Culture time: An hour on Friday that is built into the master schedule for community members to come in and teach local culture or complete community projects.

Increased Staff PLC work.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Nikiski Middle High School

Principal: Mr. Michael Crain

- Nikiski High Volleyball had a fantastic year and made the trip to State this year. Ultimately coming in as Runner-Up to Kenai in the Championship game. Abby White was awarded the 3A Defensive Player of the Year. Blakeley Jorgensen, Abby White and Mandee Roofe were named 1st Team All State.
- Our Middle School and High School Battle of the Books had a huge year. Middle School placed 3rd and High School placed 5th at District.
- SOS was busy doing many activities from student let peer trainings to movie nights, we even had a fantastic talent show.
- Blakeley Jorgensen, Abby White and Kameron Bird made 1st Team All Regions for Basketball.
- Carter Fitzpatrick made it to the Alaska State Spelling Bee
- Jaxson Young placed 1st at Alaska State Wrestling Tournament
- Rex Wittmer and Brock McCaughey made it to Regions Track
- Mrs. Angela Coelho was named Runner Up as Alaska State Teachers of the Year.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2025-2026

School Name: Nikiski North Star Elementary School

Principal: Jenna Fabian

- NNS began the year with a “Family Fun in the Midnight Sun” booth and “Popsicles with the Principal.”
- NNS was featured in a First Day Excitement article written by Jake Dye for the Peninsula Clarion.
- Students in grades 3–5 participated in intramural cross country running, attending meets at NMHS Trails, North Peninsula Recreation Service Area Trails, and Tsalteshi Trails.
- On September 19, NNS hosted the Title I Family Engagement Event, “Camp Out with a Good Book.”
- In October, staff and PTO hosted a festive Fall Carnival filled with games and attractions supported by countless community volunteers.
- The “Mystery Staff Member” tradition continued, with 34 staff members featured through daily clues and weekly reveals that strengthened connections across the school community.
- Morning announcements reflected our positive school culture and included Empowering Education weekly themes, “Wacky Wednesday” student-submitted jokes read aloud by student helpers, and the weekly “Passing the Star” staff recognition tradition.
- Our NNS Mind-A-Mazes teams had a strong showing, with one junior-level team earning the second-highest score in the Spontaneous category and third place overall in the junior division.
- NNS hosted a Family Math and Science Night on October 3, drawing families from all grade levels for hands-on exploration and interactive activities.
- Principal Fabian served as a guest panel speaker at the Anchorage Principals’ Conference, presenting on “Telling Your Story: A PR Journey.”
- Second grade students enjoyed a visit from NMHS sophomores in Mrs. Jenness’s class, who read aloud original stories they had written, creating excitement and connection across grade levels.
- Our entire school attended the Nikiski Middle School production of Alice in Wonderland, Jr.
- February’s “Love of Reading Month” featured Drop Everything and Read Fridays, a spirited Dr. Seuss Week, at-home reading logs, and a Bingo for Books night sponsored by Title I and PTO, with more than 45 families in attendance.
- Monthly staff and student birthdays were celebrated with treats from Kivi Creations and Treehouse Restaurant.
- The Nikiski Fire Department supported our school throughout the year by assisting with drills, providing gear demonstrations, offering fire truck rides to celebrate academic milestones, and cooking during our end-of-year picnic.
- Quarterly celebration assemblies focused on student growth, attendance, and achievement.
- Students participated in quarterly collaborative hallway art projects, with each class contributing to shared art displays.
- NNS staff members Karen McGahan, Kailey Watkins, and Jan Darch planned and produced a Winter Concert at the NMHS Auditorium that packed the house with proud families and smiling students.
- “Study Buddies” fostered relationships between older and younger students through shared activities, reading, and mentoring.
- Fifth grade students were celebrated for their mentorship throughout the year and served as role models in both academic and social settings.

- Mr. Way and Mrs. Segura coordinated after-school cross country running, cross country skiing, and two basketball sessions, including 3v3 and 5v5 opportunities, along with Tsalteshi and NMHS invitationals open to the community.
- The Title I Family Resource Center served more than 35 families through checkout materials and on-site support.
- Special guest presenters throughout the year included the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Smokey Bear, Nikiski Fire Department, Leeshore Center, Kenai Watershed Forum, Triumvirate Theatre, Kenai Community Library, and more.
- NNS proudly employs 21 certified staff members, including one with a doctorate, 11 with master's degrees, and nine with bachelor's degrees. Several classified staff members are also pursuing teaching degrees.
- Family communication remained strong through the Bloomz platform, with regular posts, updates, and celebrations.
- NNS partnered with PTO to support events and initiatives that enhanced family engagement and school culture.
- After-school opportunities extended through intramurals, cross country running, skiing, basketball, and community partnerships such as Good News Club, Boys and Girls Club, and Girl Scouts.
- Fifty students in grades 3–5 participated in Battle of the Books and collectively read 112 books.
- Fifth grader Kraten Samskar represented NNS at the State Spelling Bee after qualifying through the online competition. Second and third place honors were earned by second grade students Talyn Dengler and Oliver Dambacher.
- During the Geography Bee, grades 3 and 4 students earned all three individual placements as well as the team award. Fifth grader Ivy McGahan placed third in the grades 5–6 division.
- NNS celebrated Ryer-Rose Nelson as this year's Masonic Outstanding Student.
- Principal Fabian worked with six out of 10 classrooms, teaching weekly student well-being lessons throughout the school year.
- NNS was awarded the Kenai Watershed Forum's Adopt-a-Stream Grant, providing \$5,000 in science equipment. Lessons have been developed to allow students to collect and submit data to the Kenai Watershed Forum throughout the upcoming school year.
- Positive Office Referrals and academic recognition remained a top priority. More than 150 positive office referrals were issued, students received personal phone calls home, and more than 300 certificates were awarded for growth and achievement on mCLASS, i-Ready, and MAP assessments.
- Students participated in hands-on learning through field trips to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Exit Glacier, the Alaska SeaLife Center, Johnson Lake, the Nikiski Fire Department, and Caines Head/Fort McGilvray.
- Mr. Way's fourth grade class wrapped up math and science units on fractions and angles by building a collaborative bookshelf with the help of volunteers and materials donated by Nikiski Hardware & Supply.
- A total of 123 families joined us for our Last Day Picnic, celebrating together as a school community.
- NNS welcomed a diverse and dynamic student body. Enrollment began at 200 students and remained steady between 210 and 213 students throughout the year.
- Family nights included Jartastic and the One School, One Book movie event featuring The Water Horse.
- As a Healthy Futures School, NNS ensures students participate in PE three times each week, daily recess, gym time on non-PE days, and frequent movement breaks to support focus and wellness.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 25-26

