

Meade River School
North Slope Borough School District
Phone: 907-633-5800
Atqasuk, Alaska 99791



NORTH SLOPE
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
— *Striving For Excellence* —

Meade River School Report: November 10, 2021

Enrollment is now at 77 students.

Meade River School is a great place to learn. Our students are working hard to learn and grow as leaders for the future.

We are still struggling to fill all of our positions, but all of our students have an instructor in every classroom as we are working with the HR department to fill these positions. All our students are learning and growing and working towards being successful. We love our students and are working hard to make sure they all have what they need when they need it for success.

We have been fortunate to be with our students for most of the first quarter. We were able to complete our MAP testing, AIMSweb testing and many different classroom assessments to help us get ready to serve our students' needs. We have put together learning plans for each of our students.

Sadly, our wonderful village has been experiencing an outbreak of Covid. We were forced to go RED for a couple of weeks but we hope to return GREEN in the very near future. During our time in RED, we are providing work for students and offering teacher support to continue education during these trying times. We were forced to delay our Parent-Teacher-Student conferences until we can safely meet in person. We have faced some challenges serving all our students, but are striving to increase our efficiency during these difficult times when the students are not in school. We will not fail, we will move forward to success.

I would like to spend the majority of my time with you today to share a very successful project we were able to experience with our students at the beginning of the school year. Our first week of school was spent on the nuna. The students, teachers, aides, and M&O staff set up a camp at Tikigluk. We set up 8 tents, including cooking facilities, activity tents and bathrooms, so we could enjoy the entire day outside. We served breakfast at the school and then transported our students out to the "School on the Nuna". The students walked to the campsite where they enjoyed planned cultural activities like fishing, berry picking, firearm safety etc. offered throughout the day. We faced many challenges. The weather was typical August weather; rain, wind, mud, and even snow storms were encountered. We had lunch brought out each day, supplied by our wonderful cook, William Shugluk, who made food that we were able to transport and enjoy on the nuna. We were highly supported in this endeavor by our M&O personnel along with the City of Atqasuk.

We had community members who came out and visited and helped instruct our students on how to process the sulukpaugaq we caught and tuttu that was donated by other community members. One of the best aspects of this whole concept was that our students became the teachers for many of our teaching staff. The students were glad to share their expertise and knowledge with all of us. The days were filled with smiles, laughter and joy. I can honestly say that it was one of the best learning experiences of my career. One of my favorite memories was returning from a two mile walk from fishing and walking by the tent containing our youngest students. Unala, Ms. Are and Teacher Patti were in a double tent with singing and laughing and enjoying story telling. This assured me that we were on to something great for every student in our school.

Our hopes and dreams are in the planning stage for an improved experience next year. We plan on continuing the idea of the first week of school be an outside classroom. We hope to be able to gather the resources to boat our students across the river for an adventure that is a bit more remote and even more rewarding. We also hope to include a couple of overnight stays where our high school students can gain indepth cultural activities more suited to older students. Our greatest hope and area of focus is to have many more community members join our group and teach us all about a way of life.

Thank you and I hope you all are happy, healthy, and safe. Thank you for allowing me time to tell you about our wonderful students and our school.

Photo by Unalaq Ahkivgak

