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& Early Development

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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

MEMORANDUM

To:	State Board of Education & Early Development	Date:	February 6, 2024
Thru:	Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D. Commissioner	Telephone:	(907) 269-4583
From:	Suzzuk Huntington, Superintendent/Director Mt. Edgecumbe High School	Subject:	Agenda 4E Mt. Edgecumbe High School Standing Report

A Note from the Superintendent

Last school year we utilized the quarantine rooms heavily from the start of the school year through the end of September. Health needs slowed down in October, then we had a surge in illness support in early November with all quarantine rooms being used for about a week to care for students with the flu and RSV. Except for a couple of isolated cases during the first two weeks of school, we did not have COVID or other illness outbreaks to require the use of the designated quarantine rooms in the fall.

When students returned from their home communities in January through the end of the month, we had students who tested positive for COVID and spent time isolating. We did not utilize universal screening and sent students to the MEHS Student Health Clinic so the nurses could determine which students should be tested based on the severity of symptoms and health factors of each individual student. The greatest number of students needing isolation and quarantine so far this school year has been three students.

Much of my focus over the last year has gone toward gaining a deeper understanding of my role as a Division Director, as compared to my role as Superintendent. Last spring, I got oriented to the more visible difference, in my relationship with legislators. This summer and well into the fall, the focus has been on finances and the budget process. The more I work through those processes, the greater I see the need to bring our enrollment numbers back to pre-pandemic levels.

Current Enrollment

Capacity- 394 Beds (25 day students from Sitka) - 14 beds kept available for quarantine/isolation

Monthly Withdrawal Count									
Fall:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No show, Deferred or WD before						27	16	0	3
Aug	2	2	1	0	0	6	5	0	2
Sep	5	4	6	3	3	12	13	4	4
Oct	7	2	6	8	4	8	4	6	6
Nov	7	3	3	0	8	7	21	16	5
Dec	1	2	0	3	1	2	2	5	1
Break	21	14	22	28	30	8	14	8	20
Jan	6	3	5	2	5	5	3	7	4
Feb	6	2	2	7	6	9	9	13	
Mar	1	6	2	5	-	7	3	7	
Apr	0	1		2	-	2	1	1	
May	0	0		2	-	1		2	
Total	56	39	47	60	57	67	75	69	45

Enrollment Total by Month									
Fall:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Beginning	434	439	436	441	434	420	435	412	410
No show, deferred or WD before						393	419	412	407
Aug	432	437	435	441	434	387	414	412	405
Sep	427	433	429	438	432	375	401	408	401
Oct	420	431	423	430	427	367	397	402	395
Nov	413	428	420	430	419	360	376	386	390
Dec	412	426	420	427	418	358	374	381	386
Christmas	391	412	398	399	388	350	360	373	370
Sem 2+	(+1) 392				(+2) 390				
Jan	386	409	393	397	385	345	357	366	366
Feb	380	407	391	390	379	336	348	353	
Mar	379	401	389	385	-	329	345	346	
Apr	379	400	389	383	-	327	344	345	
May	379	400	389	381	-	326	344	343	
retention%	87.3	91.1	89.2	86.4	87.3	77.6	82.1	83.3	

Student Withdrawal Rate at the End of October									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# by Oct	14	8	13	11	7	26	22	10	16
% Oct	3.2	1.8	3.0	2.5	1.6	12.6	8.7	2.4	3.9
# by May	56	39	47	60	57	67	75	69	
% May	12.9	8.9	10.8	13.6	12.9	17.0	17.9	16.7	

Student Dismissals									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# stud	7	4	8	11	5	10	14	24	5*
% all	1.61	0.91	1.83	2.49	1.15	2.54	3.34	5.83	1.22*
% WD	12.5	10.3	17.0	18.3	8.8	14.9	18.7	34.8	11.1*

Program Highlight - Music

The MEHS music program hit the ground running in our classes this fall! We are excited to offer students a full band experience, from beginning band and concert band during the school day to jazz band and pep band on the weekends. Guitar class is widely popular among students. We had 27 students enroll during the first trimester. The first-trimester choir was the most advanced group of singers we have had in the last 5 years, and it is exciting to see their growth. We capped off the first trimester with a music showcase concert series during the October Saturday school. This was well received with audiences of about 120 people for each class.

Region V hosts an Honor Festival for band and choir students every year. All students in the Region enrolled in their school's music program are eligible to audition for a spot in the honor band or choir. The top musicians in the band and choir are then selected by the Region V music teachers and invited to attend the Honor Festival. This year's event was held in Craig, October 22-25. Students rehearsed Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon and presented their work in a concert on Tuesday evening.



MEHS Honor Choir Region V Champs

Honor Choir traveling by ferry

Choir students singing at "The Grind"

This year, we had 10 singers named to the Honor Choir: Kate Plaisance, Sitka; Brooklyn Roland-Dewitt, Sitka; Hannah McEwen, Sitka; Khaila Fratis, St. Paul; Anita Jemewouk, Elim; Eva Nay, Wasilla; Zakk Dunton, Wasilla; Boaz Reich, Anchorage; Nathan Vink, Unalakleet; Cash Arrington, Nome. This number represents the most students named to the Honor Choir from one school out of all schools in the region for the second year in a row!

Each year, ASAA holds an All-State music festival in November, and students apply to the All-State Band, Orchestra, and Choir through a recorded audition process. The best musicians from across the state are invited to gather for 3 days to prepare and present the All-State Gala concert. MEHS was again well represented this year in the All-State choir. For the first time ever, all of our students who auditioned received recognition at the All-State level. Senior: Khaila Fratis, and Juniors: Brooklyn Roland-Dewitt and Eva Nay were named to the All-State Treble Choir and participated in this year's festival. Sophomore: Kate Plaisance was named the first alternate to the same group.

The music program has been invited to perform at a few holiday events in December, and we look forward to the second half of the year, which will be full of exciting opportunities for our students!

A Few Student Highlights



Mt. Edgecumbe High School seniors had the opportunity to hike Mt. Edgecumbe on Sunday, September 24, 2023. This year, we made the opportunity available to any senior interested. In years past, we used a lottery process to take up to 35 seniors



Allen Marine Shuttle to Mt. Edgecumbe
Edgecumbe Hike Summit



And so the hike begins Mt.

The culminating activity during the beginning of the year EdgeCamp week is a cardboard boat competition. This year, groups were organized by grade level, with teams representing their classes in 4 heats from the SEARHC boat ramp to the MEHS boat ramp.



Moving boats from the gym to the water



Students and staff watching the start
Sideline activity during boat race



Baking is a popular rec activity
activity
competitions



Polar Dip: another popular rec
Seniors dominate the Spirit



Students went to Sitka High School on October 5 for the College Fair with more than 40 colleges and local organizations.



Drama, Debate, and Forensics (DDF) students and advisor



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Native dance groups get frequent requests to perform at local events. On September 30, all dance groups performed at the Sheet'ká Kwáan Naa Kahídi community house for the SEARHC Recovery Month Potlatch.



Unanga dancers



Inupiaq/St. Lawrence Island dancers
Athabaskan dancers



Athabaskan dancers
dancers



Sugpiaq dancers Sugpiaq



Breakfast for dinner at Family Night Dinner was a big hit. The extended Family program continues to build a sense of family.



State Wrestling Champ RJ Didrickson!



State Wrestling Champion Team
Tessa Anderson named ASAA
Athlete of the Month