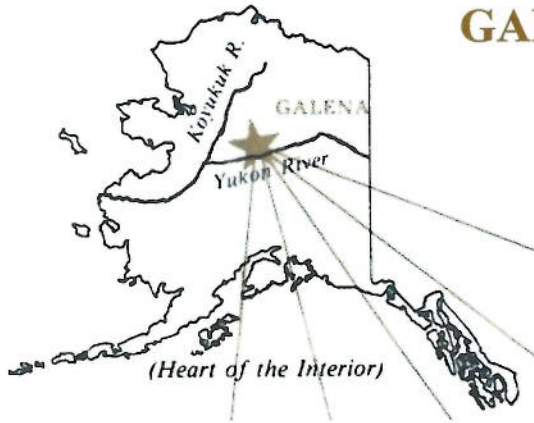


GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 299
GALENA, ALASKA 99741
PHONE (907) 656-1205
FAX (907) 656-2238

SUPERINTENDENT
Jim Merriner



October 18, 2018

Dear GCSD Families and Community Members:

October is an important month for school districts across Alaska because it is the foundational period for determining each school district's state funding for the school year. The student count period this year runs from October 1 to October 26. As our enrollment currently stands, GCSD is anticipating our largest enrollment district-wide since the district's inception in 1974. This is extremely important, especially given the state's current economic downturn. At the end of the last legislative session, K-12 public education was extremely fortunate; school districts received a small funding increase – not enough to keep up with inflationary costs for salaries, benefits, utilities, insurance, etc., but every little bit helps after a number of years of “flat funding.” Many school districts throughout the state have unfortunately had to cut student programs to ensure that their revenues balanced with their expenditures. GCSD has not cut any programs because our increasing enrollment has offset inflationary realities. I believe our continued increased enrollment is a direct result of the choices we have proudly provided our families, the partnerships we have developed with our families, and the high quality staff that GCSD has been fortunate to attract to serve our families and students. Because of GCSD's robust enrollment, we thankfully are able to continue providing the school choice programs of excellence for which we are renowned.

October is also an important month because of local elections. America's public education system is founded on the belief that the best decisions are made at the local level. During the October elections, GCSD welcomed new Board member Shirley Cleaver (Seat A) and new Board member Jenny “Boomer” Bryant (Seat B). Both of these Board members are graduates of GCSD and GCSD is pleased that they have both stepped up to represent all of our stakeholders as they provide the governance and policy leadership to shape the growth of the district. The October Board meeting is also the month that the GCSD Board reorganizes its leadership positions. The GCSD Board reorganized in the following manner:

- Jenny “Boomer” Bryant – GCSD Board President
- Charlie Green – GCSD Board Vice President
- Shirley Cleaver – GCSD Board Treasurer
- Fred Huntington – GCSD Board Secretary
- Peter “Bubba” Aloysius – Board Member
- Angelica Firmin – GCSD Student Board Representative

In closing, GCSD delights to serve all of our new and returning families and students. Please contact me at the phone number above or the email address below if you would like to discuss any aspect of this letter in greater detail or if you would like more information on any district initiative.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Merriner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Merriner, GCSD Superintendent
Email: jim.merriner@galenanet.com