

PUBLIC EDUCATION: STORIES OF HOPE AND IMPACT

March 5, 2026

ALASKA COUNCIL



OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



ouralaskanschools.edublogs.org
8 Years...200+ stories from across Alaska




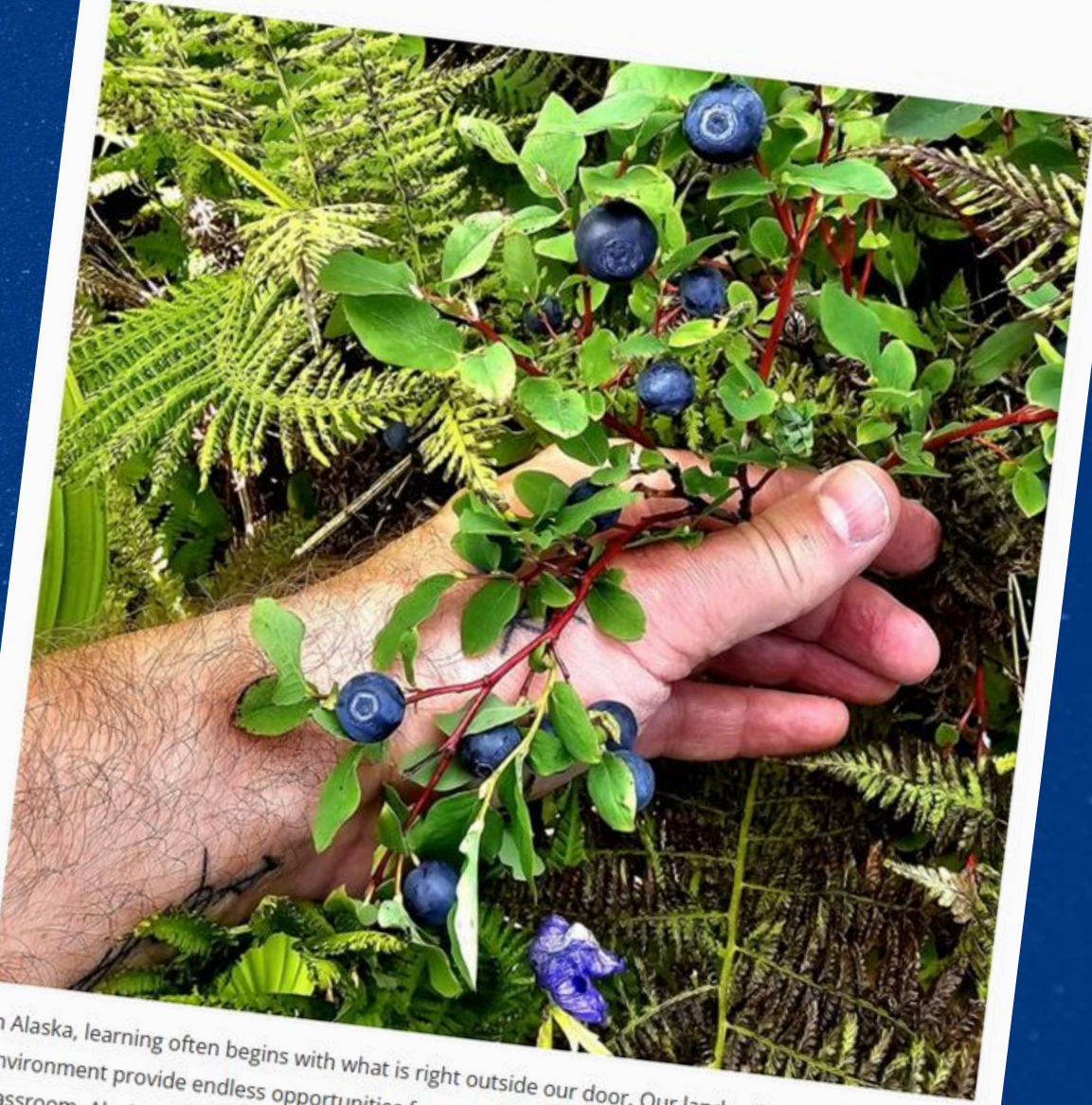