School Name: Ninilchik

Principal: Sheri Maynard

Important information and achievements to include:

- Artist in schools
- districtwide, statewide, and national academic awards,
- 2A Region Boys Basketball champions
- 2A Boys Basketball State champions
- Kade McCorison, 2A all state, 1st team Alaska state team, Player of the year, senior all-star team
- Andon McCorison 2A all state, 2nd team Alaska state team
- Clara Marlowe middle school JV state champion girls wrestling
- Brandt Mill 3rd place 2A Regions, 5th place state wrestling
- School library opened

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Paul Banks Elementary School

Principal: Sean Campbell

- Homer Foundation Grant for 3 D printers
- Annual Read-a-thon
- Fourth Year Outdoor Classroom Celebration
- Annual Halloween Parade
- Annual Art Extravaganza
- Inaugural Title 1 Family Lego Night
- Paul Banks Preludes Violin Program with Homer OPUS
- Peanut Pride Student Recognition Program
- Spotlight Assemblies
- PTA Winter Carnival
- Bingo For Books
- Winter & Spring Musical Performances
- After School Programs-partnership with PTA & HYPE

Port Graham School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Port Graham School

Principal Teacher: LoAna Benton

2025–2026 School Year Highlights

Port Graham School continues to make positive progress academically, socially, and culturally while strengthening connections between school, family, and community.

This year, we celebrated two graduating seniors and continued to support student success through academic interventions, credit recovery opportunities, and a focus on maintaining eligibility for extracurricular participation. Students demonstrated growth in reading, and our staff has developed a stronger intervention framework that will further support academic achievement in the coming school year.

Port Graham School was fortunate to benefit from several grant-funded opportunities. Through participation in the Chugachmiut Identity Project, students engaged in activities designed to strengthen cultural identity, belonging, self-awareness, and pride in community. The impact of this work has been reflected in student engagement, confidence, and academic performance. The school also received funding through the Homer Foundation to purchase build-your-own ukulele kits. Students will participate in woodworking activities to construct their own instruments and then learn to play them through music instruction, creating a unique integration of hands-on learning, culture, and the arts.

Title I funding supported several highly successful literacy initiatives. In partnership with a local Homer bookstore, the school hosted a book fair featuring place-based and Alaska-focused literature. Every student received funding to select and keep books of personal interest. Title I funds also provided a magazine subscription for every student, allowing them to choose reading materials aligned with their interests. In addition, summer learning backpacks were prepared for every student and include books, learning activities, and family engagement materials. Throughout the summer, students will also participate in three story-time events where they will receive a copy of the featured book and accompanying activities to complete with their families.

One of the most significant accomplishments this year was the implementation of a dedicated Professional Learning Community (PLC) structure. Staff used PLC time to analyze student data, strengthen instructional practices, and develop plans for a more

comprehensive intervention system. This collaborative work has established a strong foundation for continued academic growth.

Student leadership also expanded this year with the establishment of a Student Council, the first in many years. Students have embraced leadership opportunities and are increasingly advocating for school improvements and activities that benefit the entire student body.

Athletics experienced remarkable growth. Port Graham participated in a cooperative basketball program with Seldovia and Nanwalek and fielded nine student athletes, a significant increase from previous years when participation often consisted of only one or two students. Community support was instrumental in making participation possible through fundraising efforts and volunteer assistance. We are also proud to recognize Jamie Mosquito, who earned third place at the state level in Eskimo Stick Pull.

Family and community engagement remained a strength throughout the year. The Fall Carnival and Santa Workshop generated strong participation and support from families and community members. Sea Week continued to provide meaningful opportunities for students to learn through community partnerships and culturally connected experiences.

School climate data indicates that students feel safe, respected, and supported at Port Graham School. Staff continue to work with community partners through the Identity Project to further measure and strengthen students' sense of belonging and cultural identity. While attendance remains an area of focus, several students achieved attendance rates above 90 percent during a year marked by significant illness throughout the community.

Port Graham School's greatest strength continues to be its people. Our staff consistently demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to students and families. In a small rural school where classrooms are multi-grade and support staff play a critical role in instruction and intervention, every team member contributes far beyond traditional responsibilities to ensure student success. We are proud of the progress our students have made, grateful for the support of our community partners, and optimistic about the direction of our school as we continue to build opportunities for every learner.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2025-2026

School Name: Razdolna School

Principal: Dr. Sturm

UA Scholar – Feoktista Basargin Grade 12, Maria Serebrekoff Grade 11- 3 year program graduate

Project GRAD- Chill Time / Field Trip across the bay to Kachemak Bay State Park, Salmon Celebration

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

NEW CTE PROGRAMS

CTE Certifications including 9 Qualified welders, 9 certified Yamaha 9.9 mechanics. Construction academy made .

Growth in math and reading scores.

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

Attendance above 85% average

Parent Involvement in Site Council Meetings

Increased involvement of village men in our school. Volunteering for CTE, Sitting in on classes, speaking to students about behavior and attendance.

Collaborative & Positive Staff Culture!!

Staff BBQ's and picnicks

Remote Learning Kits, Life jackets, Marine Classes, books etc.

Harvest Fair, School Plays, Seminar week

Fur handling workshop

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.

Yamaha outboards was extremely successful!

The outdoor adventure course I developed was a huge success.

