



Soldotna Elementary School



Nikolaevsk School

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

ONE DISTRICT: FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

2012-2013



Seward Middle School

QR CODE



WHENEVER YOU SEE THIS CODE, SCAN WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE, TABLET, OR COMPUTER TO ACCESS WEBSITES



CONTENTS

SUPERINTENDENT
WELCOME
PAGE 2
SCHOOL BOARD
PAGE 3

ACADEMIC SUCCESS
PAGE 4, 7
FAMILY & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
PAGE 5

STUDENT STORIES
PAGE 6
ASAA ACTIVITIES
PAGE 9
ORGANIZATIONAL
EXCELLENCE
PAGE 8, 10-12



Homer High School

VISION STATEMENT

We envision KPBSD students who engage in their learning, participate in their community, reach high levels of achievement, and graduate prepared for their future.



Annual Report 2012-2013

I AM PLEASED to present KPBSD's 2012-13 Annual Report. This publication reviews last year's accomplishments, celebrates our areas of success including students, staff and graduates, and shares what we are planning for our new school year.

The just completed school year was a busy one that was full of numerous improvements and recognitions to indicate that we are following a good path. Our students continue to shine in the classroom, on the sports field, and on the stage. Our staff regularly receives awards and is called upon to lead state level work. At the District level we are building a strong foundation for future success with our strategic plan, our curriculum work, and our teacher evaluation system.

Looking ahead, we recognize that implementing the state's new standards, assessments and evaluation regulations will be

difficult. Our staff has begun to prepare for these changes and I am pleased at how we are focusing our support of the classroom to make the transition to these three changes smooth.

I welcome our new hires to KPBSD and encourage everyone in our communities to help them settle in to their new jobs. To our retiring and departing staff I wish you the very best with what is next in your lives; please know that you will be missed.

I am honored to serve as KPBSD's superintendent and look forward to working with you in the coming year to do all that we can to make our students' experience at school as good as it possibly can be.

Dr. Steve Atwater,
Superintendent

Steve Atwater



Alaska's 2013 Superintendent of the Year

THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION of School Administrators (AASA) awarded KPBSD Superintendent, Dr. Steve Atwater, Alaska's 2013 Superintendent of the Year.

The Superintendent of the Year program, in its twenty-sixth year, pays tribute to a school system's top leader who exemplifies effectiveness, knowledge, leadership, ethics, and commitment. In nominating Dr. Atwater, colleagues and board members noted his success at leading both small and large school districts. They lauded his leadership expertise by comments such as "If you take a close look at each and every one of Dr. Atwater's decisions or actions, you will find an unerring focus on the improvement of education and direction that favors kids." Another nominator commented that "Dr. Atwater exemplifies the true essence of what an educational leader should be ... and believes that every child can learn and that every child deserves to be taught by an outstanding teacher."

Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre said, "Kenai Peninsula residents take pride in our outstanding school district and recognize the combined contributions of School Board members, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students as a part of our success. Most importantly, we recognize the leadership provided by our superintendent, Dr. Steve Atwater, as a key part of that success. Dr. Atwater's vision, commitment, values, knowledge, and competence are reflected in the extraordinary job he does and the educational achievements of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. We're extremely fortunate to have Dr. Atwater as our Superintendent and congratulate him on his well-deserved recognition as 2013 Alaska Superintendent of the Year."

When he learned about the award, Dr. Atwater said, "I am both humbled and honored by this award. Humbled because I was nominated by my peers from across the state and honored because it affirms my good work and by association the good work that all of us at KPBSD are doing to meet the learning needs of our 8,900 students."

In addition, Dr. Atwater was named "Person of the Year" by the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce.



Dr. Atwater visited several schools to spend time with students during lunch and learn about what is important to KPBSD students.



Lunch with the Superintendent

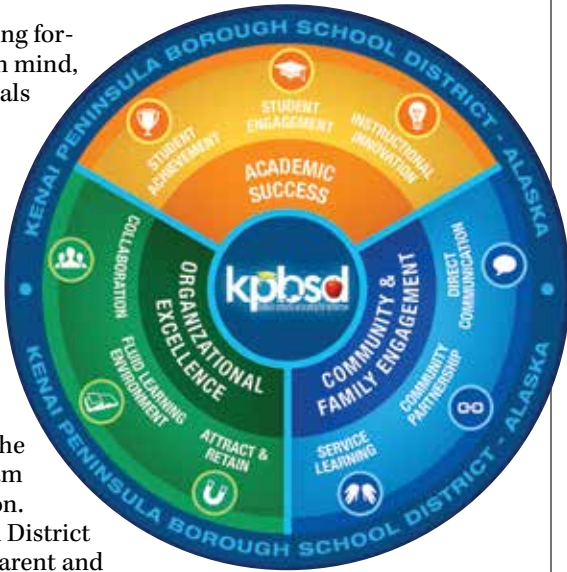
ONE OF THE MORE challenging sides to my job is finding time to spend with our students. As a way to meet this challenge I arranged to have lunch and meet with a few students from several schools during the final weeks of school. While my conversations with the students were polite and a bit stilted, they did offer me a chance to learn about what they think about school and what they are looking forward to after they graduate. My take away from the lunches is that our students are well adjusted and like their teachers and school. They find their school work to be challenging, but not too difficult and they are looking forward to moving on to what is next.

"KPBSD will be a stronger district if we eliminate the variances that cause performance to be inconsistent. Easier said than done! Our strategic plan is designed to help us do this—it helps define the box and coordinate improvement efforts." - Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

Strategic Plan Keeping KPBSD Focused

WHEN IT COMES to making District level improvements, our greatest asset of having forty-four diverse schools ironically becomes our biggest challenge. With this in mind, we designed a five-year strategic plan that was broad enough to meet the goals of the District, but not too restrictive to prevent all schools from benefiting from its goals. The plan had to be appropriate for our one teacher school at Cooper Landing while also helping our largest school, Kenai Central High School, improve. After a lot of work, the plan was approved by our Board in September and is now the foundation of our improvement efforts.

The plan's three focus areas—academic success, organizational excellence, and community and family engagement—each have six District level goals. As a way to begin, all of our schools assessed where their greatest needs were and then set goals that were specific to their site but within the realm of one of the larger District goals. We thus have schools employing a series of different strategies to meet District level goals in our three focus areas. The monitoring of the progress for meeting the goals is done through a dynamic web-based program that graphically displays the level of goal completion. This public venue for displaying the school site and District activity is new for us and will ensure a more transparent and continuous reporting of progress. With the first year of our plan complete, it is encouraging to see the balance of school and District improvement activity.



The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

junction with alternative pathways and a flexible approach to ensure that every KPBSD student stays engaged, reaches high levels of achievement, and graduates.

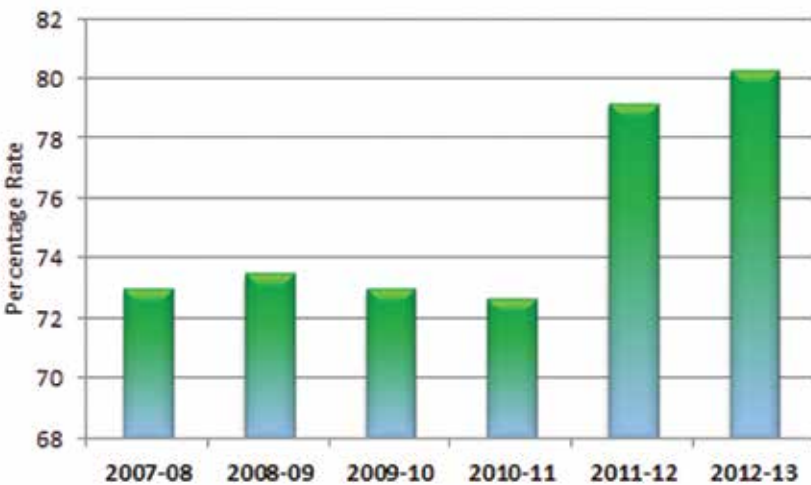
Organizational Excellence
Evolve KPBSD as a highly reliable, world-class organization that fosters a culture of innovation, attracts and retains the best-of-the-best employees, and supports an infrastructure that promotes a fluid academic environment.

