

# Mt. Edgecumbe High School

## State Board of Education Report

January 2020

Prepared by: Janelle Vanasse, Superintendent/Director

### Note from the Superintendent

The second half of the year has started off very well at MEHS. Kids returned in high numbers and staff felt more prepared with all the experience we have gained.

Students came back to a plan for a dorm-wide quarantine. Distance education was provided for 9 days—teachers provided instruction while students utilized the dorm internet to sign on and complete assignments. Our teachers have learned a lot this year about effective technology use. We have focused on “blended learning” for our professional development as this is a philosophy that can be continued and utilized even when we are fully back in person.

Quarantine was also improved based on our past experiences. Our goal was to allow kids an hour of exercise out of their dorm room every day, but also keep them in small groups. Our rec department created rotating activities, so each dorm room had a different activity each day. It was quite a logistical feat to rotate nearly 50 small groups through activities each day. I think it went as well as it could. Students were very patient and appreciated the hour get out of quarantine. After dorm-room quarantine, we continued days of limited groups in the cafeteria and activities to get us to the full 14 days after students arrived. Students who arrived on campus after January 13<sup>th</sup> were quarantined separately to avoid extending the time for the all-dorm quarantine.

### Current Enrollment/Admissions Information

Given the unique and trying times of this COVID year, we are extremely proud of how we have retained students. Typically, we have between 20-30 students stay home after break. This year we had only eight students not return after break, even though they knew they would be returning to quarantine for several days.

Overall we hope to retain 90% of our students over the course of the year. We are on track to meet that goal.

Enrollment Count\* As of January 15, 2021 compared to October 2020

	January	January	Total Enrolled		October	October	Total enrolled	% change
Grade	F	M			F	M		
9	50	36	86		57	38	95	-9.5%
10	56	49	105		58	50	108	-2.8%
11	50	31	81		60	34	94	-13.8%
12	41	37	78		41	37	78	0%
	197	153	350		216	159	375	-6.7%

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

Admissions has started for next year. The applications are available on our website: [www.mehs.us](http://www.mehs.us). We will do our first round of reviews on April 1 and will continue to review through the summer until all spots are filled. We have advertised June 15<sup>th</sup> as the last day for applications.

We have had a lot of inquiry about applications this year and expect to have many applicants. We also have about 40 students who were accepted this year and deferred. Deferred students will not have to reapply, their acceptance carries forward to this year.

## COVID Update

As described in my note, the transition back to campus went very smoothly. Many of our students' home communities have had much higher COVID rates than Sitka. Some of our students (about 10) contracted COVID over break at home. We were greatly appreciative of the good communication parents shared with us so we could make safe plans for those students to return after all necessary quarantine time. We had three students test positive upon arrival, but no further spread.

	Travel*	Routine	Cause**	Total	Resulting Campus Spread
Positive Student Test	7	4	1	12	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

We have added traveling athletes to our weekly testing schedule and have worked with other region 5 schools in our plan for sports during the Basketball season and upcoming Wrestling season. We have had successful games and we have had cancelled games. We respond to the risk level of the community at the time of scheduled games.

The city of Sitka has moved into low risk at the time of this report. This allows our students to go to “town leave”, a coveted act of freedom for them.

## Data Highlight

At a previous meeting, I mentioned our MAP growth data was very promising even with the disruptions caused by COVID. I am including a deeper dive for you in this report.

Below is a comparison of the Winter math assessment with the fall assessment as well as last Winter assessment. Fall to winter provides a comparison of growth during this time with national norms. The Winter to Winter also provides a growth comparison, but it includes the “summer slide”, which may have been impacted by the early exit last spring.

The **percentage of students meeting growth** is the percent of individual students who grew at or above an average amount during that period compared to the national norm.

The **school wide growth percentile** compares the overall amount of growth for all students and compares that with schools nationally.

The comparison data is to a normal year set of norms. This is not comparing to other schools this year during COVID. I believe if we are achieving normal amount of growth this year, we are well beyond many other schools.

Fall to winter MAP growth MATH

	2020-21 % of students meeting growth average (how many making average gain or more)	2020-21 Schoolwide growth percentile (overall amount of growth compared to school norms)	2019-20 % of students meeting growth average	2019-20 Schoolwide growth percentile
9 <sup>th</sup>	78%	99%	75%	99%
10 <sup>th</sup>	68%	99%	73%	99%
11 <sup>th</sup>	78%	99%	75%	99%
12 <sup>th</sup>	67%	92%	73%	99%

Fall to winter MAP growth READING

	2020-21 % of students meeting growth average (how many making average gain or more)	2020-21 Schoolwide growth percentile (overall amount of growth compared to school norms)	2019-20 % of students meeting growth average	2019-20 Schoolwide growth percentile
9 <sup>th</sup>	63%	95%	53%	88%
10 <sup>th</sup>	51%	14%	57%	94%
11 <sup>th</sup>	56%	54%	60%	97%
12 <sup>th</sup>	47%	31%	57%	97%

\* Note- the need to reduce class sizes for COVID mitigation meant that not all 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade students had an English class immediately, some started in November.

What this data cannot represent is the amount of slippage that may have occurred with last spring and summer. Typically low-income students experience more summer slide than their non-economically disadvantaged counterparts. MEHS is 74% low income; summer slide is always a great concern. Even a typical year demonstrates loss of some gain over the summer, but the data including last spring/summer suggests an even greater loss requiring catch-up.

Winter to winter MAP growth MATH

	2020-21 % of students meeting growth average (how many making average gain or more)	2020-21 Schoolwide growth percentile (overall amount of growth compared to school norms)	2019-20 % of students meeting growth average	2019-20 Schoolwide growth percentile
10 <sup>th</sup>	63%	78%	69%	97%
11 <sup>th</sup>	50%	38%	57%	69%
12 <sup>th</sup>	35%	15%	58%	84%

Fall to winter MAP growth READING

	2020-21 % of students meeting growth average (how many making average gain or more)	2020-21 Schoolwide growth percentile (overall amount of growth compared to school norms)	2019-20 % of students meeting growth average	2019-20 Schoolwide growth percentile
10 <sup>th</sup>	52%	39%	53%	52%
11 <sup>th</sup>	56%	53%	40%	23%
12 <sup>th</sup>	32%	36%	38%	54%

## Instructional Focus

Planning is underway for courses for next year. We are going to continue with our 12-week rotation. This has allowed for increased time in core classes such as: Biology, Chemistry, Physics (and all science classes; American Literature and 12<sup>th</sup> grade English; all social studies classes, and upper level math classes. It has also provided the flexibility for .5 credit electives and intervention options. Staff and Advisory board will be exploring adjustments.

This year we added an Advanced Placement biology class. This completes the set of at least one AP class in each core subject: English, math, social studies, and math; we are now considered to offer a full AP program.

## Pool Update

With the current state of Covid over the winter months, the pool was primarily used for classes, private groups of MEHS students, and private bookings by outside agencies. With the community moving to low risk, we are working with our plan to increase public access.