



Meade River School
Highlighted School Report
September 2026
Principal Skar Sato

Distinguished Students

Zachary Oyagak, (12)

Meade River School is proud to recognize 12th grader Zachary for his outstanding leadership and initiative during our recent classroom trip to the nuna. Zachary was a massive help in setting up camp, consistently offering his support unsolicited to any staff member or fellow student who needed a hand. A natural problem solver and excellent mechanic, he kept our camp running smoothly and handled every challenge with ease. Zachary's work ethic, technical skills, and helpful spirit made a real difference on the nuna, and he is a fantastic role model for our school community.

Ekelan Itta (10)

Meade River School is proud to spotlight 10th grader Ekelan for sharing his traditional knowledge and leadership on the nuna. During our recent trip, Ekelan took younger students berry picking, patiently showing both his peers and the staff exactly which aqpiks to pick. His helpfulness didn't stop there; Ekelan also worked hard to harvest enough berries to bake a special birthday pie for his mother. Ekelan's generosity, cultural expertise, and care for his family and school community make him a wonderful asset to Meade River.

Kyla Simmonds-Ungarook (3)

Meade River School is delighted to highlight 3rd grader Kyla for her wonderful participation and curiosity during our school trip to the nuna. Kyla fully immersed herself in the experience, enthusiastically exploring the coal mine, fishing, and picking aqpiks. She spent valuable time connecting with her classmates while learning firsthand about the natural ebb and flow of the nuna. Kyla's joy for learning and her positive spirit made her a wonderful representative of our younger students on the nuna.

Distinguished Staff



Dylan James (Counselor)

Meade River School is proud to highlight our school counselor for his outstanding dedication and versatile support of our school community. This year, he has truly gone above and beyond by stepping up flexibly to fill in as a teacher whenever needed, ensuring our students never missed a beat. He also brought a new wave of school spirit and connection to our campus by launching our daily student announcements. More than just a counselor, he serves as a vital pillar of support for our entire staff, always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to making Meade River a positive place for everyone.

Amanda Brower – (Home-School Facilitator)

Meade River School is thrilled to honor our Home-School Facilitator for her essential role in our school's success. Working directly with every single student and family, she serves as the vital bridge that connects our classrooms to our community. Her commitment is evident every day as she shows up ready to support families through challenges, guide students toward success, and uplift our entire staff. Her dedication, presence, and heart are foundational to our school culture, and we are deeply grateful for everything she does to ensure our community thrives.

Aryana Pulley – (Paraprofessional)

We are proud to highlight the incredible impact of one of our dedicated paraprofessionals, who goes above and beyond for our students every single day. Showing up with unwavering reliability, she brings a unique, calming presence to the classroom that completely transforms the learning environment. By consistently creating a deeply safe, supportive, and predictable space, she empowers the students she works with to manage their challenges, build confidence, and thrive academically and emotionally. She truly embodies the heart of our student-support mission.

Distinguished Volunteer

Mr. Rodney Lloyd

We are thrilled to recognize Mr. Rodney Lloyd, the visionary founder of the "Classroom on the Nuna" initiative, for his outstanding dedication to our students. Under his expert tutelage, Mr. Lloyd transforms traditional education into a truly unique and special learning opportunity. Driven by a profound love and deep care for all children, he creates a welcoming environment where every student feels valued. Mr. Lloyd's passion for teaching and unwavering commitment daily inspires his students, his colleagues, and everyone who has the privilege of working alongside him.

Enrollment: 85





Attendance: 74%

Highlights, Community & Staffing

- Community Meet-Up: Hosted a community-wide meet-up on August 11 to foster local engagement.
- Curriculum Readiness: Partnered with Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) team to fully equip teachers with classroom resources.
- Key Hires: Completed critical hiring for an Inupiaq dance, Academic/Activities Coordinator, Testing Coordinator, Night Recreation, and Site Technician.

School Operations & Academics

- Classroom Launch: Successful "Classroom on the Nuna" week. The "Classroom on the Nuna" initiative offers our students an invaluable, land-based learning opportunity that connects academic growth with deep community connection. Through hands-on experiences like fishing and gathering aqpiqs, students gain practical skills while learning firsthand about the ebb and flow of the nuna. In a powerful reversal of roles, our students took the lead on the land, teaching and guiding school staff through the complexities of the environment. A central element of the program is honoring community and respect, as students proudly provided their harvested fish and berries to local elders. Complemented by unforgettable wildlife encounters— musk-ox sighting—this initiative imparts lifelong lessons in leadership, resilience, and cultural responsibility.
- School-wide: Starting this week, students will take ownership of pre-recorded morning video announcements to be played each morning in the classrooms with support and facilitation from our site tech and counselor.
- Safety Preparedness: Conducted the first required fire drill of the school year.
- MAP Testing: Scheduled and on track to complete all MAP testing by September 25.

Athletics

- Cross Country: Successfully competed in two cross-country meets

Upcoming Events:

- 9/9/2026 Volleyball begins
- 9/9/2026 Ty Cunningham
- 9/16/2026-9/17/2026 Director of Inupiaq Education & C&I Director visit
- 9/16/2026-9/17/2026 ConocoPhillips Mini-job fair

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