

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:	February 13, 2023
Thru:	Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner	Telephone:	(907) 269-4583
From:	Suzzuk Huntington, Superintendent/Director Mt. Edgecumbe High School	Subject:	Agenda Item 14D. Mt. Edgecumbe High School Standing Report

Note from the Superintendent

Applications for the 2023-2024 are now open and available on our website. The 33rd Legislative Session is underway, and I gave my first presentation to the House Education Committee this morning. Basketball season brings a welcome influx of visitors to our gym, including parents who come to see their children compete. The pep band enhances the school spirit that has always been strong and supportive. Multiple squads of cheerleaders lead the crowd as they support our varsity and junior varsity boys and girls teams. Both boys and girls have multiple C teams, whose fundraising allowed them to travel last weekend.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School was selected to participate in the MTSS Refresh Cohort program, and the team meets monthly under the direction and guidance of Jacob Edwards of Safe and Civil Schools, sponsored by the Alaska Staff Development Network. The team traveled to the RTI Conference in Anchorage and met virtually with our mid-size city cohort last week.

The Advisory Board meets this week for their annual in-person meeting. This year, the Advisory Board scheduled the meeting to take place during Founders Week rather than Graduation, and we have scheduled a day of training with the Alaska Association of School Boards the day prior.

Founders Week celebrates the founding of MEHS, with mini-lessons featured in all social studies class for the next week. All five dance groups, along with a combined Sitka Tlingit group, will be performing at the Gathering of Cultures on Wednesday evening. The Unangan and Sugpiaq groups will have their debut. Art workshops this week include Northwest Coast Art with Will Peterson, Beading Earrings with Jamie Bradley, and Fish Skin Sewing with Karen McIntyre. We will hold exhibition Spelling Bees in Inupiaq, Yup'ik and possibly Tlingit. The Founders Banquet features slow-roast beef brisket, fry bread, salmon spread, and akutaq, among other dishes. The Keynote address will be given by Yeidikook'aa (Dionne Brady-Howard), long-time teacher and graduate of Mt. Edgecumbe.

COVID and Health Update

As a residential school, we continue to maintain responsibility for testing our students for COVID-19 when they present with cold-like symptoms. Since the last report, we have had isolated cases with no more than two at a time. One student had to stay a few extra days over winter break to complete quarantine before returning home. Staff stepped in to ensure the student was well cared for. We have had a total of 6 cases since the last report. Our campus has remained COVID-free since January 29th.

Current Enrollment

Our enrollment rates are comparable to previous years at this point. We tied the record low for students who elected not to come back over winter break, with only 8 students staying home.

Capacity- 394 Beds (26 day students from Sitka) - 14 quarantine beds plus Heritage Hall pod (4 beds)

Monthly Withdrawal Count								
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Deferred or WD before school started						27	16	0
Aug	2	2	1	0	0	6	5	0
Sep	5	4	6	3	3	12	13	4
Oct	7	2	6	8	4	8	4	6
Nov	7	3	3	0	8	7	21	16
Dec	1	2	0	3	1	2	2	5
Break	21	14	22	28	30	8	14	8
Jan	6	3	5	2	5	5	3	7
Feb	6	2	2	7	6	9	9	2
Mar	1	6	2	5	-	7	3	
Apr	0	1		2	-	2	1	
May	0	0		2	-	1		
Total	56	39	47	60	57	67	75	48

Student Withdrawal Rate at the End of January								
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
%Jan	11.1	6.8	9.9	12.7	11.3	12.2	14.8	11.1
%May	12.9	8.9	10.8	13.6	13.1	18.5	17.9	

Enrollment Total by Month								
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beginning	434	439	436	441	434	420	435	412
Deferred or WD before school started						393	419	0
Aug	432	437	435	441	434	387	414	412
Sep	427	433	429	438	432	375	401	408
Oct	420	431	423	430	427	367	397	402
Nov	413	428	420	430	419	360	376	386
Dec	412	426	420	427	418	358	374	381
Christmas	391	412	398	399	388	350	360	373
Sem 2+	(+1) 392				(+2) 390			
Jan	386	409	393	397	385	345	357	366
Feb	380	407	391	390	379	336	348	
Mar	379	401	389	385	-	329	345	
Apr	379	400	389	383	-	327	344	
May	379	400	389	381	-	326	344	

A Few Student Highlights



Mt. Edgecumbe High School students baked 50 pies for the Sitka community Thanksgiving Meal hosted by the Alaska Native Brotherhood. A variety of dorm staff worked with a variety of students to get this charitable task accomplished.



Mt. Edgecumbe High School hosted dance performances and hosted a Native foods potluck on Native American Heritage Day, November 25, 2022. Local Mt. Edgecumbe and Sitka dance groups performed and invited each other and guests to join in hours of dancing festivities. This is a new tradition we hope to continue for years to come!





The Thanksgiving Carnival was a huge success! Students played games to earn tickets to cash in for prizes. Lots of laughter & fun! Thank you to the staff & student workers who made this event possible! November 28, 2022



Staff served students during the Christmas Banquet about a week before break. Following the meal, prizes were drawn for those students who put in Merit Bucks (tokens students earn in the dorms when being responsible) for the raffle drawings.



Dramatic reading in Language Arts class, January 2023



Mt. Edgecumbe wrestlers earned 1st at Regionals, including 8 champions



Colton Paul & Peter Griggs represented Alaska at the Arctic Winter Games



Basketball w/Sitka High, Feb 3 community section



Basketball w/Sitka High, Feb 3 MEHS cheering section



Basketball w/Sitka High, Feb 3 combined Sitka/MEHS Pep Band