



April 22, 2022

Hello, Wrangell Public Schools Education Community.

The Wrangell Community continues to face an outbreak of COVID in both the community and our schools. The students and staff have faced many challenges during the last few years and it has been great to see the dedication from the staff, students, and educational community. Everyone, especially the WPS staff have given up so much to provide as seamless an educational program as possible under severe adversity.

First, I would like to thank the families who have continued to follow the “Symptom-Free Schools” policy to keep as much illness out of our classrooms as possible.

Second, I would like to thank all of the families that have taken advantage of our home tests or our onsite Test-To-Stay program so that we can keep students in school as much as possible while protecting our staff and other students.

Third, the Wrangell Public Schools want to thank all of the individuals and groups that have given their time, energy, and support to their student’s education and their growth as individuals. Our seniors who graduate this year will have spent a majority of their high school during disruptive times. So on May 20th we will want to celebrate our graduates, and on May 25th we want to celebrate all of our students that have been challenged but ended successfully during the 2021-2022 school year and are learning more during the summer to bring back to their classes during the 2022-2023 year!

Lastly, we need to take a step back and appreciate all of the additional work that your WPS staff has been putting in. Whether it is covering other teacher’s classrooms, filling in as substitutes, volunteering for everything imaginable and vigilantly following practices that were keeping our doors open and educational opportunities available. Combining classes, covering unfilled positions and meeting the needs of their students time and time again. From all corners of the district and in each position there has been great sacrifice to keep our schools not only open but running as smoothly as possible. I personally encourage you to thank your WPSD

Staff, Teachers, Substitutes, Volunteers, and Students for working so hard to make this year a success. As we approach five weeks left before summer we have one very big request.

All year we have been searching for Guest Teachers and Aides (Substitutes), and also have had open permanent positions but many times we are facing a shortage of people who are available to take the daily positions or applicants for the paraprofessional jobs. This requires the staff to combine classes, close offices, or give up time needed to provide the best educational opportunities that would be possible in the Wrangell Public Schools. Although the educators and staff of the Wrangell Public Schools have continued to do these things the last two years we are at a critical juncture that will impact the last five weeks.

As we have had number of unfilled positions over the last month we need to continue looking at the need to move toward Distance Learning. We have worked very hard to keep our schools open during mitigation and adversity but without our educational staff it will be hard to meet the true Social Emotional Learning and needs of our students. However.... You can Help!

Please take a role in the education of Wrangell's future! We need Substitute Teachers in all buildings! We still have permanent positions at Evergreen Elementary School to close out the year and continue to meet the new challenges in the Fall. Play a role in the education of your community and see the true difference our Wrangell schools are making. Be part of the WPS Team! We encourage you to visit our buildings, talk with staff, and students about how you can be involved in keeping Wrangell's Schools open and active!

Interested in helping in the Wrangell Educational Community as a Substitute, Volunteer, and Joining the wonderful WPS Staff?

Contact: Kim Powell - ([kpowell@wpsd.us](mailto:kpowell@wpsd.us)) or Myself ([bburr@wpsd.us](mailto:bburr@wpsd.us))  
Bob Davis - ([bdavis@wpsd.us](mailto:bdavis@wpsd.us)) - Stikine Middle and Wrangell High School  
Jenn Miller - ([jmiller@wpsd.us](mailto:jmiller@wpsd.us)) - Evergreen Elementary School

Link to open paraprofessional positions - <https://www.wpsd.us/domain/71> or stop into the District Office or Any of our schools and ask how you can help in the future of Wrangell!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Burr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Superintendent  
Wrangell Public Schools