



Nome-Beltz Middle High School

PO Box 131, Nome Alaska 99762

Phone: 907-443-5201 Fax: 907-443-3626

Date: 15 March 2024

To: NPS Board

From: Teriscovkya Smith and Dr. Michael Akes

Subject: March Board Report

Student Celebrations:

- Due to the timing of the report and spring break, we will not hold student celebrations this month. We hope to spotlight Nanook awesomeness in the next report.

NBMHS Data:

- February had a total of 19 student contact days
- 1 school closure due to weather on Wednesday, February 21
- Current Enrollment: 280
 - 6th-grade: 44
 - 7th-grade: 33
 - 8th-grade: 37
 - 9th-grade: 56
 - 10th-grade: 37
 - 11th-grade: 35
 - 12th-grade: 38

The following is a list of happenings that currently impact NBMHS:

- **Vacancies:** Unfilled positions (MS Language Arts, Behavior Specialist and Library Assistant) continue to pose challenges and have adversely impacted our Read 180 courses (some classes have 20+ students) and general rostering. The loss of a Special Education teacher has posed barriers to quality instruction for an Integrated Math class and we are working to resolve the situation as soon as possible.
- **Budgetary Considerations:** The atmosphere is thick with stress throughout the district as news regarding the BSA and possible cuts continues to fill our inboxes. We are grateful to school board member Bob Metcalf, who visited a high school staff meeting on February 28. Mr. Metcalf spoke with teachers and staff about the budget, the role of the school board, and the seriousness of considerations that

impact our students and staff. His authenticity and transparency made for conversations conducive to building trust and some teachers attended the Board Work session as a result to learn more about how funding processes work at the state and district level and to propose ideas and suggestions. We are thankful for the open invitations to these work sessions and the grace with which board members addressed staff concerns, questions, and propositions.

- **Raising the Bar Survey:** Many NBMHS staff attended the RTI conference at the end of January and familiarized themselves with Visible Learning and the power of John Hattie's research which lies in helping educators understand, measure, and evaluate the impact they can have on student growth and achievement. As part of our district wide Raising the Bar grant, NBMHS staff completed a survey last fall and results show that one of the biggest areas of growth needed for our school lies in structured and teacher-guided collaboration, which has stagnated. A site visit in May with Heath Peine, a consultant through Corwin, will begin our process of viable school improvement goal setting for the FY25 school year. This will include redesigning our Wednesday contractual time to include implementing structured reflective dialogue, sharing of experiences and best practices and teacher driven activities to maintain a continual focus on improving learning outcomes for students. We hope that Visible Learning research, interpretations, and analyses, with support from our partnership with Corwin, will make it possible to understand the research, adapt it to our unique context, and close the gap on the research of what works best for student achievement. Our challenges include: providing viable and relevant teacher-centered professional development, opportunities for collaboration within departments and vertical teaming, while also rotating time for cultural competency, instructional strategies, and time for teachers and staff to conduct their professional responsibilities. Additionally, goal setting that incorporates district strategic and equity planning poses a challenge in that too many goals can cause systems to falter; we want our movement forward to be intentional, measurable, Nanook-centered, and aligned with our current PBIS initiatives.
- **Campus Security:** NBMHS teachers, staff, and students continue to express their concerns about clear campus safety protocol. We made significant progress in our ALICE rollout that included staff training and sandbox dry runs, and the delivery of lessons to all students grades 6-12. However, we have yet to practice with students and this causes worry amongst staff should we face an actual emergency or violent intruder. Leadership met in February to address various issues related to campus and district safety that included clarifying a consistent means of communications, district/campus protocol and rally/reunification points.

Growing the Den:

- **Educators Rising Takes Juneau By Storm**

- The following students placed within the Top 3 in their categories, which awarded them a medal and certificate at state:
 - Finn Gregg placed 2nd in Creative Lecture
 - Kaitlyn Johnson, Taylor Gorn, and Kara Johanson placed 2nd in Public Service Announcement
 - Luke Hansen placed 3rd in Lesson Planning & Delivery: STEM
- The rest of our competitors all placed within the top 10 of their categories, so all 16 students qualify to compete at the national level this summer:
 - Kyle Eide for Job Shadowing
 - Julia Sinnok for Job Interview
 - Jeremiah Miller for Lesson Planning & Development (Humanities)
 - Madison McClaren for Lesson Planning & Development (Humanities)
 - Ayla Ta for Lesson Planning & Development (Arts)
 - Nutaasaq & Piniaq Ahnangnatoguk for Children's Literature
 - Hattie Nattanguk & Quinton Bahnke for Children's Literature
 - Sherilyn Anderson & Kailey Hensley for Children's Literature
 - Iryna Kadatska for Children's Literature
- Thank you to Ms. Finney and the aforementioned students for their commitment to the Ed Rising program! The dramatic increase in enrollment and participation is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Finney and her team.



