

Mt. Edgecumbe High School Overview

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

House Education Committee

Suzzuk Mary Huntington, Director

Jacob Almeida, Special Assistant & Legislative Liaison

April 16, 2025



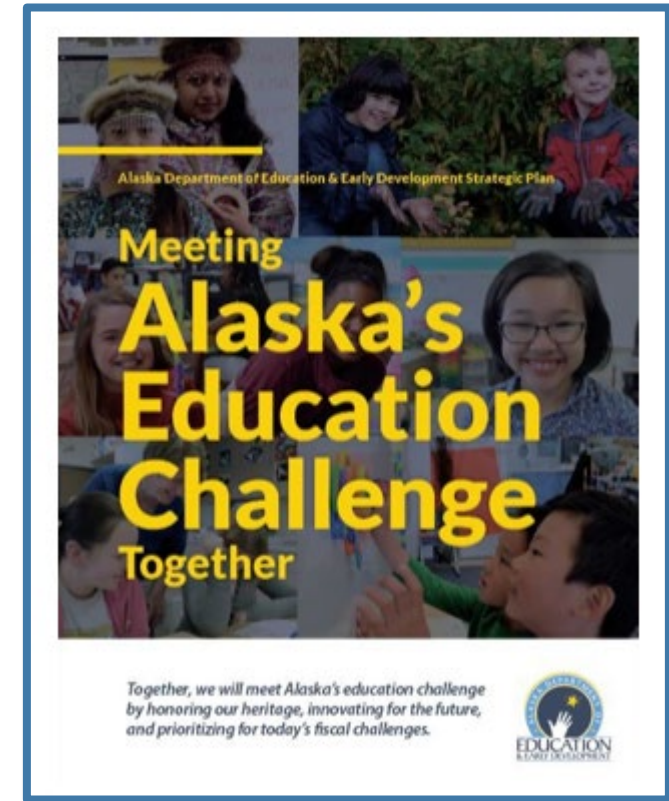
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
An excellent education for every student every day.	All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them. - Alaska Statute 14.03.015	DEED exists to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day.

Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

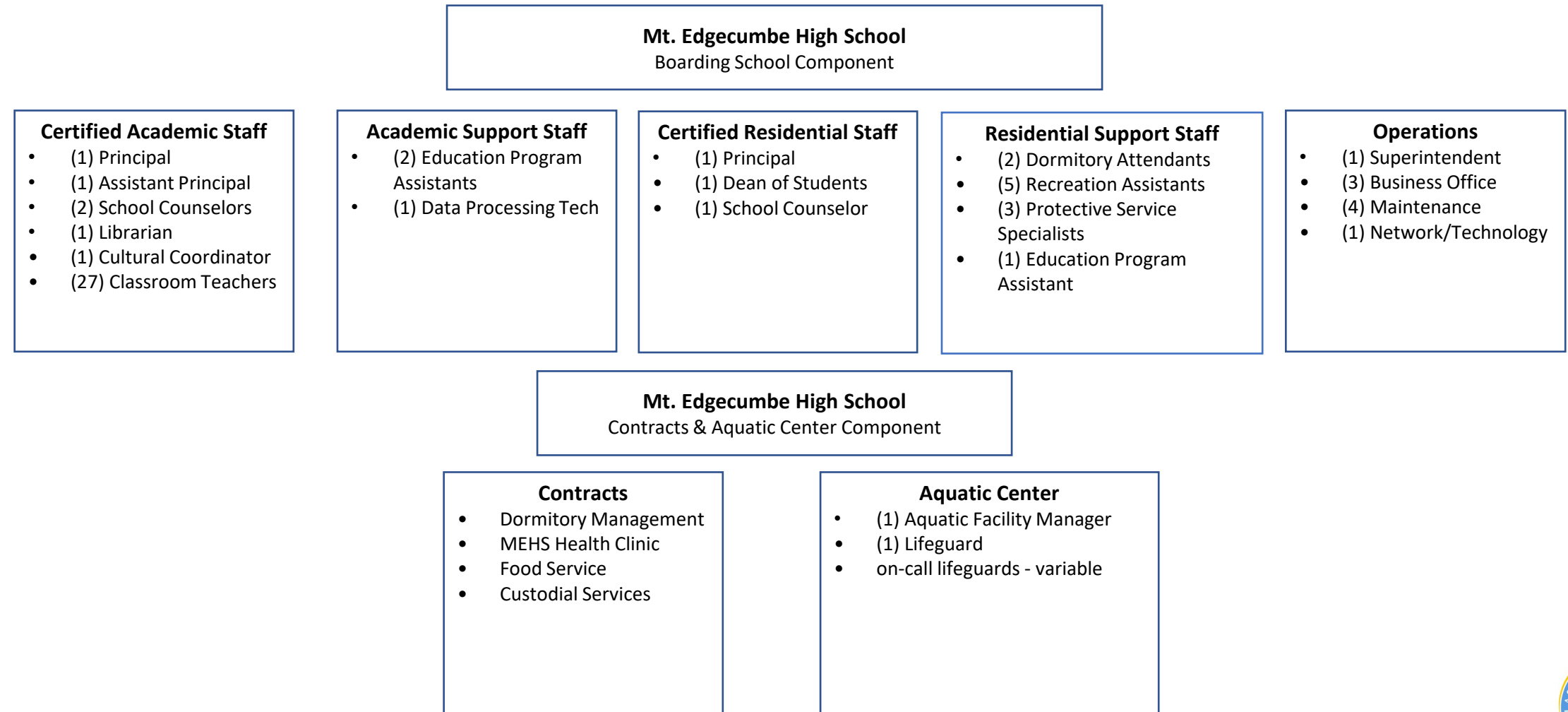
Five Shared Priorities:

