

2024-25 Superintendent Messages

October 1, 2024

It is with great enthusiasm and honor that I address you as the new interim superintendent of Anchorage Public School. As I step into this role, I am filled with optimism about the bright future of our exceptional school district. Anchorage Public School has long been recognized for its commitment to excellence, and I am eager to build upon the strong foundation that currently exists. At the heart of our success is our unwavering focus on doing what is best for students. I am committed to maintaining a solid transition of leadership, now and in the spring.

In October, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Roettger and I plan to spend time in our classrooms to observe our students and teachers in action! Certainly, we will observe high-quality teaching and optimal learning environments. Anchorage's reputation for academic excellence is widely known in our state and we want to continue challenging our students to achieve at high levels. Nurturing the whole child and providing opportunities for a well-rounded education are a top priority. High expectations remain as students will be met at their point of need and prepare for the next level of their education.

My goals for the next nine months include focusing on ways we can increase timely communication and building unity among all stakeholders. Strength lies in the bonds between our students, our employees, our parents/families, our board of education, and the wider Anchorage community. When choosing one of the house systems to join, I was drawn to the story of the Bellewood Bears; this house will focus on unity. The Evergreen Crocs will model resiliency in their hopefulness and ability to endure. The Ridge Raptors will show us what it means to aspire as they strive for excellence, set goals, and dream big! As a team, we are stronger and can overcome any challenge and achieve remarkable things.

Your input and involvement are crucial to our success, and I encourage you to reach out with your ideas and feedback. Let's elevate Anchorage Public School to even greater heights! Thank you for your warm welcome and ongoing support. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and months as we embark on this exciting journey together.

Moving Forward,
Sharla Six

November 1, 2024

As we enter the month of November, a time traditionally associated with gratitude and reflection, I want to take a moment to emphasize the values of kindness and generosity that are essential to our school community. Thank you for showing me kindness and generosity through your words and deeds. I am thankful and blessed.

I'm certain many, if not all, parents ask their child about their school day. In the spirit of fostering a nurturing environment, I would like to encourage you to engage with your child by asking, "Who did you help today?" Adding this simple question can open up meaningful conversations about their experiences and promote a culture of support and empathy.

As Aesop reminds us, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." When students recognize the importance of helping one another, they not only enhance their own social and emotional skills but also contribute to a positive atmosphere in our school. The children of Anchorage are extremely polite and well-mannered. As parents, you've equipped them with many tools they need to be successful. If your child has a "go-to" kindness strategy, embolden them to try a new way to practice and grow:

- **Compliments:** Encourage your child to give (and receive) sincere compliments from the heart.
- **Helping Hands:** Suggest they assist someone struggling with a task.
- **Listening Ear:** Remind them to be a good listener when a friend needs to talk.
- **Sharing:** Urge them to share with those in need.
- **Inviting Others:** Recommend they include classmates in games or activities, especially those who may feel left out.
- **Encouragement:** Teach them to cheer on peers during activities or when they're facing challenges.
- **Stand Up Against Bullying:** Persuade them to support someone who is being bullied or encourage kindness in their peer groups.
- **Thanking Teachers:** Support them in writing notes of appreciation.
- **Helping In Classrooms or in School Areas:** Advise them how to assist us in keeping classrooms and shared areas clean and ready for the next set of students.
- **Volunteering for Events:** (We have the best models.) Inspire them and as they notice the ways you give back to the community, this will become instilled in them for the future!

Let's actively make a difference in each other's lives. Thank you for your continued support in promoting these values. Together, we can contribute to a safe environment where every child feels valued and empowered.

Loving every moment,
Sharla Six

December 1, 2024

As we move into the final month of the year, December provides a natural time for reflect gratitude, and, most importantly, giving. The holiday season is often associated with joy and celebration, but it is also a time to recognize the power of kindness and service to others. At Anchorage, we take pride in our strong sense of community, and this month, I encourage each of us to embrace the spirit of giving—whether through small acts of kindness or larger efforts to support those in need.

Lending a Hand: A Core Value

One of the most important lessons we can teach our students is the value of helping others. Whether it's lending a hand to a friend, supporting a neighbor, or volunteering time for a good cause, these acts of service are not only a reflection of our character but also a means of strengthening o connections. In a time when the world can sometimes feel divided, the simple act of kindness can create a ripple effect that leads to greater unity and understanding. I am hopeful 2025 can be a year of appreciation and harmony.

At Anchorage, we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of students, teachers, and families who regularly go above and beyond to support one another. From the work of our Community Connections Club, to those informal moments when you see someone in need and offer a helping hand, each act of service makes a difference.

The Impact of Service

Acts of service can be transformative. They not only help the recipient but also bring a sense of fulfillment and purpose to those who give. Whether it's through a community event, helping neighbor shovel snow, or even something as simple as checking in with a friend, these moments remind us that we are all connected, and that together, we can accomplish so much more.