- Academic Success**
Deliver relevant, rigorous, standards-based curriculum in conjunction with alternative pathways and a flexible approach to ensure that every KPBSD student stays engaged, reaches high levels of achievement, and graduates.
- Community and Family Engagement**
All KPBSD schools reach out to parents and communities to promote shared value and responsibility for the process of education.
- Vision Statement**
We envision KPBSD students who engage in their learning, participate in their community, reach high levels of achievement, and graduate prepared for their future.



KPBSD awarded 601 high school diplomas in 2012-2013!

KPBSD Graduation Rate 2008-2013



Message from the School Board President

ONCE AGAIN, as we close the books on another successful year in the School District, the opportunity to sit back and enjoy the aura of a “job well done” is superseded by the need to plan and prepare for yet another year to begin in the fall. It is useful to note, however, that we have enjoyed a great year in classrooms across the District and that the outlook for the coming year is equally bright. It is always a bittersweet moment when, at the end of a school year, we lose many of our finest employees, both

certified (teachers) and classified (support staff) to retirement. However, that process is simply part of being a large employer, and we can do nothing more than simply wish those folks well who have left our system this year.

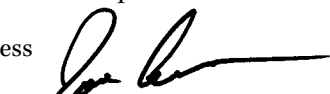
The Board of Education is involved in overseeing the processes of closing out the previous year and evaluating the system which was in place. At the same time, we are shifting our focus to look forward and determine the best ways to

learn from the past and integrate changes which can streamline and improve our product into the future. There are some fairly large changes coming in the field of education, and these changes will require recognition and a willingness to adapt on our part. We intend to do our best to make those adaptations and adjustments with a minimum of disruption to what is currently a nicely operating system.

We are all excited to welcome the new school year and the new employees and

students that will be a part of it. The organization that is the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District stands ready to deliver yet another year of educational excellence and organizational leadership on the Peninsula. As always, we profoundly appreciate the support shown us by the Borough Assembly, as well as by the communities which comprise our District.

Joe Arness





Far left: KPBSD Board of Education. Top row, left to right: Bill Holt, Tim Navarre, Penny Vadla, Joe Arness. Front row, left to right: Lynn Hohl, Liz Downing, Sammy Crawford, Marty Anderson, Sunni Hilts. Left: Hayden Beard, Student Representative [Seward High School]

KPBSD State Legislative Priorities, Twenty-Eighth Legislature



- Provide an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and forward funding of education for Alaska's students
- Fund early learning programs in Alaska
- Replace Homer Area Heating Systems
- Continue to support improvement to athletic facilities through the capital budget process
- Encourage the legislature to provide funding for a school at Kachemak-Selo
- Adequately fund the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
- Address increasing energy costs to school district
- Adjust the mandatory age of attendance to be six to eighteen (or graduation)
- Provide accountability for all school-age children of the state
- Create a new high school exit exam
- Ensure bond reimbursement program is funded

KPBSD Board of Education

- Joe Arness, President, [District 3, Nikiski](#)
- Marty Anderson, [District 5, Sterling/Funny River](#)
- Sammy Crawford, [District 1, Kalifornsky](#)
- Liz Downing, Vice President, [District 8, Homer](#)
- Sunni Hilts, [District 9, South Peninsula](#)
- Bill Holt, [District 7, Kasilof/Central](#)
- Lynn Hohl, Treasurer, [District 6, Seward/East Peninsula](#)
- Tim Navarre, [District 2, Kenai](#)
- Penny Vadla, Clerk, [District 4, Soldotna](#)
- Hayden Beard, Student Representative

*Goals 2013-2014

By December 2013, the District will review, evaluate, and reduce, as required, the budget based on strategic priorities and fiscal and enrollment realities.

By June 2014, the District will design and implement an objective process to gather comparable student achievement data from high performing school districts. When superior systems are identified, investigate their processes and, as possible, apply them to KPBSD.

By June 2014, prepare for the FY15 negotiations by collaborating with the employee associations and by researching applicable statutes to determine District alternatives.

By October 2013, complete facilities goal begun in FY13.

School Board Meeting Schedule

- July 1, 2013
- August 5, 2013
- September 9, 2013 (Homer)
- October 14, 2013
- November 4, 2013
- December 2, 2013
- January 13, 2014
- February 3, 2014
- March 3, 2014
- April 14, 2014
- May 5, 2014 (Seward)
- June 2, 2014
- June 3, 2014 (Board Planning Session)

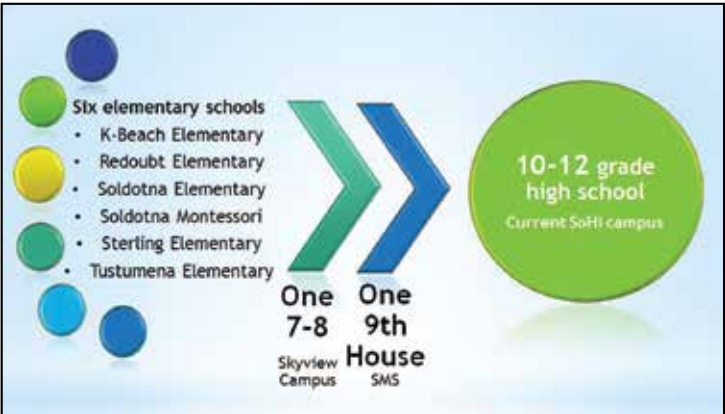


Soldotna Schools Reconfiguration

AN EIGHTEEN MONTH ANALYSIS and listening process to assess secondary education delivery included ten Soldotna and greater area administrators, school site-councils, parents, students, District Administration, and community members. The result was a recommendation to reconfigure school sites for grades 7-12 in order to provide the best educational opportunities for Soldotna area students. The KPBSD Board of Education approved the reconfiguration, effective at the start of school in August, 2014:

- Soldotna area grades 7-8 will be located at the current Skyview High School site
- Soldotna area 9th grade will be located at the current Soldotna Middle School
- River City Academy will move to the existing Soldotna Middle School site
- One high school for grades 10-12 will be located at the current Soldotna High School site
- Six K-6 grade elementary schools will continue to feed into the one new middle school (7-8), then one ninth grade house, and one high school (10-12)

Tustumena Elementary Principal Doug Hayman will be the transition coordinator for the reconfiguration process. One of his duties will be to form a representative task force



which will research and make recommendations about several topics including school identity (names, colors, mascots), school culture, and transition events. Full details about the process are online at www.kpbsd.org.



KPBSD School Locations



Effective Instruction

OUR DISTRICT HAS BEEN at the forefront of providing a meaningful and accountable teacher and administrator evaluation system. This has been done in collaboration with all certified associations, and includes regular opportunities for staff and community input. The Danielson Framework for Teaching is the foundation of our system. In 2012, the State of Alaska adopted new regulations that will necessitate student learning data to be included in evaluation

and to conduct meaningful conversations with teachers to improve instruction. We are looking ahead to conduct peer observations and administrator team observations in an effort to refine the process and ensure quality, consistent, and fair feedback for teachers that will further move our District to a culture of continuous improvement.

systems. While this change is significant, our systems have been able to adapt and give us the opportunity to refine what we have in place. We will be working in 2013-14 with a variety of staff committees to determine the multiple measures of student learning allowed by regulation that will be fair and will improve instruction. We have been able to provide school administrators quality and consistent training on becoming master instructional observers,

Technology

THE KPBSD PUPIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, in collaboration with the Information Services Department, have set out to use technology with a smart and relentless consistency in order to see a measurable impact on our students. The KPBSD tackled the challenges of delivering speech and language services to remote locations via a distance delivery model. Using Microsoft Lync, our speech and language pathologists are able to provide services to all of our students in more remote school locations on a weekly basis, without worrying how the weather will affect travel to and from the villages. As a result of these efforts, our students are making tremendous strides. Other specialists serving our rural loca-

tions are now using this same technology as a means of collaborating with site based staff. The KPBSD also began piloting the use of iPads with speech and language pathologist and special education teachers. The District was determined that we would not place an iPad in front of our teachers or students without the proper professional development process in place. This process included an agreement from all participants to collect data on the effectiveness of the iPads and specific apps, the sharing of data collected by each user, initial and follow up training, and collaboration with other iPad users.

