



Nome-Beltz Middle High School

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Date: 09 April 2026

To: NPS Board

From: Teriscovkya Smith and Holly Harlow

Subject: April 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
	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.	
	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:
 - 6th-Grade: 39
 - 7th-grade: 32
 - 8th-grade: 38
 - 9th-grade: 41
 - 10th-grade: 45
 - 11th-grade: 37
 - 12th-grade: 34
- Student contact days for March: 17
 - Spring/Iditarod Break
- Student Attendance: 83%

Class of 2026 Senior Plow!

We have to share this year's Senior Plow; the beautiful work emulates the positivity, good nature, and leadership of this cohort. They are wonderful. #classof2026



Student Celebrations

- HS:
 - Joshua Contreras, 12th-grade
- MS:
 - Alayniya Dixon, 7th-Grade (March SOM)
 - We were unable to celebrate last month so we plan to honor this superstar on April 14th!
 - Harold Paniataaq, 8th-grade
- Holly Gray (8th-grade)
 - Holly's poem "The Beach" received an Honorable Mention in the 6th-8th Grade Poetry category in this year's UAA/ *Anchorage Daily News* Creative Writing Contest. The *Anchorage Daily News* plans to publish an announcement of all winners in the Sunday, May 3 print and online editions. All first place and honorable mention winners will receive an official certificate from the contest sponsors. This will be mailed in May as well.

Once the list of winners has been published in the *Anchorage Daily News* (both print and online editions), the winning stories and the complete list of all winners and honorable mentions will also be published on [LitSite Alaska](#), a literary website hosted by The University of Alaska Anchorage.

Congratulations Holly! Here is her poem:

The Beach

By Holly Gray

It's the start of July.
East Beach, off the seawall right after the last house.
We're tanning on the sand,
thinking about going swimming.
I'm happy and carefree,
I feel my towel on my back,
I'm shivering but the sun makes me feel warm and toasty.
I hear the fire burning,
the waves crash on to the shore.
I run as fast as I can to the ocean and I dip my toes into the water.
Finally, I dive into the water and do a handstand.

- **The following is a list of happenings that currently impact NBMHS:**
 - *NBMHS Security, Transportation, and Vocational Education/Pathways*
 - We provided comprehensive information on campus needs and expansion issues on our last Board report and these circumstances continue to impact planning, safety protocol, and several components of our School Improvement Plan (for a review of this plan, [CLICK HERE](#)).
 - *Campus Vacancies*
 - Currently, NBMHS has the following certified vacancies; as of this report, we have not had candidates or interviews for the following. Should these positions remain unfilled, this will be detrimental to our programs and we would be challenged in providing a comprehensive educational path for students:
 - HS Biological Sciences
 - MS English Language Arts
 - MS/HS Art
 - MS/HS Counselor
 - Classified vacancy:
 - We still have a Main Office Attendance Secretary vacancy and our Registrar, Allison Topkok, is working hard to hold down the fort with support from Mrs. Ulroan (admin intern) and Ms. Harlow.
- **Safety Protocol update**
 - Feedback and questions from the February 6 Town Hall really helped us in planning and we have run through various safety protocols and processes related to ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and the district's Big 5. Students and staff have practiced and discussed Lockdown, Counter, and Evacuate. Recently, Beltz partnered with Morgan's and our buses made a stop so students could see our Rally Point, the SFE (State Equipment Fleet), learn about what happens when we utilize the SFE in an evacuation, and ask questions. Here is a video students watched just before their rally point visit: [CLICK HERE](#). We shared our FY27 ALICE Lesson and Drill Schedule in our March report.
- **AK Star Testing and the Alaska Science Assessment**
 - Hana Robb and Mary Ulroan have been working hard to ensure that we reach a 100% testing goal for grades 6-12. As we have noted in our previous reports, even with efforts to improve attendance we still linger at

the 85%-89% percentile, which has direct impacts on our testing. We are experiencing an uptick of excused absences which has caused delays in completion rates given our 83% attendance rate for April. We will report our results in our May presentation. As of the submission of this report our testing rates are as follows:

■ **English Language Arts:**

- 6th Grade: 34 (87.2%) complete; 1 student (02.6%) in progress; 4 students (10.3%) not started
- 7th Grade: 24 (75.0%) complete; 4 students (12.5%) in progress; 4 students (12.5%) not started
- 8th Grade: 28 (73.7%) complete; 4 students (10.5%) in progress; 6 students (15.8%) not started
- 9th Grade: 38 (92.7%) complete; 1 student (2.4%) in progress; 2 students (4.9%) not started

■ **Math:**

- 9th Grade: 33 (80.5%) complete; 3 students (7.43%) in progress; 5 students (12.2%) not started
- Middle School begins testing on Thursday, April 9

■ **Alaska Science Assessment:**

- 8th Grade: 31 (78.9%) complete; 7 students (18.4%) not started
- 10th Grade: 33 (71.7%) complete; 13 students (28.2%) not started

● **ASTI Site Committee (School Community Leadership Team)**

- At the March Site Committee meeting, members discussed potential changes, edits, and clarifications to the Student Handbook. This work will guide our other handbooks and processes for how we operate in the Den.
- The committee also discussed family participation in the School Climate and Connectedness Survey and completed their raffle for two lucky winners. One parent earned a gift card and a cooler donated by Norton Sound Health Corporation, and another won the Ultimate Nanook Game Pass – complete with a special parking spot.

- Work for the remainder of the year will focus on reviewing our School Improvement Goals, monitoring progress, and making adjustments as needed.
- **Instructional Highlights**

- *Read 180 Student Strike a Tableaux*

- This research-driven intervention supports our students' reading and writing growth and Ms. Manay cultivates an environment that is engaging and creative. Tableaux is an arts-based technique creating "frozen pictures" using bodies to represent complex ideas, serving as a powerful, evidence-based instructional strategy for active engagement and assessment. It builds empathy, deepens content comprehension in literature or history, and acts as a rapid, visual assessment tool. Her 6th-grade students took the challenge to heart!



- *Woodworking 1: Cutting Boards with an Edge*

- Elizabeth Payenna (9th-grade) showcases the cutting board she designed and created in Mr. Coulter's class. Her work is incredible and imagine what she will create should she stay on this path! We agreed that NO one would ever want to cut into this beautiful piece. Perhaps the lucky owner will consider a charcuterie approach?



- *Environmental Science, Ms. Liben*

- Bob Loeffler presented to MS. Liben's students on mining, its history and regional impacts. Professor Loeffler is a research professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and expert in Alaska mining, land, and policy, specializing in permitting and economic analysis.



○ **WAISC Conference, Place-Based Learning, and Reflections on Subsistence, Teacher Sarah Liben**

- And they are off! Ms. Liben and a talented group of students will present their original research at the 18th **Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference** (WAISC), from April 7-9, 2026 at the UAF Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel. WAISC is a science conference for western Alaska that brings together scientists, Indigenous knowledge holders, educators, and community members to share research and dialogue focused on sustaining the health, well-being, and subsistence traditions of Western Alaska communities. The students presenting are:



- Audrey Bruner-Alvanna (10th-grade)
- Vivian Bloodgood (10th-grade)
- Francis Papalid (11th-grade)
- Allen Yingling (10th-grade)

These students will present their research findings, and reflect on knowledge gained from combining Western scientific methodology with local subsistence practices.

● **Social Emotional and Cultural Learning**

○ ***A Special Visit from Jessie Homes***

- On Monday, March 23rd, after winning his second back-to-back Iditarod, Jessie Holmes took time out to visit our schools and impress upon students the importance of finding their success. Holmes told our students: "If you want to be successful, it helps to visualize your path and your outcome." He gave his own examples of successes and failures and offered an authentic and humble lesson on staying positive and finding your why with wonderful examples of his time on the trail. Thank you, Jessie! You are an inspiration and our Nanooks are grateful for your time and congratulations on your win in the Kobuk 440!