- **Partnership with CAMP:** NBMHS in partnership with NSHC's CAMP department, conducted its second round of the American Lung Association's *INDEPTH* (Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco and Health) program. *INDEPTH* helps NBMHS to improve on its commitment to comprehensive substance abuse prevention education. Thank you Kathy Holly, Hannah Schnaidt, and Angela



Amaktoolik from the CAMP department for supporting the health and well-being of our Nanooks!

- **Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Update**

- *Formal Walk Through*

- As part of our Tier 1 implementation, we conducted a walk through with Ms. Badertscher to examine and score the following criteria. Data from the walkthrough will help our MS/HS teams set goals for continued improvements. We already know that we need to do a better job of communicating PBIS to our families, but the following results will also support our efforts:

- *Tier 1 expectations and their applicability to staff, students, and families*
 - Results: Our behavior expectations of safety, respect, and responsibility were positive and applicable to all settings and populations.
 - *Visibility of Tier 1 expectations throughout the campus, including classrooms and common areas*
 - Results: The gym, bus entrance/exit doors, Nanook Room, and computer lab lack postings and need immediate attention.
 - *Problematic common areas*
 - Results: Data and observations show that the Nanook Room and the bus entrance/exit (buses) are the two most common areas for referrals
 - *Classrooms (rules, procedures, routines, reward strategies, and consequences and interventions for problem behaviors)*
 - Results: A combination of teacher interviews, classroom observations and visits, and review of documentation (postings, etc) show that administration needs to improve support for teaching expectations within classrooms and establish clear protocol for consequences and interventions that support teachers and allow them to focus on the delivery of their content.
 - *Interviews with students and staff about the campus PBIS team effort, behavior expectations and data*
 - Results: Interviews show that students know expectations and are familiar with the token economy in place (PBIS rewards/Nanook cash). We also received great feedback for improving the incentives portion of the program.

- *PBIS Parent Volunteer Meeting*
 - Mrs. Badertscher recruited parent volunteers for a meeting on February 29th; 2 parents attended to learn about our PBIS initiative, how parents can be involved and track their children's progress, and what volunteer options are available moving forward. We offered transportation upon request. Recruitment for committees remains a challenge, but we have a start and hope that interest continues to grow and families learn more about how PBIS helps to grow our Nanooks and set the stage for improved learning and outcomes.

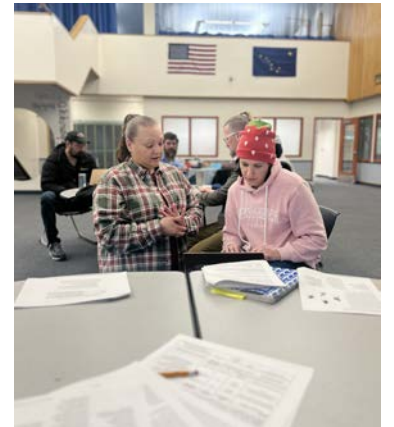
- *Teaching Means Reteaching*

- Mr. Akes gathers MS cohorts to review behavior expectations, acknowledge the growth and progress of each grade, and teach consequences. We must be committed to reteaching the behaviors we would like to see and reinforcing this instruction through praise and accolades for Nanooks getting it right! #nanooksknow



- **Instructional Plans, Peer Peeks, and Partner Pairings**

- During our January 19 Inservice, teachers worked with Jennifer Shreve on pulling the most relevant MAP data to inform unit/lesson planning and support their work in triangulation of data and instructional goal setting. These sessions with Mrs. Shreve will help us as we shift our Wednesday collaborative time to focus on improved student outcomes.
- Ms. LoAna Benton worked with staff on the reintroduction of Peer Observations ("Peer Peeks") which supports the growth of our instructional practices, reflection, and plans for improved collaboration within departments and vertical and interdisciplinary teaming practices. Teachers chose and met with their peer partners and have begun scheduling time to visit each other's classrooms and offer feedback.



