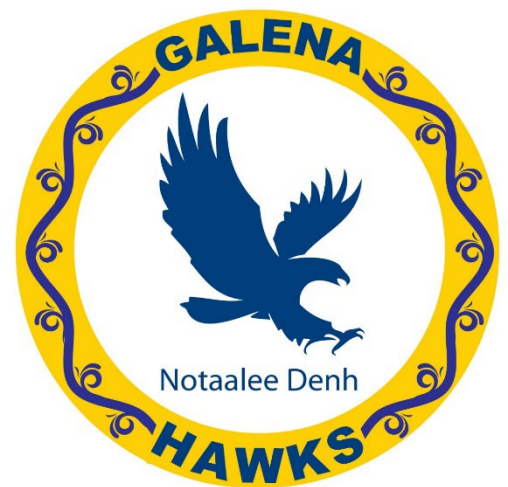


Welcome to the Galena City School District

INFORMATION PACKET FOR NEW AND PROSPECTIVE HIRES

SCHOOL YEAR 2023/24



Welcome

Welcome to Galena, Alaska, home of the Galena Hawks! Hopefully this packet will help you decide to join us, or, if you have already decided to join us, this will make it easier for you to get to us. We are happy to have you join us.

Our History

Although Galena is one of the larger communities in interior Alaska today, it did not exist as even a village before 1920. There was a traditional fishcamp at nearby Henry's Point, but the only village was Loudon, located 14 miles upriver from present day Galena. People living in Loudon began to build rafts of their cabin logs and move their belongings down to Galena in 1920. The Koyukon Athabascan name for Galena is *Nolaalee Denh*, which means 'where the current flows around'.

There seems to have been two reasons for the move from Loudon to Galena, better wood supply for steamboats, which was a major source of income for families along the river, and the opening of a mine south of Galena.

School first came to Galena in 1928; Earnest Peck was the first teacher. In 1930, Galena residents built a log schoolhouse. Later teachers included Asa Beamer and local Charlie Evans.

For many years, the BIA operated the school offering grades 1-8. For continuing education beyond the 8th grade, many parents sent their children to boarding schools.

Galena parents and community members worked hard to become an independent school district in 1974, with the express goal of keeping control of the community school and their children's education in Galena. They wanted the very best education possible for our children. It is viewed as the responsibility of the community to help guide and mentor children. The new school was built in New Town in 1978 for grades 1-12.

We are incredibly proud of the efforts and determination of so many to make Galena City School a reality. Nolaalee Denh pride, the home of the Hawks.

The people of Galena are Koyukon Athabascan. Culture, tradition and subsistence are important to the residents. Ties to the natural world, land, animals, rivers, fish and birds are deeply rooted in the Athabascan language and culture. It is believed that strengthening the cultural awareness and intergenerational ties between our youth, elders and adults of the village community will build healthy resiliency among our people. These support systems establish cultural identity and anchors our youth as a member of their Tribe.

The cultural Athabascan Values are: self-sufficiency, hard work, care and provision for the family, family relations, unity, humor, honesty, fairness, love for children, sharing, caring, village cooperation, responsibility to village, respect for elders and others, respect for knowledge, wisdom from life experiences, respect for the land, respect for nature, practice of traditions, honor ancestors, and spirituality.

Galena Interior Learning Academy – Our Boarding School

Years ago, Galena was the location of a large military base. Our fifteen minutes of fame came from a mention in the old Matthew Broderick movie, *War Games*. When the military closed the base, over twenty years ago, an enterprising group of people, led by local resident Sidney Huntington, turned the base into a public boarding school. The school not only serves communities all up and down the Yukon but anywhere else in the state as well. Our school is one of three public boarding schools in Alaska, and we are second in size, just behind Mt. Edgecumbe.

Students apply for admission; a committee reviews their applications and interviews likely candidates. The candidates are then reviewed in committee again and selected for or denied admission. The students do not pay

for their flights to and from Galena during the school year; we do. We are different from Mt. Edgecumbe in that.

Galena Interior Learning Academy (the boarding school) and Sidney C. Huntington School together have about 215 PreK-12 students. The elementary/middle school is part of the SHS campus. High school students are bussed back and forth between campuses in the mornings, at lunch, and in the afternoons. Our student population is about 89% Alaska Native, and a little over 40% of our students are ELL students.

Because some of these students have never been away from home, they are often devastatingly homesick. There is always an adjustment period at the beginning of the year, and some students do not make it past the first or second week. The students may come from great schools or not so great schools, so we have classes and programs in place to support them to realize their great potential.