10 Students graduating.

Over 30K in scholarships for our graduates combined.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: FY 2026

School Name: Redoubt Elementary School

Principal: Scott Lefebvre

- Redoubt's 5th/6th Grade Battle of the Books team earned 1st place in the district and competed successfully at the State level.
- Students in grades 4-6 continued the Forensics tradition, building confidence and public speaking skills.
- Intermediate students participated in electives including woodworking, chess, soccer, Minecraft Club, jewelry making, cooking, karaoke, and art.
- Running Club was offered to 4th-6th grade students, promoting fitness, perseverance, and healthy lifestyles.
- Redoubt hosted several successful family engagement events including Game Night, Bingo for Books Night, Construction, and a school-wide Art Show.
- Students in grades 4-6 participated in archery instruction with a NASP-certified instructor using 3-D targets, helping build focus, discipline, resilience, and confidence.
- PE classes emphasized sportsmanship, collaboration, teamwork, and student-created games to encourage leadership and creativity.
- 5th/6th grade students visited the NOAA Kasitsna Bay research facility and participated in tidepooling as part of their Marine Biology unit.
- Students in grades 2, 5, and 6 participated in the Kenai River Spring Clean-Up, removing hundreds of pounds of trash from Swiftwater Park.
- 5th/6th grade students participated in the final Challenger Learning Center of Alaska Mission to Mars experience.
- First and sixth graders participated in a year-long Book Buddy program, while first graders also joined the Valentines Across the Lower 48 exchange project.
- Third grade students completed Alaska animal zoo projects and visited both the Alaska Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Center in Homer to extend their learning about Alaska wildlife and ecosystems.

- Fourth graders participated in ski lessons at Alyeska and attended the Kenai Fjords educational experience.
- Fifth graders researched Alaskan wildlife in preparation for presentations at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.
- 5th/6th graders designed and tested toothpick bridges and hosted the Amazing Alaska Museum showcasing Alaska history research projects.
- Students participated in community walking field trips to the Forestry Center, Emergency Services, and local healthcare facilities.
- The local Fire Department volunteered as guest readers during Dr. Seuss Read Across America activities.
- Redoubt Elementary collected over 100 pounds of books during a Honduras Book Drive.

These experiences reflect Redoubt Elementary's commitment to hands-on learning, strong community partnerships, and opportunities that support the growth of the whole child.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: River City Academy

Principal: Shea Nash

River City Academy's final year was defined by resilience, community, and student success. While the school faced the challenge of closure, students, staff, families, and community partners came together to celebrate the unique culture and opportunities that RCA has provided for more than two decades.

Academic Achievement and Student Success

The Class of 2026 achieved a 100% graduation rate among enrolled seniors, with graduates earning numerous scholarships and postsecondary opportunities. **The graduating class earned a record \$252,000 in Alaska Performance Scholarship awards** (with 10/13 seniors receiving the awards at mid-level or the highest level) the largest amount in school history.

Student survey data continued to demonstrate the strength of RCA's relationship-based educational model. A schoolwide survey found that 68% of students rated their school experience as "Excellent" and 26% rated it as "Good," meaning **94% of students reported a positive overall school experience**. Only 6% indicated that their experience was "Okay," and no students reported that the school was not working for them.

District climate survey results further reflected the school's impact:

91% of students reported feeling encouraged to do their very best.

85% believed they would graduate from high school.

84% reported that RCA was a welcoming place for students and families, an increase from 74% the previous year.

93% demonstrated strong self-awareness regarding their learning challenges and needs.

Grants, Partnerships, and Special Programs

Through a successful grant application, six students traveled to Juneau to visit the University of Alaska Southeast, meet with six state legislators, and attend a legislative session on the House floor. The experience was transformative for participating students, expanding their educational and career aspirations and helping them envision futures that included higher education and civic engagement.

River City Academy continued its strong partnership with the Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska (SILC). Through this collaboration:

14 students and 3 staff members became CPR and First Aid certified.

Students participated in independent living skills programming.

Transition planning and support services were provided for students with disabilities.

These partnerships strengthened student readiness for adulthood while connecting students and families with valuable community resources.

School Culture and Community Engagement

One of the defining characteristics of River City Academy has always been its close-knit community. This was evident throughout the year as families, alumni, students, and community members came together in support of the school.

Attendance at community events was exceptionally strong, including Activity Night, the Student Film Festival, and the Final Field Day Barbecue. These events celebrated student learning while strengthening connections between families and the school.

Students participated in memorable experiences throughout the year, including outdoor learning opportunities such as Beach Day, where students spent time exploring local natural resources, exercising, singing, and building positive memories together.

Following the announcement of the school's closure, the RCA community mobilized in an extraordinary effort to advocate for the school. While the outcome was not what many hoped for, the process highlighted the profound impact RCA has had on students and families. Parents, students, alumni, and community members shared stories demonstrating the value of a small, relationship-centered educational environment where every student is known, supported, and encouraged to succeed.

Looking Forward

Although River City Academy is closing, its legacy will continue through the students, families, and staff whose lives have been shaped by its mission. The school's final year demonstrated that academic success and strong relationships are not competing priorities but complementary ones. RCA's students leave with academic accomplishments, career skills, meaningful community connections, and the confidence that comes from being truly known and supported by their school community.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025/2026

School Name: Seward Elementary

Principal: Cook

- Continued partnership with Sprouts Pre-K. A community 2/3 day a week pre-k center that is housed in the school.
- Continued Partnership with Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute and Qutekcak Native Tribe. Qutekcak provided a hydroponics cabinet, Alutiiq Pride provided technical assistance, maintenance and an educator to work with our staff/students teaching about food sustainability, harvesting and hydroponics growth.
- Continued partnership with Alaska Sea Life Center. ASLC provided unlimited use/access to their facilities to our students to have school away from school during the slow winter months.
- Multiple students had a role in Seward High School Theatre Collectives play production
- Grants to assist 5th 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 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
 - Dancing
- 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, Student Talent Show, etc...
- National Park Service Rangers regularly scheduled in all classes to learn about our community, resources, opportunities and science
- SeaLife Center Sea Week
- Visits from local law enforcement and fire department personnel

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Seward Middle and Seward High Schools

Principal: **Dr. Henry Burns Jr.**

Seward High School continues to focus on student achievement, student involvement, and community engagement. Staff members continue working to support academic growth, student attendance, graduation pathways, and student well-being.

This year, both Seward Middle School and Seward High School scored at or above the state average in both ELA and Math on MAP testing. Staff members continue using intervention supports, data review, and instructional collaboration to support student achievement and academic progress.

Student participation in activities remains high at Seward High School. During the 2025–2026 school year, 94% of the student body participated in at least one sport. Students also participated in activities including student leadership, drama, music, academic competitions, and community service opportunities throughout the school year.

Seward High School student athletes had a successful year in competition:

- Girls Basketball — 2X State Champions
- Girls Cross Country — State Runner-Up
- 9-Man Football — State Runner-Up
- Wrestling — Individual State Champions

In addition, Sobina Clendaniel was named Female Alaska Athlete of the Year in wrestling and Region 3 Female Athlete of the Year.