A Challenge for December

As we approach the holiday season, I challenge all of us—students, staff, and families—to find a way to serve others this month. It could be through a community event, a school initiative, or simply by taking a moment to check in on someone who might be struggling. Each act of service, no matter how big or small, is an opportunity to make a positive impact.

Let's finish this year strong by embracing the values of generosity, kindness, and community service that make Anchorage such a special place. Together, we can continue to create an environment where everyone feels supported, valued, and loved.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyful holiday season. Thank you for your continued support and for all the ways you lend a hand to make Anchorage a wonderful place to live, learn, and thrive.

Warm regards,
Sharla Six

January 1, 2025

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for our students, staff, and families in Anchorage Public School. The new year brings a fresh start and a chance for each of us to renew our commitment to our school community and the values that make Anchorage such a vibrant place to learn and grow.

As your superintendent, I encourage all of us to anchor ourselves in the principles that guide our school culture. The “Big Three” will continue to serve as our compass: Making Smart Decisions, Treating Others Right, and Maximizing Our Potential. These principles are more than just words; they are the foundation of our success, both as individuals and as a community.

Making Smart Decisions

Anchors hold firm even in the toughest of storms. Just as an anchor keeps a ship grounded, our ability to make wise decisions anchors us in strength and purpose. This year, let’s commit to making choices that reflect our best selves—whether in our academic pursuits, in the way we treat each other, or in how we approach challenges. Thoughtful decision-making will keep us steady and on course.

Treating Others Right

Just as our anchors work together to support a vessel, we too must support one another. Treating others with kindness, respect, and empathy is essential to building the strong, supportive environment that our community thrives on. When we treat others right, we help strengthen the bonds that unite us all—students, staff, and families alike.

Maximizing Our Potential

Every student in Anchorage has boundless potential. This year, let’s resolve to push ourselves further, to reach higher, and to be the very best we can be. Just as an anchor allows a ship to safely navigate its journey, we must use our skills, knowledge, and determination to navigate the year ahead. When we maximize our potential, we create opportunities not only for ourselves but also for those around us.

As we move forward into 2025, let us take inspiration from our anchor mascot—a symbol of stability, strength, and perseverance. The challenges ahead will undoubtedly test us, but just as an anchor secures a ship through turbulent waters, we will be anchored in the values that guide us. Together, we will make smart decisions, treat others right, and maximize our potential.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making Anchorage Public School a place where every student has the chance to succeed. I look forward to seeing all of the wonderful things we will accomplish together in 2025. Anchors aweigh!

Warm regards,
Sharla Six

February 1, 2025

Dear Anchorage Families, Staff, and Community Members,

In February, I am reminded of the incredible strength of the relationships we build within our school community. Our work should be driven by the belief that when we come together—families, staff, and students—we create an environment where every individual can thrive. In our actions, we should focus on deepening these relationships, creating positive experiences for our students, and ensuring that we have ample opportunities for open dialogue and collaboration.

Relationships are the cornerstone of everything we do. It's the foundation for learning, growth, and success. Whether it's the bond between a teacher and student, the support between parents and educators, or the connections we cultivate as a broader community, these relationships empower us to achieve shared goals. We recognize that when we work in partnership, we are better equipped to create a school environment where every student feels seen, heard, valued, and loved. In this spirit, I invite each of you to continue fostering these meaningful connections and to help us strengthen the sense of belonging within Anchorage Public School.

As part of our commitment to these powerful relationships, we are actively seeking opportunities for increased dialogue between our families and school leadership. Your thoughts, ideas, and concerns matter deeply to us, and we believe that an open line of communication creates a pathway for mutual understanding and shared solutions. Throughout the spring semester, we hope to host several opportunities to invite you into conversations where we can listen, learn, and engage in meaningful thought partnerships. These discussions will not only give us a chance to share updates but also provide a platform for you to express what's important to you, ask questions, and collaborate on ways to further improve our school environment. Please know my door is always open for problem solving conversations, celebrations, and reflections.

We're also eager to hear from you about how we can make your involvement more accessible and impactful. Whether through volunteering, attending events, or providing input on school activities, there are countless ways we can build stronger partnerships. Your insight and collaboration are critical in shaping the experiences of our students and ensuring they have the resources and support they need to succeed. Creating this culture of collaboration is key to continuous improvement. We recognize that every conversation, every partnership, and every shared idea helps us grow as a school community.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of Anchorage Public Schools. I am confident that by strengthening our relationships and working together with a spirit of collaboration and openness, we will continue to build a thriving and inclusive school environment where all students can reach their fullest potential.

I look forward to hearing from you and working alongside you to continue this important work.