2013 Inclusive Practice Award

THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL on Disabilities & Special Education established the Inclusive Practice Award to recognize outstanding educators who work to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunity for an inclusive education with their peers as part of the general education curriculum. Nominations are made by parents, students and educators. The award is given each February at the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC). In 2013, Homer area special education teacher Amanda Miller, and the Soldotna Elementary team of Tina Gilman, Zita Carrasco, and Kristin Siter were finalists for the award.

iPods 1-1

WITH THE HELP of a legislative grant from Alaska State Representative Paul Seaton, Chapman School in Anchor Point secured iPods for each of its ninety plus first through eighth grade students. Chapman staff spent time collaborating on common expectations for student use of these devices. Since the original intent of Representative Seaton was to extend the school

day through APPS, parent buy-in was key to being able to send these devices home. After the school identified which students the devices were allowed to go home with, teachers were able to strategically pick apps to help students work on skills at home. These apps help with math facts, Discovery Ed videos, math songs, Kid Pix, Story Kit, Pic Collage, Grammaropolis, Poplit, and using the iPods for voice recording to practice fluency. Teachers were also able to hone

their iPod skills during various professional development opportunities, including training from KPBSD and Discovery Ed. Teachers met the challenge of integrating the devices and apps into lessons in order to enhance, enrich, and differentiate their instruction. Teachers were able to front load students with information in various content areas. The success of these devices demonstrates our good partnership with the students, staff, parents, and legislature.



Collaboration Creates Future for Students with Disabilities

PROJECT SEARCH is a business-led, one-year, school-to-work program for students with disabilities that takes place entirely at the workplace. A collaborative partnership with KPBSD, Central Peninsula Hospital, Frontier Community Services, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Project SEARCH Cincinnati Children's Hospital launched the new Project SEARCH High School Transition Program at Central Peninsula Hospital in the fall of 2012. "Our ultimate goal as a District and within the special education department is to meet the individual needs of each student and to have each student obtain job ready skills or be ready to transition to post-secondary educational or vocational opportunities," said Clayton Holland, Director of KPBSD Pupil Services. "Project Search helps to do this while also educating the community at large about the many capabilities of our students with disabilities."

"I'm learning a lot of job skills...like using the commercial dishwasher and filing medical forms. I want to get a job, learn new skills, and live on my own." - Sarah Mohorcich



Pre-K Classes

TEN KPBSD SCHOOLS offer Pre-K classes, and 120 children attended either a morning or afternoon session. All Title I Pre-K classes are taught by highly qualified early childhood specialists. They focus on the whole child, and learning is based on the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines. The curriculum supports social and emotional development, physical well-being, motor development, general knowledge communication, language development and approaches to learning.

The program is not designed to jump-start kindergarten; the purpose is to prepare children for kindergarten. The teacher to student ration is 1:10, and each session runs approximately two and a half hours. Children are assessed informally and formally using a District developed rubric to assist monitoring overall growth. Every spring, screenings are conducted to determine eligibility.



Caring for the Kenai

KPBSD HIGH SCHOOLS from Seldovia to Seward participated in the annual Caring for the Kenai (CFK) environmental and disaster preparedness contest, while dozens of professional community members participated in judging the semi-finals and the live oral presentations by students. More than four hundred entries were received, addressing the prompt, “What can I do, invent, or create to better care for the environment on the Kenai Peninsula, or to improve the area’s preparedness for a natural disaster?”

Homer High School freshman Elise Webber won top honors and \$1,600 at the CFK competition with her plan for a disaster preparedness APP. She said, “I’m really happy to be able to share this with my school. What the app does is give you a check list and information on what to do in the event of natural disaster or emergency like tsunamis, earthquakes or volcano eruptions right on your smart phone and for this generation that’s important and will help anyone with a smart phone.”


In addition to the \$7,500 in cash awards for the finalists, this year \$20,000 was awarded to the science departments of schools that participated in CFK 2013, thanks to the CFK sponsors Tesoro and Chevron, and CFK community partners Kenai River Sportfishing Association, Kenai River Raven Lodge, ConocoPhillips and Hilcorp. Homer, Kenai, Nikiski, Ninilchik, Susan B. English (Seldovia), Seward, Skyview, Soldotna, and Voznesenka schools used CFK as part of their state standards classroom curriculum. Each school received \$750 for participating and the remainder of the \$20,000 was allocated proportionately to how their students placed this year. Approximately twenty students received special recognition awards from community sponsors.



KPBSD School Choices

THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT includes forty-four diverse public schools. Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent, explains, “In my opinion our diversity is an asset that all of us should embrace. While this diversity makes the management of our District challenging, it is the best thing to offer for our nearly 9,000 students.” Alaskan families can choose to send their students to these KPBSD public schools:

- Free [neighborhood schools](#) that offer the KPBSD adopted curriculum choices
- Free [school district optional and alternative](#) high school programs
- Free local [charter schools](#) that offer an alternative curriculum choice
- Free [performance-based](#) school
- Free [school district homeschool](#) program


Parents and schools share equally valuable roles in education. Parents and guardians are more than volunteers; they are part of a school’s learning community. Students and parents both have enormous influence in the quality of a child’s education. Research shows that parents and teachers build partnerships that help children succeed. 

KPBSD Native Youth Leadership

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS in KPBSD schools, Project GRAD, and local communities collaborate and partner to give small school and native youth opportunities to learn both western and indigenous governing styles, together with leadership skills that increase academic success. Students at KPBSD schools—Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Port Graham, and Tebugna—participated in several leadership events ranging from the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Elder and Youth Conference to the Alaska Close-Up in Juneau, among others.




2012-2013 Golden Apple Awardees

- Steve Carter, Volunteer
- Yolanda Schrader, ELL Tutor
- Jacob A. Sears, Student
- Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706, Community Organization
- Sara Reinert, Community Member 

KPBSD Students Play in Interactive Orchestra Concerts

HUNDREDS OF KPBSD STUDENTS—approximately 200 from Redoubt Elementary and K-Beach Elementary, and 120 from McNeil Canyon—and the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra (KPO) delighted thousands through two fall concerts and the national Carnegie Hall Link Up Program. Tammy Vol-lum-Matturro, the director and conductor of the KPO said, “The Kenai Peninsula Orchestra was excited to include elementary students on stage for this concert! The concert is very educational: introducing the sections of the orchestra, how melodies are written, and many other elements of music through music and projected visuals.”


Beginning in August, 2012, Sue Biggs, music teacher at Redoubt Elementary School, and Jeanne Duhan, music

teacher at K-Beach Elementary, taught and prepared their students to sing and play for their memory-making concert. Nine members of the Homer Youth String Orchestra Club learned the music to play with the orchestra. McNeil Canyon Elementary School completed an Artist in Schools residency with the conductor of the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra, Tammy Vol-lum-Matturro and students learned to play the recorder and sing songs in preparation for their concert in Homer with the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra. Materials for the concerts were provided by Carnegie Hall’s Weill Institute through their Link Up program. 