○ **Outdoor Activities**

- When planning courses, inviting guests, and providing activities, staff agree that we have a disproportionate number of students who would benefit from direct instruction on subsistence ways and regional knowledge. Mr. Heinrich works tirelessly to incorporate Indigenous ways into his curriculum, regardless of the class! He secured a grant to procure supplies to get students out snowshoeing, invited guests to teach students how to make seal oil lamps, hats for outdoor wind and cold protection, and First Aid and Stop the Bleed instruction. Mr. Heinrich utilizes evidence-based questioning for effective learning and analytical thinking rather than mere recall. In order to facilitate connecting students to their region, Mr. Heinrich and his students have recently learned the following:

- **Knife Safety and Techniques**

- Students identified common edged tools and practiced hazard zones including the “circle of blood” and the “blood triangle”; students also learned and practiced correct knife grips, cutting stances, and basic safe cutting techniques like “off to one side power stroke”, “chest lever”, and effective whittling; after practicing, the students learned about blade maintenance and how to apply these skills to outdoor activities and survival! Mr. Heinrich does not just show slides, his room is full of willow branches and whittling cuts as students apply their skills through guided practice! For a sampling of Mr. Heinrich’s instruction, [CLICK HERE!](#)

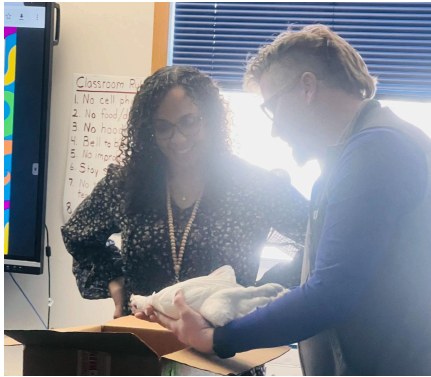


- **Teaching Ptarmigan Basics**

- *From Mr. Heinrich:*
Making connections to the land, making connections to our food.

My Outdoor Activities class had been asking questions about how to process a Ptarmigan. Recently, I was fortunate enough to harvest a

Ptarmigan. I brought the bird in to demonstrate how we can process the bird into food. We had a mini Biology lesson as we processed, looking at the bird's adaptations -the feathers on the feet, the feathers around the nostrils on their beak. We harvested the legs and thighs along with the breasts and heart, liver, and gizzard. We opened the gizzard so we could examine what was in there and talked about the function of the gizzard and why it is so tough.



After processing the bird, we took the edible bits and washed them off and put the meat to soak in cold water overnight. The meat was donated to the Culinary Arts class, so they can work with locally harvested food. This helps build the connection between our students and our land. Before we processed the bird. I was able to offer staff and students a chance to take a look at one up close, and to see their adaptations.



Ptarmigan, our state bird, often does not receive the respect they deserve. But yet, it's really amazing when you take a closer look at them. They are built not to survive in the harshest environment, to thrive in the harshest environment.

As we roll into spring, I'm hoping for more opportunities for my class to learn.

o *Walluk Wonders*

- In her Alaska Native Glove Beading class, Ms. Walluk works with students to create patterns, designs, and the results are incredible. Brittany Payenna (9th-grade) came to the office to show us her beautiful gloves - a first for her and something she will treasure forever! The process that Ms. Walluk cultivates is vital to student growth and



includes conversation, guidance, and skills that students will be able to apply to their own projects after high school.

