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**Press Release** **COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Janelle Vanasse Named Superintendent of Mt. Edgecumbe High School**

JUNEAU – Janelle Vanasse of Bethel has been named Superintendent/Director of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, the state-operated boarding school in Sitka. She replaces Bill Hutton, who will retire June 30.

Ms. Vanasse is director of secondary education at the Lower Kuskokwim School District and has served as principal and assistant principal of Bethel Regional High School, and executive director of Yuut Elitnaurviat, a non-profit in Bethel that provides vocational training to youth and adults. Ms. Vanasse also was a specialist in special education and grants for the Lower Kuskokwim School District and a teacher in Fairbanks and Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Among her duties at the Lower Kuskokwim School District, Ms. Vanasse oversaw its Ready Academies, which are boarding programs of variable length; oversaw student data and testing; supervised school administrators; and provided professional development for principals and teachers.

Ms. Vanasse holds a bachelor of science degree in special education from St. Cloud University in Minnesota, a master of education degree in administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and will complete her superintendent's endorsement from the University of Alaska Southeast in May.

The State Board of Education & Early Development is the school board for Mt. Edgecumbe High School. The board approved Ms. Vanasse's appointment March 22 at its meeting in Juneau.

For nearly 70 years, Mt. Edgecumbe High School has played a unique role in Alaska education. The vast majority of its students are Alaska Native. At any given time, it serves students from 100-plus communities, many of them small villages.

In Mt. Edgecumbe High School's classrooms and dormitories, the state's future leaders and achievers in many fields forge relationships for a lifetime.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School provides an opportunity for youths from small communities to attend a 400-student high school, with the array of courses and extracurricular activities they could not receive in a very small school. Courses range from academic to technical.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School students have presented at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, the Smithsonian Institution, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Alaska Rural Energy Conference, and the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

Nearly all the students who stay for four years graduate. The vast majority go into postsecondary training or education, jobs, and the military.

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