



Nome-Beltz Middle High School

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Date: 04 December 2025

To: NPS Board

From: Teriscovkya Smith and Holly Harlow

Subject: December 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.	<p>HONORING OUR TRADITIONAL INUPIAQ VALUES</p> <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.	
<p>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.</p>		

NBMHS Data:

- Current Enrollment: 272
 - 6th-Grade: 42
 - 7th-grade: 34
 - 8th-grade: 39
 - 9th-grade: 57
 - 10th-grade: 40
 - 11th-grade: 33
 - 12th-grade: 27
- Student contact days: 17
- Student Attendance: 86%

Student Celebrations

- HS:
 - Lauryn Erlich-Piscocoy, 10th-grade
 - Korbin Knipfer, 12th-grade
- MS:

- Rose Ozenna, 8th-grade

The following is a list of happenings that currently impact NBMHS:

- **Vacancies:**
 - **High School Science:**
 - After great energies, we have secured a long-term substitute for our HS Science vacancy. We have yet to lock in a permanent hire, but will spend the Spring honing in on our recruitment efforts. We are realizing that our social and news media presence is bringing some interest from interested candidates throughout the state and country.
 - **Attendance Secretary (Secretary I)**
 - We have not been able to fill our Attendance Secretary vacancy; this has caused gaps in our ability to do outreach with parents and guardians for students absent and our systems for absences of more than one day. Mrs. Ulroan, our admin intern and Ms. Harlow have helped with morning calls and substitute preparations and our Registrar, Ms. Topkok, has absorbed extra duties from 8:00-4:00 for a stipend. We are grateful for these supports, but they are not sustainable and our attendance initiatives will be impacted as a result.
- ***FY 27 Cultural Arts Forward Planning***
 - This continues to be an area of great concern and finding qualified individuals to grow the Cultural Arts program in partnership with Ms. Walluk poses numerous challenges. When it comes to recruitment, local entities offer competitive salaries and we continue to struggle in how to embed values campus-wide in long-term planning. The Cultural Arts program and its courses have been an integral part of a student's experience at Nome-Beltz for decades. We would still like support in securing time to meet with board, local entities, and community members to plan forward and work with Ms. Walluk on a plan for when she is ready to pass the torch.
- ***Long-Term Career and Technical Education (CTE)***
 - Ruth Fremson, a *New York Times* photographer, was in Nome working on a piece about the Port of Nome Deep Draft Port Project and plans to capture a local workforce. Conversations with Mayor Hughes, City Manager Smith, and Port Director Baker led to NBMHS's partnership with NACTEC, including the Heavy Equipment Operator course offered this semester, as well as Welding and Carpentry courses taught by Mr. Coulter. Ms. Fremson came to our site to capture classes in session and conversations quickly turned to the funding and resource realities we will face as we work to improve our vocational education opportunities.

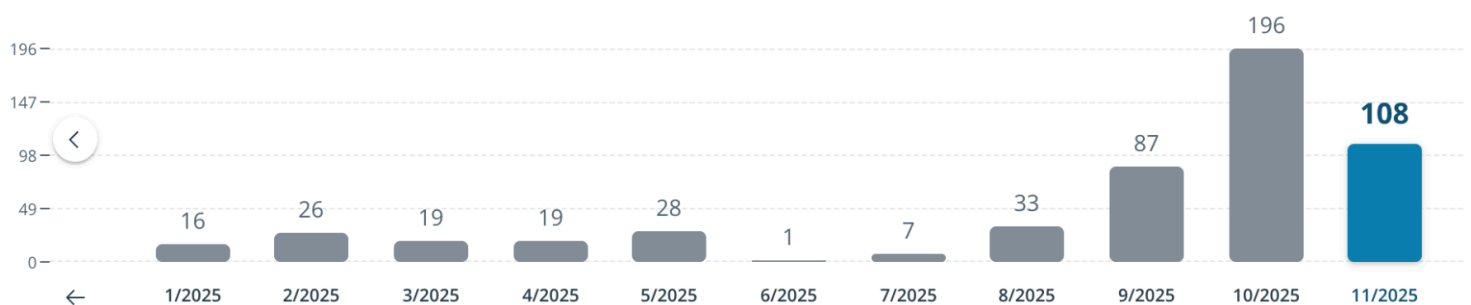
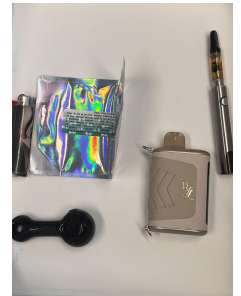
Building a comprehensive program with vocational pathways and clusters to prepare our students for post-secondary employment in the region will require more than our current allocations allow. Currently, Mr. Coulter runs the entire program and its logistics, materials inventory, lesson planning, and maintenance for under \$30,000. There is no doubt that CTE courses provide valuable skill sets to all students, but we are not meeting the needs of a large percentage of NBHS graduates who would benefit from more access to these courses and employment preparations.

