

Note from the Superintendent

It has been a true pleasure to come to Mt. Edgecumbe as the new superintendent. The summer staff and the Department of Education 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. It is no surprise that Mt. Edgecumbe has many strong systems in place that allow for continuity and sustainability even amidst the change in leadership, while providing for individualized contributions.

Student 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 (27 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

*This chart includes student enrollment data for the start of the school year. As of October 5, 2022 we have 409 students enrolled.

Home Communities

Mt. Edgecumbe 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 5 or less students attending MEHS.

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

COVID 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 10th, just under our quarantine capacity. Yesterday we had our first new case after two weeks without any new positives. Covid mitigation continues to be a part of our life and experience, but it no longer dominates.

Exciting Events

On September 6-7, we hosted the State Board of Education on our campus. Two orientation leaders guided the Board and DEED staff through a campus tour.

On October 10th, we will host a combined assembly featuring Representative Mary Peltola. Sitka High School and Pacific High School students will be joining Mt. Edgecumbe High School students in our gym.

Students plan to have two new dance groups this school year: Unangan and Sugpiaq Dance Groups will be added to the line up of Athabaskan, Inupiaq, and Yup'ik Dance Groups. Our students have been invited to join the local Gajaa Héen Tlingit Dancers. Our new Cultural Integration Coordinator held the first planning meeting on Tuesday to set up their practice times. More than 40 students showed up. One group already held their first practice.