“Together we worked on a musical: fifty students wrote the play, over a hundred worked on costumes, props, posters, and scenery. It is a huge risk on my part to allow them to run with this project. My role is guide and consultant; I love facilitating, mingling and encouraging ... my constant challenge is to continue developing more student-directed learning.” – Sue Biggs, Redoubt Elementary, 2013 BP Teacher of Excellence

Career and Technical Education and Career Pathways

SECONDARY EDUCATION (grades 7-12) students are focusing on their Career and Technical Education Pathways and career clusters. Utilizing SB84 funding, KPBSD is ensuring that students think beyond high school graduation and develop their own Personal Learning and Career Plan (PLCP). Each student’s PLCP utilizes the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)

electronic portfolio to plan education and potential careers, offering students the necessary tools for a successful future. 



One district:
Forty-four
diverse schools.



She is Why



West Homer Elementary: National Blue Ribbon School


THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students’ levels of academic achievement. Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored America’s most successful public and private elementary, middle and high schools. A National Blue Ribbon Schools flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence, a symbol of quality recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities. There are roughly 130,000 schools in the United States. In 2012, the United States Department of Education honored 314 schools with a Blue Ribbon Award. West Homer Elementary School was honored to be identified as a school of excellence deserving of Blue Ribbon Recognition. 



Photo credit: Stockton Expressions Photography

Duncan Brewer [Class of 2013]

A Kenai Central High School graduate, Duncan Brewer also attended Kenai Middle School and Aurora Borealis Charter School, and has plans to return to the Kenai Peninsula after college to become involved in the family business, Alaska West Air, where he has worked as long as he can recall. An athlete, Brewer traveled to Australia during the summer of 2013 to play in the Down Under Bowl, then heads to Southern Oregon University where he will major in music, and play on the defensive line with the college football team. He credits KCHS coaches with inspiring him more than they will ever know, teaching him the real meaning of team, and everyone being there for each other. His high school experience helped him choose SOU, declining an offer from a school with a division two football team where it appeared everyone focused on their own success. Brewer wants to contribute to his community, and be a leader who makes a difference.

During the summer of 2013, he was a summer intern in Washington, DC, with Senator Murkowski. The experience exposed Brewer to become an advocate for his state and tend to important issues. A singer at many public events, he discovered his voice in middle school when his KMS music teacher asked him to sing a solo. They were both surprised! “You make your own experience,” said Brewer. “A lot of kids can’t wait to get out of here [Kenai]. I want to come back. It’s important to learn to love and appreciate your home. My high school experience taught me this. Life is what you make of it, so it is better to make it good!”




Olivia Tice [Class of 2013]

“As a child of Inupiaq descent, my roots are strong in the Alaskan soil where I was raised in the small fishing town of Soldotna,” said Soldotna High School graduate Olivia Tice. “Growing up here has influenced two strong passions in my life: one is an intense love of reading and the other is for the endless Alaskan summer nights that occur only two to three months out of the year but are worth nine months of cold and winter.” The best part of her high school experience was four-years of cheerleading for the SoHi Stars football team.

Tice was offered admission to Chapman University, Cornell University, Duke University, and Stanford University; she decided to attend Cornell University in the fall where she will major in English. She explains, “The enormous world of literature has allowed me to explore so many different facets of life and to satisfy the burning curiosity within myself without leaving the borders of the Kenai Peninsula. I hope that a college education will introduce me to the many other cultures and peoples of the world, as well as give me the tools I need to return to Alaska as a working citizen, inspiring future generations of native students to take charge of their education as I have done and work to make their dreams a reality, finding peace in their lives the way I have found it in the infinite light of the Alaskan sky.”

Devin Every and Damien Redder

A birthday party developed extra meaning and significance when two Kenai Middle School boys learned young people who are homeless live on the Kenai Peninsula and attend local schools. Sixth graders Devin Every and Damien Redder took action. Their birthdays, one week apart, sparked an idea: invite friends to a joint birthday party with a request to bring a present or gift card that would benefit youth and teens in the KPBSD Students in Transition program. Redder and Every took the opportunity to learn about homelessness on the Kenai Peninsula and tell their friends. The gifts poured forth, and were delivered to the school district for distribution.

The boys went shopping for several items with cash donations. “It’s the first time I really had fun shopping,” said Redder. Every appreciated the opportunity to help educate his friends and be an advocate. The boys said, “Thank you to the nearly forty people who are helping us learn to give back, instead of take it all in. We are able to help a bunch of kids our age who actually need this stuff. Thank you for all the donations.” 



Joey Crum [Class of 1996]

Raised in Anchor Point, Alaska, with his sister and three brothers, Joey Crum attended McNeil Canyon Elementary, Paul Banks, and Chapman KPBSD schools before graduating from Homer High School in 1996. He received a BA in psychology from the University of Puget Sound, and a Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga University School of Law. Currently the CEO for Northern Industrial Training (NIT) in Palmer, Alaska, Crum recognizes that highly trained Alaskans are paramount to the workforce development of Alaska’s future. In addition to his academic degrees, Crum is a National Center for Construction Education and Research Master Trainer, a State of Alaska CDL Examiner/Instructor, Health, Safety & Environmental expert, sits on the North Slope Training Cooperative Steering and Client Training Team committees, serves on the North Slope Borough Workforce development council, and is on the board of directors for the Alaska Trucking Association. He has authored and developed a number of curricula in the Oil, Gas, Safety, and Construction Industries.

“I used to be insecure about growing up in a small town where my family didn’t have a lot,” said Crum. “I went to the 1991 Junior Olympics for Karate, and I was genuinely scared. In practice I got pretty beat up and started doubting myself. My dad talked to me that night and told me that if I held back or doubted myself I would regret it my whole life, because that would mean I had already lost. Over the course of the next few days, I went all out, and won a gold medal. This was the first time anyone from Alaska won for Karate fighting.”

Speaking to KPBSD teens last spring Crum said, “Please don’t make the same mistake that too many people make. Don’t limit yourself, don’t apologize for how or where you grew up, and understand that the only things that will hold you back are your own doubts. People like to hear about the shortage of the labor workforce and the lack of skills of our youth. I have dedicated my professional life to workforce development and my experience with our youth gives me an unwavering confidence that the answer to our problems is sitting in front of me. You are extremely capable with endless potential; you just have to believe it.”

PBIS

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework schools use to define behavioral expectations for all students in a school, and then teach those behaviors to students. Students using correct behaviors are positively acknowledged, and the PBIS school-based teams use school-specific data to select and design behavioral approaches and interventions in the school. Once a school has a school-wide program fully in place and implemented, they begin focusing behavioral efforts on smaller groups of students who require additional supports to be successful in school.

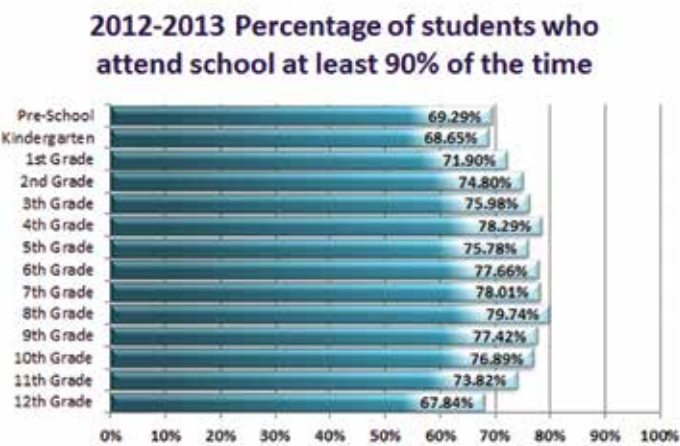
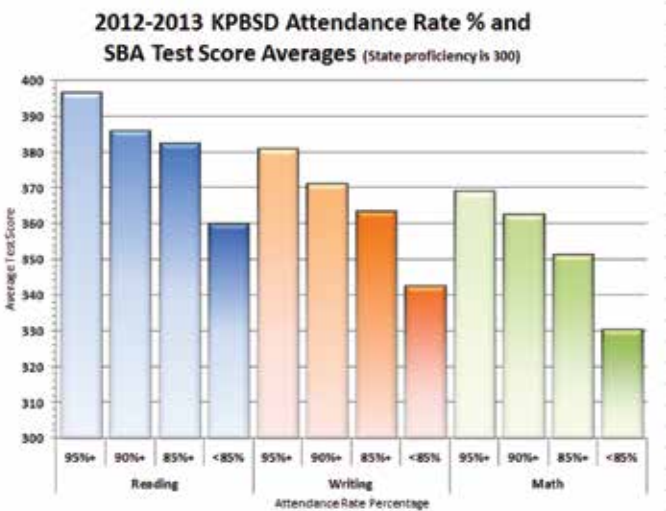
Five schools currently implement

PBIS. Sterling Elementary is in its fifth year of implementation, and Nikiski North Star Elementary and Redoubt Elementary are in their second year of implementation. Homer Flex School and Ninilchik School have completed their first year of implementation. In the five schools implementing PBIS this school year, during the first semester there were seventy-two fewer office discipline referrals in the combined schools in contrast to the previous semester. **This equates to an estimated gain of 3,240 minutes of academic engaged time for students in the schools, the equivalent of 8.24 school days.** Five additional schools will begin implementing PBIS in the upcoming school year: K-Beach Elementary, Nikolaevsk School, Razdolna School, Soldotna Elementary, and Voznesenka School.



