

Department of Education
& Early Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500
Main: 907.465.2800
TTY/TDD: 907.465.2815
Fax: 907.465.4156



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

MEMORANDUM

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------|--|
| To: | State Board of Education & Early Development | Date: | June 4, 2025 |
| Thru: | Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D. Commissioner | Telephone: | (907) 269-4583 |
| From: | Suzzuk Huntington, Superintendent/Director Mt. Edgecumbe High School | Subject: | 11D Mt. Edgecumbe High School Standing Report |

[A Note from the Superintendent](#)

On April 14, 2025, I submitted my resignation, effective June 30, 2025. It has been an honor and privilege to serve Mt. Edgecumbe High School for the three years I was superintendent. The first year, my focus was on observing and understanding the systems in place to ensure that my vision and insight did not get in the way of but would enhance current practice. I was very intentional to be directly involved in activities with the various subpopulations, with emphasis on the academic programs to get oriented.

Moving into the second year, my focus shifted on bringing a wider variety of voices to the table for greater distributed leadership. The emphasis shifted to articulating the processes and procedures to ensure sustainability and transferability of the vast traditions and practices that keep the legacy of Mt. Edgecumbe vibrant. I had to pivot mid-year and focus on division processes and procedures. From the start, being an administrator for a state agency was overwhelming and also enriching. The learning curve is great, with many structures counter-intuitive when compared to school district responsibilities. I grew to really appreciate the knowledge, expertise and support of the department in making all of the systems of the state work for our school district.

The work of articulating processes continues into year three, leaning into capitalizing on the historical knowledge of the veteran teachers and staff before they reach retirement. Professional development this year was teacher-led. Efforts were initiated from the ground up to empower teachers for buy-in and full engagement. It has been a year of deep reflection and analysis to levels beyond anticipation and expectation. This year came with many difficulties, and Mt. Edgecumbe is ready for some deep rebuilding and fresh starts as 2025-2026 begins.

Data Highlight

Senior Class* (All Data is preliminary)

Graduates: 84

Alaska Performance Scholarship Earners: 82 - 38 at level 1, 25 at level 2, 19 at level 3

Industry Certificates Earned: classes still underway

(Emergency Trauma Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, CNA, Ground School Test Past, Welding Occupational Endorsement - all provide Dual credit).

Advanced Placement Course Completions: 41

Dual Credits Earned (does not include any earned through AP courses): 59 seniors earned Dual Credit

Admissions

Admissions are open January 31 - June 15. The applications are available at: www.mehs.us.

Applications that are complete prior to April 1 are reviewed in our first round of reviews. Past practice has been to send out preliminary acceptance letters by May 15th to those who submitted before April. Last year, we started sending acceptance letters in late April. The number of completed and started applications:

Admissions for 2025-2026, as of 4/25/25

| Grade | Target class size | Current enrollment | “Openings” | Complete applications | Incomplete applications |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 9 | 115-125 | 0 | 115-125 | 89 | 40 |
| 10 | 115-120 | 85 | *30-35 | 24 | 27 |
| 11 | 100-105 | 93 | *7-12 | 7 | 21 |
| 12 | 95-100 | 97 | *0-3 | 7 | 8 |
| totals | 430 | 275 | 155 | 127 | 96 |

*Target #s and openings are general guidelines based on a full capacity dorm and typical schedule. Dorm max is 412 (typically around 20 Sitka students) Numbers may be adjusted based on applicants, dorm availability, and class numbers. Juniors and seniors are only accepted if transcripts align with graduation requirements. Returning numbers are all current students. These numbers typically change over the course of the summer.

Current Enrollment

Student retention rate is comparable to pandemic rates, in the lower rather than upper 80th percentiles.

| Grade | Returning | New | August 29, 2024 | October 31, 2024 | April 25, 2025 | Retention rate to date |
|---------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 9 | 0 | 107 | 107 | 102 | 85 | 79.4% |
| 10 | 86 | 34 | 120 | 117 | 93 | 77.5% |
| 11 | 87 | 22 | 109 | 103 | 97 | 89.0% |
| 12 | 87 | 7 | 94 | 91 | 84 | 89.4% |
| totals | 260 | 170 | 430 | 413 | 371 | 83.5% |

Our Fall OASIS ADM (Average Daily Membership) for October Count was 417.10
 Capacity- 412 Beds (plus day students from Sitka, this year there are 17 Sitka students)