- **FY26 Budget**

- We are facing extreme budgetary challenges for general education supplies, textbooks, technology subscriptions ([Read 180](#), [Walsworth](#)), and administrative spending. Numerous allocated funds have either run out, are in a deficit, or will be exhausted in the next couple of months.

- **Vape and Dab Usage**

- Vaping continues to be a significant issue in schools, and Nome Beltz is no exception. While we have previously brought this concern to the City Council, we appreciate Superintendent Burgess for revisiting the issue in November. Even without local access, students can easily obtain vape devices through mail order. Students are receiving TAD violations, with the first cases of second-time violations now occurring. Billy Strickland, director of ASAA, has described the situation as “an epidemic.” See the data below, which tracks instances by month. This information is provided by the 10 Verkada sensors installed throughout the school.

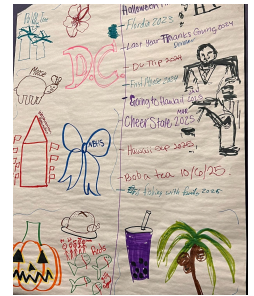


- Daily Average: (# of instances/#of school days)
 - September: ~4.15/day
 - October: ~9/day (+117% from September)
 - November: ~6.5/day (-30% from October)

- **Growing our Own**

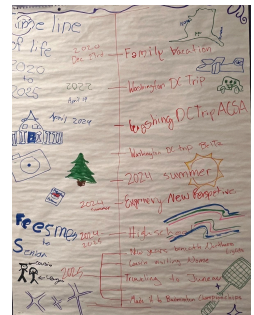
- NBMHS Administrative Intern Update - Mary Ulroan

- In November, I helped with several school activities as part of my internship. I assisted Dudley Homelvig Scramble wrestling tournament, helping things run smoothly and supporting students and staff.
- I also spent time learning about the school budget and how money is planned and used. I looked at school climate by paying attention to how people in the school interact and what helps create a positive environment. I worked on school improvement by reviewing what the school is focusing on and ways we can continue to grow.
- Another task I completed was sending out a survey to all middle and high school teachers. The survey asked for feedback about the Indigenous People's Day activities they did in October. This helped me gather information on what went well and what could be improved.



- *Instructional Highlights*

- **World History: A Contextual Exercise**
 - Mr. Wharry's World Literature students collaborated to create a visual timeline of life highlights and favorite events. The focus was on storytelling, empathy, organization, and teamwork. Students learned that everyone has unique experiences and these skillsets are vital for success in school, work, and life.



- **Middle School STEM Outreach** (picture)

- **Next Generation Ecosystem Experiments** (NGEE) Arctic and Arctic Research logistics teams visited Ms. Berry's middle school science classes to conduct mini-experiments on soil density, absorbency, temperature, and microbe studies. Students were immersed in hands-on learning of the scientific process and made connections to our region.



- **Regional Climate Change and Transfer Learning**

- Rick Thoman, an Alaska and Arctic Climate Specialist, presented in Ms. Liben and Mrs. Berry's classes on regional climate change. Students applied his information to an activity



on sea birds and changes in the Northern Bering Sea Region. This is the third year Mr. Thoman has visited NBMHS. This year, his Fellows student Anjali Shah, presented on Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) to Biology classes and students engaged with Ms. Shah's research by constructing a timeline of HAB events in the region. Thank you both for bringing relevant and vital information and learning opportunities to the Den!



