

Meade River School
North Slope Borough School District
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NORTH SLOPE
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
— *Striving For Excellence* —

TO: SAC Members
FROM: Brian Schaffer, Principal
DATE: 9/28/22
RE: October Report

Enrollment: Enrollment remains steady from the last report. Here are totals effective this morning.

ECE – 8
K – 5
1 – 6
2 – 11
3 – 3
4 – 4
5 – 7
6 – 6
7 – 8
8 – 6
9 – 3
10 – 4
11 – 6
12 – 5
Total – 82

Attendance: School-wide, we are seeing attendance in the mid to high 80% range, with the exception of 12 grade. Generally, students in elementary grades are attending more frequently than those in high school. Attempts to encourage attendance by all including the back-to-school spaghetti feed and raffle, contact with parents and students, building flexible pathways to return to school, and home visits are all on the table. I am optimistic that with the addition of specific personnel, we will be able to provide some engaging learning options that may dray students' interests beyond the core academic program.

Personnel: We are finding some relief with eight-week emergency substitutes. We welcome Kris Mathis as our high school LA/SS teacher; Dr. Shannon Curtis as our school counselor; and Shawn Bowie will be teaching vocational classes to all grade. We hope to

keep all emergency subs until the winter break (or beyond). We expect our J1 teachers in January.

In a rather exciting development, we welcome back Mrs. Ethel Burke as our ILT.

We are grateful for the contributions from our new staff.

Curriculum and Instruction: Here are some highlights:

- Every day we hold a school-wide assembly to recite the pledge of allegiance in Inupiaq and English, make announcements, and offer recognitions. Amy Kagak made a large placard with the Pledge of Allegiance in Inupiat that is hung in the gym so we can all learn it.
- Students are actively using their free speech right to assembly and have created two positions for consideration: first, a middle school volleyball team, and second, the chance to revisit the school-wide ban of personal cell phones. In each case, I would encourage the SAC to direct me to work with students and staff towards a proposal. Re: cell phones - I have seen schools wrestle with personal electronic devices since the technology became ubiquitous and am happy to share my experiences.
- MRS learned that the senior van driver would be out of town this week. Students have volunteered to assemble and deliver lunches to our community's elders.
- We continue to welcome guests and agencies to work with our students and school. The Arctic Education Foundation provided an Inupiaq artist, Elizabeth Rexford, who taught middle and high school students how to make sea otter hats and headbands. This week, we will host North Slope Borough Department of Health and Social Services as they lead the "Hands of Hope" activity (see description attached). Additionally, we have welcomed our local police, fire, health, and city officials to address our school community as a whole during our daily school-wide morning meetings. Our collaboration with outside agencies to address the concerns that impact our youth will continue and each provides a unique learning opportunity and resources that other schools may not have. We are grateful for their contributions.
- Sammy Panik gifted the school two WWE championship belts. They are legit! We have determined that they will be part of our PBIS process. Two "undisputed Meader River School champions" were crowned last week – Clayborne Kippi and Tuigan Nungasak. They earned the acknowledgement by showing the greatest amount of growth between last spring's MAPS assessment and our current administration. We will use the belts to identify positive school behaviors in the form of a school-wide "SMART" goal; meaning it will be "Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based."

Student Activities: Congratulations to our cross-country team for a successful season; we held a virtual time trial last week and the entire school cheered on Bernadine Bodfish and

Jared Bodfish. Based on their performance, Bernie has qualified for states and Jared is an alternate. The team travels to Anchorage next Thursday. #GOEAGLES!!!

Volleyball practices are underway and we hope to field a team.

Principals and school athletic directors have received this message from Gary Lamar, the district Athletic Director in regards to the state of student travel: “I have told you folks that I would be very transparent with you and that is what I am doing right now. I have talked with folks here about this travel situation and have been told it has never been this bad. They have stated that with the planes not being able to come in with all the freight over such a long period of time, it has put our small carriers behind tremendously. Therefore, our number 1 carrier of teams (wright air) is simply not able to carry teams as a whole in charters as they have done for the past decades. As well, these other private airlines are either 8 seaters (which is not enough seats) or charging us a tremendous amount that is far beyond what we would normally pay. They would break our budget in one tournament. Therefore we are having to come up with some creative ideas as to how we are going to have competition. We have some ideas and it is taking some time to get answers in our research. So, hang tight and know that we are going to try as hard as we can to stick as closely as we can to the schedule. There might be some changes but we will try.”