



Nome-Beltz Middle High School

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Date: 03 September 2026

To: NPS Board

From: Teriscovkya Smith and Holly Harlow

Subject: NBMHS September Board Report

Nome-Beltz Middle/High School: Our Mission, Vision, & Values

NBMHS WILL GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE PREPARED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ADULTS.	ATTENDANCE PRIORITIZE student attendance to improve academic readiness while maximizing their educational experience. ACADEMICS IMPLEMENT an academic plan with fidelity to increase student achievement. BEHAVIOR ENSURE a school environment where staff and students can be successful. ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT student, family, and community engagement to grow a culture of belonging.	NOME-BELTZ NANOOKS HONORING OUR TRADITIONAL INUPIAQ VALUES • Spirituality • Humility • Reverence Toward Nature • Pride in Culture • Speaking Our Traditional Language • Honesty • Cooperation • Patience • Responsibility • Hard Work • Obedience • Open Communication • Avoidance of Conflict • Commitment to the Family • Love of Children • Respecting Others • Respect of Elders • Sharing • Humor • Cultural diversity and Innovation
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NBMHS BEHAVIOR STATEMENT:
We care for ourselves and others in our culturally diverse world by making **SAFE** choices, showing **RESPECT**, and acting **RESPONSIBLY** as lifelong learners and citizens.

NBMHS Data:

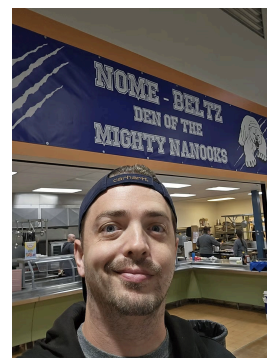
- Current Enrollment: 285
 - 6th-Grade: 42
 - 7th-grade: 37
 - 8th-grade: 34
 - 9th-grade: 46
 - 10th-grade: 41
 - 11th-grade: 45
 - 12th-grade: 40
- Student contact days for August:
 - 10 days
 - 1 day for 6th and 9th-grade orientation
 - 9 contact days for all NBMHS students
- Student Attendance: 89%

Student Celebrations

- We will commence with our celebrations at the October meeting!

Welcome to the Den!

- We are extremely excited to welcome our new staff into the fold and look forward to sharing their successes with you. Please give a warm welcome to the incredible talent who chose Nome-Beltz Middle High School! 🙌
 - *Trinidad Dominguez, HS Physical Science*
 - Howdy! My name is Trinidad Joseph Dominguez, the oldest of 3 siblings, and I am originally from Houston, Texas. I have dual bachelors' degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics, graduate chemistry experience, and poster presentation(s) at national ACS conferences. I bring interdisciplinary STEM expertise to education. My five years of teaching and laboratory experience, combined with teaching in rural Alaska, have strengthened my commitment to culturally responsive instruction, mentorship, and real-world STEM learning.
 - *Joseph Pomainville, MS/HS Counselor*
 - Born in rural upstate New York, I have worked overseas and in the Arctic since 2012. I have lived in Korea, Dubai, Brazil, China, Thailand, Canada, and the Arctic. I enjoy exploring new cultures, meeting new people, and learning new things! When I'm not at school, I enjoy playing sports, video games, making art, hunting, and various hobbies like board and trading card games. Professionally, I have served as an Art Teacher, Principal, and School Counselor in diverse settings and I am excited to be in Nome, drawn by its welcoming and vibrant community.
 - *Ian Price, MS Social Studies*
 - My name is Ian Price. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas, but have lived in Japan for six years. I love studying the history, traditions, and ritual practices of people all around the world. Recently, I have become



interested in the traditional languages and cultures of Alaska native peoples, and it has drawn me to Nome. I am very excited to be here!

○ *John Terry, MS Science*

- My name is John Terry, and I'm excited to be teaching middle school science with Nome Public Schools. I'm originally from Alabama and previously worked as a locomotive engineer operating commuter rail trains in Denver, Colorado, before beginning my career in education. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication, a Bachelor of Science in Geoscience, a Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary Science with an emphasis in Earth Science, and a Master of Arts in Biological Studies.

