Kotzebue Schools
Advisory School Council
Tuesday, October 13, 2026
6:00 PM JNES Library or Via Teams / Call in Audio

Microsoft Teams Link: https://bit.ly/kotzASC
Call In Number: 907-308-3192
Conference ID: 225 993 185#

1. Calling of meeting to Order, Roll Call – Call to order at 6:05, in attendance: Kris Rose, Ashley Madison, Bree Swanson, Saagulik Hensley, Victoria Fergusun (Online).
2. Establishment of Quorum - Established
3. Approval of the Agenda - Approved
4. Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence – complete.
5. Swearing in new members – Swearing in of Ashley and Saagulik – copy of forms attached.
6. Re-organization of officers – Kristofer Rose (Chair), Bree Swanson (Vice Chair), Ashley (Secretary)
7. Introduction of Guests and Public Comments – Brittany Sweeny, Reid Magdanz, Rita Gage. No comments to begin.
8. Correspondence - None
9. Reports
    a. Principal and Activity Reports: Combined report is attached as well.
    b. In addition to the report, a parent commented during the Volleyball sports section that it was shocking to the volleyball team last year to see the number of games other school had played by the time they got to the state tournament. Some teams had 50+ games, while we only had 6 or so. The parent commented that the volleyball coach is doing a great job with the girls, and the team feels like they're having fun. Jeremy responded that he noticed the gap in the volleyball schedule and asked Robert if there was a chance for more games, but there none at the moment. The staff has commited to playing a few intramural games with the team to give them some actual playing time between matches.
    c. Volleyball coaches were named as: Peyton McConnell for Middle School with Mr. Bryan and Ms. Hayes assisting.
    d. Elementary wrestling coaches are kevin Kaufman and Dan Dolle-Molle
    e. Brittani Sweeny reported a little on taking the Student Council to ASAG (Alaska Student Association of Governments) last month, in Healy. The students were very impressed and exited with the experience and are excited to work more in the school to develop some of the resolutions that were passed at ASAG.
    f. Jeremy reported more on R.A.D. He expressed his apologies for not including ANSEP students or ATC students…This was a terrible oversight due to being new to Kotzebue, but he vows to make it up to them! The first day was an attempt to provide the visual and begin the mindset that we are ONE SCHOOL – ONE FAMILY. Everyone received a prize for being in school that day. Jeremy expressed the importance of kids, not only feeling safe and welcome in school, but also having a good time. Attendance matters EVERY DAY, ALL DAY!
    g. Fall Carnival is going to be Nov. 13th.
    h. Halloween parade of costumes will include a pep assembly with Student Council support on Friday, Oct. 30th
    i. Mr. Parker reported on the number of tardies (also attached). We had over 200 tardies last month, and 150 ALA – Absent, Late Arrival. Over the course of the year, though,

tardies have gone down while ALAs have gone up. This month, though, we are seeing a trend downward in reducing those tardies and ALAs. We're seeing a 30-40% drop in tardies after lunch. We have started taking away off-campus privelages for students who are late returning from lunch, and awarding off-campus lunch to students with perfect attendance.

j. A member asked: What's the difference between tardy, ALA, and absent?
k. Mr Parker responded that students are tardy within the first 10 minutes of class starting in MS/HS, and 30 minutes in the elementary. After that, they are considered Abesent, Late Arrival so that we can still keep track that they are actually in the building.
l. jeremy clarified that this is fixes a safety issue, because previously students were just marked absent, even if they were in the calss, if they came later than 10 minutes after the bell. In the event of an emergency, and they class had to evacuate, the attendance count would have been off.

    i. JNES
    ii. KMHS

m. Discussion Items
    i. Graduation Date – Window is May 7th-17th - The ASC approved May 15th for graduation and May 12th for an Awards banquet that includes all student activities, not just sports.

    ii. Tardy/absence policy for sports.

        1. Jeremy discussed the possible adoption of a tardy/attendance policy for school activities. 2 tardies or any absence (with some exceptions, i.e. funerals, weather emergencies, planned doctor appointments…) during the school day would result in that student NOT being able to participate in practice for that day. Jeremy discussed that this was a policy that has worked for him in the past at other schools, and emphasized his belief that Kotzebue not only represents Kotzebue, but we represent the whole district and should set the standard. The ASC was in full support of this idean and would like to see it implremented in the building.
        2. Saagulik asked if there was a document that outlined the policies within the school – other than the Student-Teacher Handbook, because some of them are different. Jeremy responded that there isn't yet, but that is something we can absolutely work to put together.
        3. A parent commented that sometimes being outside of the school system can feel a little isolated when it comes to information gathering for events and other important information. She suggested more proactive communication so parents and community members can help enforce the school's rules and agenda. The group suggested that Facebook posts and the community bulletien are the best and most effective ways to communicate.
        4. A parent asked if there was a weekly newletter that could be distributed, and we discussed using the weekly newsletter that is distributed to staff as a full community piece.
        5. Saagulik suggested having a written communication plan that oulines the best ways to organize communication with the parents and community.