TODAY

Currently, Galena is a town with a permanent population of about 485 people. It is sometimes referred to as a “bush” community, part of the off-the-road system. If you aren’t familiar with Alaska, that means there are no roads connecting Galena to anywhere else. The only way to get here is by plane or boat, and travel by boat to Fairbanks from Galena and back is quite common for many residents. If you travel by plane, you can only get to Galena by small plane. You must go to Anchorage or Fairbanks first (fly or drive), fly from Anchorage to Fairbanks via **Alaska Airlines**, and then on to Galena via **Evert’s** or **Wright’s Air**. See the section on TRAVEL later in this document for more complete information.

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race goes through Galena in alternating years, as does the Tesoro Iron Dog trans-Alaska snowmobile race. Galena is the halfway point of the Yukon 800, an annual summer speedboat race, beginning in Fairbanks and taking place along the Tanana and Yukon Rivers.

Galena has a radio station, KIYU 88.1 with some NPR programs, music, and programs for the river communities. If you want to check it out, their website is www.kiyu.com/wireless

Satellite radio does not work reliably out here except through DISH Network.

TRAVEL

MAKE SURE YOU TELL US IN GALENA WHEN YOU WILL BE ARRIVING. Someone from the school will need to meet you at the airstrip in Galena. There are no cabs or shuttle services in Galena. It is absolutely no trouble to pick you up.

Teaching Staff: We advise you to think seriously about your arrival date, especially during your first year in Galena, because there is not a lot of time between the end of in-service and the first day of school.

Administrators are required to be on duty the first week of August. You can arrive any time after that. Your administrator will get you your keys and will make sure there is someone to meet you and get you to your housing. The sooner you arrive, the better prepared for the school year you will be.

Dorm staff: You are required to arrive at least two weeks before the first day of school. For exact dates each year, contact **Ben Blasco** or **Justin Murrell** Their contact information is found at the end of this packet.

HOW TO GET TO GALENA

From the lower 48 or anywhere else in Alaska, you need to make your way to Fairbanks. You can drive there or fly there, or drive, then fly there.

Alaska Airlines is recommended (www.alaskaair.com) for getting to Alaska. As soon as you can, sign up for **Club 49** on Alaska Airlines. You get two free checked bags (three within Alaska), but you need an Alaska address to join. In the meantime, you can at least sign up for an **Alaska Airlines Mileage Plan** so you can get miles toward future ticket purchases. You will need a mileage plan number anyway for Club 49. Find Club 49 and Mileage Plan information on alaskaair.com. The roads end in Fairbanks, and from there, you will need to use a commercial bush service.

Commercial Bush Services-

- **Wrights Aviation** also flies two/three flights each day. All of those are in single engine Cessna Caravans. They are a great airline to work with, but they limit your baggage to 40#. They are also on the other side of the runway from all of the other main airlines. Wrights has their own frequent flier program. Their website is: <http://www.wrightairservice.com/> Call 907-474-0502 or -0591 for freight, as Wright's also has a cargo service for shipping fresh/frozen food and other shopping items from Fairbanks. Wright's is about a dollar a pound for freight. They are located at 3842 University Ave South, Fairbanks, AK 99709. Their toll-free number is 1-800-478-6779 and the local Galena number is 907-656-2589. As of late 2018, they are also the carrier any UPS shipping you receive.
- **Everts Air**, as well as shipping cargo, flies several flights in and out of Galena Monday to Saturday. Their location in Fairbanks is closest to the airport, so the cab ride to Everts is the cheaper/quicker one after you drop off your rental car. They are located at 5525 Airport Industrial Road. 907-450-2300 or 907-450-2357. Everts flights are early in the morning, and they usually bring your bags/freight at the same time you fly. They also have a frequent flier's program.

Travel within Galena

Galena is spread out, and though we are not connected to anyone else by road, we have local roads that are accessible by car all year round. You will want some form of mechanized transportation no matter where in Galena you live. This is not as critical for dorm staff since you live in a dorm between the student dorm and the dining hall, right in the middle of everything necessary for you to do your job. A vehicle is a choice for you, not a necessity.

- **ATVs:** All-Terrain-Vehicles can be legally driven on our roads. They are easy on gas, easy to transport to Galena (they fit on an airplane), and inexpensive when compared to a new car. They will also give you access to trails that cars would not so easily travel on.
- **Snow machine/Snow-go:** If you are from the lower 48 originally, you know these as snowmobiles. Like ATVs, they are easy to transport here and since the newer ones are all mostly 4-stroke, are easy on gas. They are the best form of ground transport for getting out and seeing the most country. They are becoming more expensive with new machines selling for around \$10,000 and above. You are also limited in the time of year that you can use one. People will start driving them once we get decent snow in November and will continue to drive them up until break-up, sometime around the end of April or the beginning of May, depending on the snowfall and how warm the spring is.