INNOVATIVE TEACHING



'Alaska Blueberries as an Alternative pH Paper' by Adrian Suladay

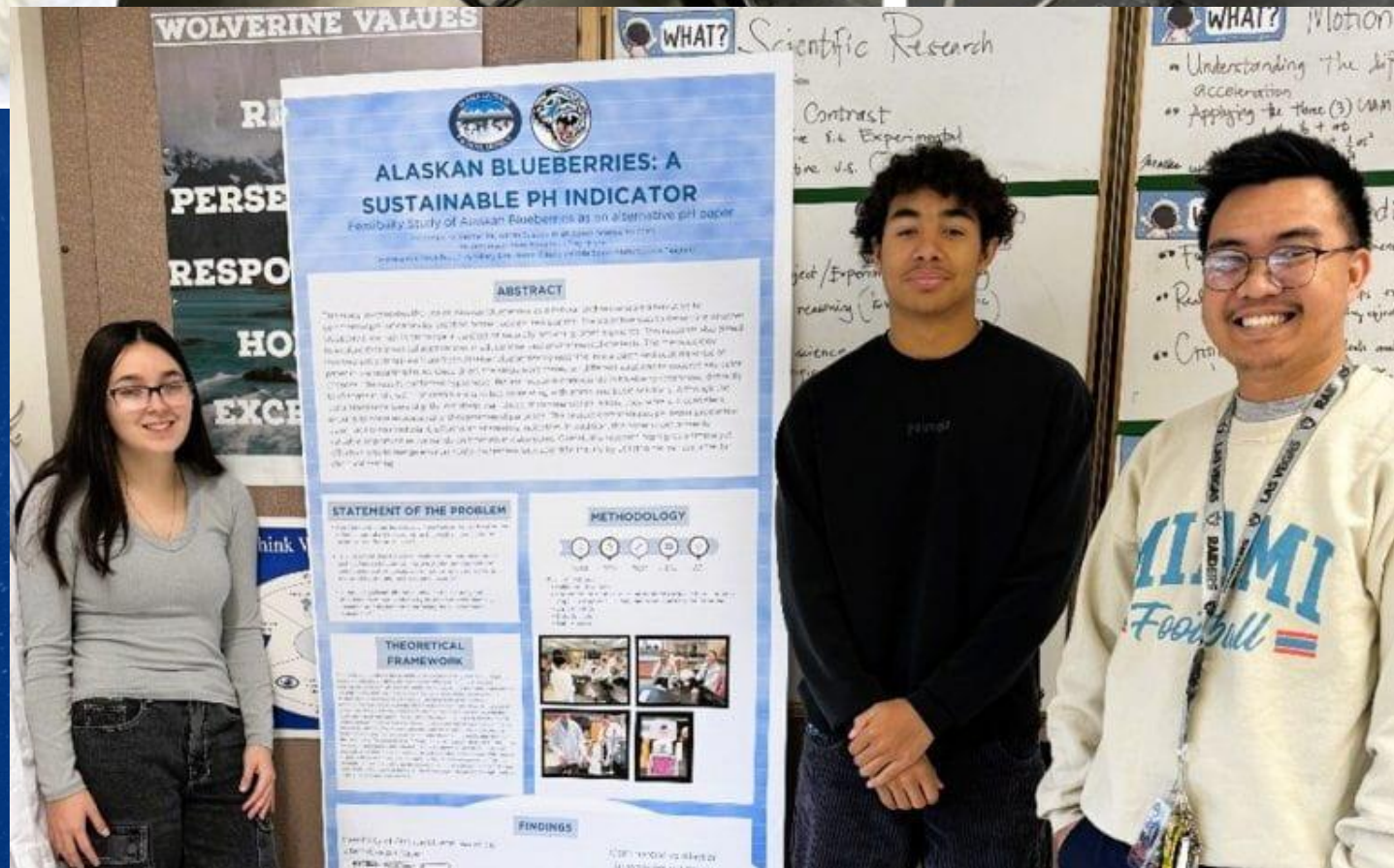
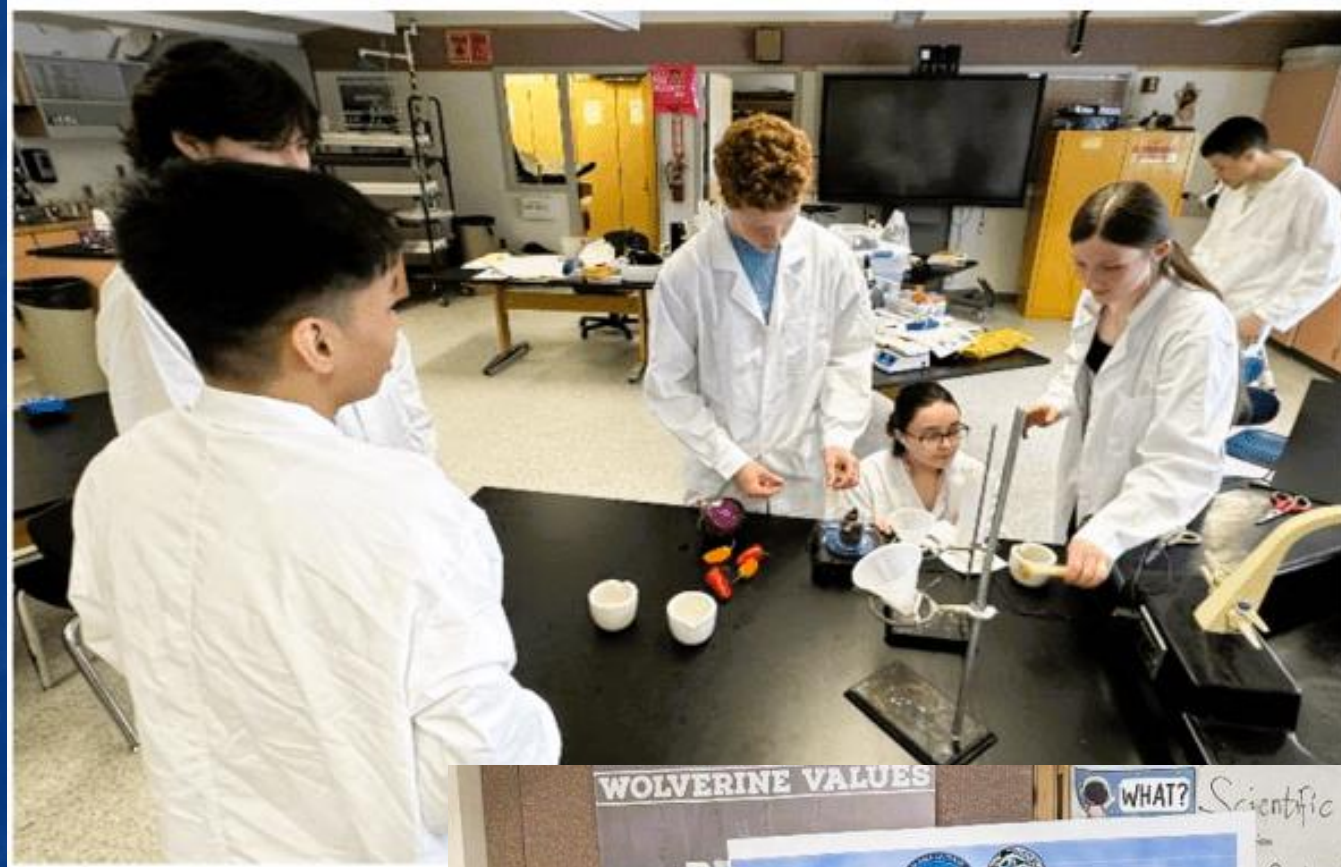
Home → Academics → 'Alaska Blueberries as an Alternative pH Paper' by Adrian Suladay

