



# Howard Valentine School

618 Howard Valentine Drive, P.O. BOX 18002

Coffman Cove, Alaska 99918

(907) 329-2244

“Home of the Timberwolves”



Date: September 19, 2016  
To: SISD School Board  
From: Colter W. Barnes, Principal & Greenhouse Manager  
**RE: Howard Valentine Board Report for September 2016**

**Student Count:** We currently have 17 students enrolled at Howard Valentine School; 3 kindergarteners, 3 first graders, 1 third grader, 1 fourth grader, 2 fifth graders, 2 sixth graders, 2 seventh graders, 1 freshman, and 2 juniors.

**Update:**

Howard Valentine School has gotten off to a busy start to the year! We welcomed 7 new students into our building and are enjoying the energy they've added to our school. We're also offering a few new electives this year; culinary arts, sustainability, and technology (focused on 3-D printing & robotics). Along with the new schedule, we have new daily chores that each student and staff member are responsible for. These pertain to our now functioning aquaponic greenhouse (feeding fish, watering seedlings, checking/filling sump, etc.), as well as taking care of the orchard area (feeding/watering ducks & chickens, caring for soil greenhouse, composting, mounding potatoes, etc.).

The culinary arts class has harvested apples from the orchard (while learning about identifying and storing them properly), made and jarred rhubarb butter, prepared dishes for community events, and just got done processing (cleaning, separating, freezing, and cooking) the roosters we harvested last week.

Our “Sustainability” class (3rd-7th grade) has been working on defining what sustainability means for ourselves in eating and growing healthy food. Students have described what they eat and researched healthy foods to compare how healthy they are on a day-to-day basis. Meanwhile, we also work in the orchard trying to landscape and care for the chickens, ducks, potatoes, fruit trees, berry bushes, soil greenhouse, etc.

Both science classes are focusing on life science this quarter. Right now, the K-1 class has a resident jar of caterpillars that we have studied and identified. Sadly, the 3rd-7th graders are stuck with experimenting to see what kinds of colorful mold grows in soil when you a) don't add or b) do add chicken poop. (Their caterpillars will come later.)

The high school civics class is working on service projects. So far, the projects are in their infancy, but the three students have some good ideas: 1) create a Coffman Cove thrift store; 2) develop a recycling program for Coffman Cove; 3) organize and maintain the SISD newspaper so that it communicates important information about what is happening here on the island to parents and residents.

The cross-country team (9 students K-6) has been doing great. We're very proud of all the students as they have run hard at practice and at the meets!

Field trips/events thus far: Kasaan Longhouse restoration/sandy beach, EMT/Fire fighter's appreciation potluck dinner, “Rooster Roundup” harvest, and berry picking.