○ **Aviation in Action**

- NACTEC has truly been an incredible partner. Students in Mr. Paskvan's Aviation course are gaining hands-on skills beyond anything that we could offer. Mr. Paskivan collaborated with Bering Air mechanics, who have been visiting class and teaching riveting and metal fabrication as students learn various methods of wing construction that create strong, lightweight structural joints. Thank you NACTEC, Mr. Paskivan, and Bering Air!



○ **Cultivating a Love for Reading**

- A neurological advantage to teaching middle school aged students is that the maturing prefrontal cortex allows for making robust neural connections. Mr. Horton's students create a fireplace and holiday tree where they gather to read and process literature. These imaginative and positive learning moments can be transformative in a student's perception of learning and subject matter. #lifelongloveofreading



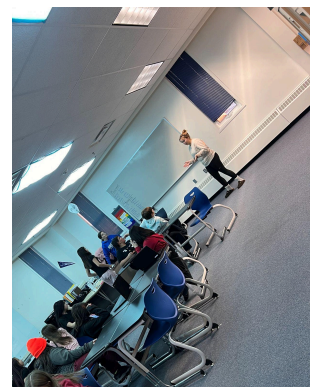
○ **Life Skills in Practice** (Tweet's class, pictures she sent)

- In our September board report, we highlighted Ms. Tweet, who in partnership with local entities (NACTEC, Public Health, and the CAMP department), developed a semester-long course for 8th-grade students to teach skills in the following areas:

- *Personal Development & Well-being*
- *Communication & Relationships*
- *Practical Life Skills*
- *Thinking & Problem-Solving Skills*



- Recently, Ms. Tweet's Life Skills class partnered with Mr. Horton's 8th-grade ELA class to strengthen student communication skills. In anticipation of a visit from Mayor Hughes, students learned how to respectfully pose relevant questions; they wrote, practiced, and applied their skills with the mayor! Using a podium and mic, the students were really respectful and it was a great learning moment. Thank you Mayor Hughes for visiting our school and supporting the growth of our future leaders!
- For her "How to Give back to the Community" unit, Ms. Tweet cultivates skills in volunteerism. Students pick a local non-profit and develop a fictional fundraiser or call to volunteerism. The students become engaged and excited about their capacity to make a difference. Real world examples?
 - Emily Stotts with PAWS also visited Ms. Tweets class to share their mission and asked for the students to help use their technology skills to make her dream a reality: Students will design and create a logo for PAWS!
 - The Nome PTA is sponsoring a Holiday Greeting Project for the elders in our community residing at Quyaana Care Center, Munaqsri Senior Living, and the XYC Senior Center. Ms. Tweet's students will create personalized holiday messages through art, writing, and other mediums to ensure that our elders are wrapped in holiday spirit!
- **Math, Mentoring, and Motivation**
 - In October, we shared Sophomore Vivian Bloodgood's transformation with the School Board and Vivian spoke to her experience and the support that helped her develop a growth mindset and academic and personal success. Now, Vivian finishes her high school day and heads to the middle school. She visits Mr. Sargent's Band class and Mrs. Robb's 6th-grade Math class to mentor and support students in making affirming choices and to encourage behaviors that promote success. Click this link to learn more about Vivian's purpose: "[Why help mentor others?](#)" Teens mentoring youth strengthens a student's

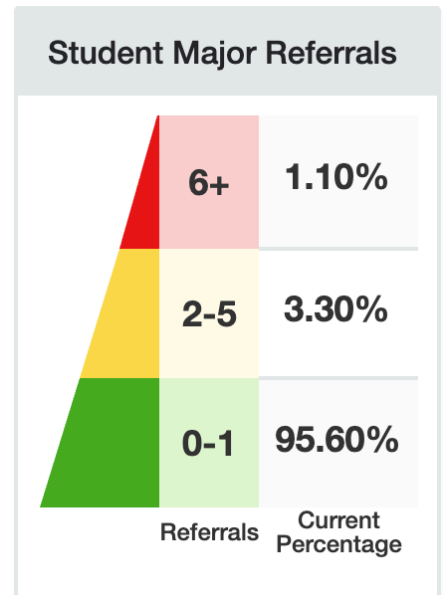


sense of belonging, empathy, reasoning, and school and family relationships. And yes: Vivian is also a member of our Educator's Rising program!