- **Car:** It comes down to how comfortable you want to be. The winter is cold, the summer is dusty, the spring is muddy, the fall is rainy, and a car keeps you inside away from all of that.
 - There are several dealerships in Fairbanks or Anchorage with both used and new cars. As a rule of thumb, if the car is already in Alaska, it will be a little more expensive. Cars can be purchased in the lower 48 for decent prices... but you need to figure in the cost of getting it here, and **it may not be set-up to plug in**, which is necessary here as soon as the temperatures start to get around 0° F.
 - You will also want to keep in mind that our roads are all gravel, except for one little loop on the base campus. In the winter, the roads are covered in packed snow, but they can get icy in late winter when we start to get some temperatures just above freezing during the day. These temperatures melt the snow just enough during the day to leave icy patches at night, so make sure you have decent traction on your tires.
 - A car can be more difficult to get here, but not impossible or even exorbitantly expensive. You will want to have it sent to Galena during the summer on the barge. See SHIPPING for more barge information.
 - Your vehicle needs to be winterized for Galena. You need a **block heater** for the engine, **heating pads** for the *oil pan* and for the *transmission pan*, and you need a **battery blanket** or something to keep the battery warm and charged. All those cords will need to join on a multi-plug cord that will come out from under the hood. That cord needs to be an extreme weather cord.

WEATHER

The weather ranges from the 80's in July and August, to -30 or -50 degrees from December to March. We get quite a bit of snow, and the ground is covered in white between November and April though there have been exceptions.

It can be a little wet at times in the spring and fall, so you should bring rubber boots. You will not see seriously cold weather until sometime in late October or early November, so you can wait to spend money on your winter gear until you have a few paychecks in the bank. If you already have winter gear, bring it, but it's likely that you will not need it until November.

By November, for around town and for traveling to out-of-district activities (the bush planes have very little heat), you will want to own snow pants, winter boots, ice-walkers for your boots, a good winter coat (rated for at least 30 below), headwear, and gloves. A sleeping bag with a good comfortable pad is handy if you travel to other sites as a chaperone or coach.

GEAR

The longer a person lives in Alaska, the more junk he/she acquires. Each season in Alaska requires different stuff...we encourage you to arrive with what you have for the season that you are arriving in. Most new staff and teachers in Galena will be arriving in August. If you plan on hiking, bring some hiking boots, a light fall jacket, and a raincoat. If you plan on hunting in the fall... bring your hunting gear.

- **Clothes for life-** If you already own some good winter gear, don't leave it behind. However, if you don't own winter gear, wait until you arrive and pick the brains of those of us living here. We all have our favorite gear for each time of year. Also see the recommendations under WEATHER.
- **Clothes for work-** Dress for work is pretty laid back/casual Friday. Nice blue jeans and professional looking shirts are the norm. Teachers wear everything from nice dresses or shirts and ties to clean Carhartt's.

MONEY

There are no banks in the town. The only national bank chain you will find in Alaska is Wells-Fargo, but there are several Alaska-based banks in Anchorage and Fairbanks. **Make sure you have a bank account before in-service, as your paycheck is directly deposited into your bank account and you will need to give the payroll department your bank account information.** The payroll people will want a cancelled/voided check or a statement from your bank that has **your name, your full account number, and the routing number.**

Another viable option is AlaskaUSA, which is a credit union. There are numerous locations for it around the state and within Fred Meyer. It is quite easy to transfer money with AlaskaUSA, so many of the students' families have it, as well as many staff members.

You will need a credit card or a debit card for shopping in the town. The stores don't take out-of-town checks and cash is sometimes in short supply.

There are three ATMs in town, one at each of the two stores and one in the local bar, but each charge at least a \$3 fee, and your bank may also charge a fee for withdrawal. Paying \$5 to get \$20 is not fun...or economically feasible overall. You don't **HAVE** to have an Alaska bank if your lower 48 bank has electronic/online banking, and you can get a debit card from them.

Alaska Airlines Visa: Most transactions are completed using a debit or credit card since we have direct deposit (on the 15th and the last working day of each month) and cash feels like a rare thing. I won't tell you how to work your own financial philosophy, but you will want to get set up with some form of debit or credit. An airline affiliated credit card makes a lot of sense for Alaskan teachers with family in the lower 48. Airline miles add up and make expensive travel cheaper. You can get an application for this card from a flight attendant on an AK Airlines flight or through their website. Figure out where and who you will be flying with the most and get their card.

