

Trishelle Okpik
Student Representative
October 4th, 2021

Good afternoon, my name is Trishelle Okpik. I am one of the two student representatives for the NSB School Board. This month I sent out a monthly survey for all my schools to complete. I asked three questions, "What is the biggest concern in your school?", "What is the best thing about your school?", and "What can I do as a student representative to help your school. The following schools I will be reporting on are Eben Hopson Middle School, Kiita, Tikigaq School, Harold Kaveolook School, and Nuiqsut Trapper School. Due to Red status many schools were not able to have students complete this survey.

Eben Hopson Middle School

Eben Hopson Middle School submitted 10 responses. To the question "What is the biggest concern in your school?" The responses I received were mainly about students not being in school. "The biggest concern at HMS right now is spending time face-to-face between students/teachers to continue learning and preparing students for high school, leadership, and community membership. If we remain in RED status and have to teach remotely, our students are at a disadvantage because not all of them have access to the Internet, or if they do, the data package is not sufficient to educate each student living in the home and they run out of data. Another concern is how much parents/guardians are spending on their data packages to accommodate their school-age children. We also have students who are at home without parent/guardian supervision because they are at work and now the family responsibilities for children increase, sometimes leaving little time for schoolwork. Some of our parents/guardians are not able to motivate their children to get the schoolwork done and then those children are not getting an education. It is a very frustrating and trying time in education. Children are taking on responsibilities that they have not been prepared to take. I am concerned about the mental and social emotional health of our students."

The second question I had asked was "What is the best thing about your school?" All the answers were about seeing the students and how much the staff members at HMS are very caring to everyone in HMS.

Nuiqsut Trapper School

To the question "What is the biggest concern in your school?" The main answer I got was lack of student engagement and student's attendance. For the second question, "What is the best thing in your school?" I had received, "The effort our principal puts in every day to make this a great place to work." and "We are a strong team with strong leadership"

Tikigaq School

Tikigaq School's biggest concern is not having an in-person school. The best thing about their school is their students and their positive attitude.

Harold Kaveolook School

To the question "What is the biggest concern in your school?" I had received several good inputs. "Inupiaq Language preservation: I think TPR should be enforced and Inupiaq speakers should be encouraged to use the language when giving students commands or speaking to them. I feel it would life school moral. For example, Flora and Marie could start in Kaktovik." and "We are struggling with no recreational outlet for stress. The students are REALLY missing a place to shoot hoops and hang out together."

For the second question "What is the best thing in your school?", all responses were about how great the students are. "The best thing about being in a small school is that there is an opportunity to know more students than just the ones you teach. You get to know their siblings and cousins and how everyone is connected."

Kiita

Since all Utqiagvik schools closed on October 2 Kiita had given students about 2 weeks of work, along with picking up work and giving out work every wednesday. Kiita is back in school currently.