



## MEMORANDUM

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

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

**From:** Suzzuk Huntington,  
Superintendent/Director  
Mt. Edgecumbe High School  
**Subject:** Agenda 16D. Mt. Edgecumbe High School Standing Report

### Note from the Superintendent

As each week passes, there is more to appreciate about the staff, including state and contract staff; residential and academic staff; day, swing, and night shift staff; administration, teachers, residential aides, business office, clinic, maintenance, office, security, wellness, kitchen, recreation, cultural leaders, pool, counselors, visitors center, IT, custodial, tutors, substitutes, coaches, extra-curricular sponsors, Alaska Fellows, AmeriCorps, and student workers. Each and every subgroup provides such dedication and skill to serving the needs of Mt. Edgecumbe students, it is a joy working with this staff. The network of support from DEED continues to be a tremendous blessing to balance out the learning curve that comes with the responsibilities: commissioner's office, finance and support, human resources, federal grants program managers, and many other individuals.

### COVID and Health Update

The CDC updated guidelines in August. We adjusted our policies to reflect the new guidelines. A detailed report is included separately. COVID continues to affect the individuals who contract it. Masks are optional, and most do not but many do continue to wear them in groups. We test only when students are experiencing symptoms. Our case count peaked at 13 cases on September 10<sup>th</sup>, just under our quarantine capacity. The first day without a student in quarantine was September 26<sup>th</sup>, and we have had only one case since then. COVID mitigation continues to be a part of our life and experience, but it no longer dominates.

The last week of the first trimester, November 7-11, we had to utilize the quarantine rooms for an expanded Sick Bay. Students with cold symptoms, including some who tested positive for influenza and RSV, filled the capacity of both our Sick Bay and our designated quarantine rooms. The health clinic reached

out to the administration and we quickly set up additional support, including a designated on-call phone for students to call while in sick bay, extra supervision, medication plans, easy access to plenty of liquids, alternate meals (chicken noodle soup), accommodation for making up classwork and final exams, and communication with families and staff.

### Current Enrollment

During the height of the pandemic, student withdrawals were considerably higher than the 5 years preceding. Our current withdrawal rates, as of the end of October, are comparable to pre-pandemic rates.

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	
Dec	1	2	0	3	1	2	2	
Break	21	14	22	28	30	8	14	
Jan	6	3	5	2	5	5	3	
Feb	6	2	2	7	6	9	9	
Mar	1	6	2	5	-	7	3	
Apr	0	1		2	-	2	1	
May	0	0		2	-	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>75</b>	

Student Withdrawal Rate at the End of October								
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
%Oct	3.2	1.8	3.0	2.5	1.6	12.6	8.7	2.2
%May	12.9	8.9	10.8	13.6	12.9	16.9	17.2	

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	403
Nov	413	428	420	430	419	360	376	
Dec	412	426	420	427	418	358	374	
Christmas	391	412	398	399	388	350	360	
Sem 2+	(+1) 392	412	398	399	(+2) 390	345	360	
Jan	386	409	393	397	385	345	357	
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	

### Pool Update

For the first time since opening, the pool is fully operational. COVID mitigations no longer present a barrier.

- We offered two daily classes this trimester: Lifeguard Training and Swimming for Fitness, in addition to a pool day for the Freshman Success classes.

- During the first trimester, nine (9) students became certified lifeguards, bringing the total of our current students with this certification to fifteen (15).
- A number of them are employed by the aquatic center as student workers, and more will have completed their job training between the submission of this report and the meeting.
- Mt. Edgecumbe students have Open Swim five nights a week, including two opportunities each Friday, and three each Saturday.
- A number of local organizations utilize the pool for water safety training, health and fitness, swimming classes, and sponsored open swim. With these contracts, the aquatic center is now self-sustaining.
- The pool is open to community members six days a week, two or three times a day. Hourly party rentals are available most weekends.
- In October, we began offering complimentary Open Swim for an hour on Sunday afternoons for MEHS staff and their families.