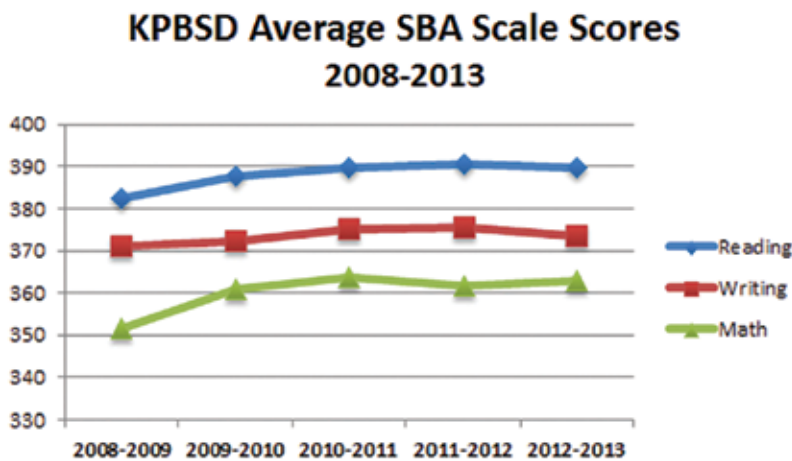
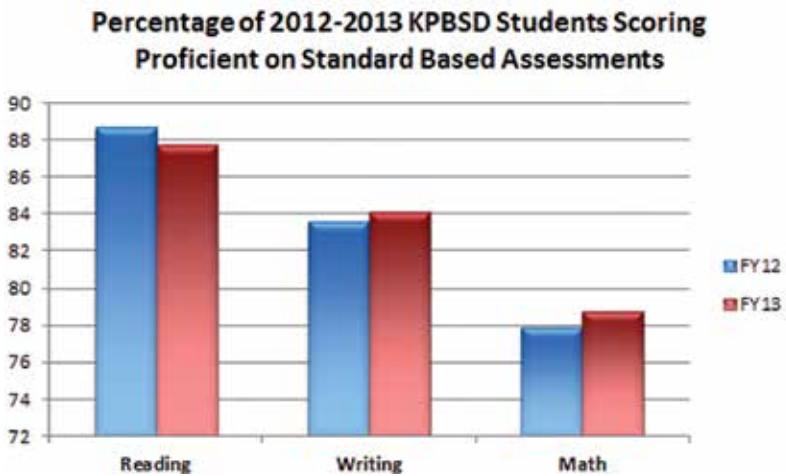
Attendance

EACH SPRING our schools recognize those students who had perfect attendance for the just completed school year. Last year the District had 485 such students. All of us at the District applaud these students, and their parents and guardians for making the extra effort needed to ensure that these students attend school each day. As the following graph suggests, the fewer days of missed school, the more likely that a student will score well on the state exams. KPBSD's attendance rate is good, let's try and make it better.



SBA Assessments

EACH YEAR the state requires that the District administer the Standards Based Assessments (SBA) to our students in grades 3-10. The results of these assessments are the primary way that the state and public determines how well a school and District is performing. KPBSD's students continue to do well on these tests and consistently exceed the state's proficiency averages by a significant amount.



Project Lead The Way

FIVE YEARS AGO the KPBSD introduced a new engineering program to Soldotna High School students that places an emphasis on projects that will stimulate student interest in engineering. The program is called Project Lead The Way (PLTW). To offer PLTW courses, a teacher must attend an intensive two-week summer academy which offers preparation to teach the curriculum.

PLTW classes are hands-on, based in real-world experience, and engaging for students and teachers. The program sets the highest standards for rigorous, focused and relevant study, and development of innovative, collaborative, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills.

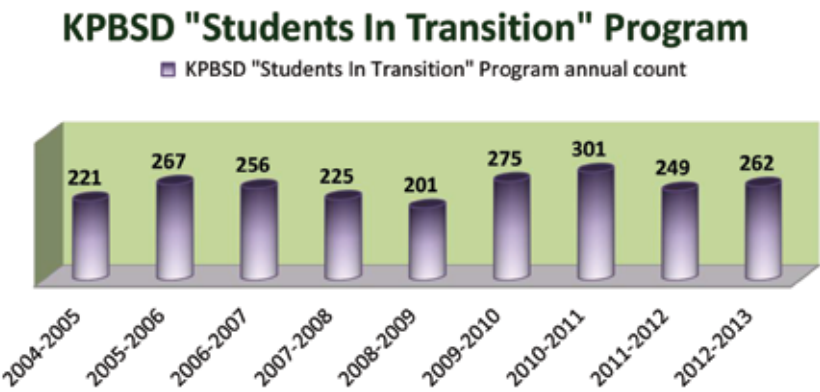
Soldotna High School has been offering two PLTW classes over the past five years. The Principles of Engineering course exposes students to major concepts they'll encounter in a post-secondary engineering course of study. This year was the first year Skyview High School offered the Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) PLTW course. The major focus of IED is the design process and its application. Seward High School will send one of their teachers to Oregon during the summer of 2013 to prepare to offer the Principles of Engineering course in the fall.

KPBSD Students In Transition (SIT) Program

THE SIT PROGRAM for homeless children began in 2003. Since then, the SIT program has provided supports and services to hundreds of KPBSD students who were without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

During the 2012-2013 school year, 262 students were identified as experiencing homelessness at some point during that year. Of these 262 students, seventy-five were unaccompanied youth (homeless youth not living with their parent or legal guardian).

The primary focus of the SIT Program is access to kindergarten through high school graduation for students who are homeless. School can be challenging for all students, but students living in unstable situations face many additional challenges. The goal of the SIT program is to ensure that homeless students have the same educational opportunities as their peers in permanent housing; that they have the ability to attend school and focus on learning. There are a variety of agencies and organizations that work hard to support vulnerable residents of the Kenai Peninsula. Our KPBSD homeless liaisons provide information to students and families about resources to help address their additional needs. If you or someone you know, is sleeping in a motel, a camper, a tent, couch-surfing, or living with friends or relatives until you can find or afford a place on your own then this program can help.



8 ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE




Rob Sparks

[Skyview High School] 2013 Kenai Peninsula BP Teacher of the Year

BELIEVING EDUCATION is a twenty-four hour a day experience, Sparks encourages his students to discuss information from school at home, and has received numerous comments from parents who say their children are knowledgeable about events and subjects they never had interest in before. Sparks is a co-creator of the Classroom WithOut Walls (CWOW) Program which allows students to use digital devices and mobile technologies to connect with other parts of the world. Through CWOW, students have discussed important historical events with people who lived through them, and have been a part of videoconference lessons with students in Afghanistan, Kenya, Israel, Yemen and numerous states. This global teaching is bringing a new level of learning and connectedness to the students at Skyview High and across the Peninsula.

