



Report to the Utqiagvik Schools Advisory Council – March 3, 2021

Academic Achievement

Quarter Three ends next week. We will report on Honor Roll, credits earned, and subject awards at the next meeting.

Status update for our Seniors: 4 completed graduation requirements in December; 5 are on track to graduate in May, if they complete their current courses; 2 are technically in range, but recent performance suggests that completion is unlikely; 7 will not have enough credits to graduate in May. There will be no Night School graduates this year.

Re-opening

Our Zoom Open House on Thursday, February 18, was sparsely attended. To ensure that information reached our students and their families, fliers detailing the specifics of our re-opening were posted on our Facebook page and distributed on paper to all students on Friday, February 19. A copy of that flier is attached.

From March 1 through 12 we are conducting a “soft opening.” Rather than require students to attend scheduled classes for the last two weeks of the quarter, we chose to invite students to come when and as they need assistance with completing Quarter Three coursework. We also made available appropriately-distanced work spaces for students who need Internet access or just a quiet place to complete assignments.

Leadership in the Profession

41 NSBSD educators—including all Kiita teachers—participated in the “Ducks and Lions: Trauma Sensitive Resources Creating Trauma Sensitive Schools” training on February 8, 11, and 12. Paid for by Kiita’s Alternate Schools Grant, staff were trained to realize the prevalence of trauma, recognize the impact of developmental trauma on learning and behavior, respond in a trauma-informed way, and resist retraumatization. Nine teachers took the course as a one-credit course offered through the University of Alaska at Anchorage; Dr. Buerger was the adjunct instructor of record for UAA.

Challenges

1. Equipment/Physical Plant Update

- a. Our ancient copier has been replaced! Thanks to Don Dunbar for obtaining CIP funding and making all the arrangements. Quyanaqpak, Don!
- b. The toilet in the women's room is due to be replaced as soon as plumber James returns to Barrow. At this writing we have only two functional toilets.
- c. We have been promised a dedicated school-day custodian through the end of the current school year.
- d. We have received an electrostatic sprayer to assist in sanitizing the building during the week. Thanks to Dr. Jones for making that happen!
- e. Classrooms now have either plastic or leather chairs that can be wiped down. Our cloth-covered chairs will be cleaned with an upholstery cleaner, and stored in anticipation of better days ahead.
- f. We have not yet received confirmation of the renewal of our MOA/lease. I am not worried about being evicted from the premises, but the paperwork is still in limbo.

2. Worker Compensation case

The teacher who has been working from home per Worker Compensation is now at school, using a wheelchair.

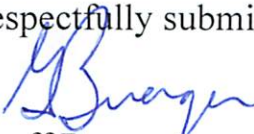
3. Budget

We do not have historical budget data for actual usage of consumables in past years, so our budget submission for supplies continues to be a case of "flying blind."

We have been doing without a Special Education teacher, which is not sustainable. Our 0.5 FTE has been assigned to Barrow High School for the duration of the emergency. I have asked for an additional 0.5 FTE to provide a full-time Special Education teacher, but we could be budget-neutral if we get our 0.5 teacher back.

We hope the SAC will support our request for a much-needed budget line item of \$18,000 to cover Night School.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Buerger
Principal



Kiita Learning Center will transition from Remote to Hybrid instruction during the week of March 1-5, 2021. Here's what it will look like:

Students are assigned either to the A cohort or the B cohort. (Call the school if you are unsure which you are in.) A cohort attend classes in person on Mondays and Tuesdays; B cohort come in person on Thursdays and Fridays. All students are required to participate in our weekly Google Meet on Wednesdays.

For the first two weeks (March 1 through 12), our focus will be on completing coursework for Quarter Three classes. Teachers will be at school to help, and available online by appointment. Quarter Four begins on Monday, March 15.

In-person instruction in Quarter Four will follow the set class schedule. All students will have work to do and assignments to complete on days when their cohort is not attending in person. Teachers may, as practical, allow or require those students to attend classes via Zoom on their "off days."

Students who wish to continue receiving remote instruction should inform us right away by calling the school: 852-9750.

Period One begins at 9 a.m. Students may enter the building at 8:45 a.m., but **must** wear a CDC-appropriate mask at all times and maintain social distancing. We will provide masks for those who need them.

Students will have assigned seats. Surfaces such as desktops, door handles and toilets will be cleaned as often as custodial services allow. Students must wash their hands and make use of hand sanitizer regularly. Dispensers are located in several places around the school. Safety is a shared responsibility!

Please do not come to school If you are feeling ill, have a fever, or exhibit symptoms that might be related to COVID-19. We ask that everyone who comes to Kiita be symptom-free for at least 24 hours. We also reserve the right to take temperatures when circumstances warrant. Students who have a fever or show symptoms will be sent home. Those who fall seriously ill while at school will be allowed to lie down in an isolation room at the end of the hallway until their families can pick them up.