Seward Middle School athletics also had a strong year, with all teams remaining competitive throughout their seasons. Middle school students also participated in Snow School activities where they learned outdoor safety skills, teamwork, and first aid instruction.

Seward High School hosted a Career Day event this spring with over 38 businesses and organizations participating. The event provided students with opportunities to learn about career pathways, workforce opportunities, technical training programs, and post-secondary options.

The Seward Science Symposium was held again this school year and included student projects and presentations involving community partners and local professionals. Seward High School continues to work with community organizations including Seward Prevention Coalition, AVTEC, and Kenai Peninsula College to provide students with additional educational and career-connected opportunities.

Student safety and engagement remain priorities. Seward High School & Seward Middle continued planning and communication regarding the 2025–2026 cell phone and chrome book expectations developed in collaboration with staff, students, Site Council, and families.

Staffing challenges continue to impact schools across Alaska, including special education and support positions. Seward High School continues recruitment efforts while staff members work to maintain educational programming and student support.

As the school year concludes, Seward High School appreciates the continued support of staff, families, students, and community partners. The school remains focused on supporting student achievement, student involvement, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent
School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Skyview Middle School

Principal: Shonia Werner

Grants Awarded:

Skyview's Booster Club had an impact in its second year by providing parents an opportunity to be a part of community. In addition, we were blessed with several generous donations from the local community. Our Angel Tree program received a \$350 donation from McLane & Associates \$100 in gift cards from Fred Meyer. The Skyview Community Booster Club donated \$2,344 to classroom supplies, grants for classroom projects and instrument repairs, as well as supporting school events. Shelby Lervig made a significant donation enabling us to maintain our backpack program and the Booster Club, Legends Dental, and donated food and hygiene products for our hygiene drive, food pantry, and backpack program. Coke-a-Cola of Alaska donated products for our Activity Nights and the Booster Club provided door prizes for numerous activity nights and other school functions.

District, Statewide, and National Academic Awards

Skyview participated in a variety of Academic and Co-curricular activities in 2025-2026. These activities and competitions enhance the school experience and are a highlight for many of our students.

Presidential Gold Award 19 Recipients

Silver Presidential Award 22 Recipients

Masonic Outstanding Student of the Year Colin Abel

2025-2026 KPBSD District Art Show: All Skyview students entered in the District Art Show received an award with 3 students receiving first place in Ceramics, Open, and Sculpture.

Chamber Student of the Quarter

Q1 Hadley Kornelis – Q2 Ethan Anderson – Q3 Benjamin Schlegel – Q4 Aurora Swaby

Athletic Achievements:

The athletic programs at Skyview are well established and significantly contribute to our school culture and opportunities for students to grow. Our athletic programs emphasize inclusion, sportsmanship, perseverance and developing the skills and growth necessary for our students to attain individual and collaborative successes at Skyview as well as serve as our most effective intervention tool by providing incentives.

Girls Sports

Girls Team Accolades

Girls Wrestling, Borough and
and 1st place in State Championship

Girls Soccer, Borough Champions

Girls Individual State Athletic Accolades

Wrestling State Champions:

McKinley Bock and Amelia Reis

Girls Sports Individual Borough Accolades-

6 Borough Champions, Wrestling

Boys Sports

Boys Individual Borough Athletic Accolades:

Ethan Anderson, 2-time Borough Champion Nordic Ski, Kevin Babitt XC Borough Champion, 8 Borough Champions in Wrestling

Special School-wide Projects:

Each year, Skyview Middle School creates, monitors, and supports targeted goals within our School Improvement Plan that aligns with the Core Values and Priorities of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. The following projects and programs supported our goals while having a direct impact on supporting and celebrating academic excellence, enhancing our community, meeting students' social-emotional development to foster perseverance and the skills, experiences, and supportive community that cultivates students who act with integrity.

Academic Excellence

Skyview Booster Club Pancake Feed
Panther Celebrations
Mind-A-Mazes
Spelling Bee

Perseverance

Athletics and Activities
Before and after school Tutoring
Weekly Grade Reports
Skills to Pay the Bills
I-Team Intervention

Battle of the Books
KPBSD Math Meet
KPBSD Film Festival
KPBSD Art Show
Mass Band and Choir Festivals
Band, Choir, Guitar, and Drumline
Concerts

Community

Turkey Trot
Student Council
Activity Nights
Panther Celebration
Hats for Hearts Fundraiser
School Dances
Skyview/SOHI Talent Show
Booster Club
Coffee Club
Alyeska Ski Trip/8th Grade Washington D.C. and
Philadelphia Trip

Integrity

Sources of Strength
Calming Strategies Lessons
Bullying, Peer Mediation Group Lessons
Anger Management Chart Group Lessons
Coping Strategies Group
Problem Solving Group Lessons

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-26

School Name: Soldotna Elementary

Principal: Austin Stevenson

Academic Performance:

CKLA

- o 87% of Kindergarten students met or exceeded mCLASS benchmarks by the end of the year.
- o 62% of 1st-grade students met or exceeded mCLASS benchmarks.
- o 42% of 2nd-grade students met or exceeded mCLASS benchmarks.

MAP

- o 3-6th grades CGP in math from fall to spring was 60%
- o 3-6th grades CGP in reading from fall to spring was 65%

Afterschool Programs:

- o Offered a variety of programs, including band, choir, gymnastics, cross-country, leadership club, investment club, and yearbook club.

Community Engagement and Outreach

- Community Outreach Initiatives:
 - o Organized local walking field trips to government offices, hospitals, and other service providers, fostering community connections.

Superintendent's Annual Report 2025-2026

Soldotna High School

Submitted by: Tabitha Blades, Principal,
and Tracy Smith, Assistant Principal

Soldotna High School is a comprehensive high school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District serving 603 full-time students and 53 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. Our overall enrollment has reduced by 19 full-time students and 37 part-time students since the same time last school year.