**to date as of 4.25.25*

| Monthly Withdrawal Count | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Fall: | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| No show, Deferred or WD before | | | | 27 | 16 | 0 | 3 | 0 | |
| Aug | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Sep | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Oct | 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 11 |
| Nov | 3 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 21 | 16 | 5 | 7 |
| Dec | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Break | 14 | 22 | 28 | 30 | 8 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 27 |
| Jan | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| Feb | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 5 | 6 |
| Mar | 6 | 2 | 5 | - | 7 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Apr | 1 | | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6* |
| May | 0 | | 2 | - | 1 | | 2 | 2 | |
| Total | 39 | 47 | 60 | 57 | 67 | 75 | 69 | 59 | 73* |

| Student Withdrawal Rate at the End of October | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| # by Oct | 8 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 26 | 22 | 10 | 16 | 17 |
| %Oct | 1.8 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 12.6 | 8.7 | 2.4 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| # by May | 39 | 47 | 60 | 57 | 67 | 75 | 69 | 59 | 9* |
| %May | 8.9 | 10.8 | 13.6 | 12.9 | 17.0 | 17.9 | 16.7 | 14.5 | |

**to date as of 4.25.25*

| Enrollment Total by Month | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Fall: | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Beginning | 439 | 436 | 441 | 434 | 420 | 435 | 412 | 410 | 430 |
| No show, deferred, WD before | | | | | 393 | 419 | 412 | 407 | 0 |
| Aug | 437 | 435 | 441 | 434 | 387 | 414 | 412 | 405 | 428 |
| Sep | 433 | 429 | 438 | 432 | 375 | 401 | 408 | 401 | 424 |
| Oct | 431 | 423 | 430 | 427 | 367 | 397 | 402 | 395 | 413* |
| Nov | 428 | 420 | 430 | 419 | 360 | 376 | 386 | 390 | 406 |
| Dec | 426 | 420 | 427 | 418 | 358 | 374 | 381 | 389 | 404 |
| Break | 412 | 398 | 399 | 388 | 350 | 360 | 373 | 369 | 377 |
| Sem 2+ | | | | (+2) | | | | | |
| | 412 | 398 | 399 | 390 | 345 | 360 | 373 | 369 | 377 |
| Jan | 409 | 393 | 397 | 385 | 345 | 357 | 366 | 365 | 375 |
| Feb | 407 | 391 | 390 | 379 | 336 | 348 | 353 | 360 | 369 |
| Mar | 401 | 389 | 385 | - | 329 | 345 | 346 | 355 | 365 |
| Apr | 400 | 389 | 383 | - | 327 | 344 | 345 | 353 | 359* |
| May | 400 | 389 | 381 | - | 326 | 344 | 343 | 351 | |
| retention% | 91.1 | 89.2 | 86.4 | 87.3 | 77.6 | 82.1 | 83.3 | 85.6 | 83.5* |

**end of October enrollment, not the final ADM count*

**to date as of 4.25.25*

| Student Dismissals | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| # stud | 4 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 14 | 24 | 10 | 9* |
| % all | 0.91 | 1.83 | 2.49 | 1.15 | 2.54 | 3.34 | 5.83 | 2.05 | 2.1* |
| % WD | 10.3 | 17.0 | 18.3 | 8.8 | 14.9 | 18.7 | 34.8 | 16.9 | 12.3* |

There were many students who stayed home after winter break, but it felt like a great accomplishment for so many to stick it out to complete the semester. Though the heart of the pandemic has been over for a while, we are still rebuilding from the levels of learning loss that are so varied across the state.

Dormitory Management and Food Service Contracts

On February 27, 2025, we issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Dormitory Management contract and for the Food Service contract. The deadline to submit proposals was March 28, 2025. On April 23, 2025 both contracts were awarded to NANA Management Services. This will be a significant transition for MEHS.

A few student highlights



Brooke Markoff, Togiak

US Senator Murkowski Intern

Keeley Dushkin, Sand Point
Naomi Jones, Tyonek
Gates Scholarship Award winner
Student of the Month



Big Rig Pre-School fundraiser - MEHS National Honor Society volunteer support

Bikers enjoy getting out on a nice day



50 Braves traveled to Music Fest in Juneau by ferry, received accolades, standing ovations, and high praise from observers



Students work with elders and community members at the ANB Hall

Recreation - nature walk



Art activities in the Main Dorm Lounge for Recreation is a hit



NYO Team places 2nd at State



NYO students demonstrate for Blatchley Middle School PE classes



Invitation Dance with Inupiaq/SLI group



Polar Dip, cultural activity, is a known favorite recreation activity



Cheerleaders represented Mt. Edgecumbe at the State cheer competition and basketball tournament, earned high ratings!



Playground fun - recreation activity



Yup'ik Spelling Bee - Macon Enoch
Inupiaq Spelling Bee - Krista Stine