Respectfully,

Sharla Six, Interim Superintendent, Anchorage Public School

April 8, 2025

Dear Anchorage Families,

As we return from spring break, I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight an issue that can affect the well-being and success of our students. The subject of bullying comes up in various conversations with our parents and staff. Just this week, a stakeholder mentioned the need to address this topic in the principal selection survey comments. This is troubling. Bullying should not be a recurring theme in our close-knit community. I'm told it's covert and often goes unnoticed.

At Anchorage Public Schools, we are committed to ensuring that every student feels safe, supported, and valued in our community. This commitment is especially important as we work together to prevent and address bullying in all forms. Together, we can work to prevent bullying and promote kindness and empathy within our community.

Why Bullying Prevention Matters

Bullying can have a lasting impact on students' mental health, self-esteem, and academic performance. Our priority is to create a school environment where students are empowered to be themselves, and where kindness, respect, and inclusivity are at the heart of everything we do. We respect our differences. It's important for every student to feel safe at school—free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination. By fostering a culture of respect and understanding, we can support students' emotional well-being and ensure they have the tools they need to succeed.

Fine-Tuning Our Approach to Bullying Prevention

The Learning Environment Committee will begin including this topic as a standing agenda item at their committee meetings. Our school's council will be charging this committee with ways to combat and prevent bullying in our school. There are programming resources to research and consider. For example, Rachel's Challenge, is a bullying prevention program aimed at promoting kindness and empathy. Rachel's Challenge encourages students to make a positive difference by committing to acts of kindness and compassion. Through assemblies, classroom activities, and ongoing discussions, we can work to inspire students to stand up for others, create positive connections, and take responsibility for fostering a respectful and caring school environment. Kindness and empathy should be a cornerstone of our school's culture.

We need to host more activities focused on raising awareness about bullying, its effects, and how to prevent it. Students should have the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about empathy, inclusivity, and respect. We also encourage families to join

the conversation at home by talking about the importance of kindness, kindness as a choice, and how we can make a difference together.

Have we intentionally taught the positive ways to stand up for each other? An important part of prevention is ensuring that all students know how to report bullying and that they feel safe doing so. We want to empower our students to be “upstanders”—those who speak out against bullying and support their peers. We want students to know that standing up for others is not only the right thing to do but that they can make a real difference in creating a positive school culture. It’s been shared that we are so small that sometimes our children can feel excluded when they aren’t invited to parties or special events outside of school. This may be difficult to combat as everyone can invite who they want, whenever they want, to what they want. How can we practice inclusivity in other ways so that even when a child may not receive an invitation outside of school, they still feel a sense of belonging and can feel valued? Through classroom activities, school-wide events, or clubs—we can be more inclusive and supportive in our school. These opportunities could lessen the sting of missed invitations.

How You Can Help at Home

Parents and guardians are vital partners in the effort to prevent bullying. Here are some ways you can support our efforts at home:

- **Start Conversations Early:** Open a conversation with your child about bullying. Ask them how they’re feeling, who they’re spending time with at school, and whether they’ve witnessed or experienced bullying. Make sure they feel comfortable sharing any concerns. Encourage them to speak up if they witness or experience bullying and facilitate an openness with you about their feelings and any concerns they may have.
- **Model Respect and Kindness:** Children often look to adults for guidance on how to navigate conflicts. Be a positive role model by demonstrating kindness, respect, and empathy in your everyday interactions. Show them how you handle disagreements rationally and calmly. Children learn what they live.
- **Teach Conflict Resolution Skills:** Help your child understand how to resolve conflicts peacefully. Teach them how to express themselves respectfully, use “I” statements, and seek help when needed. The ability to resolve conflicts in a healthy way is a key skill in preventing bullying and promoting positive relationships.
- **Monitor Social Media and Online Activity:** Bullying doesn’t just happen in person—it can occur online as well. Stay involved in your child’s digital life by monitoring their social media accounts, discussing appropriate online behavior, and encouraging them to be kind and respectful in their interactions online. *For future reference, just say no to the Snap Chat application.* You won’t regret it!
- **Be Supportive if Your Child is Targeted:** If your child is experiencing bullying, it’s essential to take their feelings seriously. Listen to them without judgment, and

reassure them that it's not their fault. Work with school staff to address the issue, and encourage your child to keep talking to you about their feelings and experiences. Please report your concerns as soon as possible.

- **Encourage Positive Friendships:** Help your child build strong, supportive friendships. Encourage them to spend time with peers who share positive values and who can support them when faced with challenges. Friendships based on kindness and mutual respect are essential for a child's emotional well-being.
- **Know the Signs of Bullying:** Sometimes children may be reluctant to speak up about bullying. Be aware of signs such as withdrawal, changes in behavior, or unexplained physical symptoms (e.g., stomachaches or headaches). If you notice any of these signs, talk to your child and reach out to school staff for support.
- **Get Involved:** Consider joining our efforts to promote kindness and respect in our school. We will have opportunities for families to participate in anti-bullying initiatives in future months. Volunteering helps show your child that you are actively involved in their well-being and that you are committed to creating a positive school culture.

