



Eben Hopson, Sr. Middle School

PO Box 509
 Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723
 907-852-9700

Principal: Rick Luthi
 Assistant Principal: Regina Bellereide

Student Enrollment

Grade	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
6	70	71								
7	72	73								
8	89	88								
Total	231	232								
		+1								

Hopson Highlights

- Mr. Luthi, Ms. Bellereide, and Grade Level Staff have held meetings to address tardies to class within the building in a more positive manner.

7th Grade: On Friday afternoon, September 15, 2023, there will be a NO TARDY PARTY for students who do not accrue tardies from Friday, September 1, 2023-Thursday, September 14, 2023. The students will have ice cream with various toppings and a movie.

8th Grade: On Friday evening (after school), September 29, 2023, there will be a NO TARDY PARTY for students who accrue no tardies from Friday, September 8, 2023-Thursday, September 21, 2023. The students will have food (TBA), a movie, and other activities.

6th Grade: We will have a similar event for sixth grade soon. Stay tuned.

- Sixth grade students will be assigned to their wolf packs on Friday, September 9, 2023, during 7th period. The packs are part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) culture at Hopson Middle School; seventh and eighth grade students will both reconnect with their packs and welcome the sixth grade students.

In brief, students are randomly assigned to wolf packs and earn points both individually through their positive behavior and interactions within the school as well as collectively during quarterly Battle of the Packs challenges and events.

Each Wednesday morning, there is a school-wide assembly. This time has been set aside to announce upcoming events (sports, academics, etc.), re-emphasize behavioral expectations, and have a friendly competition across all grade levels. The goal is for the meetings to be largely student led. As student council takes shape, we will be hearing more from it.

- Speaking of the HMS Student Council, Mr. Frix, HMS's 8th grade social studies teacher, will be leading the council this year. Following is the current process:

Timeline/Process:

- Students vote for three class representatives per grade level in their 7th hour on 09/12/2023.

- Winners will be announced on the morning of 09/13/2023.
 - Students began campaigns for President and Vice President on 09/13/2023.
 - Students from 8th grade are the only ones allowed to run for president.
 - The Vice President is open to all grades.
 - Students will give speeches at the morning meeting on 09/20/2023.
 - Students will then vote in their 6th hour on 09/20/2023.
 - Winners will be announced on 09/21/2023.
 - The first meeting will be on Friday, 09/22/2023.
 - The representatives will decide the position of treasurer and secretary after the final elections.
- On August 25, 2023, Justina Wilhelm visited HMS and shared part of her personal story as well as I!isaġvik opportunities for students. Following is a picture:



- Now, for a look at sports at HMS:

Cross Country

- The cross-country team continues to meet daily after school for stretching and runs.
- The HMS cross-country team plans to join the BHS cross-country team for a meet in the near future; more details will follow as they become available.

Football

- The football team will have a potluck at HMS on September 16, 2023. The time will be announced later.
- The football team will play a game against the Mastsu Steelers on September 17, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.
- The football season ends on September 20, 2023.

Volleyball

- The volleyball season begins September 11, 2023. Permission forms are currently available in the front office or from Mr. Downing.

- Other HMS activities
 - The Lego Robotics (aka the Hopson RoboWolves) began meeting August 28, 2023. The team meets each Monday and Thursday from 4:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m. until December 2023 or January 2024.
 - Weight Training will begin on September 11, 2023, from 4:25 p.m.-5:25 p.m. each day.

Hopson Opportunities for Growth

- It is no secret that the teenage years can be tumultuous. Following is a brief article about adolescence in general: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/the-teen-brain-7-things-to-know>

The key points from the above referenced article are as follows:

1. Adolescence is an important time for brain development.
2. Brain development is related to social experiences during adolescence.
3. The teen brain is ready to learn and adapt.
4. Teen brains may respond differently to stress.
5. Most teens do not get enough sleep.
6. Mental illnesses may begin to appear during adolescence.
7. The teen brain is resilient.

While the teen brain is resilient and ready to adapt, the way that it responds to stress provides additional challenges. At HMS, the admin team uses restorative practices and consistently invites parents to have input in their child’s education, including discipline.

We have seen ASNA pushing in some support for parents, for grief and trauma. We have seen the Native Village of Barrow also push in support. We would love to grow that partnership within our community and across the Slope because there is a dire need for services that go beyond our scope as educators.

We realize that this is a continuous effort but do not want to lose any momentum.

Any thoughts regarding this partnership will be greatly appreciated. Collectively we can...