I'm passionate about hands-on science and helping students develop curiosity about the world around them. I'm excited to be part of the Nome community and look forward to a great school year!



○ *Jefford Vinson E. Valdehueza, MS/HS Career and Technical Education (CTE)*

- I am a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher from Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. My teaching specialization is directly aligned in Career and Technical Education, specializing in small engine and light vehicle-automotive technology, as well as other related subjects such as woodworking and carpentry, and welding.



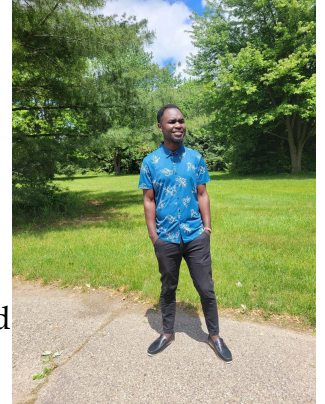
My professional experience includes Ethiopian-German education development projects, teaching in the Philippine K-12 education system, serving as a CTE teacher at Unalaska City School District in Dutch Harbor, and currently teaching at Nome-Beltz Middle High School in Nome. I teach in Nome because I want to share my skills and experience in Career and Technical Education while helping students develop practical skills for their future. I also value the opportunity to serve the community.

I enjoy watching current events and news, singing karaoke, and fishing.

Beyond my professional career, I am a family-oriented person and a proud father of four children, who are a constant source of happiness, inspiration, and motivation in my life.

○ *Castro Walunywa, HS Biological Science*

- Hello! My name is Castro Walunywa, and I'm originally from Kenya. I have a background in Cellular & Molecular Biology, with several years of experience teaching high school Biology. I'm excited to bring my passion for science, learning, and student success to Nome. Outside the classroom, I enjoy playing soccer and badminton, exploring new places, learning new things, and spending time with friends. What makes me tick is seeing students become curious, confident, and excited about what they can accomplish. I'm looking forward to getting to know my students, families, and the Nome community!



○ *Shelby Kimoktoak, Attendance Secretary*

- Hi everyone! My name is Shelby Kimoktoak and I'm so excited to step into my new role as the Attendance Secretary here at Nome-Beltz Middle/High School. My goal every day is to build a welcoming, curious, and supportive space where every student can thrive. Please stop by and say hello - I'm eager to get to know all the wonderful families and staff who make this community special. Fun Fact: My grandma's name is Arlene Beltz!



Campus Update

- **The following is a list of happenings that currently impact NBMHS:**
 - *Vaping & Dabs on Campus*
 - Since the first day of school, the campus vape sensors have been triggered excessively and on a daily basis with at least 10 alerts daily and up to 20 alerts in a single day. We know that our partnership with the CAMP department is more important than ever as we explore improvements on cessation offerings and other alternatives to exclusionary discipline. Our partnership with the Nome Youth Court will also serve to help and support students.
- **Mandated Reporter Training**
 - In addition to their required courses on Mandated Reporting teachers must take through DEED, Aaron Brown and Joseph Pomainville offered all NBMHS staff an in-depth training on



our campus Mandated Reporter processes. We are fortunate to have on-staff expertise to inform and empower staff in advocacy and student support.

- **ASTI Site Committee (School Community Leadership Team)**
 - Met and planned for our first New Family Orientation (see below); their work on improving family connectedness and engagement is leading to many 'firsts' for our campus and improvements.
 - Our incredible team also reached out to community entities and gifted our incoming teachers with some local treats for a fantastic welcome!
 - The team met for preparations in developing year two of our School Improvement Plan. We are excited to share our plans, goals, and anticipated outcomes during our October SIP Report.



Instructional Highlights

- *6th and 9th-Grade Orientations*
 - We are grateful that the district, NES, and ACSA allow for an Early Release Day so that we can properly orient students new to NBMHS. The goal of orientation is to acclimate students to the basics of middle and high school expectations and academics and to reduce the stress of the first day with all students in the building.



