

# Mt. Edgecumbe High School

## State Board of Education Report

June 2021

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### Note from the Superintendent

Whew! What a year this has been. I am super proud of our staff, leadership, students, parents, Advisory and State Board for taking on the challenges of this year. I am confident that our students have benefited from a meaningful school year and have experienced academic gains.

I very much look forward to planning for next year. We will be working throughout the summer to ensure a safe return for students in the fall, but we will also make plans beyond COVID. We can finally get back to our strategic plan and our goals. COVID has helped us look forward while forcing us out of our comfort zones a bit. We hope to capitalize on new skills learned and perspectives gained for continued improvement.

Our residential staff has already started some meaningful strategic plan work. We have been exploring some of our systems and relationships to identify opportunities for improvement. Our teaching staff is already planning for beginning of the year activities to re-unite for in-person collaboration and meeting the challenges that are to come.

We know that next year will not quite be “back to normal” but we hope it will be a new version of what is next and that we can look at this year as a chance to renew and grow.

### Ending Enrollment Information

We had a great return after break, however we have lost more kids this spring than we typically do.

Overall our goal is to retain 90% of our students over the course of the year. We have not met that goal either with a comparison to October count or the start of the year. The advisory board reviews a detailed report each year on non-retained students and provides feedback and guidance. This year we noted that many of the large-group activities that are designed to help build unity had to be adjusted or eliminated because of COVID. We hope that bringing these back, along with some improvements in our residential systems, we can once again get back on our annual goal of 90%+ retention.

Enrollment Count\* As of May 5, 2021 compared to October 2020

	May		Total		October		Total	%
Grade	F	M	Enrolled		F	M	enrolled	change
9	44	35	79		57	38	95	-16.8%
10	52	45	97		58	50	108	-10.2%
11	47	30	77		60	34	94	-17.2%
12	39	35	74		41	37	78	-5.1%
	182	145	327		216	159	375	-12.8%

\*11 delayed students dropped and 6 in person students went home prior to October

## Admissions

Admissions has started for next year. The applications are available on our website: [www.mehs.us](http://www.mehs.us). Applications that were complete prior to April 1 were reviewed in our first round of reviews and we have already started to accept students. Below shows the number of completed applications. Numbers are like other years, yet higher for incomplete applications. We plan to only fill 90% of our beds and reassess the COVID situation in mid-summer to determine if we can safely fill all beds and eliminate quarantine rooms.

Grade	Returning	Target #*	“openings”**	Complete Apps as of 5-14-21	Incomplete apps as of 4-26
9		110-115	115	98	61
10	95	115-120	20-25	31	28
11	110	105-110	0	14	17
12	89	95-100	5-10	16	7
<b>totals</b>	<b>296</b>		<b>130</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>113</b>

\* Target #s and openings are general guidelines based on a full capacity dorm and typical schedule. Dorm max is 410 (typically around 20 Sitka students) Numbers may be adjusted based on applicants, dorm availability, and class numbers. Seniors are only accepted if transcripts align with graduation requirements.

Returning numbers include students who were accepted last year and deferred because of COVID. We have been in contact with those families and most are planning on coming.

## COVID Update

Since February we have been very focused on providing opportunities for kids to get vaccinated. Currently 76% of students who are eligible are vaccinated. We have had several students and families who initially opted out, contact us in the last month and requested a vaccine. I think that many of the families who were cautious initially are now more comfortable. We expect that over the summer students who are 12 years old+ will become eligible. This will greatly increase the protection from COVID on our campus and we are looking forward to the opportunity. Just recently the CDC guidelines included no required quarantine for vaccinated individuals in shared living settings.