- ***Social Emotional and Cultural Learning***

- **PBIS Updates**

- In November, the administration reviewed our PBIS implementation and its practices. In addition to a 36% increase in points awarded, PBIS has provided clearer, more actionable data regarding student behavior. Major referrals now help highlight when classroom supports have been exhausted and administrative intervention is needed, allowing administration to respond more effectively and consistently. Current data shows that about 95% of students are meeting behavioral expectations (0-1 major referrals), creating more time and opportunity to access academic content.



- **Behavior Specialist**

- Kristine McRae is taking the Behavior Specialist role to an entirely new level. Along with the traditional responsibilities of ISS and lunch detentions, she is proactively supporting students identified through the PBIS rewards system for frequent behavior needs. Her work includes providing targeted academic support, running check-in/check-out systems, and helping students navigate intrapersonal conflicts. Her expanded approach is strengthening student success and building a more supportive school culture.



- **Cultivating Relationships** (picture)

- Mr. Arman paused content in US History to engage students in a teambuilding activity that energized his class, fostered some giggles, and refreshed energies for diving back into content. These uncomplicated strategies increase energy levels, make classrooms fun, and promote positive class climates.



- **Basket Weaving Project**

- Inspired by a course he took on basket weaving, Mr. Heinrich gathered beach grass and is in the process of teaching students sorting, drying, design and weaving techniques. He works in tandem with Ms. Walluk's classes and the creative energy is palpable! Andrea Irrigoo visited to work independently with students on their respective projects and she will support Mr. Heinrich and the class on creating designs and dying their baskets. Mr. Heinrich plans to grow this activity and incorporate students into harvesting and more creations!



- **Bullying Prevention**

- Our counselors know how to grow students. During October's National Bullying Prevention Month, Nome-Beltz Middle and High School students participated in a series of lessons and activities designed to raise awareness, build empathy, and promote a positive school culture. High school students joined Mr. Brown and Ms. Tweet at the middle school to discuss bullying facts, the insidious behaviors that cause real damage to others, and the high schoolers invited middle schoolers to create skits about how to address bullying when they witness it.



- **October Indigenous Peoples' Day Activities**

- As noted in our September report, NBMHS teachers and staff opted to infuse the entire month of October with Culturally Relevant activities in honor of IPD and November's Native American Heritage Month. This has been a catalyst for continued efforts to connect students with their history, land, and traditional ways. Activities included:



- ANSEP students recited the Pledge in Inupiaq;
- Ms. Liben taught the science of salmon and students learned how to process, cut, and can their own fish;
- NBHS held a Fashion Share and students, teachers, and staff showcased their cultural regalia;
- Brooke Anungazuk, a former Miss WEIO pageant title holder, presented to MS students on the pageant experience and importance of representing indigenous ways;
- Mrs. Berry worked with students on posters reflecting our region's Cultural Values and taught students the significance of Orange Shirt Day (The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation);
- 7th-grade read *Two Old Women* (Wallis), 8th-grade students read *My Name is Not Easy* (Edwardson), about a fictional boarding school near Fairbanks, and 9th-grade English classes read *The Smell of Other People's Houses* (Hitchcock)
- Mr. Coulter taught students how to make ice chisels;
- Students wrote letters to elders, learned oral traditions (Big Mouth Baby and the lore of the Iñukuns), explored Inupiaq creation stories, and conducted a Graphing Culture activity in their math classes;
- Ms. Tweet and Mr. Brown brought the 9th-grade to the Katirvik Cultural Center;
- Ms. Peters taught Taaqtumi: Arctic Horror Stories.



- **Fish and Game Musk Ox Processing** (click the title for a quick view!)
 - On October 23rd, Alaska Fish and Game partnered with Nome- Beltz for an incredible activity. Students and teachers learned how to process a Musk Ox and safely package the meat for everyone to take home. Thank you Sara Hensley and her crew for bringing this incredible day to our learning community. Plans are in the works for us to be a staging area for

processing game. It is vital that our students learn subsistence ways and this was spot on!