 ouralaskanschools on January 13, 2026



In Alaska, learning often begins with what is right outside our door. Our land, culture, and environment provide endless opportunities for meaningful, hands-on education, and in our science classroom, Alaskan blueberries have become an unexpected but powerful teaching tool.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING





INNOVATIVE TEACHING



'Building Momentum: How YKSD's MACSS Project Is Amplifying Math and Computer Science Learning in the Raven Homeschool Program' by ACSA Staff

Home → Mathematics → 'Building Momentum: How YKSD's MACSS Project Is Amplifying Math and Computer Science Learning in the Raven Homeschool Program' by ACSA Staff

ouralaskanschools on March 3, 2026

As the Yukon-Koyukuk School District's (YKSD) [Raven Homeschool](#) program nears the completion of its participation in the Mathematics and Computer Science for Students (MACSS) project—funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Alaska Native Education (ANE) program—one theme continues to rise to the top: meaningful, steady progress grounded in hands-on learning and strong educator support.

AMP IT UP Math & Computer Sci Camp
Tues, Wed, Thurs ~ March 26-28 from 9:30am-3:30pm

AMP IT UP CAMP

- Amazing Math Plus
- Information Technology
- Understanding Programming

The poster features a dark background with glowing text and icons representing math (calculator, pencil), science (lightbulb, rocket), and technology (circuit board, gear). A pink arrow points upwards on the left side.



INNOVATIVE TEACHING

AMP IT UP Math & Computer Sci Camp
Tues, Wed, Thurs ~ March 26-28 from 9:30am-3:30pm

AMP IT UP CAMP

Amazing Math Plus
Information Technology
Understanding Programming

Don't miss this fun event for the whole family!