	Travel*	Routine	Cause**	Total	Resulting Campus Spread
Positive Student Test	7	8	2	17	0
Positive Staff Test			1	1	0

\* Travel includes positive from tests after travel to campus; capturing exposure from travel or prior to coming to campus

\*\*Cause includes tests given for symptoms, pre-appointment tests, or suspected close contact to a positive individual

Our sports plan included athletes testing weekly with additional tests for any athletes that traveled. We also had traveling athletes return to the dorms to live and eat together, the two most risky activities for spread. We had one athlete return from a community and ultimately develop COVID. We had taken extra precautions after this trip and there was no spread from this athlete to other MEHS students.

## COVID Planning

Throughout this year we have worked from a solid COVID mitigation plan, yet also found ourselves frequently adjusting based on new information and unpredicted scenarios. This summer we plan to do a tentative plan in late May and then review it in early August to update based on any new guidance. Here are some of the mitigation plans we are tentatively considering we look forward to making adjustments based on any new guidance:

- Entrance- We plan to have some level of heightened mitigation during the first 14 days of students coming to campus. If guidance allows we do not plan to quarantine non-vaccinated students, but will likely require masks and social distancing for this time period.
- We expect to continue to provide routine testing until we have a high vaccination percentage. Our current target is 90%, but we will adjust if guidance drops that during the summer. Regardless of vaccine rate, we plan to continue to test athletes and any students traveling.
- Masks are currently anticipated however if guidance changes for schools over the summer we will respond and look for opportunities to ease up on these requirements. If guidance allows for easing up, we may look to using masking during only vulnerable situations (first 2 weeks of school, after traveling, during tight close-contact activities or classroom small groups)
- We are planning a full sports season with travel, but expect to continue to have internal guidelines and will be prepared to cancel trips if either community is having COVID spread.

## COVID Funding Plans

This year the bulk of our initial federal COVID funds were spent on creating the physical environment needed for our mitigation and providing the additional resources to execute quarantines and make changes in food service delivery. Our current planning is still initial but includes these ideas:

- Continue to Provide quarantine services as needed
- Continue COVID testing based on recommendations
- Continue Food service mitigation (no self-serve, reduced capacity, packages as needed)
- Credit recovery options (online) in the summer- including funds for internet support
- Increased social emotional support in the dorms
- Partnering with Tribal partners to increase culturally relevant resiliency-building activities
- Exploring increasing the social/emotional skill instruction and behavioral supports in the dorms
- Increase tutoring and academic support in the non-school hours
- Added back in some support courses for Math, Reading and study skills to address learning loss
- Exploring modifications that may be needed to use gym for a multi-purpose gathering location to avoid the over crowding in our activity center
- Exploring moving music to activity center, current room is small and music is a high risk activity
- Exploring classroom-level ventilation enhancements

## Data Highlight

Senior Class\* (All Data is preliminary)

Graduates: 76

Alaska Performance Scholarship Earners: 47

Industry Certificates Earned: 32

*(Emergency Trauma Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, Ground School Test Past, NCCER Construction Module passed, Welding Occupational Endorsement—all provide dual credit)*

Advanced Placement Course Completions: 24

Dual Credits Recorded (does not include any earned through AP courses): Not yet available

College Credit in a Native Language: 5

## Instruction Focus

### Opening Doors

We have been involved in an “Opening Doors” Grant with other schools in southeast. This grant is designed to help schools implement the cultural standards and to increase cultural proficiency. This year much of the training has focused on a leadership team including administration and two teachers. Next year this team will continue to support the full teacher group on being more mindful of implementing cultural standards and being culturally proficient.

### Canvas Learning Management System

Our teachers met to consider the use of the learning management system CANVAS. Over the past four years teachers have really been building their skills in using Google Classroom. Teacher recommendation is to continue with Google Classroom one more year while we learn and train in Canvas to potentially switch the following year.

### Summer Course Options

This year we are piloting a limited number of Alaska Virtual Courses for summer credit recovery and acceleration. We limited the availability to students with robust internet and limited class offerings for this initial trial. We will continue and look for ways to offer it more broadly the following summer if successful.

## Pool Update

We will be looking to open the pool more to the public this summer. We are hoping to finally get to a normal year of operation.