

School board report for Aniak schools for September 8, 2020

Submitted by Gretchen Kelly, Principal

Staff have been working hard to create school spaces that are reflective of the social distancing requirements necessary for face to face classes as described in the medium risk plan for Kuspuk school district. This included very physical changes like removing window blinds and bulletin boards and distancing desks and also included logistical plans such as bathroom scheduling, meal deliveries, and coordination of schedules. Students are divided into “cohorts” and these groups of students do not mix. Custodial hours were increased to help with coordinating bathroom cleaning between cohorts. As staff, we are adjusting these schedules and coordination of efforts to improve.

The bus is being utilized by using every other seat (except in the case of siblings). The restrictions on the bus use caused a staggered schedule for the school day with elementary classes starting in the mornings, and high school students starting later in the day. Many studies suggest that teenagers learn better later in the day, so this was a data driven decision.

Enrollment packets for students were delivered by staff in Aniak, these are still being received.

To address ongoing areas of concern, there have been no reports of bullying. In terms of incorporating more Alaskan Native culture into the classrooms, Aniak schools is planning to utilize recordings of Yup'ik dancing with Mrs. Okalena Morgan to help fulfill some of our physical education needs with social distancing requirements. This will help students to have a model to follow in each of their respective classrooms. Staff are brainstorming additional ways to meet physical education requirements, especially once weather turns inclement.

Staff have prepared two week emergency lessons in case of shut down. The shut down and “shelter in place” order that went into effect August 23, restricted staff access to our school buildings as well as to coordinate drop offs of student work. Staff have been contacting students and parents by phone to coordinate lessons and tasks that students can complete in their homes to address educational needs during this time. Limited access to our buildings was granted August 31, and we are expecting an end to the emergency order September 6. There are positions open in Aniak for classroom aides and custodians. Those interviews will commence once the “shelter at home” scenario is complete. In addition, SAC positions have been advertised and applications are being collected for Aniak schools.