



JUNE NELSON ELEMENTARY

PO BOX 264 • Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 • (907) 442-1877

April 27, 2026

Kotzebue City Council
PO Box 46
Kotzebue, AK 99752

Members of Council,

We are writing to you as representatives of the JNES Student Council to respectfully request your continued support of our school's student activities program. Last year, we were grateful to receive an award of \$20,000 from the City of Kotzebue. That funding allowed us to successfully launch and strengthen our fundraising efforts, which have already begun to make a positive impact on our ability to support student opportunities.

Our school is facing new financial challenges. Due to districtwide budget reductions, funding for student activities coaching stipends has been eliminated. This means that our student activities program must now be fully supported through site-based funds. Our annual expenses include coaching stipends, equipment maintenance and replacement, student shirts, and recognition awards. Together, these costs are projected to total approximately \$20,000 per year. Figure 1 is attached and shows a projected breakdown of activity costs at JNES for the upcoming school year. These figures represent modest reductions from the current coaching and advisory stipends that have been offered.

As a student council, we are actively working with administration to reduce costs and increase sustainability. We are exploring options such as producing more of our activity shirts in-house and increasing volunteer involvement to help run programs. We are also continuing to build on our fundraising success. Even with these efforts, however, our current financial projections show that our existing fund balance, combined with expected fundraising revenue, will only sustain our programs for approximately three more years before those funds are exhausted.

A one-time contribution of \$20,000 from the City this year would allow us to extend the life of our student activities programs by an additional two years. More importantly, an annual partnership in this regard could extend our ability to offer consistent student activities indefinitely.

Student activities are an important part of our school experience. They help us build teamwork, responsibility, and school pride, and they give us opportunities to stay active,

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel
VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future



connected, and engaged in positive ways. Your continued support directly impacts the opportunities available to students in our community.

We are proud to represent our school and community, and we appreciate your consideration of this request. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the students of Kotzebue.

Respectfully,

Barbara Howarth
6th Grade Student

Natalie Madison
6th Grade Student

Lucy Arey
5th Grade Student

Figure 1

Activity	Cost
JNES K-6 Activities Facilitator	\$2,700
Student Council Advisor	\$1,000
Elementary Cross Country (3 coaches)	\$1,500
Battle of the Books (3 coaches)	\$2,400
Elementary Wrestling (3 coaches)	\$2,400
Elementary Cheer (Grades 4-6) (2 coaches)	\$1,000
Mini Cheer (Grades 1-3) (2 coaches)	\$1,000
Little Dribblers (Grades 1-2) (4 coaches)	\$2,000
Elementary Basketball (Grades 3-6) (6 coaches)	\$3,000
Equipment Replacement/Maintenance	\$1,000
Awards and Recognitions	\$500
Shirts	\$1,500
Total	\$20,000