- **Teacher Techniques in the Den**

- NBMHS teachers continue to provide meaningful instruction. Here's a sampling of recent activities:

- *What is a true Democracy?*

- Using ancient Athens as context, students in Mr. Wharry's World History conducted a debate synthesizing their knowledge of democracy to pose some incredible arguments! Korbin Knipfer makes his claim and, yes, Paloma Booth is wearing a toga!



- *Beading & Yupik Days*

- Harmony Martinson showcases a pair of intricately beaded earrings crafted in Phyllis Walluk's Alaska Native Tradition and Culture class.
 - Ms. Phyllis worked with Maggie Miller, INUA Outreach Coordinator through NSHC, to secure funds for students enrolled in her Sivuqaq Lifestyle course to attend Gambell's Yupik Days festivities from March 27-29. Through generous donations from NSHC, Bering Air, and a local Go Fund Me campaign sparked by Maggie Miller, Phyllis' dream will come true and she will travel with her class to participate! Thank you to Nome and its entities for your strong and consistent support.



- *Place Based Biology in Practice*

- *Weather Watch*

- Ms. Liben's Biology class proudly posed in front of their new weather station which will help students gather local data to support their classroom studies.



- *Tomcod Analysis*

- In partnership with ADF&G and Northwest Campus staff worked with Ms. Liben and her Biology students making fishing holes in the harbor to procure tomcod

for study. Students will analyze fish livers for potential accumulated biotoxin levels. Since tomcod is a subsistence food source, it is a rare thing for the state's lab to analyze specimens that are not of the typical "commercial" stock making the work of our Beltz students cutting edge and vital in their understanding of how climate changes impact their region. This is *problem* and *place*-based learning at its best. Thank you Ms. Liben!

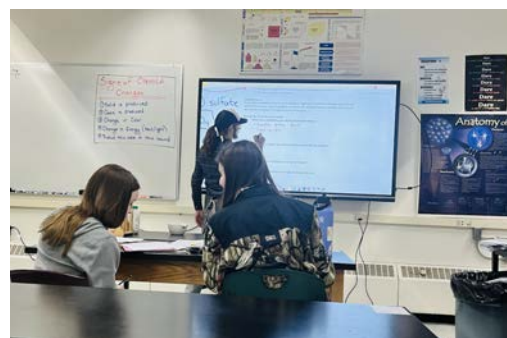
■ *Digital Media Storyboarding*

- How does Mr. Heinrich grow a student's understanding of the storyboarding process? Well, have them make Tomcod Poles of course! To complement the work of Ms. Liben's classes, Cody Tocktoo and Vianne Foster worked on their tomcoddling sticks, which eventually garnered strings and lures. In addition to teaching knife and saw safety, Mr. Heinrich noted that the goal of the project had 2 parts. (1) *Identify* the order of the process, so that students can see how a storyboard flows. The students reflected upon their processes and sequence them for a storyboard. (2) Instill local subsistence knowledge.



■ *Reactions to Reactions*

- Mr. Deering's Chemistry class identified the signs of a physical reaction and used them to determine if changes demonstrated in class were physical or chemical. The students built off of previous knowledge regarding matter and applied their skills and recorded their reactions to the various concoctions mixed in class using cupric sulfate, zinc metal, and hydrochloric acid. Mr. Deering deepens his students' knowledge of the scientific process and prepares them for the critical thinking necessary to engage in his content.



