



**Nunamiut School
Highlighted School Report
September 2026**

One Pack. One Purpose. One Community.

Principal Christina Nash - *I'm delighted to be here at Nunamiut School and even more excited to call Anaktuvuk Pass home! For the past two years, I've had the privilege of assisting in this role, and this year I decided to make it official—I requested to become the full-time principal. Thankfully, I was given the opportunity, and I was thrilled to spend the summer here getting settled in and ready for the school year.*

I've quickly learned that Anaktuvuk Pass has a special place in my heart (and yes, the weather in the Brooks Mountain Range is part of the adventure!). I'm grateful for the warm welcome, the wonderful students and families, and the opportunity to be part of such a unique community.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year filled with learning, laughter, teamwork, and maybe just a little principal magic along the way!

Kailey Mekiana — 10th Grade | Nunamiut Amaguqs Cross Country

Kailey is one of our dedicated Nunamiut cross-country athletes, bringing energy, determination, and plenty of enthusiasm to the team. She and Coach Cook traveled to Barrow High School and participated in Whaler Meet and Cross-country Regionals

This year, we were thrilled to welcome Coach Cook home! She brings an incredible amount of energy and determination to our students. Practice is about much more than running—it's a full gym experience filled with team building, skill development, staying active, and, most importantly, discovering the joy of being healthy and moving together.

We're proud of Kailey and all of our student-athletes for showing up, working hard, supporting one another, and representing Nunamiut School with heart! 🇬🇧 🏆 ♀️ 🏠 ❤️



Gregory, Mekiana 3rd grader, and I have become office buddies. He recently broke his collarbone after taking a tumble on his bike—and, tough guy that he is, he rode his bike all the way home afterward!

Because of his break, Gregory has to sit out of P.E. for now. So, until he's able to return to gym, he spends his time reading to me and to himself each day. I'm so proud of his determination and positive attitude! 3 more school days Gregory! It's on Matt's calendar 😊

Distinguished Staff

Robin Neltor, 4th and 5th grade teacher – Certified Staff

She came to us by way of Goodnews Bay—and a few other stops in the Lower 48. We're so glad her journey eventually brought her to Nunamiut School!

As our Technology Tech and Testing Coordinator and she was voted on to our BAG she brings a calm, welcoming spirit and a wonderful willingness to share her knowledge. As a returning teacher, she has also jumped right in to help onboard and support our new staff—with plenty of gusto!

Her students love being in her classroom, and they are already excited for one of their favorite activities of the year: Fat Bear Week, beginning September 22! 🐻

The writing her students are producing is outstanding, and it's wonderful to see their creativity, enthusiasm, and learning shine through their work.

We are grateful for the many ways she supports our students, staff, and school community. She truly brings a spirit of sharing, learning, and a little bit of bear-sized fun!



Matt Regen, Administrative Assistant - Classified Staff

In recognition of his years of service and dedication to our school and community, I would like to take a moment to highlight Matt.

Matt has faithfully served our school for 14 years, and his commitment to our students, parents, and staff is truly remarkable. Just last week, I heard his name at least 100 times before lunch! There always seems to be someone at his window who needs a little help, guidance, or simply someone they can count on.

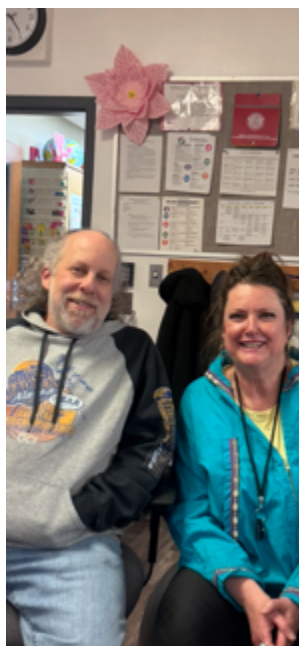
Matt is known for his calm, even-tempered nature and his willingness to always give his very best. He treats everyone with patience and respect, and over the years, he has earned something that cannot be measured—the trust of our entire school community. Everyone knows Matt, and everyone knows they can trust his word.

I could probably write a 1,000-page book about Matt's service, dedication, and the countless ways he has supported our school. His impact reaches far beyond his daily responsibilities.



And, as if all of that weren't enough, Matt is also our night librarian, where he continues to make a difference by encouraging students to discover the joy and love of reading.

Matt, thank you for 14 years of service, kindness, dependability, and dedication. Thank you for being someone our students, families, and staff can always count on. Our school is a better place because of you, and we are incredibly grateful for all that you do!