Sparks teaches social studies, tenth grade world history, and twelfth grade government at Skyview High School. "This teacher does not let students fail. This teacher finds students during lunch and brings them to the classroom to complete any missing assignments. They make every assignment and every project important," said Janet Weiss, president of BP (Alaska) during the BP Teachers of Excellence awards celebration on May 1, 2013. "And they do what is undisputedly the most important job of an educator: they teach students how to think, not what to think."

Sparks was deeply moved by the award and recognition and said, "I appreciate administrators, IT staff, District office staff, and fellow teachers who support our efforts to bring new ideas to the classroom. Most importantly I appreciate the students. Over the years as we have developed our CWOW program, our students have been our motivation. Their acceptance of new teaching strategies and new technologies inspire us to continually improve our teaching." 



Sheryl Sotelo

[McNeil Canyon Elementary]

A THIRTY-TWO YEAR teaching career will take Sheryl Sotelo to Washington, DC, in the 2013-14 school year, through the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship. Sotelo believes science is the perfect topic to engage students in learning. "Learning about the natural world around you can be an irresistible gateway to learning across the curricular areas. Students are very responsive because the learning is relevant to them. They have real experiences to write

about and real applications of math, critical thinking, technical reading, vocabulary development, and working together. I have experienced the most success with students through this thematic teaching approach," she said.

Her grandfather, an archaeologist with great curiosity as well as a respect for other cultures, was influential in her life, "I spent a lot of time with him in the summers as I grew up. We worked on archaeological digs and I spent many hours in his lab helping and watching him analyze field findings. He explained that archaeology could be a destructive science, so it was imperative to record your field notes with great detail. One had to be observant and tell the story of what was found as accurately and as objectively as possible," she said. "I admired him greatly and he was my biggest fan. I think everyone needs the gift of having a grandparent who makes you feel like one in a million."

Her hope for the forthcoming year is "to gain knowledge of more resources and opportunities to share with other educators and students." She looks forward to networking with other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math professionals and "contributing my classroom perspective to education on a national level." Furthermore, "I am looking forward to time to reflect on my own practices and to attend professional development opportunities, particularly on integration of technology into science field experiences as well as the classroom."



Amanda Adams

[District-wide Distant Education]

A LANGUAGE ARTS and health distance education teacher, Amanda Adams is based at Seward High School, and teaches five classes each semester with students from all over the peninsula. "A distance delivery class in KPBSD is when the content of the class is primarily given through a website and the student regularly works with the teacher online to improve their skills," said Adams. "Technology should be a natural extension of teaching—a tool used to make the experience more meaningful. It should not be something artificial or extra, but instead be something almost transparent." Adams has been a teacher for fifteen years, and says, "I believe that the more personalized and relevant the educational experience is, the more students will engage and grow. I am continually trying to move in this direction."

Innovative and effective, her classes implement synchronous live events with professional experts and guest speakers, use Twitter and texting as a delivery mode for updates and reminders, and offer online progress monitoring of student performance. Adams modifies her teaching based on progress monitoring results, incorporates parent communication on

a regular basis, and provides authentic applications for student work. A shift that Adams notes with her students during an online class is, "application of on-line etiquette and proficiency with technology greatly increase." Adams envisions the future of education including, "a menu of personalization, choice, and meaningful experiences with a responsibility on teachers to continue to grow in their practice—always setting goals, seeking resources for improvement, leading their own professional development."




Dave & Debbie Michael

[Tustumena School, Greatland Adventure Academy]


DAVE MICHAEL IS a fourth grade teacher at Tustumena Elementary, and both he and his wife Debbie serve on the Academic Policy Committee (APC), a governing board for the newest KPBSD charter school, Greatland Adventure Academy, slated to open in the fall of 2014. Recipients of the Kenai Peninsula Child Advocacy Center "Champion for Children Award" they oversee a non-profit called Luva Child, Inc., started by two retired teachers over twenty-five years ago that focuses on providing food, shelter and education for children at risk. This program also contributes to widows and facilitates feeding programs for children in other countries. Dave leads an intramural ski program after school for students in fourth to sixth grade, and has spent many years coaching little league. Additionally, the Michaels organize and host an annual Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth in Soldotna each November. The event aims to raise awareness about the realities of youth who are homeless on the Peninsula, the challenges these children face, and the solutions we as a community need to work towards.



2013 Kenai Peninsula BP Teachers of Excellence

- Donna Austin, Chapman Elementary School [Anchor Point]
- Sue Biggs, Redoubt Elementary School [Soldotna]
- Myla Liljemark, Seward Middle School
- Lyn Maslow, West Homer Elementary School
- Renee Merkes, Soldotna High School
- Rob Sparks, Skyview High School [Soldotna]
- Greg Zorbas, Kenai Central High School 


Appreciation and Thank You

WE APPRECIATE the dedication and service our retiring employees contributed to public education. "Each year's retirement of a portion of our most veteran staff is a great loss to our District. The institutional knowledge and high skill level that these departing staff members take with them is difficult to replace," said Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent. 



High School Physical Education: Speed Strength Training

THE THIRD ANNUAL Speed, Strength, Training (SST) contest between Kenai Central High School (KCHS), Nikiski Middle-High School, and Skyview High School took place in Nikiski in March 2013. The schools competed for the traveling trophy—each school has won the trophy once over the past three year period. Students have discovered the benefits of the SST program and increase in strength, endurance, flexibility, speed, explosiveness, quickness, and mental toughness as is shown in the event, Fight Gone Bad (FGB). Typically more than eighty student athletes take part in the evening’s challenges.

During the SST contest, students participate in five events including the 40 Yard Dash, I Test, Vertical Jump, Broad Jump, and FGB. Competition goals are to celebrate student achievement, performance levels, good sportsmanship, and to be a positive reinforcement for students. 

Cougars Head of the Bay Football

THE COUGAR FOOTBALL team took to the field this year as an eleven man team and a member of the Great Land Conference. Prior to this year the squad was an eight-man football team made up of players only from Voznesenka School. Now Voznesenka has joined forces with the other Head-of-the-Bay Russian villages of Kachemak Selo and Razdolna to create a full varsity team to compete against other small schools in the Great Land Conference. During the 2012-13 Season the Cougars played a modified schedule but intend to be a full member of the Great Land Conference for the 2013-14 Season playing a full schedule.

Alaska School Activities Association

KPBSD teams and students score during their state level competitions! We celebrate all of our students and coaches, and recognize those high school students who finished in the top three of their ASAA competition or were selected for a state level team.

Basketball

Class 1A girls state tournament
Nikolaevsk—runner-up; All-Tournament team:
Nianiella Dorvall, Sophia Kalugin

Cross-Country Running

1-2-3A Girls State Championship
Homer High—runner-up
1-2-3A Boys State Championship
Seward High—runner-up; Miles Knotek, runner-up
Homer High—third place
4A Girls State Championships
Kenai Central—Allie Ostrander, state champion, 2012-13
Gatorade Alaska Cross Country Runner of the Year

Football

Small-schools Championships
Nikiski High School—runner-up; Outstanding Player
Awards: Stephen Hartley, Lincoln Johnson, Luke Johnson; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA
Medium-schools Championships
Soldotna High—state champions; Outstanding Player
Awards: Noah Fowler, Reid Schmelzenbach, Zane Miller, Jonathan Alexander, Cameron Grothe
Homer High—runner-up; Outstanding Player Awards:
Zach Fraley, Mark McGregor; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA

Hockey

Soldotna High—Dalton Pearson, All-Tournament team

Soccer

Soldotna High—Girls third (tie); All-Tournament team:
Alex Ashe, Taryn McCubbins; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA



Soldotna High School 2013 state champions, 4x800 Meter Relay, Class 4A

Softball

Small-schools State Championships
Homer High—third; All-Tournament team: Miranda Beach and Hannah LaRue; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA

Swimming and Diving

Homer High—Brian Rowe, third 1 M. Dive

Track and Field

Class 4A Girls State Championships
Kenai Central—state champion 4x400 M. Relay; Kiana Harding, third High Jump; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA
Soldotna High—state champion 4x800 M. Relay; Makayla Wong, third Discus
Class 1-2-3A Boys State Championships
Seward High—runner-up 4x800 Relay; Miles Knotek, state champion 3,200 M.; Preston Atwood, third 400 M. Dash
Skyview—third; Micah Hilbish, state champion 400 M. Dash, state champion 800 M. Run; Tim Duke, state champion 110 M. Hurdles, runner-up 300 M. Hurdles, third High Jump
Homer High—third 4x200 Relay; Mark McGregor, runner-up 110 M. Hurdles; Connor Seay, third 300 M. Hurdles
Nikiski—Seth Carstens, third High Jump; Lincoln Johnson, third Shot Put, third Discus
Class 1-2-3A Girls State Championships
Homer High—state runner-up; state champion 4x400 Relay; third 4x200 Relay; runner-up 4x800 Relay; Aurora Waclawski, runner-up 400 M. Dash; Casey Farrell, runner-up 1600 M. Run, runner-up 3,200 M. Run; Tayla Cabana, third Long Jump; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA
Ninilchik—Robin Riley, third High Jump
Skyview—third; state champion 4x200 Relay; runner-up 4x100 Relay; Kaylee Fisher, state champion 100 M. Dash; Marlee Cunningham, state champion Long Jump; Sidney Roumagoux, runner-up 100 M. Dash
Seward High—Tessa Adelman, state champion Shot Put, state champion Discus

Volleyball

Class 3A Girls State Championships
Skyview—All-Tournament team: Marlee Cunningham; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA
Nikiski—All-Tournament team: Rachel Thompson
Class 4A Girls State Championships
Soldotna High School—All-Tournament team: Kaillee Skjold; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA



Allie Ostrander, state champion and 2012-13 Gatorade Alaska Cross Country Runner of the Year

Wrestling

Class 1-2-3A State Championships
Homer High—Mark McGregor, runner-up 160
Nikiski High—third; Josh Brown, third 152; Morgan Sauve, runner-up 170; Lincoln Johnson, state champion 195; Luke Johnson, runner-up 195; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA
Skyview—Seth Hutchison, state champion 98; Sam Janorschke, runner-up 132
Class 4A State Championships
Kenai Central—Ellery Steffensen, state champion 138; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA

Drama Debate & Forensics

Homer High—Jacob Mayforth, third Dramatic Interpretation; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA
Nikiski Middle-High—Shaylee Rizzo and Hannah Halliday, runner-up Pantomime, third Duo Interpretation

All-State Music Festival

Homer High—Hannah Baird, Alto 1 All-State Mixed Choir; ASAA Academic Award highest GPA

Solo and Ensemble Music Festival

Homer High—Joseph Cardoza, Vocal Solo

Native Youth Olympics

Nanwalek—Antone Ukatish, second Toe Kick; Timothy Ukatish, second One-Hand Reach
Seward High—Zachary Martin, third One-Foot High Kick
Tebughna—Randy Standifer, first Eskimo Stick Pull, third Indian Stick Pull



One district:
Forty-four
diverse schools.

She is Why

Kenai Legislators Support KPBSD Schools

EACH JANUARY the seven legislators elected to represent our Borough head to Juneau for another legislative session. Soon thereafter, school board members, KPBSD administrators, teachers, and support staff begin to let the seven know what they can do to make us a better school district. Our requests vary from the broad, e.g., changing the date of issuing contracts to tenured teachers, to the specific, funds for the replacement of a playing field.

The legislative process is complicated and is one that requires a lot of patience. All of us at KPBSD appreciate the commitment that our legislators have to education, and their support for our requests. Thank you to all legislators who are committed to public education and especially to Speaker Chenault, Representative Edgmon, Senator Giessel, Senator Micciche, Representative Olson, Representative Seaton and Senator Stevens for their willingness to help KPBSD be the best school district in the state.

New Tracks for Kenai Central and Homer High School

IN THE FALL of 2012 Homer High School became the proud recipient of a new running track. The BSS 1000 track system provided by Benyon Atlas is a full pour polyurethane surface. The manufacturer claims the “BSS 1000 is durable enough to resist the roughest of weather while providing a top-level competition and training surface with relatively little maintenance” and is made of an “environmentally friendly Polyurethane” that provides an impermeable track that offers the best in shock absorption. Kenai Central High School is receiving a BSS 1000 track of their own which will be available for use in the fall of 2013.

Summer 2013 Roofing Update

IN THE SUMMER of 2013 the completion of six roof projects comes as a result of a bond package approved by voters in 2010. Three years ago Kenai Peninsula Borough voters gave the go ahead to replace \$16,866,500 worth of roofs at eleven schools. Most of the schools identified for roof replacement have received attention. This summer Chapman, Cooper Landing, Kaleidoscope, Ninilchik, Moose Pass, and Soldotna Elementary will be recipients of new roofs. Chapman and Ninilchik schools did see some roofing action last year but the projects were not one hundred percent completed.

A New School Planned for Kachemak-Selo

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH received a Community Block Grant from the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development for the purpose of completing Educational Specifications for a new school in Kachemak-Selo. Educational Specifications are the roadmap followed by architects when designing a school. They spell out the size, type, and numbers of spaces required to fulfill the obligations of the educational programs in a building.

The grant allows the Borough two years to complete the Educational Specifications. Soil samples were conducted last year at two locations to determine the best possible site for the new school. When construction of the school is complete it will house students K-12. A series of meetings will be scheduled in the upcoming months to allow community, District, and Borough input, which will be vital to the Educational Specification process.




“We, the Soldotna High School Stars, wear white in solidarity with all the students, teachers, and families from Sandy Hook Elementary, Newtown, Ct.”

School Safety

KPBSD IS SERIOUS about protecting the safety of our students and staff within the District. In light of this, KPBSD maintains an Emergency Action Plan to respond to natural or manmade disasters. Each year staff members are assigned specific emergency response roles, and multiple trainings and drills are held throughout the school year. Drills are practiced for events such as earthquake, fire, lockdown, severe weather, intruder, shelter in place, flood or tsunami, evacuation, loss of utilities, and many others. Each neighborhood school works with their local law enforcement and emergency response personnel to coordinate preparation activities. Law enforcement was involved in emergency response drills throughout the school year. Parents are notified prior to any training activity or scheduled drill that involves law enforcement in the school.

Every school has safety requirements that need to be followed to ensure the safety of students and staff. These requirements usually start with designated traffic flow patterns in the school parking lot. Designated entrances and exits are the only ones that should be accessed. All visitors are then required to check in at the office before going to any classroom or elsewhere in the building. School volunteers are required to go through a district-level background check before they are allowed to participate in neighborhood schools. Compliance with these requirements by parents and community members will help ensure the safety of our students and staff.


During the spring of 2013, KPBSD performed an evaluation of safety needs at each of our schools. In April 2013, the Alaska State Legislature funded \$1.4 million dollars for safety needs within our schools. KPBSD will be using these funds to improve the safety of our schools in the coming year. 



Student Nutrition Services

DURING THE 2012-13 school year Student Nutrition Services (SNS) provided nearly one million meals to KPBSD students. The SNS program was recognized for its outstanding contribution to the students of the District. Four of the thirty-four SNS sites that provide the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) school meal programs received awards as acknowledgement of their meeting the criteria for the Healthier US School Challenge. These awards were presented by USDA officials to the winning SNS members of Seward

Elementary School, Soldotna Elementary School, Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science, and Paul Banks Elementary School. These four school facilities were among the first schools in the State of Alaska to meet the criteria for nutrition, nutrition education, and physical education per the USDA guidelines.

SNS also benefited from first time support from the State of Alaska through capital funding of food products sourced from state growers and seafood providers. This provision of Alaska School Nutritional Foods allows Alaska fish and vegetable products to be part of the school meal program. 