6. Saagulik also brought up the question of what the plan is with the messaging and branding of the “one school vision”. What are we calling ourselves? Is there a rebrand in the works or what does that look like?
7. Jeremy responded that he believes the wording that is currently being used is “Kotzebue Schools” although that can also be misleading becasaue of ATC and the immersive school. He said he would bring this to the board and ask for clarification.

10. Action Items - None
11. Items for ASC Consideration- None
    a. Board Policy Revisions and/or new policies
    b. Old Business
    c. New Business
12. Public Comments
    a. A parent asked for clarification and support on the phone policy. He feels that the actually policy itself is not being followed with fidelity from one teacher to another. Some students are saying their teacher allows one thing while another teacher allows something else. This is something we need to correct so parents can support the school’s ideas and policies.
        i. Jeremy responded that he’s noticed the same thing and is addressing it with staff.
    b. A parent commented that props were deserved for Mr. Parker and his work with students. Also expressing the visual from the R.A.D event was awesome!

13. Council Comments
    a. MAP testing windows and the dates of testing could be communicated to parents more accurately or detailed so parents can prepare students. Even though the dates vary sometimes, a better head up would be good.
    b. Grateful for the administration putting in a policy to address tardies as soon as the ASC mentioned it being an issue at the last meeting. That is appreciated.
    c. How many students are in homeschool, and what are some reasons they are switching. Is there anything we can do to bring them back. If they want to come back.
    d. Appreciative of the intent to include ANSEP and ATC students in future events and incentives. The students will really appreciate that.
    e. Maybe there could be a breakdown of the specific areas that each administrator focuses on so that we aren’t emailing all four of you for something that only one person works on.
    f.
14. Date for Next Meeting – November 17th, 2026, Elementary Library, 6:00 pm
15. Approval of Minutes – approved!
16. Adjournment - 7:40pm

ASC Members 2026-2027			
Bree Swanson	Seat A (2028)	Victoria Ferguson	Seat E (2027)
Jade Hill	Seat B (2027)	Saagulik Hensley	Seat F (2029)
Ashley Madison	Seat C (2029)	Andrew Bell	Seat G (2029)
Kristofer Rose	Seat D (2027)		

Kotzebue Schools: Attendance, Engagement, and Culture

Created on October 13, 2026 at 19:53 by HiNoter

- [ ] Improve communication through Facebook, text messages, email, take-home notices, and weekly newsletters.
- [ ] Create a local school handbook with clearer family guidance and defined points of contact.
- [ ] Develop a process for reviewing daily absences and tardies, confirming exceptions, and notifying coaches and activity leaders.
- [ ] Explore expanded high-school volleyball scheduling and interim game-style events.
- [ ] Include ANSEP and magnet students in future attendance activities.

Overview

The meeting focused on strengthening school leadership, attendance, student engagement, communication, financial planning, and a unified K–12 culture. Members also examined school identity, community participation, and the future operation of the ASC.

Organization and Leadership

- The agenda and minutes were approved, officer positions were filled, and Kristopher Rose was selected as chair.
- Jeremy Millard was welcomed as the new K–12 principal.
- Members emphasized clearer administrative responsibilities, stronger coordination, and continued community involvement through the ASC.

Enrollment and Attendance

- Enrollment is approximately 537 students, with the decline attributed to record corrections, transfers, homeschooling, graduates, and students who never began attending.
- Attendance at JNES and KMHS remains below the district's 90% goal, although KMHS has shown improvement. Illness, tardiness, and seasonal patterns affected results.
- Attendance strategies include Random Attendance Days, incentives, closer tardy tracking, lunch restrictions, and support from community sponsors. Administrators will ensure ANSEP and magnet students are included.
- Members favored connecting daily attendance with eligibility for sports and other activities, but stressed the need for legitimate exceptions and dependable notification procedures.

