

Site Report – Meshik – April, 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:

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 Aluttig dance and music. Several students are also engaged with distance courses and Amplify Tutoring. Students also worked on exercises related to volcanos and explored the geologic history of Mount Veniaminof, a local stratovolcano.

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.

LSAC Activity

LSAC members are very active in the school community. We appreciate the way they give guidance and support to Meshik School whenever it is needed.

Community Engagement

April was an active month at Meshik. We began the month with "Burgers and Bounce." The first Friday of every month Meshik students cook burgers for the community while the kids, and some adults, enjoy the new bounce house purchased by the Village of Port Heiden. On April 4th Lauren Seiter, in association with BBNC, hosted a drum making and painting event at Meshik. The event was well attended and we hope to do

many more such activities in the future. On April 5 we hosted the annual Easter egg hunt and are still finding them around the school. Finally, on April 25th Meshik hosted a graduation ceremony and pot luck.

Professional Development

JW Newton was recently accepted into UAA's Educational Leadership Program. He also obtained his cert to be a first aide instructor.

Lauren Seiter attended the Language Summit in Naknek April 24-25.

Pupil % Attendance K-12

Meshik School's total enrollment is at 19 students.
Meshik School attendance for the year was 74.92%.

Student and Staff Safety

The playground is rusty and falling apart. Students can not play on it.

Other

Meshik School would like to thank the Village of Port Heiden for the purchase of new items for our school. Items include new tables, desks, chairs, kitchen equipment and gym accessories. We are very appreciative.

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 April 6-8 and May 6-9