■ 6th-Grade Orientation:

- The incoming class of 2033 met in the cafeteria with Ms. Harlow for a warm welcome and to learn about our core values and the associated behavior expectations during breakfast and lunch. The group then met in the RC for teacher introductions, cohort bonding activities, an overview of secondary academics, RC behavior expectations, and to watch student-made videos as part of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports framework, including our point system. Students then had a tour of the campus, learned how to tackle opening lockers with patience, had a trial run of their classes and received additional training on behavior expectations for classrooms and buses.



■ 9th-Grade Orientation:

- The Class of 2030 gathered in the cafeteria for a warm welcome by building administration that included our core values, discussion about the 4-year high school journey, staff introductions, a brief introduction to NACTEC and its offerings for the year, and a raffle! We couldn't leave the gym without an intense game of Cheeto Head. Ms. Smith led various cohort building activities to impress the importance of teammanship, collaboration, and cooperation: all vital for success. Students then ran through a condensed version of their classes - meeting teachers and learning about their content areas and credit-bearing courses. The afternoon consisted of rotations on teambuilding, a scavenger hunt to learn the ins and outs of campus, and a fun interactive activity about their new teachers and staff.



- ***Expansion of the NBMHS Career and Technical Education Program***
 - With the addition of Mr. Valdehueza as a CTE teacher in partnership with Mr. Coulter, we are planning to grow our courses, rosters, and pathways in vocational education to better meet the needs of our students. With this addition comes the challenges of funding for additional resources and materials, but for now, we are excited to offer HS Trades Math I and a MS Introduction to Shop to our offerings!
- ***High School Art***
 - We are extremely fortunate to have Ms. Leeper back again to teach a section of high school Art. We also welcome Julie Cross, who will teach the class when Mrs. Leeper is out of town. Mrs. Cross attended the [Kodiak Arts Institute](#) in June with educators from around the state. Sponsored by the Alaska Arts Education Consortium, Mrs. Leeper was one of her instructors! Our students love Art and while we aim to have a comprehensive 6-12 Arts program, we are grateful to be able to provide this class. The research is consistent and shows that Art and Music offerings improve academic performance, boost mental well-being, and build essential life skills while reducing drop out rates , increasing engagement and connection and providing healthy outlets for youth. Mrs. Leeper's work with the Consortium has impacted so many of our teachers who now weave the arts into their content areas.

Student and Family Engagement

- ***New Family Orientation***

- Thanks to feedback and the planning of our Site Committee, NBMHS held its first orientation for incoming families and those new to NBMHS. Held on Monday, August 17th from 6:00-7:00pm. This event is now built into our calendar and we will work to grow participation from community entities and families. Thank you to everyone who helped lock in this important event to start the year!



This year, parents and guardians could meet administration and visit various stations and learn about:

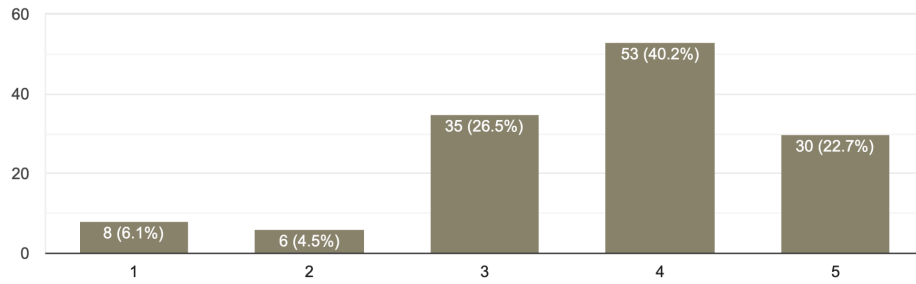
- School academic and behavior expectations
- Clubs and Activities
- NACTEC offerings
- PowerSchool
- Migrant Education
- Volunteer Opportunities