NBMHS Data (compiled by Dr. Akes):

Incidents Logged September- February

Infraction	September	October	November	December	January	February
assault	0	1	0	0	2	1
aggression	4	0	0	3	1	2
bullying, harassment	0	1	1	0	3	1
bus	1	0	0	0	0	0
dangerous/unsafe behavior	0	5	8	9	3	4
disrespect	0	1	1	0	1	0
disruptive behavior	0	5	0	8	0	1
fighting	11	8	1	4	2	2
insubordination	0	6	7	12	2	3
leaving campus	9	0	0	1	0	0
melt down	1	2	2	1	2	0
profanity	0	3	1	1	1	3
skipping	64	37	41	11	0	7
tardies	6	22	11	16	0	29
threatening behavior	4	3	1	1	1	2
inappropriate behavior	0	0	2	0	0	
phone	0	0	1	0	2	1
vaping	0	1	0	0	1	1
vandalism/destruction of school property	0	0	1	0	0	2
illicit drugs	0	0	0	2	0	1
Contraband	0	0	0	0	1	0
Inappropriate use of technology	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	100	95	78	69	23	61

Suspension SPED vs Non SPED

Month	Gen Ed	SPED	Total
September	21.5	6.5	28
October	14	7	21
November	17	3	20
December	17	13	30
January	6	5	11
February	10	3	13
Total	85.5	37.5	123

Consequences September-February

Consequence	September	October	November	December	January	February
loss of bus privileges	1	1	0	0	0	0
conference with parent	24	14	11	1	2	0
conference with student	0	0	3	2	1	5
detention	12	40	26	28	1	37
in school suspension	6	1	0	0	2	3
other discipline action	6	5	4	1	4	3
office referral	26	13	14	6	0	0
suspension	24	21	20	31	11	13
loss of phone	0	0	0	0	1	1
Grant total	99	95	78	69	22	62

Other Doings in the Den

■ *Nanook Voices*

- Middle School students work with teachers and Main office staff to prepare for and deliver morning announcements. Maybe Ivy Bahnke will be one of our up and coming high school announcers in the not so distant future?



■ *Iditarod Invitational Superstar*

- Yes, this is news from March, but we simply cannot wait until next month to brag about our own Ryan Fox! The Den couldn't be more proud of Mr. Fox, our middle school Social Studies teacher extraordinaire, who placed first in the Iditarod Invitational 350-mile foot race from Knik to McGrath. Pulling a sled and trekking at all hours, Mr. Fox crossed the finish line on Monday, March 4th at 5:25am in 7 days, 14 hours, and 44 minutes. The learning tucked within Mr. Fox's adventure is evident throughout the Den in classrooms and conversations; he inspires everyone to set goals, draw support, and just make it happen to the best of your ability. We are #teamfox all the way and wonder: Is the 1000-mile adventure next on his list?



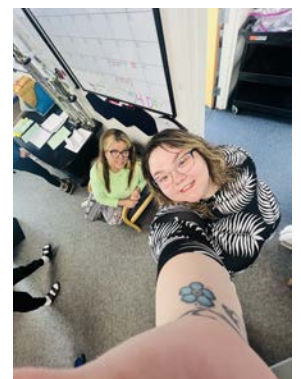
■ *Class of 2024 Goes Vintage*

- Senior Isaiah Marble showcases his stunning NBHS Letterman's Jacket. Some of us older folks wish this trend would come back into massive popularity. Isn't he cool?



■ *Cautionary Tale*

- Ms. Smith has learned first hand the importance of keeping devices secure at all times as evident by the hundreds of selfies on her cell phone. #mainofficestaffisbusted



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE DEN:

- March 19-23 Cheer and Boys basketball head to State!
- March 23 CPI training ([Crisis Prevention Institute](#))
- March 23-25 Ski team heads to White Mountain
- March 29 3rd Quarter ends (Q3)
- March 30 NBMS/ ACSA Dance-o-Rama
- March 30-April 2 Ski team heads to WISA at White Mountain
- April 8-15 Senior Class of 2024 Trip to Washington DC
- April 13 ACT Testing
- April 24-27 NYO State Competition
- April 26 Inservice → No school
- April 30 College and Career Fair
- April/May TBD Drama Club Performance
- April/May Spring MAP summative assessment
- May 4 SAT testing
- May 4 Junior Prom
- May TBD NBMS/ ACSA Formal Dance
- May 11-18 8th-Grade Washington DC Trip
- May 23 Last academic day for HS seniors
- May 24 Senior Skip Day
- May 26 Baccalaureate
- May 27 Memorial Day → No School
- May 28 Scholarship Night
- May 28-31 HS Spring Semester Review & Final Exams
- May 29 Graduation set up
- May 30 NBHS Graduation #2024
- May 31 8th-grade Promotion
- May 31 Semester 2/4th Quarter ends (S2/Q4)
- June 1 Teacher Work Day