GENERAL SERVICES

Barge Service

Ruby Marine is the barge service and is a great family run business. They make as many trips back and forth up and down the river as they can in a summer, hauling as much stuff as they can. This is the best way to get a car to Galena or anything else that is heavy. Many people from Galena ship in heating fuel, gasoline, and propane through this barge service. Ruby Marine also hauls in our building supplies.

Many local families will do their grocery shopping for the year and ship groceries out in a "fish tote" (plastic commercial tote for handling fish... these are clean and have never seen a fish), containers, or self-made crates. If you're shipping out a car, fill up the car.

Their office is in Nenana (a short trip from Fairbanks by car) and is where they accept all freight. Many companies like Spenard Building Supply, Home Depot, Lowes, etc. will drop a truck load off at the barge landing for a price. They can be found at <http://www.rubymarineinc.com>. Their phone number is 877-478-1062.

Local Stores: We have three stores in Galena, and each has its strengths. Two stores are gas, groceries, etc., and one is an actual hardware store. Before you try to buy everything to fulfill your food needs for an entire year in a big town, consider supporting our local merchants as well. They try very hard to keep a decent array of goods, but if those goods don't sell, we all suffer from a diminished selection.

- **Sweetsirs** is a store located in New Town (SHS side of town). They sell gasoline and fuel oil at their pumps, groceries, and some miscellaneous items. They have a broad selection of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, and dairy. They also rent movies. Their gas pumps can be accessed by credit/debit card 24/7. Sweetsirs helps a bit with the cost of groceries in Galena. If you prepay \$200 or more onto an account, they add 10% to your account. The account you can draw from is now \$220, not \$200. This is only for groceries and is not available to be used for gas or heating oil. They have the better fresh fruit and vegetable selection.
- **AC Store** is located in Old Town (near the post office). They sell gasoline, cigarettes, groceries, and some miscellaneous items. This store also sells wine, beer, and liquor, but on a separate side of the store...after entering go to the right for groceries and to the left for alcohol.
- **Galena Hardware** is located in New Town. If you can't find it at Joey's... you don't need it... or, he'll see about ordering it for you. It is a classic hardware store and has a little bit of everything (this is your chance to experience that, if the one in your hometown closed before you were born). He also sharpens chainsaws. It is worth going in every once in a while, just to see what new stuff he has stocked. His prices are very fair and in some cases rival what you would pay in Fairbanks.

Pool: We have a pool in town This information is from Lynn Betterton, who is our swim team coach: The pool info is on the wireless (KIYU community website) - but generally there is Lap Swim MWF from 6 - 7:15 am and T/Th from 5-6 pm. Open swim changes from summer to winter. In winter it tends to be 7-8:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. (Can't remember summer schedule.) It is a 25 yard pool with 4 swim lanes. The depth ranges from 2 1/2 feet to 4 1/2 feet on the other end, and the deepest part is 6 feet. There is an admission fee of \$5.

Restaurant: The Galena Coffee Shop is located near the school. It is closed on Sunday, opens on Saturday from 11am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm. Hours during the week vary, but they generally come out with a weekly flyer that they leave at both Sweetsirs and the AC. This flyer will have their hours and a listing of lunch specials they offer and they have delicious coffee.

Mail: There is no such thing as home delivery in the bush. Your mail will get dropped off at the post office where you can rent a P.O. Box. You need **TWO forms of ID to get a PO Box**, and since there is no home delivery, your box rental is free, but the key deposit is \$6.

The Post Office hours in Galena are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm for access to postal boxes and other postal services, such as package pick-up, shipping and purchasing stamps. The Post Office is closed on Saturday and may close on odd days depending on the personal schedule of the postal staff.

Religious Services

The community has two churches: the Catholic Church and the Galena Bible Church.

- The Galena Bible Church is a nondenominational church that welcomes people of all backgrounds. They have Sunday services at 11am and all other info can be found at www.galenabiblechurchak.com The pastor is Chris Kopp.
- The St. John Berchmann Catholic Church also welcomes any denomination. They have Brother Justin, who has been here many years.

Garbage

There are two community drop off points for garbage. One is right next to the City Offices/Clinic, and the other is in Old Town next to the boat launch. You can also drive your garbage out to the city dump if you would like. Every utility bill has a fee for garbage removal added to it, so you have every right to use the city dumpsters. You **are** paying for them.

UPS/Fed Ex

This is the most expensive way to ship things to Galena, but some businesses still decide to go this route. Both of these are handled by Wright's and can be picked up at their airport terminal.

Water

This is something you will want to check with whomever you are either renting or buying your residence from. Not all homes are connected to city water in Galena... this does not mean that the house does not have running water if it is not connected. It just means that it has a holding tank and requires you to either fill it by hauling water yourself or to order water from the city to fill it with from their large water truck.