### A Few Student Highlights



MEHS Hosts first Southeast DDF competition of the season Sept 15-17



MEHS Honor Choir has the most qualifiers in all Southeast Oct 22-26



MEHS students represented our school with pride at AFN Oct 20-22



MEHS Cross Country Team



MEHS Girls Volleyball Senior Night



Student art paint landscape of home



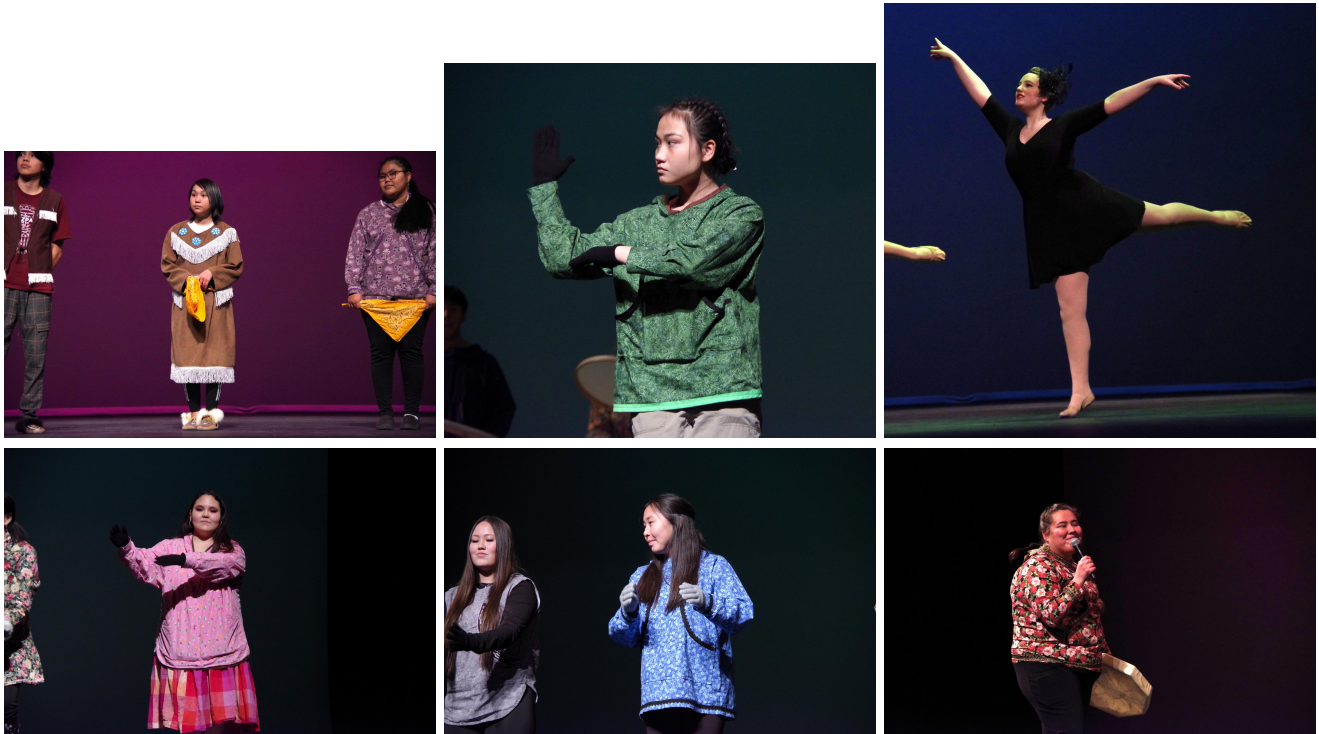
35 MEHS seniors complete the 14 mile hike to the top of Mt. Edgecumbe 9/17



MEHS students enjoy the Field Day including class tug-o-war Oct 16



MEHS students join an invitational dance during Elders & Youth Conference



MEHS students are among local dancers, performing on stage during the Sitkans Can Dance event, Oct 5



MEHS hosted all students from Edgecumbe, Sitka High, and Pacific High on Indigenous Peoples' Day with keynote speaker Representative Mary Peltola. MEHS Yup'ik Dance Group guided a packed gym floor, teaching students, staff, and guests the Friendship Dance.