○ *Carry the Cure Visits NBMHS*

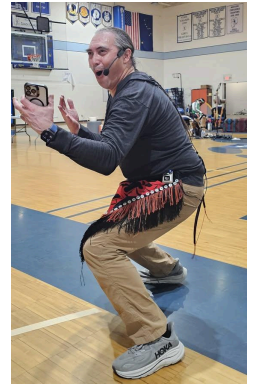
- On March 27th, students and staff were treated to a special assembly sponsored by Bill Pagaran (Tlingit) and his troupe Carry the Cure. The performance was a multimedia, live music, interactive presentation that utilized proven practices, culturally grounded stories, dance, and music to inspire students to live with hope for their future.

In addition to Nome, Carry the Cure's Iditarod tour included St. Michael, Stebbins, Shishmaref, and Brevig Mission. We are grateful that they stayed in Nome to bring our students into the fold with a clear message about the value of life, choosing to be proactive in how we live it, and asking for help when we need it.

Bill, his band Broken Walls, and his performers stayed after the assembly and performed another round for the Middle School and the students made it difficult for them to leave as they asked for selfies, pictures, and conversation. Before leaving, they left a final message: [CLICK HERE!](#)

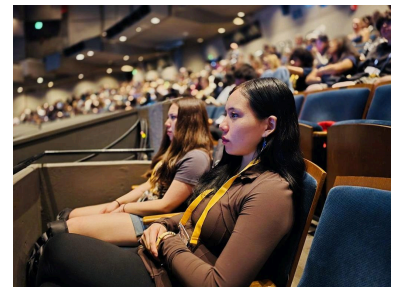
The student response was extremely positive:

- "It is really hard to think or talk about suicide, but it's so real. This was so positive." -6th-grade student
- "I really liked the stories." -8th-grade student
- "We don't have enough conversations about this - my family has had suicide and we are so quiet. He encouraged us to talk about it and to care for each other." -10th-grade student
- "Talking to each other is so important and this issue is so real in our region. The message was awesome - we all have value." -12th-grade student



○ ***Nome Native Youth Leadership: Defending the Web of Life, Advisor Mary Ulroan***

- Mrs. Ulroan and students from the Nome Native Youth Leadership Organization (NNYLO) chaperoned students to the **Bioneers Conference** in Berkeley, CA from March 26-28. They listened to people speak about their activism, research, and experiences. The Bioneers Conference highlighted the necessity of coming together when problem-solving in communities throughout the world. The students also interacted with other Indigenous cultures and learn how culture is just as important as unity when trying to create real positive change. Thank you to Sitnasuak and NSEDC for supporting this endeavor and our Indigenous youth!



- Students in attendance: Kendall Ulroan (12th), Peyton Weyoiuanna (12th), BrookLynn Crowe (12th), Kaya Kent (12th), Angela Omedelina (12th), Piniq Ahnangnatoguk (12th), Nutaasaq Ahnangnatoguk (12th), Sara James (12th), Renee Brown (11th), Alora Stasenکو (12th). Thank you to the students who will share their experiences at our School Board meeting!



○ ***Katiluta Cultural Festival: "Let's Gather Together"***

- Plans are getting finalized for a wonderful day of activities at NBMHS Thursday, April 30 as part of the Katiluta Cultural Festival from April 30-May 2, 2026. All schools will have an early release on Thursday so that students and their families have time to enjoy events at the Mini-Convention Center.
- Here is what is taking shape at NBMHS:
 - 11th and 12th-grade: ANCSA 101 Training
 - The ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) will provide an introductory training on the history of ANCSA, Alaska Native Corporations, and the constellation of Alaska Native entities serving our communities.
 - 6-10th-grade: Students will attend a variety sessions that include:
 - Beaded Edging on Felt Picture Frames