Who? All Raven families are invited. We are limiting each age group to 15 students for quality purposes.
What? Three days of educational activities, food, and lots of fun
When? March 26, 27, 28 from 9:30am-3:30pm
Where? Raven Office





'YKSD Creates Place-Based Math Task Database' by Bobbi Jo Erb

Home → Mathematics → 'YKSD Creates Place-Based Math Task Database' by Bobbi Jo Erb

 ouralaskanschools on May 1, 2025

Nekkonh' ("Good sewer")

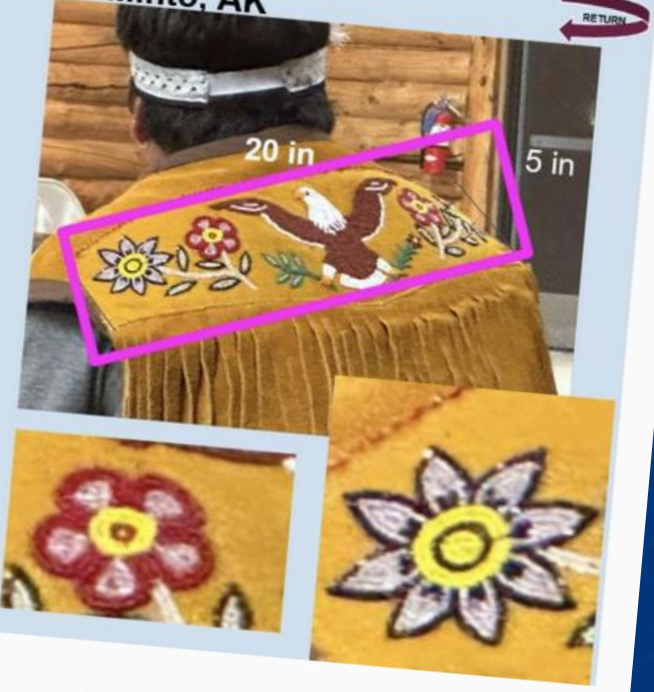
K-2:

- How many petals are on the black-yellow flower?
- How many petals are on the red flower?
- How many petals are on both flowers all together? How did you get that answer?

3-5:

- Do the flowers have lines of symmetry? If so, how many lines of symmetry do the flowers have?
- Look at the fringe on the vest. It takes three pieces of fringe to make one inch. If the vest is 20 inches wide, how many pieces of fringe are there in all?
- When the vest is laid flat, the section of moose skin containing beadwork is a rectangle that is roughly 20 inches wide and 5 inches tall. What is the perimeter of the rectangle? What is the area of the rectangle?

Minto, AK



"...the Alaska Cultural and Alaska Mathematics Standards combine to create relevant, engaging, and rigorous math learning."

INNOVATIVE TEACHING



Circular Fish Wheel

K-2:

- What shapes do you see in the fish wheel?
- Describe how you recognized those shapes? What do you see?

3-5:

- There are 12 sections. Write in fraction form the number of sections with bins you see.
- What is the name for the shape of this fish wheel and what attributes do you see?

6-8:

- Find the circumference of the fish wheel assuming the length of a spoke is 6 feet. Round to the nearest tenth.
- Find the volume of the fish wheel submerged in the water.

HS:

- Find the area of an individual sector.
- Find the volume of an individual sector.
- Identify the measure of the central angle of each individual sector.

Fairbanks, Alaska



This fish wheel has a six-foot wide wire basket. The wheel's wooden arms stretch 12 feet across.

CHANGING ALASKA'S NARRATIVE



Sharing authentic
educator experiences



Highlighting purpose
and impact



Connecting
educators with
community



Making Alaska visible
nationally

EDUCATOR STORIES



Bo Sahr
NUNAPITCHUK



Meghan Redmond
HOMER



Spenser Nelson
NIGHTMUTE



Mc Kerwin Niño Acdal
CHUATHBALUK



Mikaela Trowbridge
BETHEL



Maria Hernandez
ANCHORAGE



Dale Ebcas
KALSKAG

From the tundra to the coast, hear firsthand what drew educators to Alaska—and why they've chosen to stay.

EDUCATOR STORIES



Mikaela Trowbridge didn't plan on Alaska. At a job fair in Michigan, she stopped by the Alaska table “just for practice”.

She was surprised to hear about landscapes so vast they could only be reached by boat or dogsled. When they offered her the exact fifth-grade position she wanted, she laughed it off as impossible. But then a fortune cookie told her to “do the crazy thing,” and a few months later she was boarding a plane north. The first year was intimidating—new culture, new climate, no family nearby—but she immediately felt the difference in how communities take care of one another.

Villagers invited her berry picking, ice fishing, and to try traditional foods. “This is my family away from home,” she says. “It's not just pretty here—it's meaningful.”