Sewer

In Galena, a residence is either on a drain field, holding tank, or STB (self-contained sewage treatment box). Each has their pros and cons. If your residence has a holding tank, you will need to schedule a time for the city to come and pump the tank. The fee varies on the tank size unless it is an emergency and then it is \$100.

Cell Service: Cell service in the bush is not what anyone would call reliable.

- **GCI is the main carrier** out here and is the only carrier that has the infrastructure to work all over the state and in the lower 48 (if you have a national plan). If your phone is unlocked, you may be able to just call and order a sim-card from GCI to put in your present phone. Otherwise, stop in to one of their MANY stores in Fairbanks or Anchorage, and they will set you up. They are immensely helpful.
- **AT&T** works out here because it uses the towers that belong to another carrier called **TelAlaska**. TelAlaska has decent, economical local service and allows you to text and receive calls from your family in other areas, including the lower 48. You have limited calling range, however, and you may not have reliable service, or service at all, outside of Galena. Their toll-free number is 1-800-478-3127 and their web address is www.telalaska.com

Electricity

Electricity is expensive out here, about 67 cents per KWh. You sign up for service at the City Office, which is just down from the SHS campus, next to the clinic. They are open 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Fuel Oil and Propane

We have 2 gas stations available in town as both the Galena Liquor Store and Sweetsirs sell gasoline. Sweetsirs also has a pump for home heating oil.

For bulk fuel or for home delivery:

- Crowley Fuel
P.O. Box 348
Galena, AK 99741

Tel: 907-656-1852
Fax: 907-656-1853

Hours

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed for one hour during lunch.

Payments accepted

Cash, local credit account, MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover cards.

- Ed Pitka 907-656-7411
Local fuel tanker, provides heating oil and gasoline based on delivery prices from the barge. He will deliver to your home, filling barrels or tanks, but only while the barge is running. Depending on fuel prices, set in the spring, Ed will be cheaper than Crowley. Once the barge finishes for the year, Ed will run fuel until his supply runs out.

In the winter when the barge doesn't run, Crowley is the only source for fuel oil and propane. They can set up a monthly delivery service for you, eliminating the need to handle your own service.

Internet and Television

- **Internet-** Exede is currently the most popular option. (see info on Satellite Alaska under Television). There are many in town who are using Starlink with good success
- **A note about the school server and the school internet:** You can't access your personal email from the school or anywhere you are using the school server.
- **Television-** Cable television is available as is satellite television. Satellite has the best choices for viewing, but both are reliable. If you choose satellite, you will need to buy your own DISH-compatible box from a distributor in Anchorage or on Amazon. The distributor in Anchorage is called Satellite Alaska and their number is 907-243-7475. They also set up your Exede (now called Viasat) account and send out a router for you. Then you call our local person (right now it varies) to hook it up.

MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SERVICES

The local clinic is very nice and is staffed by nurses, health aides, PA's and a doctor. If they can't treat it, they refer you to Fairbanks. Their numbers are **907-656-1266 for emergencies** or **656-1366 for general purposes**. There is no retail pharmacy in Galena. You will need to set up a relationship with a pharmacy in Anchorage or Fairbanks that facilitates mail-order prescriptions if you have a recurring prescription you need.

There is no vet in Galena at this time.

SHIPPING

The Post Office in Anchorage is close to the airport and is open from 8 am to 11 pm M-F and 9 am to 11 pm Sat and Sun. It used to stay open 24 hours, but it doesn't anymore.

DO NOT SHIP UPS OR FEDEX.

If you do ship UPS or FEDEX, your packages will most likely travel on the same plane and get here the same time as the USPS packages. Sometimes they can actually take longer than the Postal Service. Save your money; there are better things to spend it on.

Separate your books, etc. from your other belongings and ship them **Media Mail**, which is cheaper than regular mail. Ship everything else Parcel Post and insure it if you want to. Priority Mail is more expensive and will probably get here on the same day and in the same bush plane that brings the Parcel Post boxes. Again, there are better things to spend your money on.

Totes are the way to go.

They are sturdy, waterproof, and cheap. Look for the **Roughneck** ones by Rubbermaid (usually at Target, Walmart, Home Depot and Lowe's) or the **Tough Boxes**, also by Rubbermaid. The Sterilite boxes are cheaper, but they tend to crack and break in shipping. The prettily colored thin totes are excellent for storing things in your lower 48 home, but they are brittle and are, therefore, not the best for ground shipping or for riding on a bush plane. Try to limit the number of assorted sizes you use because you will need to store them in your housing after you unpack them, and if they all fit inside each other, they will take up less space.