Additional Resources for Families

Addressing bullying is a partnership and there are many resources available to help support our students and families. Here are a few resources you can use:

- **StopBullying.gov:** Offers resources for parents, educators, and students on how to prevent and respond to bullying.
- **PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center:** Provides tips and tools to create a positive, inclusive school culture.
- **Rachel's Challenge:** Learn more about how Rachel's Challenge is changing school environments through compassion and kindness. Let us know if you think this is a program we should consider in our school.

We also encourage families to speak with our school counselor, Sara Wiles. She is available to provide additional support and guidance. Together, we can help ensure that all students feel safe, supported, and empowered.

Looking Ahead

As we continue our work in creating a positive and respectful environment at Anchorage Public School, we appreciate your support and partnership. We are all responsible for creating a school culture where bullying has no place. By working together, we can inspire students to be kind, inclusive, and caring citizens—both inside and outside of school.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the well-being of our students and for your continued support of Anchorage Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Sharla Six
Interim Superintendent, Anchorage Public Schools

May 8, 2025

Anchor Families,

As we wrap up the final weeks of school, we are excitedly planning for next school year!

In an effort to quickly share news and information as it happens, I wanted to share the following updates. I thought it would be helpful to provide clarification and context around next year's schedule, our allocations, and our tentative budget currently being developed for approval later this month.

As I discussed at Tuesday's board meeting, there are several factors that require us to be more intentional in maximizing our resources:

1. Last year's draft budget in May was based upon tax collection numbers from KDE that were not fully accurate. This isn't anyone's fault and we discovered this during the tax recall.
2. Mold Remediation costs were significant, though the board has for years built in strong contingencies to cover large unforeseen expenses.
3. SEEK shortfall—every school district in Kentucky did not receive the amount they were promised from the state this year.

These things impact the amount of money we are carrying over to next year. We are currently working from the Tentative May budget, which, as in every school district, is a conservative draft. This protects us.

We should also share our school district does not have any bonds. We may be the only district in KY without debt. We are currently in a position where we do not have to borrow money to do facilities upgrades. The auditorium renovation dollars come from our facilities money that can't be used for personnel or instructional use. These funds are set aside exclusively for facilities. It will soon be time for a new District Facilities Plan when a committee (made up of members from school, district, and community) will make decisions about future facilities upgrades that will become our next priority considerations.

After analysis of the current schedule and feedback from the schedule committee, Bart and I were able to share a schedule with staff on Monday that allows us to maximize our resources next year and save money at the same time.

Below are highlights of the schedule that I would like to share:

1. The schedule is efficient—maximizing instructional time comparatively to the number of instructional staff we employ.

2. Our teachers and interventionists are very skilled and we trust them to identify what is needed most from an instructional standpoint, even if intervention and enrichment do not always occur during Anchor Time.
3. Middle school schedule includes an alignment of minutes for core subjects.
4. Increased number of electives will be offered at the middle school level, including the possibility of high engagement Paxton-Patterson labs. (Elective lists coming soon! This will occur after the regular May 21 board meeting as there are budget connections to electives.)
5. Creates additional opportunities for small group instruction.
6. Enhances Anchor Time to provide more enrichment for students not necessarily in intervention.
7. Interventionists will work with classroom teachers to determine services for each child (frequency, duration, etc.).
8. Includes weekly visits to the innovation lab, extra PE, and a dedicated library time.
9. Returning to weekly Essential Arts for elementary students.
10. Increased direct GT instruction for our identified children, including focused Arts enhancements for children Identified as Gifted in Arts starting at grade 4.
11. Intentionality to align with our vision of preparing lifelong learners.

Our board approved staff allocations on Tuesday and is working hard to protect our staff. We have a very generous allocation and we fund classrooms based on a 20:1 ratio. Unlike other districts, our 20:1 ratio does not include our wonderful art, music, physical education, Spanish, innovation lab or technology teachers, nor our valuable support staff. It is a very transparent way to fund classroom numbers and prevents one grade getting extra when another grade does not get the same. Again, our numbers are generous. For example, according to our middle school enrollment, state laws would require us to provide 4.5 teachers and we provide 8.2; the 8.2 doesn't include the essential arts teachers and additional support positions. We are not cutting staff, but we are looking at certifications to determine who is certified at what levels in an effort to utilize our full potential.

Superintendents are charged with maximizing the resources in the district they serve. The board and I are working very hard to be good stewards of your tax dollars, while providing an optimal schedule for the 2025-2026 school year.

My door is always open and I can take any questions you may have by email or phone.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have specific questions related to your child.

Respectfully,

Sharla Six
Interim Superintendent

Anchorage Public School
www.anchorage-school.org