



LKSD LETTER TO BETHEL COMMUNITY

October 26, 2020

Dear Bethel students, families and staff:

We've passed the end of the first quarter of the 2020-21 school year and I want to take this opportunity to thank students and families for engaging in remote learning over these past nine weeks. The District recognizes that remote learning presents many challenges for families and we appreciate every family for doing what they can in order to support students in learning, including receiving and returning learning materials, communicating with teachers and staff, and assisting learning at home. Our goal is to connect with and support 100% of our Bethel families. If your child or family needs additional support with remote learning, we want to hear from you. Please let the district know by reaching out to your child's school using the contact information listed at the bottom of this letter.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our Bethel staff for their efforts in working with families and in making learning relevant and engaging for our students. Our teachers and support staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work during this challenging time.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and community is and always will be at the center of our planning and decision-making process. LSKD is committed to making the best, most informed decisions we can based on guidance from YKHC and state public health officials. Bethel schools will continue to remain at the Smart Start plan's *high risk* level with remote learning.

Cases of COVID-19 have risen in Bethel and in our region at an alarming rate. Bethel is experiencing both community spread of COVID-19 with cases of unknown origin and cluster outbreaks of COVID-19 cases. LKSD is experiencing the impact of this spike in cases directly. The current test positivity rate for the Bethel census area is over 10% and our region currently has the highest test positivity rate, per capita, in Alaska. As YKHC has indicated, it is essential that we work together to gain control of the current outbreak that our region is experiencing.

The goal is to see a dramatic decrease in the Bethel community's test positive rate (specific goal of 1%). Until then, we will continue with remote learning. I recognize that this is disheartening news, as students and staff are eager to be back in the classroom for in-person

learning. I truly believe that if our community works together, we can flatten the curve and make the option of in-person learning a reality for Bethel students. Please help us get there by wearing a mask, frequent handwashing, keeping an appropriate social distance, and limiting your interactions with people outside your immediate household. If you are concerned about possible exposure or experiencing symptoms, please call the Bethel COVID-19 hotline at 907-543-6949 to schedule a COVID-19 test.

Please do not hesitate to contact your school if you have questions or need support. We welcome and encourage parents to provide thoughts and feedback by calling (907) 543-4800. Feedback can also be submitted by writing, emailing, or messaging us or teachers and site administrators. We want to hear from you on how we can improve the learning experience. Site Administrators and school leaders will continue to check in weekly to address any concerns that may arise and provide support and guidance when needed. We are all in this together.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support through these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Hankins
Superintendent

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Mikelnguut Elitnaurviat School Jazz LaValle, Site Administrator 543-2845	Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Stacey Wilson, Site Administrator 543-1645
Gladys Jung Elementary Josh Gill, Site Administrator 543-4440	Kuskokwim Learning Academy Walt Betz, Site Administrator 543-5610
Bethel Regional High School Alicia Miner, Site Administrator 543-3957	LKSD District Office Kimberly Hankins, Superintendent Ed Pekar, Assistant Superintendent 543-4800