- ***Student Feedback***

- Gathering feedback helps inform our decisions and progress and we are committed to gathering student feedback on a regular basis. Based on 132 responses, our start of the year survey provides promising information and data that will help us to improve the student experience. When asked to give one word that best summarized the start of their year, student responses varied:
 - **Positive Sentiments:** Many students feel optimistic about the new school year, frequently using words like "great," "good," "exciting," "fun," and "awesome" to describe their initial impressions.
 - **Academic and Personal Adjustment:** Students expressed feelings of transition and growth, highlighting the year as "new," "different," "busy," "focused," or "confusing" as they navigate the start of the term.
 - **Physical and Emotional Fatigue:** A notable portion of the student body reported feeling "tired," "sleepy," or "stressed," indicating challenges with the early pace or demands of the school environment.
 - **Mixed and Indifferent Reactions:** Some feedback reflects uncertainty or disinterest, with students describing the experience as "alright," "ok," "boring," or simply stating they are unsure how they feel at this early stage.
- Other data reveals the following:

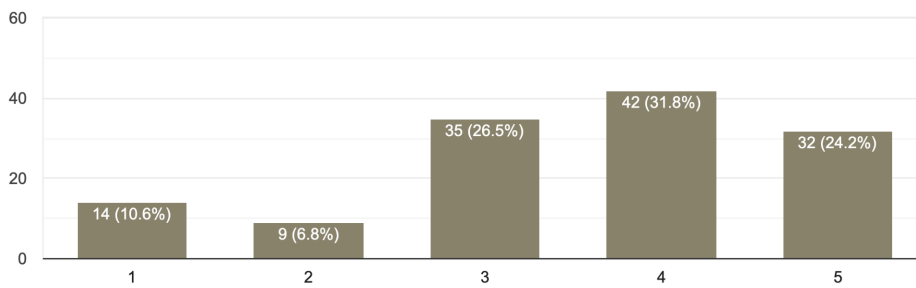
On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about the start of the school year?

132 responses



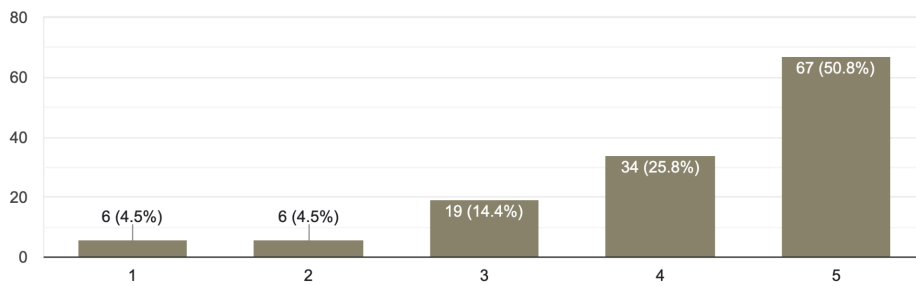
On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about having Advisory?

132 responses



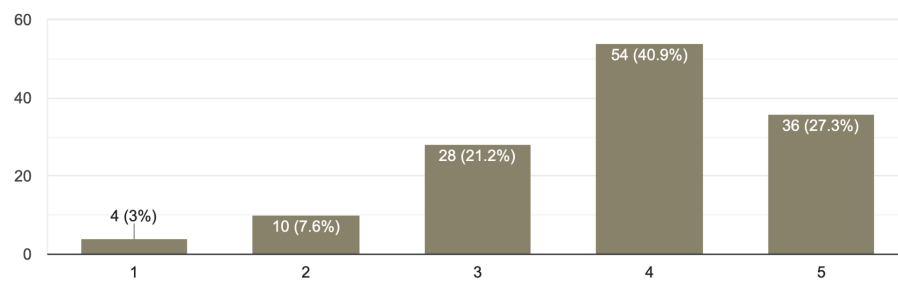
On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about a 6-period day?

132 responses



On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about your classes?

132 responses

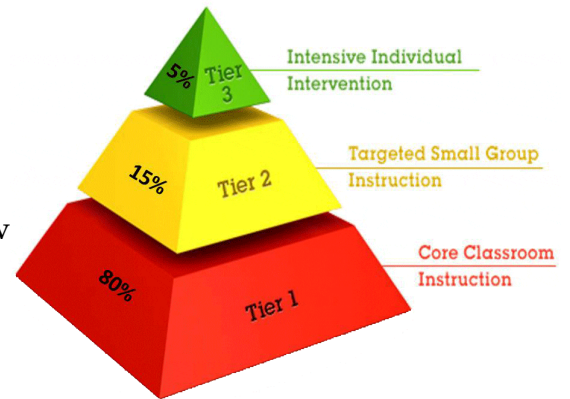


Social Emotional and Cultural Learning

• *Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions (PBIS) Implementation Version 4.0*

- As we move into year 4 of our PBIS implementation, campuswide core values, and behavior expectations, we presented a refresher for NBMHS and ACSA teachers and staff on August 10th. If you would like to view the slides for your own review, please click this link: [FY27 PBIS Refresher](#). To supplement this review, we also provided training on our behavior responses protocol and PBIS Rewards, our data and point tracking system.