Staff Accomplishments and Focus:

This was Mrs. Blades's first year as Principal at SOHI, but her sixth year here at the school and her 23rd overall year in education. This is Mrs. Smith's fourth year as an administrator and her 20th year in education overall. Administratively, we had a number of very proud moments, which will be highlighted throughout the report. One thing we are particularly proud of is the new addition of STAR Time, which serves a dual purpose of providing students with focused time to catch up on their school work as well as a time for teachers to have targeted discussions regarding students' attendance, grades, and overall wellbeing. Additionally, it provided a time for Mrs. Smith to lead a quarterly Teachers' Academy focused on secondary literacy to provide teachers with targeted small group PLC work that assists with district and statewide literacy initiatives and the Alaska Reads Act. This program supported Priority One: Student Success and Priority Two: School Climate and Safety within the KPBSD Strategic Plan. Through the implementation and continuous improvement of STAR Time, Soldotna High School provided structured opportunities for students to build meaningful connections with staff, monitor academic progress, receive individualized support, and access interventions related to attendance, grades, and school engagement.

Because KPBSD and SOHI have identified chronic absenteeism as a major hurdle to overcome in the pathway of student success, we continued our Star Student Sweepstakes program to incentivize high levels of student attendance as well as give recognition of the hard work that students put into their academic careers. The initial goal is for students to attend 90% or more of the class sessions that were available to them each quarter. This goal is publicized and expectations made clear to students at the start of each quarter. Students receive additional entries in the sweepstakes for obtaining honor roll, staying off the school's disciplinary interactions report, obtaining very few tardy arrivals to classes, meeting assessment growth targets, participating in post-secondary testing, and other things that align with SOHI's core values and mission. The more qualifying categories a student meets, the more entries they receive in the sweepstakes. However, they must meet the initial attendance goal in order to qualify at all. In each of the quarters, we celebrated all students who met the attendance goal by entering their name into a sweepstakes drawing for prizes, like donated gift cards, a free yearbook, etc. This program continues to be an immense success! Students report feeling valued and validated by the extra recognition they receive, and seeing their pictures on the walls of the Commons in the honor roll pictures was even more validation of their efforts. This program has been shared with other KPBSD high schools, and they have been able to modify it to fit their school culture and goals as well.

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 continued the Lisa Thomas SOHI Teacher of the Year 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, Mrs. Smith announces the Teacher of the Month publicly over the intercom system, and Mrs. Blades bursts 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 giant trophy that sits in their room for the remainder of that month to show off. At the end of the year, we sent the list of our Teachers of the Month to our full student body, our staff, and this year our parents/guardians. 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 2026 Lisa Thomas Soldotna High School Teacher of the Year was Dr. Steven Bezdecny. Dr. B serves as our AP Chemistry, Biology, and Forensic Science teacher as well as a volunteer coach for our Science Bowl team who won the state of Alaska competition and went to Washington DC to compete at the national level. He also puts in countless hours of hard work every year to support SOHI freshmen in their Caring for the Kenai projects and presentations, with amazing success. We were thrilled to celebrate him during our annual Awards Day Assembly in front of the entire school.

The SOHI Counseling Department continues to support our efforts in hosting our Annual Job Shadowing program in partnership with the Workforce Development Center. 128 juniors participated in the event and were able to get real-time, relevant experience with 38 local business and industry partners. It was a massive success and the feedback from students, parents, and partners has been nothing but positive and optimistic looking ahead to future years.

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 2026 collected a whopping \$1.4 million in scholarships.
- Our faculty and staff were happy to recognize four students as Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Students of the Quarter: AJ Sorrell, Araunah Stitt, Eva Abel, and Tizita Rudstrom.
- SOHI's Drama department produced a play in the fall with *A Christmas Carol* under the direction of Audra Calloway and Krista Arthur, and a spring musical, *Frozen Jr* directed by Audra Calloway and Terri Zopf-Schoesler.
- SOHI's Battle of the Books Club took 2nd place in district competition.
- Student Council carried on many of the original SOHI traditions while nurturing newer events and 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 building more connections with the community. As a method of doing that, they hosted the first annual Veteran's Day breakfast, a community focused Halloween Carnival, and continued to grow the Little Sweetheart Dance. These were very well attended, and our students hope to continue these initiatives and more next year. SOHI STUCO also hosted the districtwide annual STUCO meeting this year with tremendous success and praise from attending schools. It was a new experience for everyone in our organization, and everyone did a great job.
- One Soldotna High freshmen and one senior were selected as some of the 12 finalists in the 2026 Caring for the Kenai competition, pulled from almost 300 entries from across the Kenai

Peninsula. Freshman Cierra Stuyvesant earned honorable mention and a \$500 cash prize for her project on converting fish waste to fertilizer, while senior Abigail Sorrell earned 4th place and took home \$1000 for her Kenai Quest board game. Congratulations to both our SOHI finalists!

- Soldotna High School's art program flourished this year with multiple District Art Show Winners!
- Our ever-growing music program shined bright this year as well. We had multiple students qualify for district Solo and Ensemble in instrumental music and several more in the vocal category.
- Our DDF program truly showed their experience as they brought home a State Championship in their third year of existence.
- For the first time in many years, SOHI represented at SkillsUSA, competing in many CTE competitions including Video Broadcasting, Digital Cinema Production, Photography, Job Interview, and more. SOHI had five students qualify in their individual competitions to compete at the national level.
- Soldotna High School hosted its sixth 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 this season winning their 20th straight conference title and finishing as State Champions for the third consecutive year. Go Stars!
- Volleyball had a strong year finishing as Region Champions for the first time in more than twenty years and making an appearance at the ASAA State Tournament for the third year in a row.
- XC Running girls finished the season as the Region 3 2nd place overall team and secured a berth at the ASAA D1 State Championships. The boys finished their season as the Region 3 5th place overall team.
- The SOHI boys wrestling team placed as state runners up in the large school state meet. Several wrestlers brought home individual state championships and Michael Dickinson went undefeated winning the title of Wrestler of the Year.
- The SOHI girls wrestling team won the state championship for the third year in a row. Overall the girls team had multiple State Placers and Champions.
- SOHI Hockey again competed at the D2 Hockey State Championships.
- Swim and Dive teams went to Anchorage for the ASAA State Meet where several athletes competed on the big stage!
- Boys Basketball competed hard this year showing improvement under our second year coaching staff, finishing fourth in the region. They remain focused on building the program to compete at the highest level.
- Girls Basketball finished fourth in the Northern Lights Conference. They had to battle through injuries this year, and are working hard to improve the program moving forward.
- SOHI's Cheerleading team has done a great job performing at our football and basketball games. They finished 3rd at Regions this year, and continue to impress the competition. They also finished 1st at the Top of the World Cheer competition this season. 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.

