



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development
Date: August 11, 2022

Thru: Acting Commissioner Heidi Teshner
Telephone: (907) 269-4583

From: Suzzuk Huntington,
Superintendent/Director
Mt. Edgecumbe High School
Subject: Agenda 10D. Mt. Edgecumbe High School Standing Report

Note from the Superintendent

It has been a true pleasure to come to Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) as the new superintendent. The summer staff and the Department of Education and Early Development have been very welcoming and gracious in helping me transition into this new role. Since attending MEHS as a student, I have often stated the fact that “Mt. Edgecumbe is a state-run school”. It is only in the last couple of months that I begin to understand what that actually means. It is an honor to step into this new role, and I am so excited that we have the opportunity to host you on our campus. At the time of this report, some administrators have returned to work and most staff will return to work for the new school year next week. It is no surprise that MEHS has many strong systems in place that allow for continuity and sustainability even amidst the change in leadership, while providing for individualized contributions.

COVID Update

The COVID Mitigation Team is scheduled to meet after key staff return to work for the school year (the week after this report is due). At the end of last school year, two options were prepared for the start of the school year, anticipating trends in mitigation guidelines. It looks very promising to open the school year in a setting where COVID continues to factor into plans and decisions but no longer dominates. The tiered levels of mitigation will continue to be used as a guide, and we will monitor and follow the recommended CDC guidelines.

Current Enrollment

Target class sizes and openings are general guidelines based on a full capacity dorm and typical schedule. Pre-pandemic the dorm max is 410 (there are typically around 20 Sitka students). We continue to keep 18 beds available for quarantine quarters. Numbers may be adjusted based on applicants, dorm

availability, and class numbers. Seniors are only accepted if transcripts align with graduation requirements.

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

Grade	Target class size	Returning	“Openings”	Accepted new	Class size
9	110-115	0	110-115	103	103
10	115-120	84	31-36	37	121
11	100-105	80	20-25	17	97
12	95-100	89	6-11	2	91
totals	420	253	167	159	412

Home Communities

MEHS students come from 110 communities in Alaska. The three communities with the largest representation are Anchorage (32 students), Sitka (27 students), and Bethel (19 students). Many of the Anchorage students have roots in various communities, though that is not reflected in this data. More than 80% of the communities have five or less students attending MEHS.

Home communities	Single student	2-5 students	6-10 students	more than 10 students
110	46	46	11	7

Teacher Retention

This year we have the greatest number of new teachers starting the school year at MEHS - enough that we have added a New Teacher Orientation a day before the rest of the staff return. As of August 11, we still have vacancies with potential candidates - some have tentatively accepted contracts provided they are able to secure housing. A number of teachers who were offered contracts declined when they were unable to secure affordable housing. A factor worth celebrating is that we had some teachers moving into instructional coaching or administrative roles.