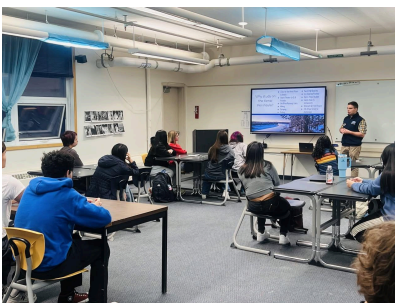


- **NBMHS Site Council Update**

- In our November report, we presented the FY26 School Improvement Plan (SIP). Our three primary focus areas are: career and postsecondary planning, family and community engagement, and behavioral and academic supports. The Site Council's next steps include developing an actionable timeline, distributing responsibilities among stakeholders, and beginning the work they are eager to carry forward over the next three years. You have the finalized SIP included with this report.

- **NBMHS Student Activities**

- **College and Career Fair (click the title for a quick view!)**
 - On November 4th, more than 20 entities descended on our campus for a vibrant and engaging College and Career Fair. This incredibly organized event allowed students to choose career rotations and participate in presentations and panels. At the end of the day, our guests set up in the gym for another round of information booths. Grades 8-12 attended and we could not be more grateful to all participants who traveled and spent their day teaching our youth about the plethora of post-secondary opportunities in our region and throughout the state. Thank you Mr. Brown for organizing and facilitating this event!



○ *Halloween Carnival & Haunted House*

- The Junior class held a 2-day event for its annual Carnival, which garnered funds to pay for the Junior Prom and the class of 2027 graduation celebration. We faced a series of staffing challenges and volunteers from the staff, community came forward to help make this event a success!



○ *MS Student Council Elections (Mr. Horton, Advisor)*

- We are proud to announce our middle school student government; working in tandem with the high school council, Mr. Horton facilitates student agency to improve the middle school student experience. Elections were held in October and here is the 2025-2026 Middle School Student Council!
 - President: Ava Bhanke (8th-grade)
 - Vice President: Melody Johnson (8th-grade)
 - Photographers: Jossalyn Martin (6th-grade) & Rejina Jones (6th-grade)
 - Secretary: Tegan Oleson (7th-grade)
 - 6th Grade Reps: Svea Stimpfle & Mesa Peacock
 - 7th Grade Reps: Wayne Henry & Michael Kosto
 - 8th Grade Reps: Roze Ozenna & Harold Panitiaaq

○ *Parent/Teacher Conferences*

- Monday, November 8 from 3:00-8:00pm; Tuesday, November 9 from 11:00-4:00pm
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were a resounding success, achieving the highest participation rate in years. Last year, our goal was to increase attendance to 50%, but spring conference participation reached only 31%. This year, with a whopping 44.2% attendance, we are approaching that goal and are optimistic about surpassing 50% at the upcoming spring conferences. See the data below for a grade-level breakdown:
 - 6th-Grade: 42.9%
 - 7th-grade: 55.9%
 - 8th-grade: 40%
 - 9th-grade: 36.8%
 - 10th-grade: 42.1%
 - 11th-grade: 41.4%
 - 12th-grade: 50%
- In addition to conferences, we scheduled both days to allow for a 2-part PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Professional Development Training to review and reteach specific components of our framework. Successful implementations require collecting data and determining areas for coaching and re-teaching in order to grow and empower all stakeholders. NBMHS is fortunate in that we have a collective of expertise that allows for us to provide in house learning opportunities. You can check out the content by clicking this link: [November PBIS Reboot](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE DEN:

December 5	Q2 mid-quarter progress report cards mailed out
December 16	Holiday Music Performance
December 6	SAT
December 22-January 2	Winter Break → No School
January 12-February 27	Winter MAP testing window
January 5	Inservice → No school
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional Development Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulation Strategies (Counselors) ○ Trauma Informed Education (Ms. Wright) ○ PBIS: Classroom Assessment Tool ○ Visible Learning: Teacher Clarity (Mr. Davies) ○ ALICE: Safety Protocol (Ms. Smith & Ms. Harlow)

January 12-16

HS Fall Semester Review & Finals

- We are looking at a finals schedule that promotes academic success so that students have a maximum of 4 finals for each of the two-day testing window. More details to come!

January 16

Semester 1/2nd Quarter ends (S1/Q2)

January 19

Semester 2/3rd Quarter begins! (S2/Q3)