Activities and Student Leadership

- Cross-country has concluded, while volleyball, wrestling, basketball, Battle of the Books, and middle-school athletics continue.
- Members considered the high-school volleyball program less competitive than comparable state programs because of its schedule and funding. Administration will investigate expanded scheduling and interim game-style events.
- Student council has led assemblies and is organizing further events.
- Students who attended the statewide student-government conference developed skills in parliamentary procedure,

public speaking, and policy discussion.

School Culture and Inclusion

- Attendance celebrations, pep events, visible leadership, and schoolwide activities are being used to create a more welcoming and unified K–12 environment.
- Members requested stronger inclusion and communication for ANSEP and ATC students, including help from Chukchi staff in sharing ASC information.
- The fall carnival, Halloween parade, costume activities, and attendance rewards are intended to increase participation and strengthen school community.

Finances and Funding

- The financial report did not change because iVisions had not been updated.
- The only new expenditure reported was a $400 purchase order for attendance incentives.
- Members discussed combining district funds, grants, fundraising, city resources, and community partnerships to support rewards without placing excessive pressure on the general school budget.

Policies and Communication

- Members supported consistent enforcement of attendance, tardy, phone, sign-out, and activity-participation expectations.
- The district handbook should establish the baseline, while individual schools may adopt stricter requirements.
- Administration will create a process for reviewing absences and tardies, validating exceptions, and informing coaches and activity leaders.
- Members requested a local school handbook, clearer family instructions, designated contacts, and consistent outreach through Facebook, text, email, take-home notices, and weekly newsletters.
- The group also discussed clearer communication about testing schedules and whether families must notify both teachers and the school office.

School Identity and Structure

- Members questioned how the elementary, middle, and high schools should be presented and how their leadership, goals, structure, and measures of success should connect.
- Possible broader identities included Kotzebue Schools and Kotzebue Huskies, while retaining June Nelson Elementary.
- Any rebranding would involve students and the ASC before being presented to the school board.
- Administration will seek further guidance at the upcoming board retreat and report back.

Student and Community Engagement

- Students may bring policy proposals, including ASAG resolutions, to the ASC and administration for discussion and possible referral to the school board.
- Members encouraged students to attend ASC meetings and described the council as an important connection among families, schools, and the board.
- Additional enrollment information was requested concerning homeschooling, reasons students leave district schools, and approaches for encouraging families to remain enrolled.

ASC Operations

- Strong parent participation increased confidence in the ASC's role.
- Future meetings are expected to occur monthly, subject to attendance levels and venue availability.
- Members supported concise minutes that preserve substantive discussion without identifying individual speakers.
- The meeting concluded after members noted a 94% KMHS attendance rate for the day.

October JNES & KMHS Principal Report
Jeremy Millard, Marjorie Baker, Ke'ani Lake-Phillips, Christopher Parker

Enrollment – 537 (Down 11 students from the beginning of the year)
JNES - 308
KMHS - 229

Attendance Rate
JNES
88.31%
KMHS
81.89%

Sports
Cross country finished in October with Hazel running in Palmer at the state finals. She finished in 49th place.
Volleyball is in full swing (get it?), and the team (17) will be traveling to Nome this weekend for their Arctic Pinkie tournament. Unfortunately, after that, they don't have any scheduled matches until Regionals in Barrow November 5th - 7th.
Wrestling has started as well with teams beginning to practice from Elementary through High School. The High School grapplers will kick their season off in Nikiski Oct. 22nd and 23rd, while the MS and Elementary will participate in our own Bush Brawl November 20th-21st.
Elementary wrestling starts today, and Middle School Wrestling and Volleyball began yesterday.
The Eskimo Express Basketball Club continues to give students yet another opportunity to be active after school, as they meet every afternoon.