- Students also received a refresher on campus behavior expectations and will become familiarized with the PBIS Rewards platform where they can review their point balances, explore store options, and have access to minor and major referrals, with an option for providing their own feedback. Here is a look at their refresher: [NBMHS PBIS Review](#)



- As we shared last spring, our data and annual fidelity inventory revealed that we need a focused effort on our tier 2 and 3 interventions. This year, we restructured our teams and will have dedicated Tier 1 and Tier 2-3 teams to ensure that we are providing appropriate supports for students. Tier 2 interventions help students who show early signs of risk or do not succeed with universal support alone. It adds structure, frequent feedback, and targeted skill-building. Tier 3 targeted supports deliver intensive, individualized support for students with deep behavioral, emotional, or academic needs. It uses functional behavioral assessments to find the exact root cause of a behavior and build custom support plans that meet the needs of each respective student.

Nome-Beltz Middle High School Activities

- *First Annual Start of the Year Assembly*
 - On August 18th, we kicked off the start of the year with our first all-school *We Are Nanooks* assembly that included a presentation on our school's mission, core values, and the possibilities that unfold when students choose success. Teachers gave self and course introductions, we celebrated our new class of 2027, and welcomed each new cohort with enthusiasm. Gatherings such as this help to cultivate a sense of belonging for all students and we plan for more gatherings of this nature in the future.
- *MS Anvil Hike*

- On August 26th, more than 100 middle school students made the annual Anvil Hike a huge success. The weather, positive attitudes, and excitement for the new year resulted in a day of sore calves, smiles, and big appetites for snacks and lunch. We were also fortunate to have Ranger Kat Scott (NBHS Alum '18) join us on this perfect day. Here's to the best middle school year ever!



- *High School Advisory Launches (pic of Castro's winners)*

- NBMHS has incorporated a comprehensive 6-12 Advisory program! For high school, Advisory will run from 8:40-9:05am and middle school Advisory will run from 11:50-12:05pm; this will allow time for school announcements and cohort work while protecting instructional time in content areas. Advisory is part of the academic day and during this time we will work on the following:

- Cohort cohesion development
- Academic support
- Social and emotional support
- Positive behavioral and intervention supports and teaching
- Post-Secondary preparations and planning



- Mr. Walunywa's Advisory won an all-school Advisory challenge and will celebrate after the Subsistence Break.
- Seniors who do not have a 1st-period are exempt this semester and we will work to adjust scheduling for the spring term as they move into rounds of intense post-secondary scholarship and employment preparations. The Advisory program aligns with our 6-12 Life Plans, a key component of our School Improvement Plan (we will present our Year 2 goals in October). Here is our weekly Advisory schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Academic Support: ● PS Login ● Complete work ● Submit & collect assignments	● Social and Emotional Learning ● Cultural Proficiency ● Advisory & Cohort building ● Spirit Competitions ● Advisor Meetings	Academic Support: ● PS Login ● Complete work ● Submit & collect assignments	● Post-Secondary Planning ● Portfolios ● Life Skills ● Presentations	● Check Ins ● Advocacy

● *TRIO Upward Bound*

- Years in the making, we are beyond thrilled to be an official site for the TRIO Upward Bound Program. Program Director Michelle Spillane is a special guest this evening, and she will share program highlights and how this partnership will provide opportunities and support for our Nanooks in their post-secondary planning and endeavors! Mr. Trinidad Dominguez will serve as our site coach. As of the submission of this report, we had more than 50 applicants for 15 seats and the momentum at school was of excitement and possibility. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the UAF TRIO UB Program.