Revenues and Expenditures




MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS—eighty-one percent—of the General Fund budget is spent on salaries and benefits. About 15% of that 81% is a payment made by the State of Alaska on-behalf of the school district to pay down part of the unfunded liability in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) retirement accounts. To comply with accounting requirements, this payment is reflected on school district financial statements both as revenue and expenditure. TRS and PERS on-behalf payments are made by the state for all participants in the programs and are scheduled to continue for twenty years.

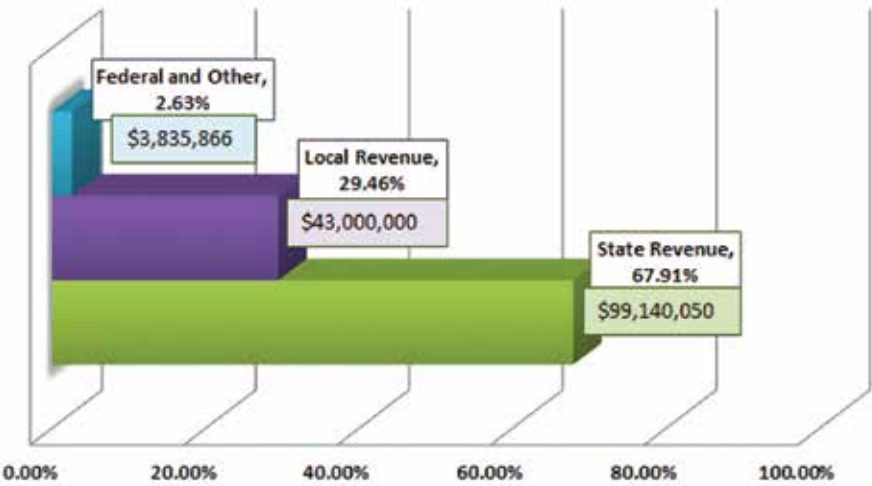
In-kind expenditures by the Kenai Peninsula Borough are also reported as revenues and corresponding expenditures on the school district financial statements as required by accounting rules. The in-kind payments comprise 6% of the Expenditure budget and are devoted to Property, Li-

bility and Workers Compensation Insurance payments, maintenance on school buildings and audit services, as well as custodial services and utilities at the District office. Of the remaining 13%, 4% is dedicated to utility payments for schools and departments, including electricity, water and sewer, fuel for heating and natural or bottled gas. That leaves 9% for supplies, software, contract services, phone, postage, travel and other discretionary accounts.

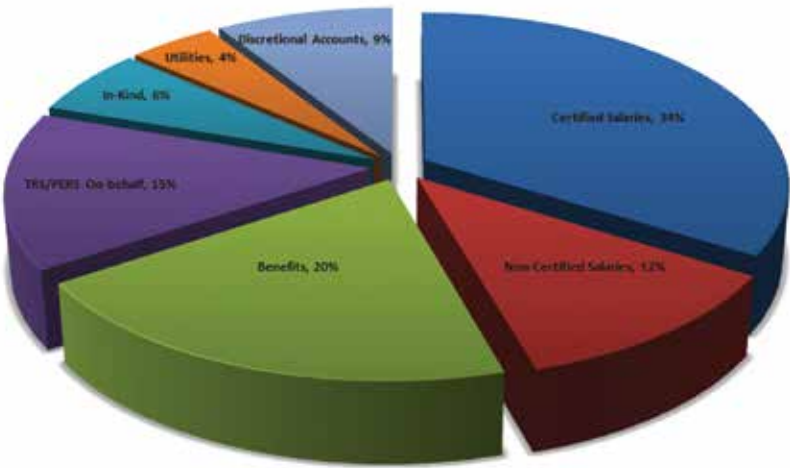
The State of Alaska requires that 70% of funding for education be spent on instructional functions. When the FY13 budget is sorted by function, it shows the KPBSD exceeds that requirement, and 75.92% of the budget is dedicated to Instruction.

For the last two fiscal years, expenditures have exceeded revenues, so the District has used fund balance to make up the difference. 

KPBSD 2012-2013 Revenue Sources



KPBSD 2012-2013 General Fund Expenditures



Dollars and Cents



\$0.66 Salaries and benefits
\$0.15 TRS/PERS on-behalf
\$0.09 Discretionary accounts
\$0.06 In-Kind services
\$0.04 Utilities
= \$ 1.00 from 2012-2013 General Fund (FY13)

Free and reduced lunches

TOTAL of 3,427 KPBSD students, or 45% out of 7,607 students served, qualified for free or reduced-price meals during the 2012-13 school year. Across the state roughly 45% of students enrolled in Alaska schools that sponsor school meal programs qualify for free or reduced price meals.



Collective Bargaining

ON FEBRUARY 28, 2013, the KPBSD signed tentative agreements with the Kenai Peninsula Education Association (KPEA) and the Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association (KPESA). Union members ratified both agreements and notified the KPBSD Administration on April 8, 2013. The KPBSD Board of Education met in special session the following day, April 9, 2013 and voted to ratify the agreements. The new agreements were retroactive to July 1, 2012 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2015.



"A goal that I have for my class is to nurture globally competent students. These are students who understand the historic and contemporary relationships between regions, countries, and peoples of the world. These are students who understand and tolerate others within a world where international connections are the norm."

– Myla Liljemark, Seward Middle School,
2013 BP Teacher of Excellence



12 ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE



District size

The school district has a total of 44 schools and covers a land area roughly the size of West Virginia (25,600 square miles).

Personnel

District administration: 18
Building administration: 47
Certified staff: 674
Support staff: 558
Total: 1,207



2013-2014
Leadership Team

STEVE ATWATER, Superintendent
SEAN DUSEK, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
DAVE JONES, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support
CHRISTINE ERMOLD, Director Elementary Education
CLAYTON HOLLAND, Director Pupil Services
JOHN O'BRIEN, Director Secondary Education and Student Activities
LAURIE OLSON, Director Finance
JOANN RIENER, Director Human Resources
DAVE TRESSLER, Director Planning and Operations
TIM VLASAK, Director K-12 schools, Assessment and Federal Programs
JIM WHITE, Director Information Services
PEGGE ERKENEFF, Communications Specialist

Average Years of Experience
with KPBSD

Teachers.....10 YEARS
Support staff.....9 YEARS

Teaching Excellence

Sixty-six percent of KPBSD teachers have an advanced degree, and 82.4% of KPBSD teachers are Highly Qualified in the subject in which they teach.

Staffing Ratios
Type of School Pupil/Teacher Ratio

Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students:.....KINDERGARTEN | 20:1
Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students:.....GRADES 1-3 | 22:1
Elementary schools with more than 200 enrolled students:.....GRADES 4-6 | 24:1
.....MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS | 24:1
Small schools with less than 200 enrolled students:.....GRADES K-6 | 17:1

Student Transportation

Each school day, more than 2,700 students are transported a total of 7,200 miles on school buses throughout the District.

2012-2013 Enrollment

Preschool.....223
Kindergarten-6th grades.....4,709
7th-8th grades.....1,353
9th-12th grades.....2,780
Total actual enrollment for 2012-13 school year.....9,065



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

148 North Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907.714.8888
fax: 907.262.9645
Facebook: KPBSD
Twitter: @KPBSD
www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

COVER ART CREDIT: Students attending Soldotna Elementary and Soldotna Middle School created a sculpture inspired by a study of Dale Chihuly’s art work. The project began in Katrina Cannava’s Pre-K class, and expanded to include 150 students at SoEl, and twenty-five from SMS in Kristin Cannava’s class. Students colored empty water bottles with sharpie markers, which were then cut into spirals and assembled to make a sculpture now installed in the entrance area of SoEl.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

Vision Statement

We envision KPBSD students who engage in their learning, participate in their community, reach high levels of achievement, and graduate prepared for their future.

To view the Annual Report online, with hyperlinks to additional stories, scan QR codes or click this symbol when viewing online:

