

Kiita Learning Community
HIGHLIGHTED SCHOOL REPORT
2025-2026

School Leadership Team:

Principal- Shirley Iqaluk Hautala; **Administrative Assistant-** Laura Simmonds;
Counselor- Alex Ting; **Teachers:** ILT-Avaiyak Akpik; Science- Alice Sage; ELA/Culinary-
Brandy Fisher; Math/Small Engine- Kern Wilson; Long-term Sub-Susan McCullough;
Student Teacher- Ashley Cook.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the work happening at Kiita Learning Community. Kiita serves students who often need a different pathway to success, and this year our focus has been building strong relationships, meaningful cultural, and real-world learning experiences. As you look through the report, you'll see students engaging in culinary arts, cultural learning, community service, and leadership opportunities. Most importantly, you'll see students rebuilding confidence in themselves and working toward graduation and their futures."

Distinguished Students

Student Leadership and Achievement



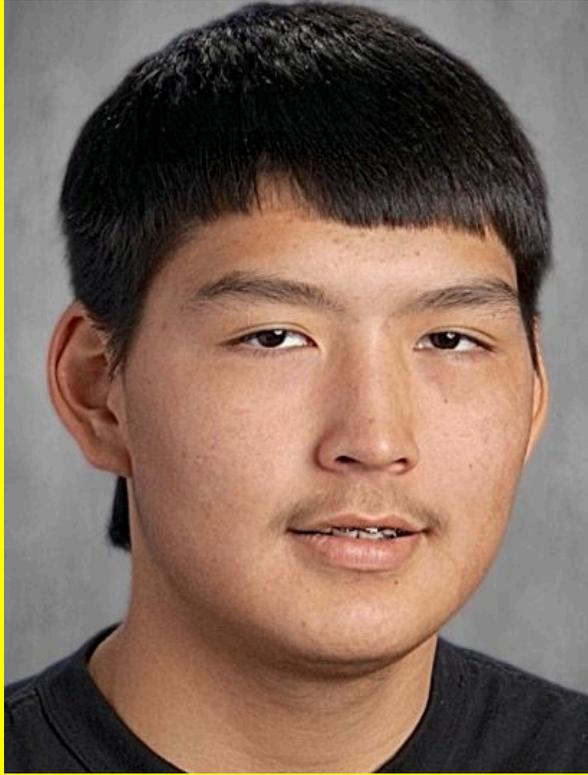
Trixie Enslow/ 11th Grade

A standout student at Kiita with **100% attendance and a strong GPA**, Trixie is actively involved in **Culinary Arts, Cultural Cooking, and recently completed a Cosmetology intensive**. She often volunteers extra time to help plan menus and prepare meals for school intensives and played an important role in the success of our **Valentine's Fine Dining event and Arctic Mardi Gras celebration**. Trixie especially enjoys **baking breads** and brings passion to both cultural cooking and culinary arts. She also served on the **AASB Youth Leadership program**, traveling to Anchorage to participate with students from across Alaska and school board members in discussions on issues important to Alaska students.



Andrea Kippi-Edwardsen/11th Grade

A student with a **high GPA and strong attendance**, Andrea is active in **cheer and basketball** and is known for her positive attitude and determination. She demonstrates exceptional responsibility by caring for her **young sister at school while staying focused on her learning and respectful of the classroom environment**. As a junior, Andrea is **on track to graduate this May**.



Blade Donavon/12th Grade

Blade is an active **varsity basketball player** who balances athletics with important **subsistence activities such as whaling and hunting**. Despite these responsibilities, he maintains the **GPA and attendance required for athletic eligibility** while continuing to stay focused on his academics. Blade has worked hard to complete all of his credits and will be a **March graduate**, returning to **walk with the graduating class in May**.



AmySue Okpeaha/12th Grade

AmySue joined Kiita in October after being out of school since fall of the 2023–2024 school year. She arrived feeling nervous and unsure of herself, yet successfully **passed all of her classes during her first quarter back** and is on track to do the same this quarter. AmySue maintains a **2.3 GPA and 80% attendance** while contributing many volunteer hours supporting **Culinary Arts intensives**, helping prepare and serve meals for students and staff. She also volunteered extensively in the **Kiita Store** before being hired as an **OJT student employee**. AmySue continues to grow in confidence, demonstrating **resilience and Iñupiaq values of sharing and cooperation**.

Distinguished Staff

Staff Leadership and Innovation



Brandy Fisher – Certified Staff

Brandy joined Kiita this year from Louisiana and immediately embraced the vision for building Kiita's **Culinary Arts program**. She has helped develop community-focused learning experiences including **pop-up meals, community events, and preparing food for students traveling from villages for intensives**. Brandy models a strong work ethic for her students while providing **rigorous and culturally relevant instruction in her ELA classes**. She also launched a successful **Horticulture/Hydroponics course**, serves as the **Student Council advisor**, and helped bring back the **Kiita Haunted House** while also spearheading **our first-ever Prom**. Her leadership and energy have had an immediate and positive impact on our school community.



Laura Simmonds, Administrative Assistant – Classified Staff

Laura serves as Kiita's **Administrative Assistant** and consistently goes above and beyond to support our students, staff, and school community. She takes great pride in creating a welcoming environment by **decorating the school for holidays and special events** and regularly volunteers her time to support activities outside the school day, including **Haunted House and Movie Nights**. Laura makes **daily calls to check on students who have not arrived at school**, demonstrating her commitment to student success and well-being. She is a strong **advocate for students and families**, while also holding both herself and our students to **high expectations**. Laura's dedication and care play an important role in the positive culture of Kiita Learning Community.



Distinguished Volunteer

Partnership and Service to Students and Community

Ashley Cook- Student Teacher and Volunteer

Ashley Cook – Ashley is an ELA/Special Education focused student teacher from New York who has quickly become an active and valued member of the Kiita community. From the moment she arrived, she jumped into supporting students in classrooms, making **positive calls and emails home to families**, and volunteering her time to help make **Kiita’s Valentine’s Fine Dining event a success**. Ashley also fully engaged in the intensive work of completing our **Needs Assessment and helping develop Kiita’s new School Improvement Plan**. She has built **strong rapport with students while maintaining high expectations**, confidently addressing complex student situations and behaviors when they arise. Ashley has been a tremendous asset to our school, and we are hopeful she will choose **NSBSD as the place to begin her teaching career**.

Attendance/Enrollment

Student Engagement and Progress

Kiita Learning Community continues to support students through alternative pathways that reconnect them with education while maintaining strong relationships and high expectations. The following enrollment and attendance data reflect our continued efforts to engage students who often face significant academic, social, and family responsibilities while working toward graduation.

Enrollment: 48

Enrollment		11th	12th	Total	Last Month	Prior Year
August	KLC	9	31	40		41
September	KLC	8	36	44	40	45
October	KLC	8	39	47	44	48
November	KLC	8	39	47	47	47
December	KLC	8	37	45	47	46
January	KLC	10	38	48	45	47
February	KLC	10	38	48	48	46

Attendance:

Attendance FY 25/26	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
11th	74.65%	76.39%	79.09%	71.47%	69.81%	67.49%	59.17%
12th	79.03%	76.95%	73.27%	66.89%	70.72%	67.75%	65.21%
Total	78.00%	76.82%	74.52%	67.87%	70.52%	67.66%	63.26%

Attendance FY 24/25	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
11th	72.08%	69.12%	69.64%	55.57%	54.26%	79%	67.5%
12th	67.55%	68.49%	61.13%	57.11%	59.93%	58%	65.2%
Total	69.03%	68.70%	64.10%	56.51%	57.64%	67.7%	63.3%

Chronic Absenteeism Rate

Students who have missed more than 10% of instructional days are considered chronically absent. Many students enrolled at Kiita arrive already experiencing chronic absenteeism. A primary focus of our program is re-engaging students in school, strengthening relationships, and increasing attendance over time.

Chronic Absenteeism Rate: 89.5%

Number of students with greater than 10% absence: 43

Total students: 48

Student Achievement and Graduation Progress

Quarterly Credit Pass Rate

Quarter 1 Pass Rate: 96.6%

258 courses passed out of 267 attempted.

Quarter 2 Pass Rate: 90.0%

199 courses passed out of 221 attempted.

Graduation Progress

Seniors on Track to Graduate: 22 of 27 seniors (82%)

Dependent upon students successfully completing third and fourth quarter courses. Includes students who have already finished early.

Highlights

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Throughout the year, Kiita students have engaged in meaningful cultural learning, leadership opportunities, career exploration, and community service experiences that strengthen their connection to school and community. Here are but a few examples:

- Students served lunch to local **veterans during the Veterans Day celebration** hosted at the elementary school.
- Students participated in a **tundra field experience identifying and collecting medicinal plants**, guided by an Iļisaġvik College instructor.

- Students helped organize and host the **Kiita Haunted House**, welcoming community members to the school.
 - Students volunteered to support the **Community Christmas Feast**.
 - Students baked **holiday cookies for the Tuzzy Consortium Library** to support a community cookie decorating activity.
 - Students prepared **light refreshments for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library family reading event** at the library.
 - Students prepared and served **soup for the Ipalook Elementary Soup and Song Family Night**, welcoming families and community members.
 - Students participated in the **Iļisaġvik College ceremony Welcoming Back the Sun**.
 - Staff/teachers participated in **Iñupiaq language learning with Aanuaq** during Cultural Inservice.
 - Students helped prepare and host the **Arctic Mardi Gras culinary celebration**.
 - Students led the **Valentine's Fine Dining community event**, planning menus, preparing meals, and serving guests. A full service dining experience for students and guests.
 - Students completed **career exploration and skill-building opportunities in welding, construction, and cosmetology**, gaining hands-on experience in potential career pathways.
 - Kiita students represented their school in **student leadership opportunities**, including the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) event in Anchorage and the **Juneau Legislative Fly-In**.
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Still to Come

- **Kiita's Prom- March 28th**
- **Kiita's Alumni Dinner/ Joining Alumni and Current Students -TBD**
- **April Intensives**
- **Sewing Parkas w/ Susan Hope**
- **Graduation- May 14th**