

Site Report – Meshik – February, 2026

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Nicole Metzgar, Principal
JW Newton, Head Teacher

Photos & Description of Activities and Events



Personnel Update

Teachers:

K-3 Rosemary Sysak (Ms. Sysak was a student teacher at Newhalen Fall 2025)

4-7 Laurent Seiter (Second year teacher with LPSD, Technology Liaison, BBNC Community Coordinator).

8-12 JW Newton (Third year teacher currently serving as Head Teacher, Student Government/School Store Coordinator).

Katie Schmitt - Student Teacher with an emphasis on ELA (5-12) and Special Education (K-12). She is primarily working with Lauren but will also satisfy Special Education requirements with JW and Rosemary. Katie is also coordinating Night Gym.

Classified:

Natalie Lind - cook, bus driver, custodial duties

Daisy O'Domin - custodial duties (temporary)

Classroom Highlights

Elementary students are strengthening early reading and writing skills through CKLA curriculum, using hands-on activities to explore math concepts, developing positive classroom routines and encouraging collaboration across all elementary grade levels.

Middle School students are focused on a variety of topics and interests including culturally relevant art exercises, in addition to Aluttiq dance and music. Several students are also engaged with distance courses and Amplify Tutoring.

Secondary students are engaged with distance courses addressing Math and ELA. Current classroom instruction includes Alaska History, World History/International Relations, and Biology, in addition to Technology and Cultural Awareness. Students are also engaged in all aspects of our school store and fund raising activities.

Grade 3-10 students are preparing for state testing to begin March 30.

LSAC Activity

LSAC met on February 4th.

Members include: President Toni Christensen, Vice President Jaclyn Christensen, Secretary Tisha Kalmakoff, and Member Maxine Christensen.

The next LSAC meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2026.

Community Engagement

The school and community worked together to host LPSD's District 3 Man Jamboree. The event was a great success and well attended. Other recent activities include Movie Night, after school art projects, basketball scrimmages and cooking/baking fundraising events. The school also had a Valentine's Date Night which was well attended.

Professional Development

Our K-5 teachers are learning about a new ELA program called CKLA. They are piloting the program this spring and will give feedback and recommendations to LPSD on how well CKLA works in a multi level LPSD classroom.

Meshik teachers met with VOA Alaska via zoom to learn about Complex Trauma on Friday, 3/6.

Pupil % Attendance K-12

Meshik School's total enrollment is at 19 students.

February attendance rate was 90%

Meshik School has 5 students who have 90% or higher attendance for the entire school year.

Student and Staff Safety

The playground on the school property is rusty and falling apart. Students do not go on it. The school is working with the local community to remove it from school property.

JW Newton recently recertified as an Emergency Medical Responder/Emergency Trauma Technician. He is currently working towards Instructor certification.

Other

Beginning Fall 2026 Meshik and Newhalen students will begin a two year collaborative project led by Appalachian State University. The project is titled "The Empathic Planet: Harnessing Immersive 360° Videos to Amplify Environmental Awareness & Engagement in Youth" and will also include schools from North Carolina and South Carolina.

Nicole Metzgar visited Meshik School Feb 16-18 and March 2-4.