- Girls Track and Field finished as D1 Region Champions and Boys finished as Runners Up. Both teams came away from the State Competition as 3rd Place finishes.
- Baseball will attend the State DI Tournament as the at-large bid. They ended their tenure as DII 4x State Champions before moving up to the D1 bracket. Go Blue!
- Softball recently competed in the Northern Lights Conference Tournament finishing 2nd overall. They travel to Fairbanks this week to compete in the ASAA State Softball Championships and to try for their first state title.
- Girls Soccer finished as 3rd place in the ASAA State Championship tournament. They made us extra proud when they brought home the Academic Award!
- Boys Soccer finished as State Champions after a game that went to extra time. Way to go Stars!
- SOHI's Outstanding Senior Athletes for 2025-26 were Theo Huff and Sofia Jedlicki.

Overall, **446 students at SOHI participated in athletics this year**, meaning that **74%** 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 2025-2026 school year planning for new ways to lend relevance to student learning and to staying abreast of national 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. We are ready for a stellar year next year!

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Soldotna Montessori Charter School

Principal: John DeVolld

Achievements:

The School Charter was renewed with the district and the state for 2026-2036

The school was recognized as a 2026 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.

Rachael DeRaeve completed her Montessori certification program and is a MACTE recognized certified Montessori teacher.

Sarah Miller was recognized for the 2026 Alaska Science of Reading Ambassador Award, which was presented at the 2026 AK Science of Reading Symposium awards ceremony in Anchorage

The Soldotna Montessori Charter School Special Services Team—Rachel DeRaeve, Maria Johnson, Mrs. Lewis, and Julia Johnson—was recognized by the State of Alaska for Inclusive Practices. This recognition is granted by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education within the Department of Health.

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 \$500 in donation for kindergarten materials through the Donor Advised Fund.

School Activities:

International Day of Peace Night, Craft Night, Winter Program Concert, Concert Band & Choir Concert, Community Service Outreach: 4th Grade Positive Community Messages, 5th Grade Visits to the Food Bank, 6th Visits to Heritage Place, 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 choose the flag of a country,

color it, and write a message of peace for display in our hallway. 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. SMCS had a school winning team compete at the Kenai Qualifier who placed high enough to go to State.

SMCS held Battle of the Books sessions for students in grades 1-6. We had 40 students participate. Our grades 3-4 team and grade 5-6 team participated in the district Battle of the Books competition. Liam Toews won the school spelling bee (2nd year in a row), and qualified for the state spelling bee competition by making it through the regional qualifier.

SMCS had 11 students place in our school-level Forensics competition due to the canceled district competition.

SMCS Intermediate students carried out their annual 3rd quarter community outreach efforts. This year the 4th grade students continued as a "Kindness Brigade" providing positive/encouraging messages in the community by decorating and sharing positive messages; this year they continued this effort on insulated coffee sleeves that were supplied to area coffee vendors. The 5th grade students visited and volunteered at the Food Bank in support for lunch service or stocking food. The 6th grade students visited Heritage Place and spent time with residents there.

The SMCS food pantry continues to operate, and is filled daily by SMCS students. The students have placed 1510.4 lbs. of food in the food pantry to feed community members in need this school year from August 25 to May 4.

The SMCS Quest students participated in the Mind-a-mazes competition, the Film Festival, and TriMathlon. A SMCS team took 1st place at the MAM competition and a second team won the "Judges Choice" award.

This was our 2nd year having a Student Leadership Committee. The committee was made up of one 3, 4, 5, and 6th grader from each class for a total of 12 students. The committee met monthly. The SLC organized school spirit days, one whole-school movie-viewing events, assisted with the kindergarten balloon parade, and developed a plan for class pets in the intermediate grades.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Sterling Elementary School

Principal: Elizabeth Kvamme

- **Falcon Fun Night** – *September 26, 2025* – PTO hosted an after-school fun activity for students with games, crafts, and snacks. 92% of Sterling Elementary students attended.
- **Trunk or Treat with the Sterling Senior Center** – *October 25, 2025* – Included trunk-or-treating, a chili cook-off, and a pumpkin-carving contest, with over 120 attendees from the school community participating.
- **Kindergarten and 1st Grade Turkey Program** – *November 25, 2025* – A short Thanksgiving-themed musical performance featuring Kindergarten and 1st-grade students was held for families.
- **Family Day** – *November 26, 2025* – Families worked together on a mug-themed writing craft focusing on gratitude, played Bingo, and took family photos. 53% of Sterling Elementary families attended this event, which also included snacks and prizes.
- **Christmas Program** – *December 11, 2025* – K–6 students performed Christmas and holiday classics to a full gym, featuring vocal and instrumental performances by 3rd–6th grade students.
- **Scripps National Spelling Bee (School Bee)** – *January 21, 2026* – Winner: Niko Walker.
- **One School, One Book: *Charlotte's Web*** – *February 2026* – 88% of families participated in the weekly reading and trivia, and 114 students, siblings, and parents attended a special showing of the movie at the Orca Theater in March.
- **Forensics Competition** – *February 2026* – 17 competitors in grades 4–6 performed in the library for students, parents, and staff.
- **VIP Tea** – *May 7, 2026* – K-3 students performed songs for mothers and other VIPs followed by a celebration with tea and cookies
- **End-of-the-Year Assembly** – *May 21, 2026* – Celebrated student achievements with awards for film club, robotics, Battle of the Books, library, attendance, academic excellence, band, and sixth-grade certificates.
- **Masonic Outstanding Student of the Year Award** – *May 2026* – Winner: Makayla Jicha.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-26

School: Susan B. English

Principal: Diane Maples

During the 2025–2026 school year, Susan B. English School expanded opportunities for students through academic achievement, athletics and activities, career and technical education (CTE), family engagement, and school culture initiatives.

Students earned recognition at regional and state academic competitions, including strong performances at Science Olympiad, where teams earned event titles and demonstrated excellence in science, engineering, and problem-solving. Student-athletes also represented the school with distinction, achieving top-ten finishes in multiple Track and Field events at the regional level.

