

William Sallinson

Hello, I am William Sallinson of Saint Mary's, Alaska. I am an eighteen-year-old senior at the Andreafski High School. I have lived here all my life and attended the school of Saint Mary's preschool through 12th grade. When the global pandemic, COVID-19 struck, attending school from home and quarantining was extremely challenging.

Before the pandemic, I was successful in school and extracurricular activities such as sports, potlatches, relevant education trips, cultural education, and educational programs. With the onset of the pandemic, we were presented with many challenges. Schooling from home was difficult because I was not in the classroom and was learning mainly by myself. Without the teacher's instruction and resources that the school provided, I had a harder time focusing on what I needed to learn. At home, I was very distracted because I had my phone and game console on all the time. The workload was the same, but procrastinating made the learning feel tremendous, because I found myself completing assignments at the last minute. If I were to be in school, I would have been caught up all the time. I was not as successful as I wanted to be because at home, I did not work and did not have internet. To clarify and get answers to the work, I would call my teachers and classmates.

Applying to the University of Alaska Fairbanks was challenging because I had to do a conference phone call, and I was accepted. Because of my experience with RAHI and Upward Bound, I desire to attend college or training to further my education. I attended Upward Bound on campus two years ago and RAHI online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am currently at the top of my class. Through preschool to 12th grade I have received student of the quarter every year and high honor roll.

By furthering my education, I will be able to have greater opportunities to become independent, self-sufficient, and be better qualified to earn income. I desire to be a responsible, productive, and working citizen. Training and attending college will help me achieve these goals.