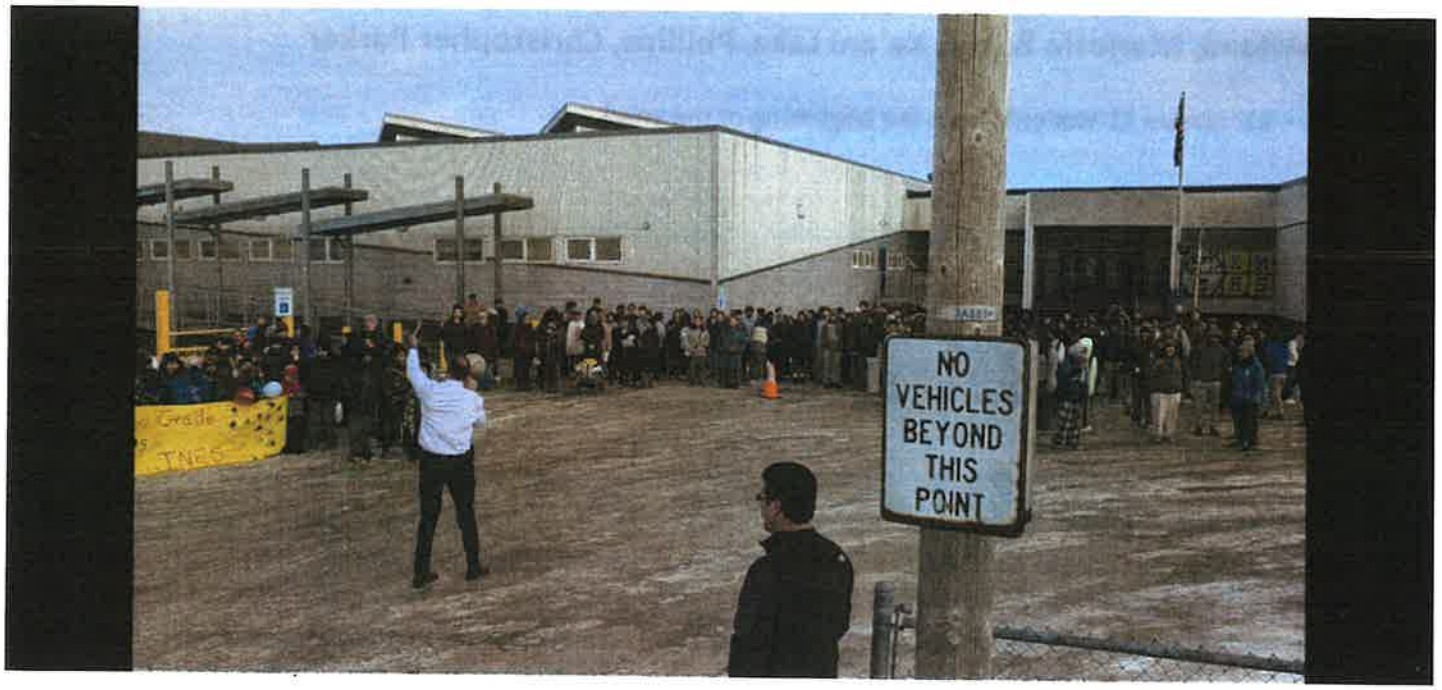
Educational Activities
Battle of the Books is starting this week, The coaches for this year's teams are Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Ungry, Mrs. Medina, Ms. Tadeo, and Mr. Panlilio. We look forward to a competitive season!

KMHS Student Council has been active in their leadership roles. They have hosted a Pep Assembly for XC Regionals and are fully committed to hosting more events in the future.