1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade
2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs
3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources
4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals
5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes



education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge

Mt. Edgecumbe Organizational Chart



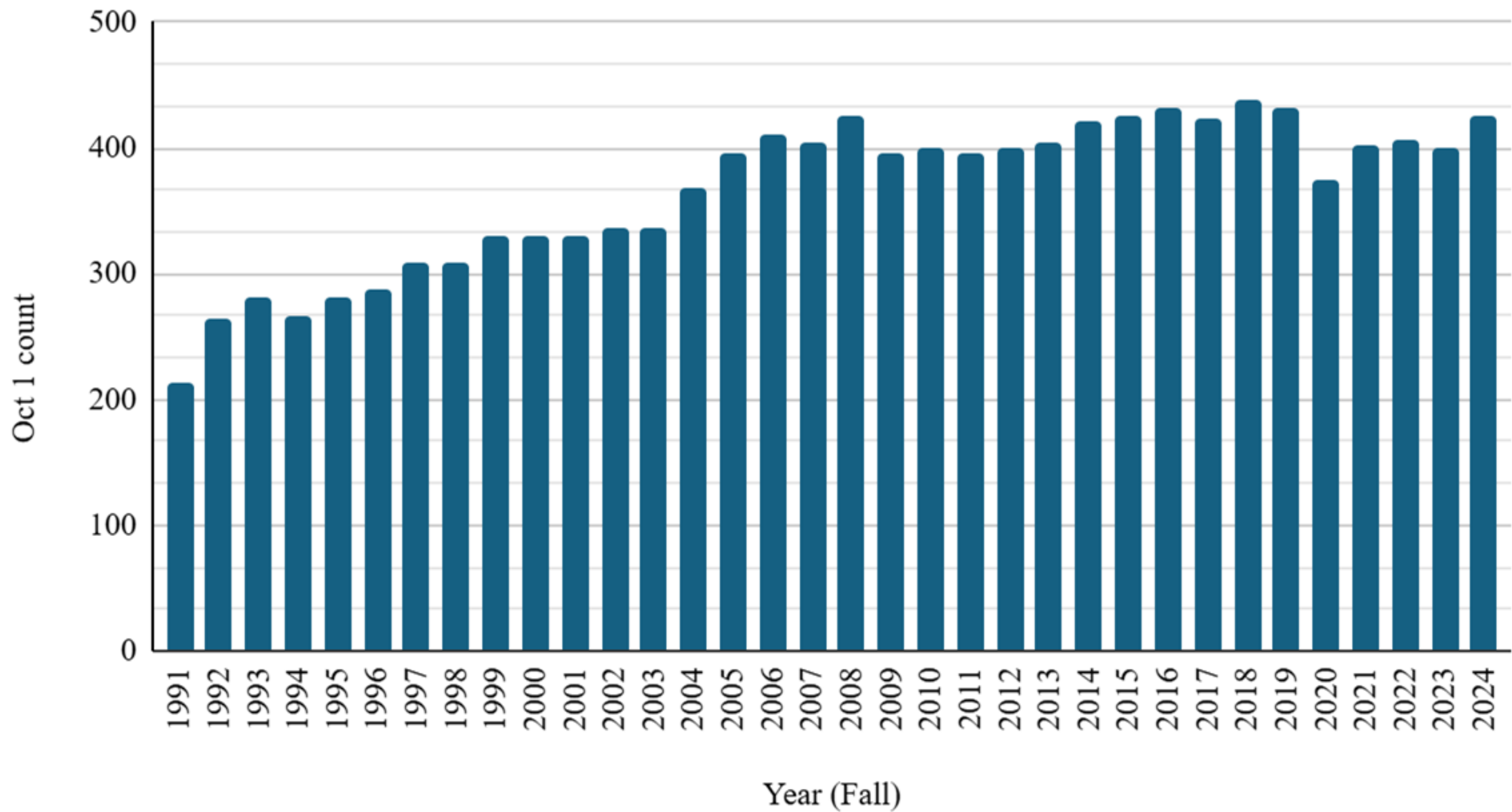
MEHS Historical Data

- Founded on February 22, 1947
- Bureau of Indian Affairs closes school in 1982
- Students, alumni rallied to keep the school open
- State of Alaska reopened in 1985 under State Board of Education
 - School of Choice
 - Maximizing time at home with families: no spring break, minimal holidays, Saturday Schools, Winter in-service
 - Flexibility to go home when needs arise
 - Extended family program



Thanksgiving Dinner with Extended Families, November 2024

MEHS Historical Enrollment



Dormitory Capacity: 412 beds

- Girls - 240 beds (58%); Boys - 172 beds (42%)
- Girls Main Dorm (1st floor, 2nd floor)
 - 2-person: 20 rooms
 - 4-person: 4 rooms
 - 6-person: 15 rooms
- Boys Main Dorm (1st floor, 2nd floor)
 - 2-person: 19 rooms
 - 4-person: 4 rooms
 - 6-person: 17 rooms
- Heritage Hall (4 rooms per pod):
 - 2-person: 24 rooms
 - every pod has bathroom with shower, laundry room, lounge area
- Ivy Hall:
 - 2-person: 31 rooms
 - one bathroom with shower for every two rooms
 - every room has its own sink and mirror



Heritage Hall, Culture Room and Girls Main Dorm, entering the residential campus

Fun Facts

- Over 400 students from 100+ communities
- 75 year history with over 10,000 alumni
- \$750,000+ in scholarships awarded annually
- 80+ courses with no class size larger than 30, including many Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses
- Cost of attendance
 - Student activities fee of \$250 per year
