



Howard Valentine School

618 Howard Valentine Drive, P.O. BOX 18002

Coffman Cove, Alaska 99918

(907) 329-2244

“Home of the Timberwolves”



Date: October 24, 2016
To: SISD School Board
From: Colter W. Barnes; Principal, Teacher, and Greenhouse Manager
RE: Howard Valentine Board Report for October 2016

Student Count: We currently have 18 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, 2 freshman, and 2 juniors.

Update:

October was another busy month for Howard Valentine School. Below is a summary of some of the projects and events our students participated in...

With 7 of our (now) 18 students being new to our school/district, we're continuing to focus on building rapport between students and staff, as well as between the students themselves (peers). We were fortunate enough to have our public health nurse come out and “kick-start” an anti-bullying campaign, and are using the CHAMPS and Bucket-Filling programs to teach/facilitate positive behavior supports. This provides us with a common vocabulary and consistent expectations so that students know what they'll be held accountable for. While we know that successful implementation and outcomes develop over time, we are excited to see positive growth amongst our school “Phamily”.

Our communal, daily chores that pertain to our school “farm” are starting to engrain themselves into the way we do business. Students know what to expect and are completing their jobs more efficiently and more effectively. We've also started tracking data as it pertains to our curriculum (math, science, reading, etc.) so that we can start integrating context into our classrooms. This, as the research has shown us, will increase engagement, hence retention, hence self-confidence. For example, the middle school math class (grades 3-7) weighs (in grams AND ounces) both duck and chicken eggs everyday for a warm-up activity. They then calculate (showing their work!) the mean, median, mode, and range for the data. Their final task is to use the USDA egg classification chart to determine if our average egg is small, medium, large, or jumbo.

The culinary arts class took advantage of the weather and picked bucket loads of wild mushrooms (which was prefaced with a lesson from local experts on positive identification and best practices). They then learned how to clean and freeze them properly for later use. After enough were accrued, they invited a community member in to share their family's cream-of-mushroom soup recipe/secrets and teach a lesson on pressure canning it. The students were a part of the entire process and everyone (who wanted) was able to sample the soup (YUM!).

The cross-country team (9 students K-6) wrapped up another great season! Everyone worked hard, had fun, and posted personal bests at the last race in Thorne Bay. Also, thanks to an active bunch of parent volunteers and community sponsors, they were able to purchase team shirts that set them apart during the competitions, as well as host a team pizza party!

Field Trips in October: movie night in Craig, swimming pool rental with Kasaan School in Craig, earthquake simulator visit to Coffman, Thailand guest speaker in Coffman, Rudy Nix (motivational speaker) trip to Kasaan, kayak training/certification course in Coffman, Maritime trip to Ketchikan