The school continued to strengthen career readiness through the implementation of Project-Based Learning (PBL) in addition to its Career and Technical Education programs. Students applied technical and academic skills through hands-on projects including model cars powered by nitro engines, remote controlled robotics, and SeaPerch explorers used in underwater exploration of the ocean floor. The making of perfumes and animated figures were also projects of learning. In shop class, students designed and constructed layered cutting boards from strips of maple and oak, integrating design, measurement, and craftsmanship skills.

Academic achievement remained a priority across all grade levels. During the second semester, three eighth-grade students successfully completed the first semester of Algebra, earning high school credit and expanding access to advanced coursework.

Family and community engagement remained a cornerstone of the school's success. A school-wide Science Fun Fest and Spaghetti Dinner brought together students, families, and community members for an evening of learning and celebration. Students in grades 6–11 hosted interactive science booths targeting a K-5 and family-friendly audience, featuring 92 of the 118 elements on the periodic table. Families enjoyed hands-on activities and a community meal featuring spaghetti and memorable “googly-eyed meatballs.” The event showcased student learning while strengthening school-community partnerships.

To support a positive school climate, staff and students collaborated on a school-wide initiative focused on promoting kindness, responsibility, respectful relationships, and positive behavior. This effort reinforced shared expectations and contributed to a supportive learning environment for all students. School spirit was further celebrated through themed spirit days and special activities throughout the year, including Dr. Seuss and AK Stars celebrations.

Throughout the year, the school expanded extracurricular opportunities by establishing a Student Council with elementary, middle, and high school representatives and supporting participation in Battle of the Books across all grade levels. Students also participated in Cross Country Running, Elementary Basketball, Middle School Basketball, a cooperative High School Boys Basketball team with Nanwalek, and Middle and High School Track and Field. The school hosted Prom, welcoming students and families from Port Graham and Nanwalek and strengthening regional connections among youth and communities.

Community partnerships continued to grow. At the end of the school year, the Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT) and Susan B. English School partnered to fund a full-time certified teaching position serving both elementary and special education students during the 2026–2027 school year. Through partnerships between SVT, and the Seldovia Oceanic Cultural Collaborative (SOCC), after-school and evening family programming were offered four days per week, in the gym creating additional opportunities for student engagement and community involvement. The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce further demonstrated its commitment to local youth by formalizing its partnership with the school as part of a shared effort to strengthen the community.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of students, staff, families, tribal partners, and community organizations working together to provide meaningful educational experiences and prepare students for future success. Looking ahead, Susan B. English School will continue expanding Career and Technical Education opportunities while developing innovative, sustainable career pathway models that increase access to workforce and postsecondary options for students in small Alaska schools.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2025-2026

School Name: Tebughna School K-12

Principal: Christy Gomez

Tyonek Native Corporation: We have been incredibly grateful for the outstanding support of our tribal leadership through the corporation's mission of honoring the past, present, and future Tebughna shareholders. Through funding provided by the TNC Tebughna Distribution Education Trust, our students have benefited from enhanced educational opportunities, STEM experiences, field studies, and culturally responsive learning activities. The Trust also helps supplement our classrooms with valuable learning materials and resources for both students and teachers, extending and enriching the educational experience for all learners. The generous support of TNC made it possible for our students to participate in two memorable end-of-year field trips to the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Eagle River Nature Center, providing meaningful cultural and environmental learning experiences that further enhanced their education.

Code.org: Through our partnership with Code.org, we continued to strengthen computer science education for both elementary and middle school students. Elementary students engaged in CS Fundamentals and Hour of Code activities, developing foundational coding skills through projects ranging from Scratch programming and creating computer programs through designing interactive experiences with Dance Party and Artist. Middle school students explored physical computing using App Lab and AI. These experiences helped students build critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills while fostering creativity and confidence in computer science.

Tebughna Foundation: The Tebughna Foundation has continued to play a vital role in supporting our students' cultural and educational experiences. Dena'ina language studies remained a highlight of the school year through virtual instruction with Edna Standifer and apprentice Serenity Standifer, helping students strengthen their language skills and cultural connections. During the final weeks of the school year, we were also excited to welcome Suraiya John as our new Dena'ina Language Teacher, providing students with additional opportunities to learn and engage with the Dena'ina language and culture. Throughout the year, we greatly appreciated their continued support through the donation of daily student snacks, funding for school supplies, and the purchase of Battle of the Books materials for our student teams. The Tebughna Foundation also sponsored our end-of-year Dena'ina Qenaga Language Potlatch, which featured respected elder culture bearers, participation from the

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, traditional foods and gifts, and the ceremonial blessing and presentation of learning to the K-12 language students.

Battle of the Books: Battle of the Books was another exciting highlight for our student readers this year! Our 5th/6th grade team of Pedro Gozmer and Stephanie Stephan showcased outstanding teamwork, determination, and a love of reading as they competed against elementary schools across the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, earning an impressive 5th-place finish. Their hard work and literary knowledge were on full display throughout the competition. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and can't wait to see our Battle of the Books program continue to grow and inspire enthusiastic readers in the years to come!

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District: TTCD continues to bring exciting conservation science opportunities to our students and expand hands-on learning across programs! Our Lettuce Grow hydroponics system continues to thrive, providing fresh greens and vegetables year-round to support student nutrition. We also continued our partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, celebrating another successful season of "Salmon in the Classroom" with great student engagement and learning. This season's "Salmon in the Classroom" experience brought both challenges and meaningful learning for our students. Unfortunately, we experienced a loss of many fish due to a chiller system failure. However, the resilience of the program remained strong, as the remaining six "mighty fish" survived and were successfully released right here in Tyonek. This powerful moment gave students an authentic opportunity to reflect on stewardship, responsibility, and the real-world complexities of conservation science. Back at school, students participated in our annual spring seed-starting activities to kick off the Tyonek Garden growing season, followed by a joyful garden blessing ceremony to welcome a strong harvest year. We are also excited that TTCD will be supporting Tebughna youth through summer internships focused on maintaining the Tyonek Garden from seed to harvest, continuing learning well beyond the school year.

Senner Bird Lab/ University of Massachusetts/ Amherst: Our students participated in a learning day with graduate students studying ornithology and the Hudsonian Godwit, building knowledge about local shorebirds and ecosystems. Alongside Senner Bird Technicians Feipeng Huang, Mark Titus, and Josephine Whelan who were beginning their field research in Beluga, Alaska. This hands-on experience made their studies come alive in a meaningful way, and we always look forward to their annual visit.