- Each tote or box can weigh up to 70 pounds, by Post Office standards, but please keep in mind that **you** will be lifting these boxes or totes, and possibly carrying them up a flight of stairs to get them into your housing. Since we are a flood-prone area, even the single-story houses can have killer steps to get into them. Most dorm staff have rooms on the second or third floor of Iditarod and **there is no elevator**. Also keep in mind that some poor bush pilot may have to load and unload all this stuff into and out of his plane by himself. The pilots and the post office folk have told us that they prefer the 15–18-gallon size totes because this tote size fits better on the cargo planes. Top size should be 27 gallons or so, but they can take longer to arrive because the pilots will sort everything to maximize their load and, again, they can fit more of the smaller totes on their planes.
- To close your totes, drill holes in the lids and use zip ties to secure the lid. **Do not cut the ends off the ties.** I will say this again, so you get my point: **Do not cut the ends off the zip ties.** The cut edges are just sharp enough to be dangerous for the baggage handlers and bush pilots. Put the top on the container and drill through the edge of the top and bottom together, so the holes line up, and put a hole in each

corner, an extra one or two along the long side of the tote, and, if it's heavy, at least one extra hole along the short side. Some totes come with holes for zip ties, but if you can't find those, the hole-drilling works splendidly.

- Use lots of padding and/or bubble wrap, available at larger storage places that rent U-Haul trucks, at Costco, and, if you are in a large enough town, at The Container Store. You can find decently sized rolls of bubble wrap in the office section of Sam's (if you still have one in your town) and sometimes at Walmart. If your moving budget is really tight, use your linens, towels, clothes, pillows, etc. as extra padding. You have to ship all this stuff up anyway, so make it work for you.

Bring what makes you happy, whether that is a particular food that is only available where you live, your sewing machine, favorite books or movies, favorite pictures, your pets, but don't bring everything you own. You can begin shipping stuff to the school as soon as you are hired. The shipping addresses you should use are the following:

For SHS

Your Name

C/o Sidney Huntington School

P. O. Box 299

Galena, AK 99741

For GILA

Your Name

C/o Galena Interior Learning Academy

P O Box 359 (teachers)

P O Box 70 (dorm staff)

Galena, AK 99741

Someone from the school will pick up your boxes/totes and store them safely at the school or the dorm until you get here. The post office does not have room to store your stuff **so please remember to address your stuff to the school, and NOT GENERAL DELIVERY**, otherwise it may get sent back to your lower 48 address. It can take anywhere from 2-6 weeks for your stuff to get here, so ship early or wait and shop mostly in Anchorage or Fairbanks (2 weeks or less) or on Amazon (Prime in 7-10 days).

- **TO BRING WITH YOU:** On your person, on the plane, you should bring footwear for wet weather and mud, any special medication you need, clothes for cool weather, some food for basic meals, toiletries, and any fresh/frozen food you might want.
- Dorm staff usually eat all their meals in the Two Seasons Dining Hall, but the dining hall does not open until training starts, so if you arrive a few days before that, bring some things to feed yourself for those few days. **This bears another mention: Get a credit or debit card. If you don't want to have a credit card, get a debit card.**
- If you are going to be over the limit on your bags, wear the raingear, mail the clothes from Anchorage or Fairbanks, and bring the fresh/frozen food and personal supplies.