Enrollment:

September for the 2026-2027 school year

Pre-K3: 1	Pre-K4: 5	K Grade: 13	1st Grade: 7	2nd Grade: 12
3rd ^h Grade: 9	4 th Grade: 5	5 th Grade: 9	6 th Grade: 8	7 th Grade: 7
8 th Grade: 3	9 th Grade: 9	10 th Grade: 6	11 th Grade: 4	12 th Grade: 6

Attendance: Improvement and Student Engagement

During the month of August, our school experienced significant attendance challenges, 62.3%. Our students and families are balancing many seasonal activities that are an important part of life in our community, including camping, fishing, and berry picking. We also experienced a particularly difficult virus that affected many of our families.

As we look ahead, we are also eagerly awaiting the return of the caribou migration. The herd is currently approximately 50 miles away, and we recognize that subsistence hunting can have an impact on school attendance.





Rather than simply focusing on the numbers, our campus came together to brainstorm ways we can make coming to school more meaningful, engaging, and rewarding for our students. We have put several new supports and incentives in place:

- *Parent Meeting: “How to Get Your Kids to School” — An opportunity to partner with families, share practical strategies, and work together to overcome attendance barriers.*
- *100% Weekly Attendance Reward — Students who attend every day for the week will enjoy ice cream with Ms. Nash a sweet celebration.*
- *80% Attendance Reward — Students reaching 80% attendance will have the opportunity to participate in a special game night, separate from our regular Rec. program.*
- *Wolf Packapalooza Every Four Weeks — Every four weeks, we will celebrate our students with a special Wednesday event featuring three 30-minute rotations of engaging and interesting activities. We will end the day together with popcorn in the gym and a celebration of our Wolf Pack.*

Our goal is to create a school environment where students feel connected, supported, and excited to be here. We know attendance is influenced by many factors, and we want to work alongside our families and community to find solutions that work for our students.

Every day a student walks through our doors is an opportunity to learn, connect, build relationships, and be part of our school community. We are excited about these new initiatives and, most importantly, about working together as a campus to strengthen attendance and celebrate our students.

Highlights:

In 2024, as I arrived, in Anaktuvuk Pass, I was fortunate to witness something truly special: the long-awaited return of the caribou migration to AKP.

There was a sense of excitement throughout the village as word spread that the herd was approaching. At the same time, Elders reminded young hunters to wait, be patient, and follow the traditions passed down through generations. The leaders of the herd needed to pass through undisturbed so the migration would continue along its natural route that had been missing for years.

For a moment, it felt as though the entire village was holding its breath.

Residents were asked to avoid traveling by snowmachine and to keep noise to a minimum. Everyone understood that patience and respect were important—not only for the hunt, but for the herd and the traditions that connect the community to the land.

And then came the wonderful news: success! The caribou were passing through.

Caribou were harvested, families were provided for, with a renewed sense of joy and celebration throughout the village.



As I watched this unfold, I was struck by the deep connection between the people, the land, the animals, and the traditions of Anaktuvuk Pass. It was a powerful reminder that some of life's greatest blessings are shared as a community.

The village of Anaktuvuk Pass had—and continues to have—much to be thankful for.

The herd is currently 50 miles out; we are joyful. It is a gift to live in a wilderness that is unsurpassed in the world.



Dennis Houser, Plant Manager *There are some people who quietly make everything work—and Dennis Houser is one of those people.*

As our Plant Manager, Dennis seems to find a new project every day, and he has embraced his new position with energy, dedication, and a wonderful attitude. You might catch him being the last person out of the building, locking up around 10:00 p.m or later., or you might find him there early in the morning, turning on the lights, washing dishes, fixing something, or making sure everything is ready for the day ahead.

Dennis is always willing to pitch in wherever he is needed. His willingness to help, solve problems, and take on whatever comes his way has made a tremendous difference to our campus. The teachers love him and he has made their lives better.

This summer was especially busy, with contractors here working on major projects across our campus. We are now nearing completion of a significant overhaul, including a new deck that collapsed, fire-suppression system, new light fixtures and working lights, and new furniture in housing.

Behind every one of these improvements are countless hours of planning, problem-solving, coordination, and hard work. Dennis has been an important part of making those changes happen, and we are so grateful for his dedication.

Dennis, thank you for bringing such a positive spirit to your work and for being someone who is always willing to jump in and get the job done. Whether it's early morning, late at night,

washing dishes, fixing something, or overseeing a major project, you continue to show up for our campus and our community. Community members have stopped by to tell him thank you and get his advice.

Thank you, Dennis, for all that you do! We appreciate you more than you know!



Upcoming Events:

*Pam Blodget SPED teacher & Robin Neltnor 4th and 5th grade teacher Helped us join **Project Transform**.*

***Open House** will be September 30th with lots of pictures to come!*

***Battle of the Books** practice begins soon lead by **Tammy Mentel** students are excited and happy to be reading. We are all checking out books in the Library this year! Our students will be ready for the competition in February.*

***BAG** meetings first and third Wednesdays of each month.*