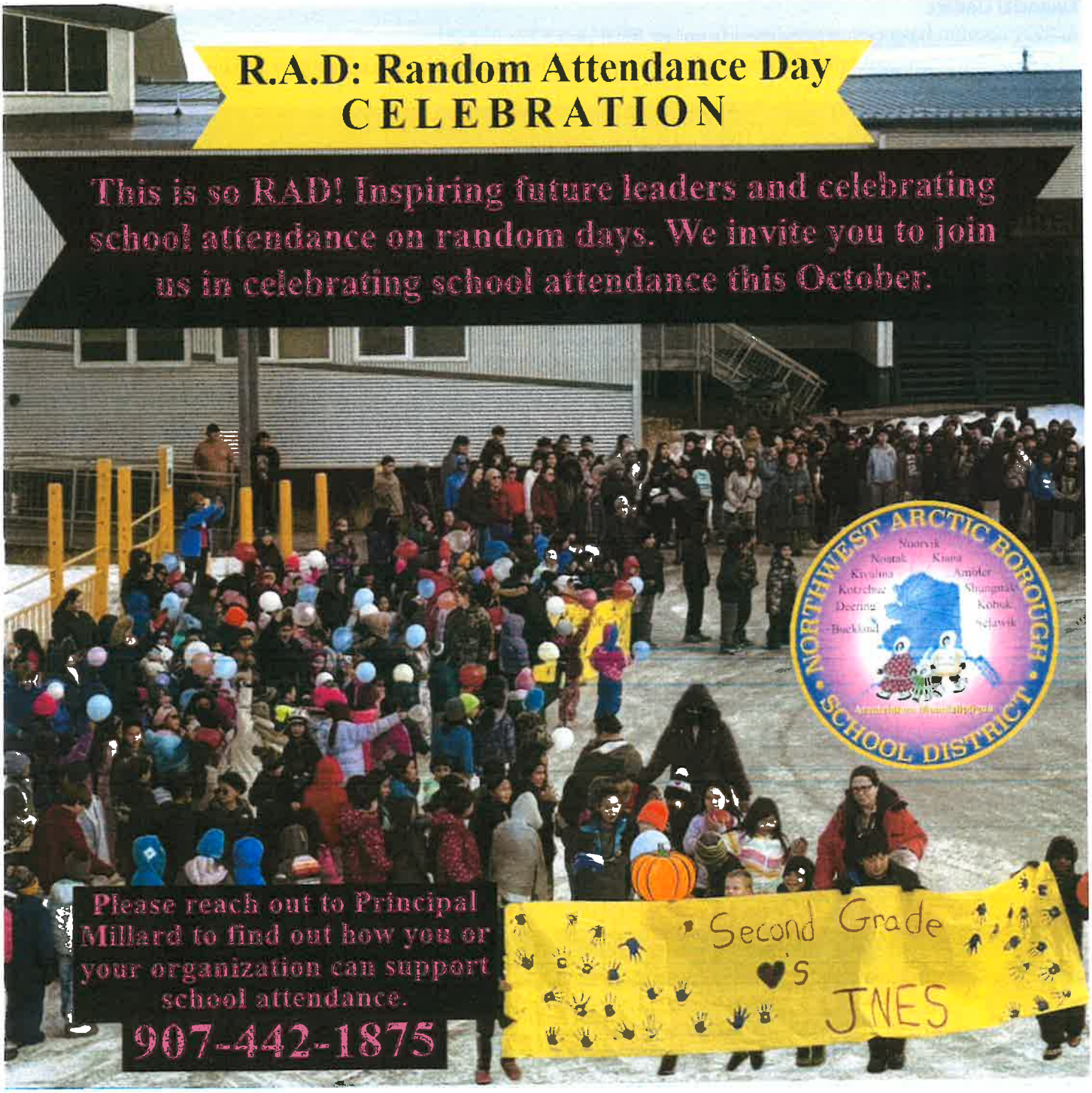
R.A.D. Random Attendance Days have started! This is an initiative to encourage attendance. We have a large number of absences every day, and we know that chronic absenteeism drastically impacts student learning. On random days, we will pick 1 HS class, one MS class, and one Elementary class, and everyone in attendance will get a prize! For our first R.A.D., we included everyone in the entire school. It was quite a scene! As we move forward, the plan is to have better rewards for the students, and we would like to try to get more entities throughout the community involved.

Fall Carnival
We are planning to have a fall carnival this year. We have selected November 13th as our target date to give the most amount of time possible for ordering prizes/candy. This is my first Fall Carnival here, so I'll be deferring to those who have been here before for a lot of guidance.

Halloween Parade
We will have our Halloween activities for school on Friday, October 30th this year. Events are still being planned and organized, but we will keep you posted.


NO
VEHICLES
BEYOND
THIS
POINT




R.A.D: Random Attendance Day
CELEBRATION
This is so RAD! Inspiring future leaders and celebrating school attendance on random days. We invite you to join us in celebrating school attendance this October.
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Noorvik
Noatak
Kiana
Kivalina
Ambler
Kotzebue
Shungnak
Deering
Kobuk
Buckland
Selawik
Please reach out to Principal Millard to find out how you or your organization can support school attendance.
907-442-1875
Second Grade
's
JNES

Financial Update

Activity account balances carrying over from last fiscal year have not yet been reported in our accounting software. The figures below represent unaudited totals from last year and currently posted expenditure encumbrances.