- **SHIPPING FROM THE LOWER 48:** Many teachers plan to send boxes of supplies from the Lower 48. However, they soon discover that it is extremely expensive to do so. For example, a 24”x18”x12” box weighing 25 pounds mailed from Little Rock, AR or Billings, MT or even Seattle, WA is \$50-60, uninsured. The same box sent from Anchorage is about \$20. For this reason, we recommend mailing only your personal things and things that-make-you-happy from the lower-48. Everything else you could need can be purchased in Anchorage or Fairbanks and sent from there for about \$20 per box or ordered from Amazon.
- Often, teachers plan to send their food items (nonperishables) from Anchorage or Fairbanks for the entire year, or at least until the December break. Though this may cost upwards of a couple of thousand dollars at the outset, it might save you money eventually. (See **SHOPPING** for information on Amazon’s Subscribe and Save Program.) These items can be shipped out in your vehicle on the barge or on Evert’s Air Cargo (from Anchorage) or on Wright’s (from Fairbanks).
- - **Everts Air Cargo** from Anchorage does not haul passengers, but they haul in freight on a regular basis. The office in Fairbanks carries passengers and freight. You can order building supplies, snow machines, ATVs, etc. dropped off at Everts, and they will make sure they get to Galena. They have offices in Fairbanks and Anchorage. They are on the web at: www.evertsair.com. They are a little cheaper than the Post Office and they ship frozen foods and chill foods (such as fruits and vegetables).
 - **Wright’s Aviation** is mentioned here again...same information as listed in Commercial Bush Services. Their website is: <http://www.wrightairservice.com/> Call 907-474-0502 or -0591 for freight, as Wright’s also has a cargo service for shipping fresh/frozen food and other shopping items from Fairbanks. Wright’s is about a dollar a pound for freight. They are located at 3842 University Ave South, Fairbanks, AK 99709. Their toll-free number is 1-800-478-6779 and the local Galena number is 907-656-2589. As of late 2018, they are also the carrier any UPS shipping you receive.
- COSTCO, and Walmart (both are in Anchorage and Fairbanks) are good places to stock-up on staples such as flour, salt, sugar, brown sugar, coffee, tea, rice, milk, and canned goods if you choose to buy in bulk. Memberships are inexpensive at Costco, about \$55 a year. There are no Sam’s Club stores in Alaska.
- Many stores, including Fred Meyer (grocery store), do “Bush” orders, which means they will shop and ship items for you from a list you give them. There is a 15 to 30% charge on your total bill for this service. **The shipping fees can be COD, but do not choose this option, as it often includes extra little fees that can add up quickly.** (*Check the ATP website for more SHOPPING information.*)

This bears another mention: set up a relationship with a pharmacy in Anchorage or Fairbanks that facilitates mail-order prescriptions, if you have a recurring prescription you need, because there is no retail pharmacy in Galena.

SHOPPING

Also see the services section for local shopping in Galena.

Sign up for **Amazon Prime**. You can get almost anything on Amazon and with Amazon Prime you get free shipping on eligible items. The cost of Prime will pay for itself in shipping savings very quickly. You can also stream music and movies off Amazon Prime, which is a genuinely nice feature to have when the bleak winter months arrive, and everything on TV, if you have it, is a repeat or a holiday special...even on the cable or satellite channels.

TARGET: Target ships quite a lot to the bush. If you have a Target Red Card, which can be a debit card or a charge card, the shipping is free, even to Alaska, and you get a 5% discount on items you purchase with the card. Target ships UPS, so your items will come to Galena on Wright's, and you will pick it all up from their office/warehouse at the airstrip. Target stores are only located in Anchorage.

Subsistence:

There are several subsistence opportunities in Galena throughout the year. If you are into preserving, you can freeze or preserve most meats and berries, and pressure cookers help quite a lot. If you are renting, check with your landlord as to whether there is an additional freezer available in your rental, If not, you can order one from Target or purchase one in Anchorage or Fairbanks and send it out on Wright's or Evert's.

- **Wood-** If you have a wood stove or sawmill, it is possible to feed this off driftwood traveling down the Yukon during early summer. There are also several pieces of state and federal land from which wood can be harvested.
- **Fishing-** Galena is located on the Yukon River. While the river itself is too murky for successful rod and reel fishing (many of the tributaries that flow into the Yukon are silt filled), many do drift netting for Chum and Silver salmon.
- **The backwaters of the Yukon** where the water is not silty, hold exceptional pike and white fish fishing opportunities. A 48" pike is not a rare thing if you know where to look. This will however require a boat to get to the fish.
- **Hunting-** The moose hunting in Galena is some of the best in the world. Many families rely on either shooting a moose or splitting one with another family to provide red meat for the year. This hunting takes place in the fall before the river has frozen. Many people who own boats are more than happy to take on a rookie to help carry out the kill. Bear can also be taken and Galena has healthy populations of both Black and Brown bears.
- **Waterfowl-** Rural Alaskans are also afforded two waterfowl seasons. Several different duck and goose species either call Galena their summer home, or at least pass through Galena on their way to and from each year. Mallards, Teal, Pintail, Canvasbacks, Widgeon, Northern Shovelers, Golden Eyes, Canada Geese, Greater White Fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Swans, and Cranes all add nicely to the subsistence pot.
- **Small game** also offers a great excuse to get out and about. Galena has strong populations of snowshoe hare, ptarmigan, and grouse.

