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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Troy Thayne Named Director of Mt. Edgecumbe High School**

JUNEAU – Troy Thayne has been named Director/Superintendent of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, the state-operated boarding school in Sitka. Thayne replaces Randy Hawk, who is retiring effective July 1, after serving since July 2010.

“I’m excited about having Troy ‘J’ Thayne join our staff and take the lead for us at Mt. Edgecumbe,” said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. “He has strong educational leadership experience and, more importantly, a vision and passion for meeting the needs of our young adults who have been entrusted to Mt. Edgecumbe.”

Thayne holds a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho; a master’s degree and specialist in education degree in educational administration from Idaho State University; and he is writing his dissertation for a doctor of education degree from Idaho State University.

Thayne has served as a teacher, principal, GED instructor, high school principal, superintendent, and curriculum director in Idaho. He has received a number of awards from the Idaho State Board of Education and the Idaho Education Association. Thayne served 10 years in the Army National Guard and as a Boy Scouts of America scout master and advisor for over 18 years.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve as the Director/Superintendent of the Mount Edgecumbe High School,” Thayne said. “I am extremely impressed with the focus and passion of the students and faculty. I am anxious to work with the students, faculty, and staff of Mt. Edgecumbe in continuing a heritage of academic success.”

Approximately 400 students from more than 100 villages throughout Alaska attend Mt. Edgecumbe. Alaska Native students compose 79% of the student population; 10% are Caucasian; and 6% are mixed ethnicity. Sixty-five percent of students meet federal guidelines for free and reduced-price lunches. Eighty-four percent of 2013 graduates were accepted into a postsecondary university or training program.

**EDUCATION**  
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Mt. Edgecumbe freshmen and sophomores take the state's standards-based assessments in reading, writing, and math:

- In 9<sup>th</sup> grade last school year, 94% were proficient or above in reading, 92% in writing, and 82% in math.
- In 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 69% were proficient or above in reading, 84% in writing, and 71% in math.

The school's Alaska School Performance Index score for this school year is 91.26, giving it four out of five stars. The school's four-year graduation rate last school year was 97%; the five-year rate was 99%. (This does not include students who transferred out of MEHS and attended another school.) MEHS's attendance rate was 96%.

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