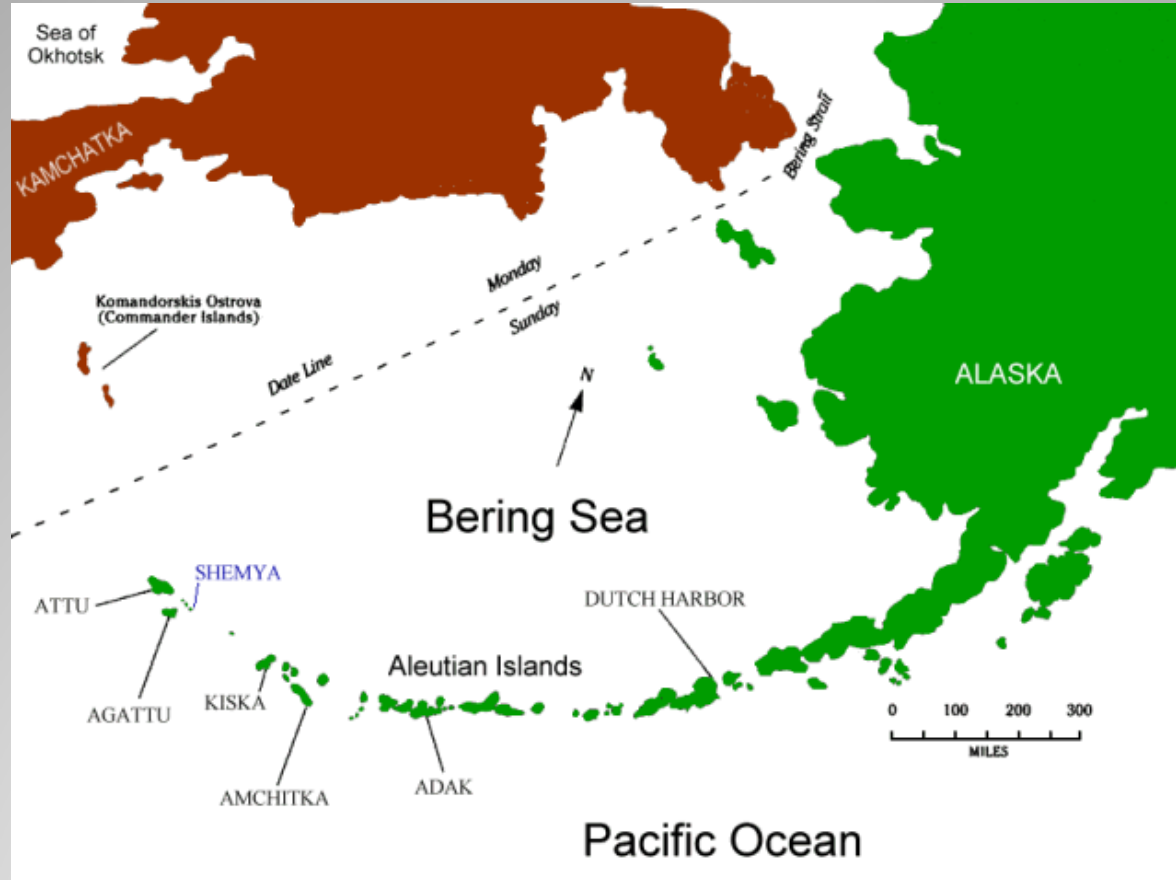


Aleutian Region School District

Serving two hemispheres; geographically, culturally and intellectually

- Aleutian Region School District – REAA #8 - was created by the Alaska Legislature (after dissolution of the State Operated Schools (SOS) system) to serve the unincorporated areas of the Aleutian Islands.
- Currently, ARSD serves communities west of Dutch Harbor/Unalaska

Who We Are



Serving an area from 166° 44" West to 173° 11" East Longitude

- Aleutian Region serves the western Aleutian Islands from its eastern border with the Aleutians East Borough (approximately 166.44 West Longitude) to its western boundary with the Russian Far East (approximately 173.11 East Longitude at Attu Island).
- This makes Aleutian Region School District both the farthest west and farthest east school district in the United States.

Where We Are Located

- Currently, there are only two communities west of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor with schools; these are Yakov Netsvetov School on Atka Island and Adak School on Adak Island.
 - Adak airport serves as a crucial alternate airfield for trans-Pacific flights coming to/from Anchorage and flights transiting over the North Pole from Europe to the Far East.

Nikolski School was closed in 2010 after failing to attain the minimum enrollment (10) to count as a funding community for two consecutive years.

- **Nikolski is a community with a documented history of 8,000+ years**, maybe the oldest continually settled community in the US.
- Currently, the school is under a long term loan to the local IRA council with plans to use it as a clinic, post office and community store.
- The school site continues to serve as a critical link for both tele-communications and FAA navigational equipment.

Who We Serve

North Pacific Air Routes over the Aleutian Volcanic Arc



These North Pacific air routes carry more than 20,000 people and millions of dollars in cargo every day.

Air Routes - Anchorage, Seattle and Europe – to/from the Far East

- For over a decade, the District has conducted an on-going professional development program, focused upon aligning its curriculum and instructional delivery systems with State and National standards.
- To date, all curriculum areas have been aligned (and some re-aligned) using a rubric-based assessment system.
- To date, all graduates have passed all three sections of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.
- Test results show that ARSD students perform at or above anticipated levels on standardized achievement tests when aptitude is compared with performance.
- Truancy is not an issue in Aleutian Region, and students can best be described as actively engaged and self-motivated learners.

How We Are Doing

- The Aleutian region, as well almost every community down the Alaska Peninsula, has experienced a significant decline in school enrollment which mirrors declines in community populations.
- The quality of telecommunications services (quality and affordable broadband internet) has actually deteriorated since the loss of StarBand (DISH Internet) service in 2009. This regularly makes broadband instructional delivery difficult and often times impossible.
- The District continues to search for high quality supplemental courses to extend educational opportunities that can be delivered on-site.
- Training and retaining teachers who have the requisite skills and knowledge to deliver multi-age and grade services for students and who have the personal qualities to live in such a remote location remains a major effort, concern and expense outlay.

Challenges

- Aleutian Region students are well-served by the curriculum and instructional program delivered at its sites. Likewise, the communities are well served by the school and it is encouraging to see graduates return to assume leadership positions.
- The District has an on-going program to review, re-align and otherwise improve its curriculum and instructional delivery systems.
- A strength of the District is its ability to make quick, systemic changes in response to new circumstances. However, care must be taken to maintain a narrow focus in what it chooses to do. This means attention to the quality of rather than the number of programs offered. This is exemplified by a new K-12 science curriculum now being implemented.
- Both Atka and Adak may have turned an economic corner, looking to a brighter future; **APICDA's** investment in **Atka** quadruples the size of the fish plant. Another \$10m expansion was recently announced. The fish plant at **Adak** has been re-opened under **Icicle Seafoods**. Hopefully, these will translate into community growth.
- Both Atka and Adak are - by far - net contributors to the Alaska economy and providers of high quality seafood to the world market. This contributes to Aleutian Region students being globally aware and actively engaged learners.

Wrap Up