Monthly Family Engagements: Books for Bingo, Book Walk, Family Movie Nights, Reading/ Math Family Night with games, activities, and books, Project GRAD Family Nights, Title 1 Parent/ Family Nights, Indigenous Education Family Engagement Afternoon, Scholastic Book Fair Pop Ups, Native Connections (NVT) Open Gyms

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 25/26

School Name: Tufen Charter School

Principal: Kim Daniels

The APC received the Charter School Development Grant through the Department of Education in September of 2025.

Activities

- Kenaitze Education Programs Open House 8/25
- Bingo for Books with Early Learning Program 10/25
- Breakfast with the Grinch 12/25
- Conscious Discipline Family Night with Early Learning Program 1/26
- Math and Science Night with Early Learning Program 3/26
- Cultural Celebration Program 5/26
- Chickaloonies Presentation 5/26
- 2/3 Singing at the Senior Center 5/26
- Schoolwide Salmon Celebration 5/26
- Schoolwide Beach Field Trip with Cultural Instructors 5/26
- Summer Reading Kick Off BBQ 5/26

The highlights of the year included the cultural specials we were able to offer, as well as the language instructors who worked directly in classrooms on Tuesday and Thursday. During specials, students participated in Native drumming, singing, Dena'ina language instruction, and Native Youth Olympics. Students clearly enjoyed these experiences and benefited from the variety of opportunities provided. Many students are now able to count in Dena'ina up to at least ten, and at least one kindergarten student has begun reading in Dena'ina.

Students also engaged in meaningful cultural learning experiences beyond the classroom. They explored traditional homes and ways of life through visits to historic home sites. In addition, they learned about traditional healing plants and even made tea using these plants. As part of their cultural activities, students created beaded necklaces and shared them with someone of their choosing as an expression of gratitude. The culminating activity was a cultural celebration where students demonstrated various Dena'ina songs and dances with drumming.

In May we had an End-Of-Year Cultural Celebration, this was a wonderful way to end the year and to celebrate our cultural learning and how far we have come as a school community.

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Tustumena

Principal: Devin Way

- We continued a Cross Country Running program where we even competed against other elementary school students.
- Our PTO hosted the Halloween Carnival in full and it was a huge success.
- 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.
- 4/5/6 participated in an Intermediate Lake day, where they did science experiments at Johnson Lake
- We continued our school wide Lynx Pride initiative with Lynx Tracks Rewards systems and Perfect Lynx incentives
- Multiple families participated in Shop with a Cop/Firefighter at Christmas time
- Continued the 12 Days of Spirit leading up to winter break
- Students were invited and attended the Sweetheart Dance at SoHi
- Interventionist attended the Science of Reading Symposium
- Kindergarten performed Nursery Rhymes for parents
- Parents of Kindergarten students assisted with the culminating CKLA Native American activity in Kinder
- 3rd graders participated in Coding
- Art prints with Rachel Pioch
- Hosted a Title I Family Resource center showcase
- 4/5/6 graders participated in Archery
- We had a 3rd/4th grade and 5th/6th grade team participate in the Battle of the Books
- Our 3rd grade class and the 1st graders became Book Buddies throughout the year.
- Partnership with Greenhouse Music for music classes and a Title I Performance
- We promoted 12 sixth graders to 7th grade
- We recognized students in each class for various achievements at our mid and end of the year awards ceremonies
- 1st, Kinder, and 2nd grade teachers participated in the ECRI study
- Olivia Hepler earned our school's Masonic Outstanding Student of Year award
- Grades 1-6 all participated in the Salmon Celebration at Johnson Lake Campground
- 2nd and 6th grades went to Homer to work with ADF&G and tide pooling during minus tides
- Primary took a walking field trip to Johnson Wayside for an end of the year picnic
- Chickaloonies presented to each of the classes
- Field Day and whole-school BBQ the last day with students
- End of an Era Party for the families to close Tustumena

School Annual Report to the Superintendent

School Year: 2025-2026

School Name: Voznesenka

Principal: Michael Wojciak

- Artist in the School week
- Migrant after school tutoring
- Project Grad CHILL program
- HHS football participants
- Student council
- Bookmobile visits
- East End Road garbage cleanup
- HOB MS soccer program at Voznesenka
- Title family nights
- Student Council movie nights
- School Spirit week
- Morning Student Announcements
- M.S Hockey players
- Eighth grade promotion
- Preschool graduation
- Semester 1 Elk on the Move Recognition
- M.S. Ice Skating field trip
- Elementary Pool and library field trip
- School Board presentation
- Whole school field day
- Quarterly Data Days
- Consumer Science class
- Secondary First Aid & CPR
- UA Scholars Award recipient
- LFS Scholarship recipient
- Alaska Performance Scholarship recipient

School Annual Report to the Superintendent 2025-2026

School Name: West Homer Elementary

Principal: Eric Waltenbaugh

Student Celebrations

- Battle of the Books – over 30 students participated in the KPBSD 5th/6th grade and 3rd/4th grade
- New Mileage Club Record -Emma Fields 115 miles!

Grants Received

- The Homer Foundation - \$3,000

Activities

- Cross Country - ORCA Fun Run – First ever competition in Kenai
- Soccer – matches with Chapman and Mt. View
- Chess – year long club held 2 competitions incorporating 5 schools.
- Basketball – scheduled games with McNeil, Mt. View
- Volleyball –competitive games Vs. McNeil, Mt. View
- Japanese – year long club
- Dungeons and Dragons club
- Drama Club + community performances
- Ski Club
- Yearbook Club
- Art Club
- Baseball Club
- NEW Orca Explorers outdoor club
- Battle of the Books 3-4 and 5-6
- Student Council 3-6

Events

- PTO Fall Parenting in a Digital Age showing of the movie – “Screenagers”
- Science Night
- PTO pancake breakfast during AK STAR testing – invited families on the last day.
- Family PE week
- PTO talent Show – entirely student produced
- Orca Standing Ovarions Celebration of Achievement Assemblies 1x Quarter Goal setting and reflection – growth awards, music performances. Opened to community.
- May 18, 2026 –6th grade Promotion
 - HHS Grads visit WHE
- May 20, 2026 –Field Day
- May 21, 2026 - Campus Beatification Day