



Mt. Edgecumbe High School

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development

From: David P. Langford, Superintendent

Date: October 14, 2026

Item: 23.0D

Standing General Report

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) Mission

To provide a challenging, unique education in a residential setting that values rich cultural diversities and traditions, inspiring Alaskan students to become successful, responsible, global citizens.

Vision

MEHS inspires students to:

- Discover and expand their talents with multiple innovative opportunities.
- Develop their dreams.
- Meet high expectations for learning and living.
- Prepare for a changing world.
- Form meaningful and long-lasting relationships.
- Learn from and appreciate one's own and other's cultures.
- Become ethical leaders

MEHS began FY2027 with strong momentum, renewed energy, and a shared campus vision. Comprehensive staff training strengthened unity across the campus, while nearly full staffing provided a solid foundation for the year ahead.

New Academic and Residential Principals have already made a positive impact on students and staff. Campus improvements—including renovated offices, new dormitory furniture and mattresses, upgraded communication radios, and new culture and art centers—have been welcomed by students and contributed to a more engaging campus environment.

New academic staff have brought international experience and a renewed focus on academic excellence. Most importantly, academic progress is evident: AKSTAR Science scores improved significantly, moving MEHS from 3rd from the bottom in the district in 2025 to 10th in the state in FY2026.

Overall, FY2027 is off to a very promising start, with strong leadership, improved facilities, dedicated staff, and positive student engagement creating a solid foundation for continued success.

FY 2027 Updates

- New Academic and Residential Principals
- Six new teachers
- Nearly Fully Staffed Across Academic and Residential Programs
- New Cultural Art Center in Kuspuk Hall
- New Saturday Morning Ceramics Classes
- Dedicated Classroom for After-School and Weekend Sewing and Art Classes
- Dedicated Classroom for After-School and Weekend Yoga Classes
- Dedicated Cultural Dance Center
- Dedicated Cultural Cooking Center
- Driver Education Program Offered
- Ground School Program Offered
- Weekly Trips to Two Supermarkets and the Bulk Food Center
- Record Student Participation in Cafeteria Meals
- New Macintosh Layout and Design Lab
- Expanded Dual Credit Course Offerings with UAS
- New ELA Curriculum—First Major Curriculum Update in 10 Years
- Second-Year Implementation of the CSLD Grant
- New Presidential Physical Fitness Grant
- New Parent Communication System: ParentSquare
- New Website Development and Implementation
- Star Center Support Services Relocated to the Academic Building Library
- Two AmeriCorps Members Added to Support Student Programs
- New On-Campus Administrative Support Position

CIP FY2027 Updates

- \$22.4 million in Project Funding Approved
 - \$10.2 million Dining Hall & Kitchen Renovation
 - \$5.2 million in Student Housing Upgrades
 - \$5.1 Million Replacement of Academic Building Exterior Envelope
 - \$3.1 Million Replacement of all Dormitory windows
 - \$50,000 Mattress Upgrades
 - \$125,000 Replacement of Washing Machines
 - \$468,000 in Dormitory Furniture Replacement
- Summer 2026 Boy's Dormitory Window Wall Replacement and Ventilation Improvements Completed
- Summer 2027 Dormitory Roof Replacements scheduled

Challenges

- **Academic Performance:** Academic achievement remains a significant challenge. ELA and mathematics performance continues to fall below the state average and remains below that of comparable districts statewide.
- **Campus Upgrades and CIP Funding:** New CIP funding presents challenges related to prioritizing and implementing campus upgrades while also addressing student attendance needs.
- **Student Mental Health:** Mental health continues to be an ongoing challenge, despite increased support and resources across the campuses.
- **Mental Health Staffing:** Recruitment remains underway for a qualified mental health clinician to support students in the dormitory.
- **Enrollment:** FY2026 enrollment remains below capacity. The year is being viewed as a rebuilding period as efforts continue to strengthen and increase enrollment.

Summary

Despite the challenges currently facing MEHS, the outlook for the school remains very positive. Significant CIP projects planned over the coming years will provide important opportunities to enhance the campus and strengthen the educational environment for students. With strong leadership and a dedicated team of staff in place, MEHS is well positioned for continued growth and success. In addition, expanded outreach through social media has generated considerable positive feedback from communities and stakeholders across the state, further strengthening awareness and support for the school.