WORKFORCE AWARENESS



College Tour Time!: LKSD GEAR UP
Students Visit Alaskan Post-Secondary
Programs by ASDN Staff

Home → Academics → College Tour Time!: LKSD GEAR UP Students Visit Alaskan Post-Secondary Programs by ASDN Staff

ouralaskanschools on April 19, 2023




WORKFORCE AWARENESS

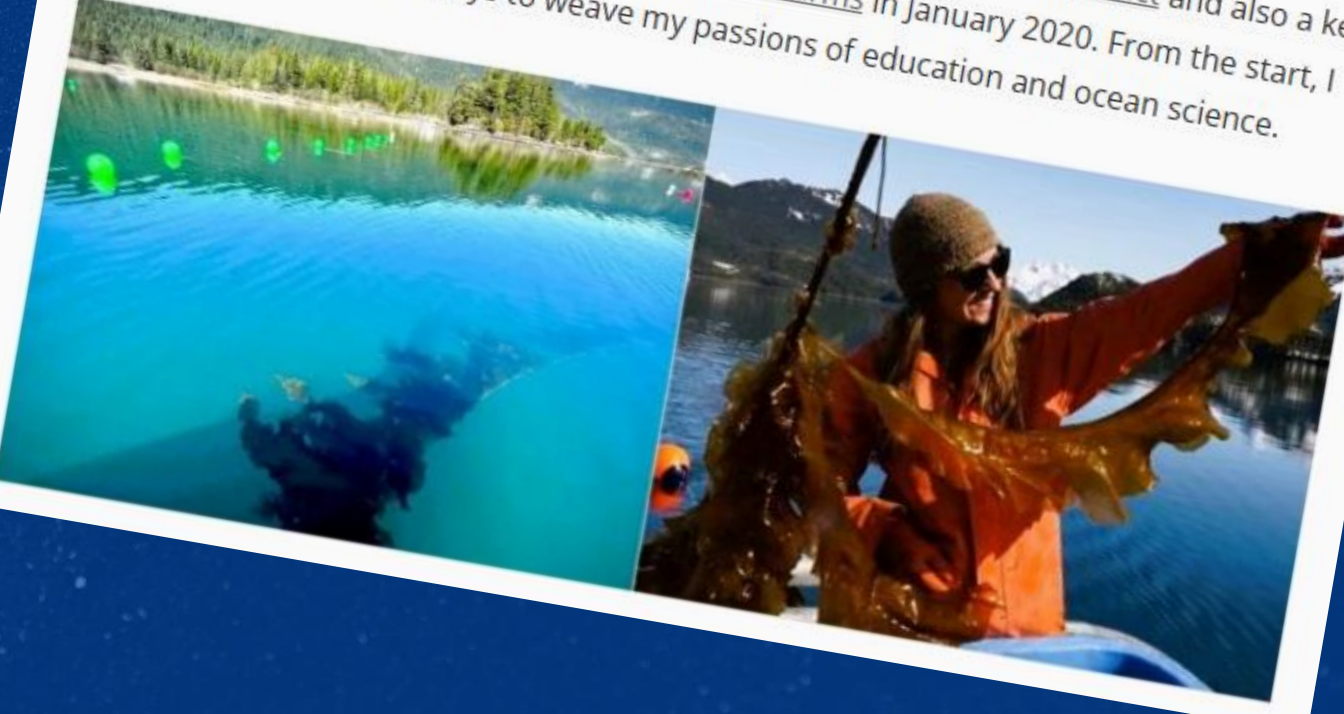


'Kelp in Cordova Classrooms' by Skye Steritz

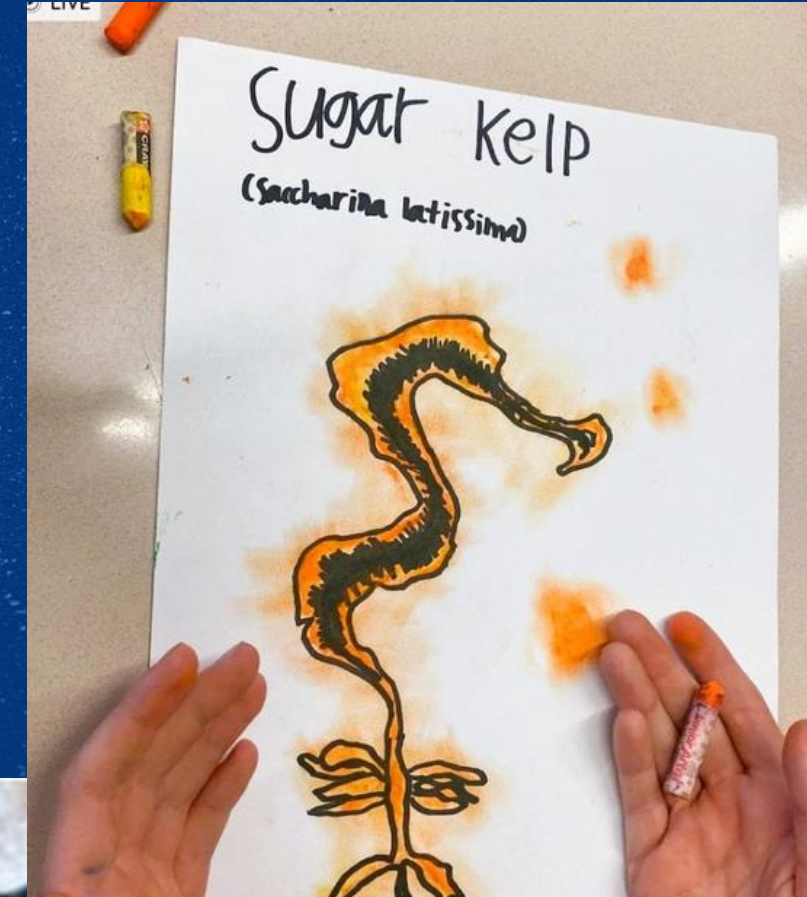
Home → School Story → 'Kelp in Cordova Classrooms' by Skye Steritz