JNES Activities — Program Summary

Fiscal year 2025–2026 | From 7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026 |

Program	GL Budget	Range to Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Budget
GENERAL MISC - 700	-	$11,670.27	($36,527.47)	$36,527.47	-	$36,527.47	0.00%
CROSS COUNTRY - 701	-	$182.79	($317.21)	$317.21	-	$317.21	0.00%
WRESTLING - 703	-	($143.05)	($643.05)	$643.05	-	$643.05	0.00%
BOYS BASKETBALL - 704	-	($916.96)	($800.00)	$800.00	-	$800.00	0.00%
CLASSROOM FUNDRAISING - 707	-	($2,233.25)	($18,779.05)	$18,779.05	-	$18,779.05	0.00%
MUSIC/DRAMA/ART - 710	-	-	($1,466.30)	$1,466.30	-	$1,466.30	0.00%
STUDENT COUNCIL - 713	-	-	($500.00)	$500.00	-	$500.00	0.00%
BOOK FAIR - 718	-	-	($5,617.92)	$5,617.92	-	$5,617.92	0.00%
CHEERLEADING - 719	-	($28.75)	($528.75)	$528.75	-	$528.75	0.00%
YEARBOOK - 740	-	$2,094.25	$1,816.75	($1,816.75)	-	($1,816.75)	0.00%
ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB - 753	-	-	($337.91)	$337.91	-	$337.91	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	**-**	**$10,625.30**	**($63,700.91)**	**$63,700.91**	**-**	**$63,700.91**	**0.00%**

KMHS Activities — Program Summary

Fiscal year 2025–2026 | From 7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026 |

Program	GL Budget	Range to Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Budget
GENERAL MISC - 700	-	$94,818.46	($64,093.64)	$64,093.64	-	$64,093.64	0.00%
CROSS COUNTRY - 701	-	-	($2,500.00)	$2,500.00	-	$2,500.00	0.00%
VOLLEYBALL - 702	-	($2,000.00)	($5,200.00)	$5,200.00	-	$5,200.00	0.00%
WRESTLING - 703	-	($7,832.00)	($16,221.28)	$16,221.28	-	$16,221.28	0.00%
BOYS BASKETBALL - 704	-	($10,479.32)	($14,125.54)	$14,125.54	-	$14,125.54	0.00%
GIRLS BASKETBALL - 705	-	($5,825.60)	($9,631.32)	$9,631.32	-	$9,631.32	0.00%
CLASSROOM FUNDRAISING - 707	-	-	($2,593.06)	$2,593.06	-	$2,593.06	0.00%
CONCESSIONS - 708	-	($36,947.71)	($56,866.99)	$56,866.99	-	$56,866.99	0.00%
FAB LAB - 709	-	$5,126.57	-	-	-	-	0.00%

MUSIC/DRAMA/ART - 710	-	$795.94	($252.04)	$252.04	-	$252.04	0.00%
NHS - 711	-	$125.00	-	-	-	-	0.00%
PROM - 712	-	($5,285.00)	($6,235.00)	$6,235.00	-	$6,235.00	0.00%
STUDENT COUNCIL - 713	-	($16,638.29)	($35,972.07)	$35,972.07	-	$35,972.07	0.00%
MS SPORTS - 715	-	($860.00)	($932.90)	$932.90	-	$932.90	0.00%
YOUTH LEADERS - 716	-	-	($2,104.70)	$2,104.70	-	$2,104.70	0.00%
GATE - 717	-	$4,737.52	($3,733.36)	$3,733.36	-	$3,733.36	0.00%
CHEERLEADING - 719	-	($1,134.00)	($7,048.60)	$7,048.60	-	$7,048.60	0.00%
CLASS OF 2023 - 723	-	$216.00	-	-	-	-	0.00%
CLASS OF 2024 - 724	-	$2,000.00	-	-	-	-	0.00%
CLASS OF 2027 - 727	-	($330.15)	($330.15)	$330.15	-	$330.15	0.00%
CLASS OF 2028 - 728	-	($330.15)	($330.15)	$330.15	-	$330.15	0.00%
CLASS OF 2029 - 729	-	($330.15)	($330.15)	$330.15	-	$330.15	0.00%
CLASS OF 2030 - 730	-	($330.16)	($330.16)	$330.16	-	$330.16	0.00%
E-SPORTS - 758	-	$344.20	-	-	-	-	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	-	**$19,841.16**	**($228,831.11)**	**$228,831.11**	-	**$228,831.11**	**0.00%**

Upcoming events

Arctic Pinkie volleyball tournament – 10/15-17
Vet Clinic in Wood Shop – 10/16-18
Parent Teacher Conferences – 10/19 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Nikiski Top Dog wrestling @Nikiski– 10/22-23
MCCA Wrestling Tournament @ANC – 10/30-31
Western Conference Volleyball Regionals @BRW – 11/5-7
Dudley Homelvig Wrestling Tournament @OME – 11/6-7
Fall Carnival – 11/13
Bush Brawl @OTZ – 11/20-21
Thanksgiving Break – 11/25-27