



**REPORT TO THE NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**December 10, 2020**

Staff:

Geoff Buerger, Principal  
Jennifer Brower, Counselor  
Pamella Simpson, English, Social Studies, Food, Art  
Alice Sage, Mathematics, Science, Night School  
Kern Wilson, Mathematics, Physical Education, Kiita Store  
Laura Simmonds, School Secretary  
Dolph Dowdy, Plant Manager

Enrollment:

22 regular students: 16 Seniors, 6 Juniors  
6 Night School students

Students of Distinction and Q1 Award Recipients:

UAF Scholar: Jean Toovak  
Honor Roll: Jean Toovak, Toeme Brown, Rochelle Kaleak  
Outstanding Attendance (3 absences or fewer): Toeme Brown, Emiliano Sias  
Health: Toeme Brown, Rochelle Kaleak  
Iñupiat English: Jean Toovak  
Math 1a-1: Delwyn Akpik  
North Slope Science: Stephen Thompson, Jean Toovak, Rochelle Kaleak  
US Government: Toeme Brown  
Biology: Larrisa Kaleak  
North Slope Government: Rochelle Kaleak  
Geometry: Larrisa Kaleak  
Independent English: Dylan Ahsoak  
Food: Simeon Simmonds, Jean Toovak  
Art: Larrisa Kaleak, Evelyn Stotts, Jean Toovak  
Elective: Gideon Koonaloak, Zoe Ahyakak-Yazzie  
Good Natured Award: Ellis Patkotak  
Overcame Adversity: Robert Leavitt, Janice Richards

Academic Achievement

In Q1, Kiita students earned a total of 35.25 credits, through successful completion of half-credit courses, quarter-credit electives, credit recovery, and work study.

Pending Q2 results, four of our students are on track to complete their graduation requirements in December. One of those has applied to graduate early.

### Engagement

Assistant Superintendent Roseberry asked us to analyze student engagement through the prism of assignment completion. Given all of the variables (some students did well in one class but flat-lined in another; some students had six classes but others only two, and so on), we concluded that the only statistically valid way to interpret the data was to consider each student in each class as a unique individual -- thus we had a total of 95 unique individuals for the purpose of this analysis.

31, or 32.6%, completed more than 80% of their assignments

37, or 38.9%, completed between half and 80% of their assignments

27, or 28.4%, completed fewer than half of their assignments; only one of them (=5%) turned in no work at all.

As a staff, we estimate that we covered 95% of the material that we would have expected to cover pre-COVID, but that the students learned about 75% of what we would have expected them to, pre-COVID.

Social-emotional learning is provided weekly at our mandatory Google Meet from 2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays, in which all staff participate as well. Guest presenters have included Janelle Everett from Ilisagvik College, Christine Cole from AWIC, journalist Shady Grove Oliver, Rebecca Lopez from BUECI, mental health counselor Rose Elbert, and CTE director Julie Williams. Daniel Thomas from MYAC, DeShaun Whisky from NSB Prevention, Doreen Leavitt from ICAS Voc-Rehab. We have provided students with information and materials on suicide prevention, mental health during Covid, techniques to deal with stress and anxiety, techniques to organize and schedule to reduce stress, and tips for managing depression. Our school counselor also teaches a course on social-emotional health. Most important of all, advisors check in "live" with their advisees every week.

Tutoring continues over the Internet and over the phone. Instruction is not only via Google Classroom and Google Meet, but also through recorded video lessons – a new step forward for us. We continue to provide all students with paper versions of all assignments, since half of our students either have no Internet access (and therefore no access to Google Classroom) or simply prefer to do their work on paper.

We continue to deliver meals every school day at noon, both so that advisors have personal contact with students and families, and to help families in need. In visiting locations, we prioritize teacher safety, and we are careful always to wear masks and observe social distancing. Assignments are distributed regularly every Friday, and we touch base daily to see if our students are ready for more work, and check on their mental & social health (insofar as that can be done in a brief visit).

### COVID

In November a student came to the building in distress stating that they felt unsafe at home, because of this the staff did not feel safe in sending the student back home or out of the building in the cold weather. The student was allowed to stay in a classroom, but did have contact with staff. Several days later staff was notified that the student tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Three members of staff were considered close contacts, and were required to quarantine for the 14 days mandated by

Public Health / CDC guidelines. At this writing, one member of staff is still quarantined because a person at home—and therefore a close contact—has tested positive. Our experience underscores the impact that just a single exposure to a COVID-positive individual may have on a school staff even while we are teaching remotely.

As we look ahead toward the eventual transition to hybrid learning, it is important to note the limitations of our building. CDC guidelines emphasize the importance of maintaining six feet of separation between individuals, having good ventilation, and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces. Our building has oddly-shaped classrooms, poor ventilation, and custodial services only overnight.

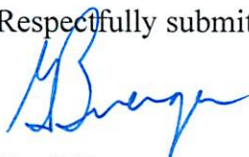
### Grants

We have completed and submitted applications for the Alternative Schools Grant and the School Improvement Grant. We have also requested CIP funding to replace our ten-year old photocopier. (We are still waiting for last year's CIP project of exterior security lights.)

### Kiita Store

Finally, our signature Kiita Store continues to accept donations, but we remain closed to the general public. We did hold a successful *Blow Out Sale!* out on the deck early in the school year, when weather permitted us to do that (with numbers limited and masks required), but we have been closed since the hunker down order. On several occasions we have been able to help others in need, including a local shelter, an individual in another community, and a transient health care worker. We look forward to being able to open again to the general public as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Buerger  
Principal