 ouralaskanschools on April 5, 2024

In Prince William Sound and several other regions in Alaska, kelp farming is a budding, regenerative industry, adding to the vibrancy of working waterfronts. I am a fourth grade teacher at Mt. Eccles Elementary School in the [Cordova City School District](#) and also a kelp farmer. My husband and I started [Noble Ocean Farms](#) in January 2020. From the start, I was determined to find ways to weave my passions of education and ocean science.



WORKFORCE AWARENESS






WORKFORCE AWARENESS




'Students Prepare to Take Flight in Private Pilot Ground School Elective' by Nicole Stellon O'Donnell

Home → Career Education → 'Students Prepare to Take Flight in Private Pilot Ground School Elective' by Nicole Stellon O'Donnell

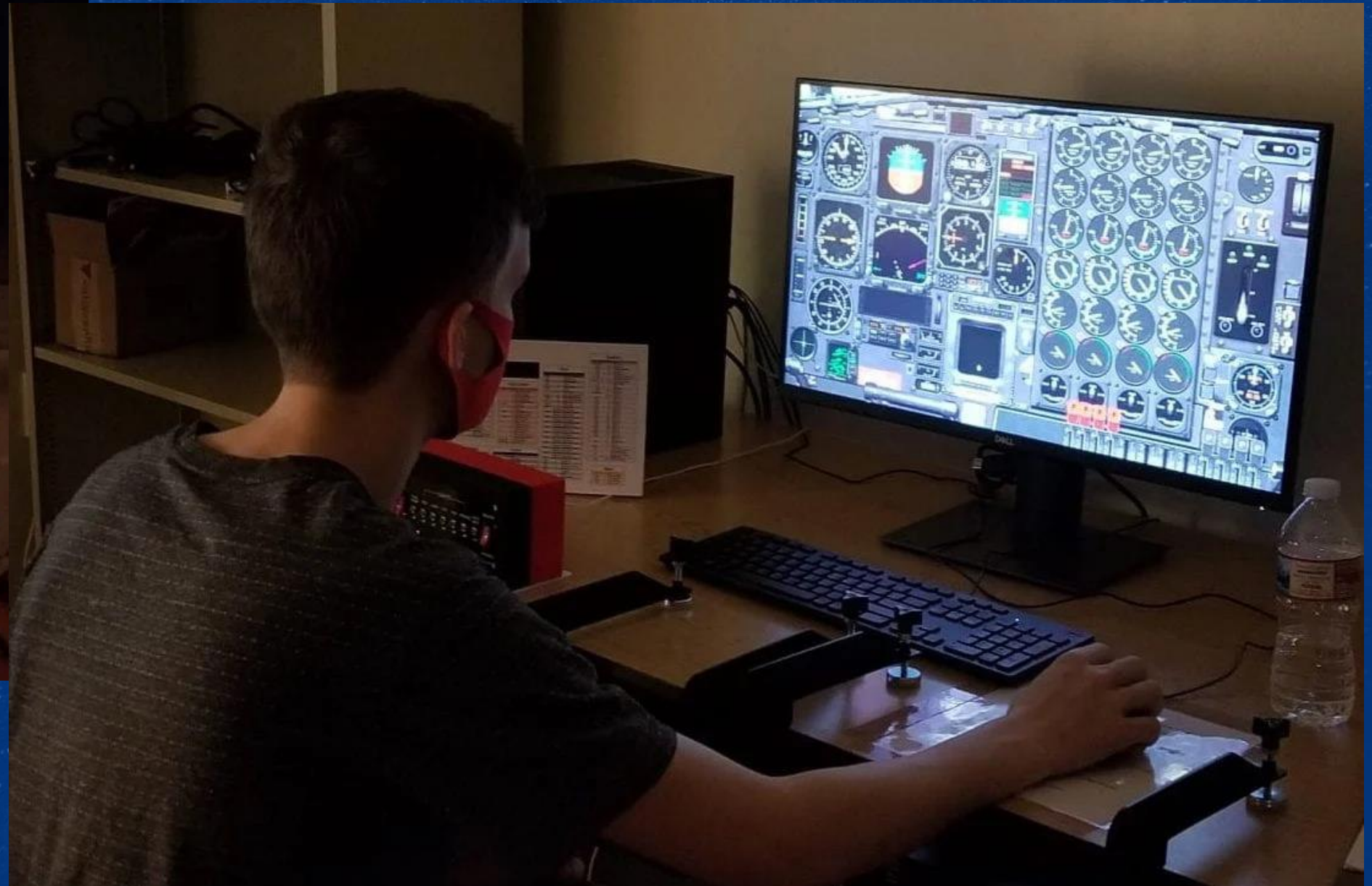
 ouralaskanschools on February 11, 2022

Travis Stagg, a physics teacher at West Valley High School in Fairbanks, became inspired to offer students the chance to become pilots by his own love of aviation. After taking a "discovery flight" as a gift from his wife, he went on to become a pilot and certified flight instructor himself.

A photograph of a yellow biplane with the word 'FAIRBANKS' written on its fuselage. The plane is suspended in a museum or hangar, with other aircraft visible in the background.



WORKFORCE AWARENESS





EDUCATOR STORIES



Since beginning his Alaska journey, Dale has been honored with several recognitions, such as the Individual of the Year for Inclusive Practices by the Governor's Council on Disability and Special Education in Alaska (2024), Educator of the Year Honoree 2024, and the First Lady Volunteer of the Year 2025 in the state of Alaska.



Dale Ebcas ~ Kuspuck School District

INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS

2025 Visa Data for Alaska Educators



Catherine- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District



Joby – Yukon Koyukuk School District

HOW TO CREATE A CLASSROOM THAT WORKS

Fall Professional Development for New to Alaska Educators



Alaska Staff Development Network

Set up your classroom for success! Join us for a series of professional learning opportunities with Safe and Civil Schools to explore classroom management strategies that encourage student success. Educators are invited to attend one or all activities.

LEND-A-Hand Club for International SPED Educators

Join Our Special Education Professional Learning Community

Peer-to-Peer Support to Thrive in Alaska

Are you an internationally-recruited special education teacher teaching in Alaska?

You're not alone in this journey. Join the Lend-A-Hand Club, a professional learning community specifically designed for educators like you—those who bring incredible experience from abroad and are navigating the unique landscape of Alaska's special education system.



SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION



'Kinesthetic and Authentic Learning through Haiku Poetry' by Kirk Bergen

Home → Literacy → 'Kinesthetic and Authentic Learning through Haiku Poetry' by Kirk Bergen

ouralaskanschools on April 30, 2024


COMMON LOON
THEY EAT FISH AND MORE.
THE FEATHERS ARE WATERPROOF.
THEY HAVE BABY LOONS.

DOMONIC CLEVELAND
4TH GRADE
SELAWIK



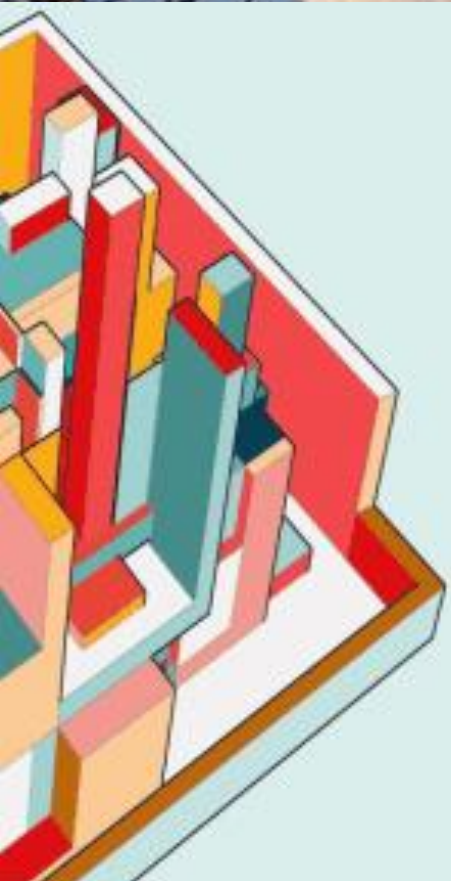
Children absolutely love learning and studying anything having to do with animals. They are more focused and tuned in to the learning process visually and auditorily and are excited to learn more with photos, videos, text, sound, conversation, and dialogue with the introduction to the topic.

SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION



AMAZING PTARMIGAN
FAT WHITE PRETTY BIRD.
EATS BERRIES, TWIGS, AND INSECTS.
PTARMIGANS ARE CUTE.

ALVIN WALTON
4TH GRADE
SELAWIK



OUTRAGEOUS PACIFIC LOON
(MALGI)

THEY ARE SO PRETTY.
THEY CAN SWIM 200 FEET.
THEY SWIM FAST ON LAKES.

TILLMAN FOSTER JR.
4TH GRADE
SELAWIK





ARTS AND CULTURE



'Culture, Collaboration and Creativity!'
by Shelli Franckowiak, 2022 Alaska
Elementary Art Teacher of the Year

Home → Charter → 'Culture, Collaboration and Creativity!' by Shelli Franckowiak, 2022
Alaska Elementary Art Teacher of the Year

 ouralaskanschools on October 26, 2022



To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, 4th and 5th grade artists at Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School in Wasilla, AK created a 160 foot long alfombra de aserrin (sawdust carpet) on our school's front sidewalk.

ARTS AND CULTURE





ARTS AND CULTURE



'Cultural Exchange at the Heart of Teaching Success' by Juvy Pamunag

Home → Academics → 'Cultural Exchange at the Heart of Teaching Success' by Juvy Pamunag

ouralaskanschools on May 10, 2023

Uvlaalluataq! (Good morning in Iñupiaq)
Maayong Buntag! (Good morning in Bisaya)

My Inupiaq Name...

- Traditional names hold great respect and honor. Many Inuit have close connections with the person who named them, as well as people who have the same name.
- Traditional names can carry great responsibility with the belief that children can share physical and personality traits with their namesake.

"I am named after my aunt, Savaq Tictate who passed on. She was from Ambler, AK. I am related to her from the father's side."

Saiiaq

-My family

Shungnak School is a culturally responsive institution where Iñupiaq language is present in everyday instruction.

ARTS AND CULTURE





ARTS AND CULTURE



ARTS AND CULTURE



SUPPORTING ALASKA'S EDUCATORS

- *Representing education leaders - Superintendents, Elementary and Secondary School Principals, School Business Officials and Special Education Directors*
- *Support Educator Retention and Recruitment through AERRC*
- *Provide professional development to all Alaskan Educators through the Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN)*

ALASKA COUNCIL



OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

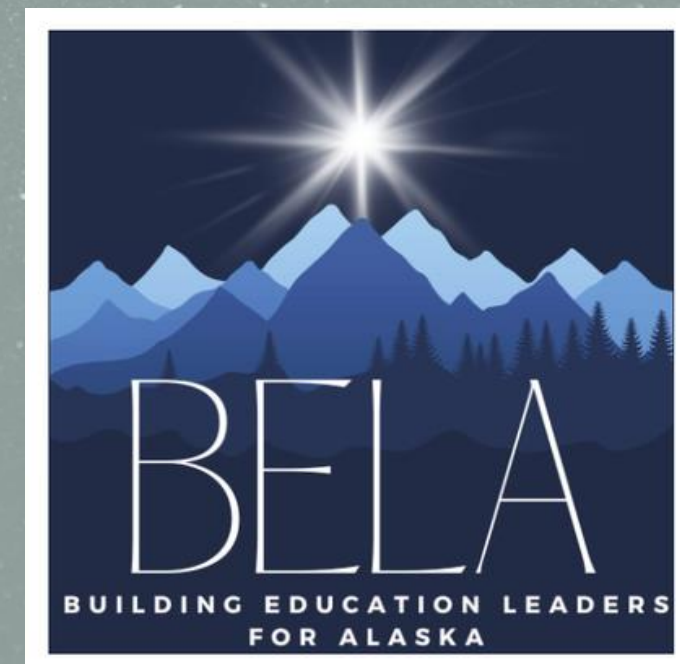


ALASKA COUNCIL



OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

WRAP AROUND SERVICES



TRR ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhancing Recruitment Efforts	Creating Paraprofessional Pathways	Streamlining Certification
Recruitment Audit & Solutions	Grow Your Own & Alternative Certification Programs	Modernize Certification System
Restructure AT&P and Provide Additional Recruitment Services	Resources for Additional Pathways	Reciprocity for all States
Support Additional Pathways		AK Studies & Multicultural Coursework Flexibility
Restructuring Retirement Options	Strengthening Working Conditions	Developing Leadership
Restructuring TRS & PERS	Create System's Alignment	Organizational Health Systems
Financial Education	Measure Working Conditions	Administrator Mentoring
	Financial Opportunities	Teacher Feedback on Principals



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US



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