OVERVIEW

For more than 50 years, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Upward Bound program has helped Alaska students prepare for college, careers, and leadership in their communities.

LOCATIONS

- Bethel
- Brevig Mission
- Chevak
- Haines
- Quinhagak
- Seward
- Shishmaref
- Sitka (MEHS)
- Wrangell
- Nome
- North Pole

UPWARD BOUND TEAM



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UPWARD BOUND MISSION

UAF Upward Bound equips students with the skills, confidence, and academic preparation to pursue and succeed in higher education. Through year-round support, mentoring, college readiness workshops, and immersive summer programs, students are empowered to set goals, explore career pathways, and thrive in postsecondary environments.

SERVICES

- Academic support and tutoring
- College and career advising
- Standardized test preparation
- College application and financial aid assistance
- Summer academic programs
- Campus visits and college exposure trips
- Career exploration and mentorship
- Hands-on learning opportunities
- Workshops on financial literacy, student success strategies, and career pathways

SUCCESS RATES

UPWARD BOUND

Metric	Rate (%)
High School Graduation Rate	100
Enrollment in Postsecondary	40
GPA 2.5 or Higher	70
Complete FAFSA	60

STATE OF ALASKA

Metric	Rate (%)
High School Graduation Rate	35
Enrollment in Postsecondary	35
GPA 2.5 or Higher	45
Completed FAFSA	25

MORE INFORMATION

☎ (907) 474-5685

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Student Athletics

- HS Volleyball
 - *Coach Durden and Assistant Coach Loraine Olanna (NBHS '24)*
 - The Lady Nanooks are in full swing and competed at the North/South Tourney over the August 28th weekend - hosted by Houston High School. Teams in attendance included: Redington, Seward, Nome, Bethel, Homer, Grace Christian, Mountain City Christian Academy, and Houston. Nome placed third and we couldn't be more proud of their grit and tenacity!
 - The Lady Nanooks will host the Kotzebue Huskies on September 11-12, so come on down and let's wake up the gym! #gofightHIT
- HS Cross Country
 - *Coach Toby Hobbs and Assistant Coach Harrison Moore (NBHS '18)*
 - XC will host the Nome Meet on September 5 and then the team heads to Kotzebue on September 11. The team then hosts this year's Big West Meet (Regionals) over the September 25th weekend. Come cheer on our runners for a place at State! #gofightRUN

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE DEN:

September 29-October 24	Fall MAP testing window
September 7	Labor Day
September 11-12	Lady Nanooks host Kotzebue (Volleyball)
September 17	Open House: A Day in the Life of a Nanook!
September 21	ASSEMBLY THEME: Harmonica Man ● Mike Stevens will perform for students grades 6-12. Please join us from 2:30-3:20!
September 24	HS Honor Roll Luncheon for Nanooks who finished Spring 2026 Term with honors!
September 25	5 days of Blizzard Bags Distributed
September 25-26	XC hosts the Big Meet (Regionals)
September 30	Vision and Hearing Screening
October 4	SAT
October 6	School pictures
October 7	School pictures
October 7	Professional Learning Communities/Teams begin!
October 13	ASSEMBLY THEME: Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 21	1st Quarter ends (Q1)

NOME-BELTZ MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

Join us for an Open House and experience a sample day in the life of our Nome-Beltz Nanooks!

**SEPT 17, 2026 •
THURSDAY •
5:30PM-7:00PM
NOME -BELTZ CAMPUS**

**Sample school day
starts at 6pm SHARP!**

Meet new and
returning faculty and
staff. Travel with your
student through a
typical day:

All in under an hour!

Refreshments
provided.



**5:30-6:00 & 7:00-7:30PM
SCHOOL INFORMATION**

**RECEIVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHEDULE(S), TOUR
CLASSROOMS AND COME TO THE RC FOR
INFORMATION ON POWER SCHOOL ACCESS,
SCHOOL RESOURCES, AND MORE!**

COOL INCENTIVES FOR STUDENTS WHO JOIN THEIR PARENTS!

For more information or to request
transportation: 907-443-5201

#nomenanooks