- Painting Landscapes
- Candle Making With Traditional Medicinal Plants (such as stinkweed and yarrow)
- Baleen Etching
- Pageantry 101
- Swimming Pool Sessions
- Native Youth Olympics
- Katiluta is supported by staffers from BSNC, NSHC, Sitnasuak, and Kawerak with major funding provided by BSNC. A special thank you to: Amber Otton and Kunaq Tahbone (Katirvik Cultural Center), Cassandra Odden and Winona Hickerson (Sitnasuak Native Corporation), Sara Leckband (Bering Straits Native Corporation), Maggie Miller and Tonia Osborne (Liitfik), and the NBMHS posse for your collaboration to make this possible!
- **Nome-Beltz Middle High School Activities**
 - *Spirit Club Assembly*
 - The Spirit Club held an assembly to rally up school spirit with games and a chance to give shout outs to the Boys basketball team, the Lady Nanooks, and High School Cheer. Assemblies also provide teaching moments and Ms. Harlow rallied the middle school to teach behavior expectations related to safety, respect, and responsibility and the results were evident as Nanooks enthusiastically participated and cheered on their peers! Want to see what happens when NBHS Boys Basketball attempts a door cheer? [CLICK HERE!](#)



○ **Youth Court Mock Trial**

- The Nome-Beltz Youth Court presented a mock trial at a special assembly on March 31st.
- The case students presented was “The Animals vs. Napoleon,” based on George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*. In the case, Napoleon was charged with abuse of power, betrayal of Animalism, and manipulation of law and truth. The prosecution argued that Napoleon seized control through fear, rewrote the farm’s commandments, and replaced the original goal of equality with a dictatorship. The defense countered that revolutions require strong leadership and that Napoleon made difficult decisions to preserve the farm and protect the animals from outside threats.



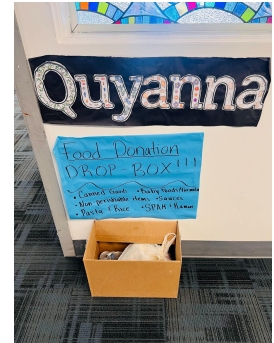
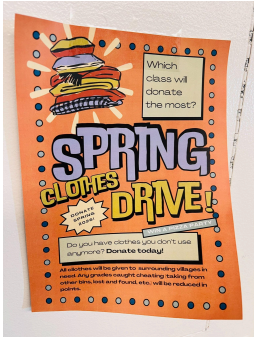
Witnesses included Boxer, who testified that the animals worked harder and were discouraged from questioning leadership; Clover, who described how the commandments appeared to change over time; and Benjamin, who suggested that fear and silence allowed the situation to continue. Napoleon then testified in his own defense, stating that unity required firm leadership and that his actions were necessary for survival. After closing arguments, the student jury deliberated on whether Napoleon protected Animal Farm or acted primarily for his own power, and whether safety justified the loss of equality. The jury ultimately reached a guilty verdict, finding that Napoleon had betrayed the principles of Animalism and abused his leadership position.

The Youth Court presented to grow interest in participation and after their presentation, a lot of students signed up for more information. Youth Court aims to grow their group, which will help with our implementation of a Youth Court presence in lieu of exclusionary discipline.

○ **Student Council Impacting Campus, One Pro-Active Step at a Time**

- The NBHS Student Council has been busy in their actions! Recently, they have initiated a Spring Clothing Drive via a class competition, an ongoing Food Drive that has been garnering donations since November, and a campus recycling program for the high school.

Cultivating student agency leads to impactful and true campus change with students at the helm. Thank you to our Student Government for their endeavors and to Mr. Wharry for facilitating this excellence!



- **Drama Club, Advisor Nicole Santonastaso**
 - The NBHS Drama Club is taking on a new level of awesomeness: special invitations and meetings are under way as classes prepare for the Richard Beneville Tournament of Plays to be presented May 15-16. For now, the process is top secret, but keep your eyes and ears out for more information coming soon. Shhhhhhhh. #nanookdrama

- **Student Athletics**

- **Native Youth Olympics (NYO), Coach Ulroan**
 - Skills acquisition is under way as the team works on their respective events! We are excited to see what's next!
- **NBHS Cheer, from Coach Bailey Immingan-Carpenter and Assistant Coach Minnie Clark:**