 - MEHS provides transportation to Sitka in August and home in May
 - Students are responsible for cost to fly home and back over winter break in December



Class of 2024 as Juniors in the (MEHS) B.J. McGillis Gymnasium

Student Composition 2024-2025

- 429 students
- 117 communities
- 38 school districts



Mt. Edgecumbe Class of 2025 annual senior hike of Mt. Edgecumbe volcano, September 2024



Recreation culminating activity, Whale Watching Cruise. April 2024

92% of Legislative Districts

- 20 Senate Districts (100%)
- 35 House Districts (88%)
- 13 Anchorage Districts (93%)

Admissions

*We can accept about 50%
of the roughly 350
applications each year*

- Timeline
 - January 31st - applications available
 - April 15th - early round acceptance
 - June 15th - hard deadline for applications
- Criteria: 4 AAC 33.080
 - availability of high school programming (academic, social)
 - degree of benefit and contribution to MEHS student body
 - factors that make the residential setting advisable
- Process
 - parent & student statements, teacher recommendations, review of transcripts and test scores
 - multiple reviewers using a rubric
 - superintendent makes final decision
 - letters of acceptance go out each week May through July



Heritage Hall, Culture Room and Girls Main Dorm, entering the residential campus

Academic Highlights

- Accredited by Cognia
- Beyond minimum State requirements
 - World languages, Social studies, Science, Career & Tech (24cr)
 - Wide variety of Elective offerings
- Advanced Placement & Dual Credit offerings
- Science Partnerships
 - SCRIPPS Institute of Oceanography - Whale Acoustics Lab
 - whale acoustics data collection and analysis
 - weekly mentorship with current researchers
 - onsite field trip in May
 - over 100 students participated since inception in 2008
- Structured intervention support
 - Freshman Success, Study Skills, Content Reading, Senior Futures
 - STAR Center (tutoring center)