- **Fur Bearers-** There are many different fur bearers in the Galena area that can be taken through either trapping or hunting. There are strong populations of fox (red, cross, silver), lynx, beaver, muskrat, wolves, marten, mink, squirrel, etc. The fur is either sold or tanned and turned into cold weather gear. Many fur bearers also double as a food source.
- **Berries and other forages-** Low bush cranberries, high-bush cranberries, rosehips, and currants do well in the Galena area. Blue berries and salmon berries are pretty rare. Fireweed blossoms make a light, tasty jelly and can be gathered with red and white clover to flavor honey. If someone tells you where they found a good patch of blue berries or salmon berries, they must really like you... a lot. Chaga mushrooms are everywhere as is wild sage, wormwood, and wild mint. Labrador Tea is everywhere.
- **Gardening-** Summer is fast and furious, but there are several fruits and vegetables that can be successfully grown outdoors in raised beds or in greenhouses. Cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, carrots, zucchini, peas, cauliflower, tomatoes, potatoes, rhubarb, turnips, snap peas, and raspberries are some of the produce that have been successfully grown in Galena.
- **Livestock-** Several families raise chickens for meat and eggs. Turkeys, pigs, and ducks have also all been successfully raised for meat in Galena.

LICENSING

Driver's License- Get one as soon as you can. The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend eligibility is based off of when you became an AK resident. Resident hunting/fishing/trapping licenses are also dependent upon your being a resident for at least one year. Your AK state id/driver's license is your proof for this. You can also change your voter registration to your new address.

What address should I use on my new driver's license?

You will end up setting up a P.O. Box when you finally get to Galena where you will receive all of your mail. Some people use this address on their license. You also may know the physical address of where you will be living (*Ask your landlord or check with the City Office.*) Galena does not really have street numbers, but we have street names. You may want to establish a physical address using your street name and the number of your P O Box.

There are some things that require proof of physical address (purchasing a gun for one, signing up for your PFD for another, and applying for Alaska's "real" license, the one you can use for ID on an airplane leaving the state), and a driver's license with a P.O. Box for your address won't cut it.

There are no DMVs in Galena and so it makes the most sense to pick up a new license sometime while you are in Fairbanks or Anchorage. In Fairbanks, the DMV is found at **1979 Peger Road**. In Anchorage, the main location is **1300 West Benson Boulevard**.

Hunting License- You will need a license to fish, hunt, and/or trap. Those can be acquired online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=home.main> Federal Duck stamps can be purchased at the post office and the US Fish and Wildlife Office. State stamps can be purchased from the website listed above.

Teacher Certification: Alaska offers an initial teacher certificate that will allow you to teach in Alaska for two years before getting your full Alaska certification. The state requires some cultural/historical classes in order to receive more permanent certification, and the initial certificate is to allow you to work while taking those two

classes. Both of those classes are offered from Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage through an online venue called Alaska Staff Development Network www.asdn.org/distance-education/ You have a minimum of one month and a maximum of one year to finish one of these courses when you register for it, so they are self-paced, and the fees include any books you need. This is the easiest way to complete those courses.

Go to <https://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification/> to find more information on the Alaska teacher certification process

IN CLOSING

Galena is an isolated area with limited resources, and what resources are available are expensive because of the logistical difficulty of getting them here, so be prepared for that. It is also expensive to leave and go anywhere, so the scenery won't change often. If you have ever lived in a small town, you will be fine here.

Life in Alaska is all about subsistence and family, so a lot of these kids are focused on that and don't have school and college as their main goal. These are all GREAT kids. Don't take it personally if their idea of what's important is different from yours and their words and their attitudes communicate that to you...with frustrating clarity at times. Their world and their culture are different from yours. Their experiences are different from yours. You can show them that there are alternatives and introduce them to the skills they will need if THEY CHOOSE those alternatives and decide to look beyond their village. It's a choice for them to make.

Hopefully we have prepared you and haven't scared you. **Please don't hesitate to ask any of us for help or information.** If we don't know it, we will at least know the next person you need to ask. You could be/will be working with a great administrative team and with some incredibly friendly and helpful colleagues.

Other contact information you should know for information on your move and for settling-in.

Cory Stringer, Principal, SHS
cory.stringer@galenanet.com
907-717-8918 (cell)

Naomi Winters, Principal, GILA
naomi.winters@galenanet.com
907-656-7293 (cell)

Jason Johnson, Superintendent, GCSD
jason.johnson@galenanet.com

SHS Main Office
907-656-1205

GILA Main Office
907-656-2053

Another note about the school server: Our filters are hard-core and important emails to the District Office from your Gmail, Yahoo, or Hotmail accounts may get kicked into the Spam filter. If you need to send something important to the District Office, call your admin first and give them your email so they can get it put on a receiving list/safe list.

A note about COVID-19 safety protocols:

The safety protocols that the school observes are determined by the Galena City Office. The situation is changeable due to summer crews that come and go.

You will receive updates from the Superintendent or from your administrator as they are issued, therefore **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT** that you check your email regularly. It is also **VERY IMPORTANT** that we have a current phone number and email address for you.

Please help us help you by reading and responding when necessary, and in a timely manner.