- When we started the season, we set our sights on clean routines and maximum pep, but what this team delivered this season was so much more. All the late night practices, the countless full-outs and the way they pushed through every single stunting progression that we either failed or perfected was outstanding. All the hard work and dedication from everyone on the team paid off. We are the 2026 Western Region



Cheer Competition

Champions! This team deserved this 1st place trophy. Minnie and I couldn't be more proud! But as coaches, we know that the trophy isn't just won on the mat; it was in the moments in between. They won because of the sisterhood that was built between them. They learned how to trust each other, how to pick each other up after a fall, and how to compete as one single unit. We also received the "Academic Award" at the Regional Competition. It was incredibly honorable to coach this group of girls and I am eager to see what next season brings for the Nome-Beltz High School Nanook Cheerleaders!



o Nanook Basketball

■ NBHS Boys Basketball, from Coach Callahan

- The NBHS Boys basketball team completed the season with a 21-9 record, Western Conference Championship, and 3rd place at the Class 3A State basketball Tournament. Additionally NBHS won tournament championships at the Subway Showdown, Kotzebue Husky Shootout, and the Valdez Elks Tournament. NBHS boys basketball is thankful for the contributions of this year's Senior class: E.J. Kone, Peyton Weyiouanna, Phoenix Hall, Josh Contreras, and Kendall Ulroan. Notably, Peyton Weyiouanna ends his time with the Nanooks by placing 2nd, 1st, 1st and 3rd place at the state tournament. Additionally Peyton played in 103 varsity games - good for 6th all-time among players coached by Patrick Callahan. Josh Contreras showed us all his character by staying dedicated to the team despite a season ending injury. Named to the All-State basketball teams was Cohen Booth 1st Team, Lane Schuerch 2nd Team, and Levi Pederson 2nd Team. Peyton Weyiouanna was named to the Alaska Basketball Coaches Association Senior All-Star game. Boys basketball would like to thank the Nome Referee's Association and our score-table crew for allowing us to administer our games with quality local crews, while avoiding the huge cost of having to fly referee crews in for regular season games.



2025-26 NOME-BELTZ NANOOKS
21-9 RECORD - 3rd Place Class 3A State
CHAMPIONS - SHOWDOWN - VALDEZ - KOTZEBUE - WESTERN CO.

- Lady Nanooks, from Coach Gregg:
 - Too often, a team’s success is measured solely by wins and championships. If that were the only standard, some might say our season fell short. However, true success is defined by much more. It is found in a team’s ability to overcome adversity; in the growth of players as individuals and in their skills; in their willingness to learn; in how they support and respect their teammates and coaches; and in their commitment to both personal and team goals.

This group of young women embodied all of those qualities. They refused to let their size or numbers limit their effort or determination, competing with heart, resilience, and pride every step of the way.

Although we did not meet our team goal of qualifying for State this year, the team earned the Sportsmanship Award at three tournaments and received the Academic Award at Regions. These honors speak volumes about their character and their commitment to being true student-athletes.

It was truly a pleasure to coach this group of young women, and I am already looking forward to next season.



- Congratulations to Alora Stasenکو and Peyton Weyiouana for being selected to play in the 2026 Alaska Basketball Coaches Association 3A/4A All-Star games. The AABC All-Star games will take place at Grace Christian High School on Saturday, April 12th.
- *High School Track and Field*
 - Drum roll, please! We have a coach! Thank you to Lahka Peacock for taking on the role and to Dan Pardee for offering support so students have the opportunity to practice and compete.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE DEN:

April 24	Inservice → No school
April 30	Katiluta Comes to Beltz!
May 2	High School Junior Prom
May 5	5th grade Site Visit to NBMHS
May 8-16	8th-Grade Washington DC Trip
May 21	Last academic day for HS seniors
May 22	Senior Skip Day
May 24	Baccalaureate
May 25	Memorial Day → No School
May 25	Athletic Award Banquet
May 26	Scholarship Night
May 27	NBHS Graduation
May 28	8th-grade Promotion