Industry Certificates

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician(EMT)
- Emergency Trauma Technician(ETT)
- Heartsaver® First Aid CPR AED
- Heartsaver® CPR AED-Healthcare Provider
- Welding Level 1 – OXYFUEL CUTTING – MOD 29102
- Welding Level 1 – WELDING SAFETY – MOD 29101
- Lifeguard
- Aviation Ground School



Student lifeguards Aiden Panzer and Jaylene Philemonoff finishing off their shift guarding for community open swim, February 2023

Sports Highlights

- Participation Rates 2024-2025
 - 76: Volleyball (Girls)
 - 33: Cross Country Running (both)
 - 73: Wrestling (both Boys & Girls)
 - 19: Drama, Debate & Forensics
 - 26: Cheerleading
 - 124: Basketball (both)
 - 27: Student Council
 - 18: eSports
 - 60 estimated: Native Youth Olympics
- 2024-2025 Wrestling State Champions!



MEHS Wrestling Team, December 2024

ASAA Data - noteworthy facts

- Volleyball: largest 3A team, 2nd overall
- Wrestling: largest 3A team, 5th overall
- Boys Basketball: largest in all classifications
- Girls Basketball: largest in all classifications
- Cheerleading: largest 3A, 5th overall
- Cross Country Running: 2nd largest 3A

Activities non-sports

- Battle of the Books
- Pep Band
- Honor Choir
- Educators Rising
- Whale Fest
- Japan Club
- Chess Club
- Radio Club
- Bicycle Club
- T3 Alliance



Bicycle Club fixes bikes to make them available for student use

Pool Highlights

- 15 student Certified Lifeguards
 - student workers guard open swims
 - obtained certification during class
- Swim courses
 - Beginning Swimming
 - Lifeguard Training
- Community partnerships contribute to self-sufficiency
- Open Swim for Mt. Edgecumbe High School
 - 5 days per week for students
 - 2-3 times per day on Fridays and Saturdays



MEHS Aquatic Center, Fall 2022

Recreation Highlights

- 6 staff dedicated to recreation
 - 2 AmeriCorps volunteers
- Student Union Building (SUB)
 - pool tables, ping pong, foosball
 - Karaoke, Bingo, Birthday cake
 - Concessions, Free-food Fridays
 - Video games, cards, game nights
- Open Gym, Hikes, Sauna, Beachcombing, Stargazing
- After School Clubs (gardening, Audio-Visual, kayaking, ...)
- Whale watching, Dance practices, Local events
- Field Days, Carnivals, Lock-Ins, Dances



Kayaking is a recurring recreational activity, we even have a kayak club

Student Leadership Highlights

- Student Government
 - General Assembly
 - Class Councils
 - Executive Board
- Upper Campus Committee
 - organizes activities
 - partners with staff
- Orientation Leaders
 - Campus Tours & Expectations for new students
- Advisory Board Student Representative
- Regional, Community & Beyond



Orientation Leaders welcome new students to Sitka as they arrive on one of two Alaska Airlines charters, August 2024

Wellness Highlights

- Counseling Department
 - Behavioral Mental Health Coordinator
 - 2 School Counselors
 - 2 Wellness Specialists
- 1-on-1 and group support in dorms
- Partnerships with Mental Health resources
- Proactive and Responsive to Needs
 - social emotional
 - daily residential living
 - substance abuse cessation
 - suicide awareness & prevention
 - healthy relationships



EdgeCamp - Beginning of year team building activities

Cultural Highlights

- Tlingit, Yup'ik, Inupiaq language dual credit courses
- Native Dance Groups
 - Yup'ik, Athabascan, Inupiaq
 - Unangax & Sugpiaq
 - Tlingit - students join local Sitka group
- Cultural Room
 - open studio for cultural art projects
 - open kitchen to share Native foods
 - visiting artists regularly scheduled
- Tribal Resource & Career Fair
- Half-time Performances at Ball Games
- Cultural Presentations across Sitka throughout the year



Yup'ik Dance Group performs at the Pioneers Home, November 2024

Contact Information

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Stay Connected



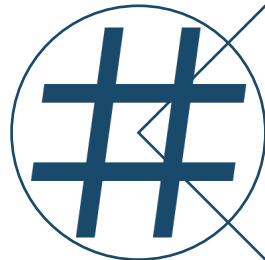
Website

- <https://www.mehs.us/>



Phone

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Social Media

- @MEHS.Braves