

Mt. Edgecumbe High School

Senate Finance Committee

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Deena Bishop, Ed.D., Commissioner

David P. Langford, Director/Superintendent

February 12, 2026



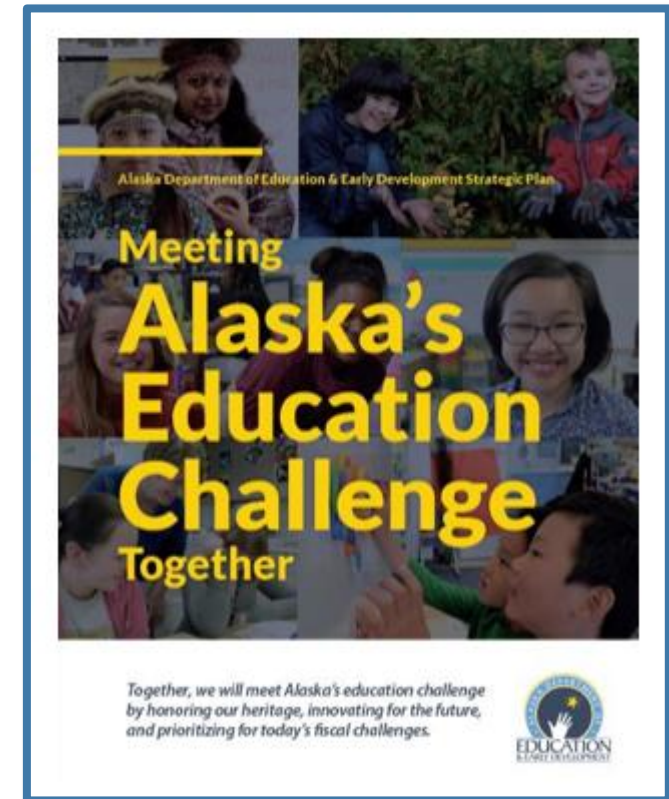
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
<p>An excellent education for every student every day.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>- Alaska Statute 14.03.015</p>	<p>DEED exists to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day.</p>

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

Agenda -

- Mt. Edgecumbe High School: A Rich History
- Right-Sizing the Ship
- Student Enrollment
- New & Expanded Education Options
- Kitchen:
 - June 2025
 - Kitchen Upgrades
- Student Engagement
- Dormitories:
 - June 2025
 - Success'
- Major Maintenance Projects Update
- Looking Forward



Mt. Edgecumbe High School: A Rich History

- Established in 1947 by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Housed within a World War II naval facility
- MEHS operated as part of a network of BIA boarding schools serving students from remote communities across Alaska; closed in 1980
- In 1985, MEHS was reopened as a state-operated boarding school, within the Department of Education and Early Development, under oversight by the Alaska State Board of Education
- 2025 – Major Changes in Operations



Right-Sizing the Ship

FY2025:

- Projected \$1.6 million over budget - discovered August 2024
 - COVID funds expired: funds used on operational costs- personnel and contracts
 - Contract increases FY2019 to FY2025: Dorm 24% and Food Service 102%
 - Staff concerns growing; DEED makes six on-site visits between December 2024 and July 2025

FY2026 Budget Planning:

- Staffing reductions to pre-COVID; 4 teachers and 1 administrator and 2 support staff
- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Dorm and Food/Kitchen vendor- added 2 positions back into the contract that were removed in 2023 and laundry services added

June & July FY2026:

- Changes in leadership
 - Superintendent, David Langford, came back to MEHS
 - Dorm Principal resigned; Two critical dorm positions followed
- Transition to new contractor- dorm and kitchen deep clean and upgrades needed

Right-Sizing the Ship - continued

Changes during the School Year:

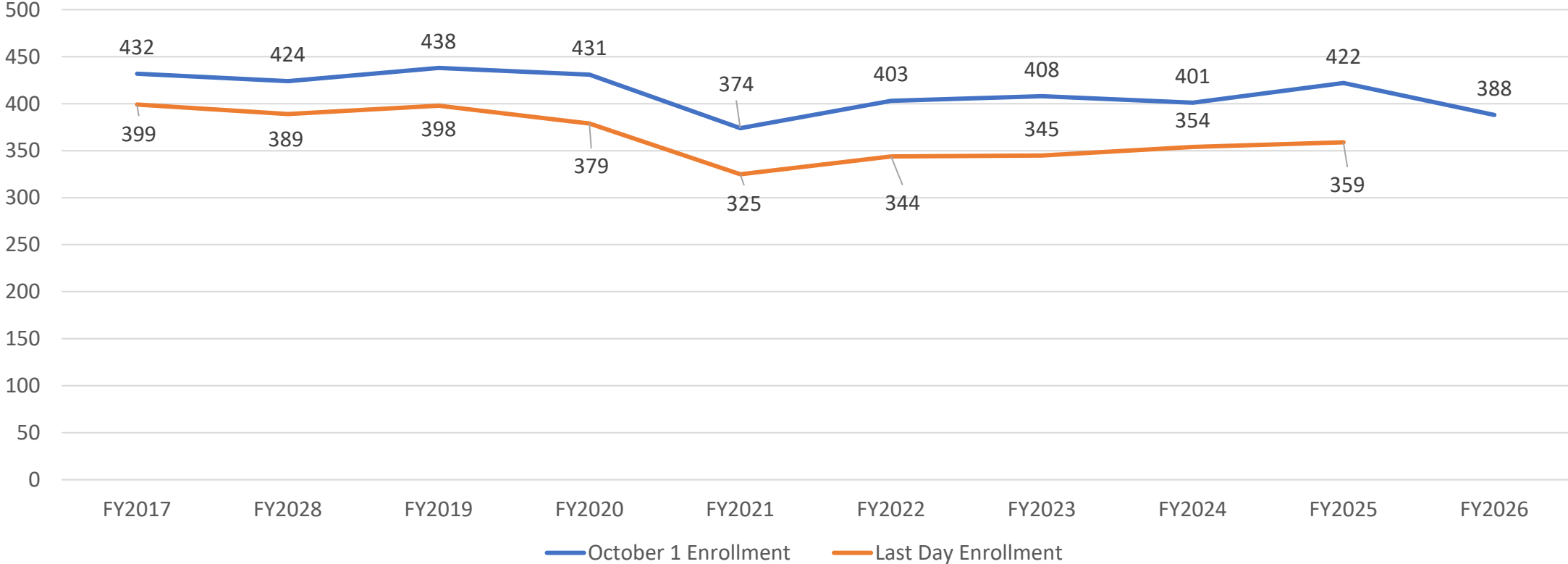
- Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant awarded
 - New Reading/Library teacher hired
 - Staff Development in January 2026
 - Funds to enhance the Library book collection
- NANA Management awarded a swim safety grant

Critical Positions Filled:

- Dormitory Principal
- Dormitory Dean
- Dormitory Recreation Supervisor
- Culture Room Recreation teacher
- Star Center Coordinator
- English teacher
- Reading teacher & part-time Librarian
- Counselor positions

Student Enrollment FY2017- FY2025

Actual Student Enrollment Counts



New & Expanding Education Options



New:

- Iñupiaq Language Class – Dual Enrollment through the Iñupiaq College
- “Brave” Leadership Class
- Shop 101 - Dual Enrollment with UAS
- Educating Alaska’s Future – Dual Enrollment through the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)
- Textiles and 3D Art



Expanding:

- Welding classes – Dual Enrollment with the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS): increased from three classes to five
- Driver’s Training
- Introduction to Emergency Services and Health Careers – Dual Enrollment through UAS



MEHS Kitchen – June 2025

FY2025 USDA Inspection - 59 violations

Kitchen Upgrades:

To ensure the kitchen was student-ready, the department, in coordination with MEHS leadership, carried out extensive upgrades, repairs, and replacements **totaling \$154,800**

- Large Equipment replacement: \$80,000
- Partial floor repair and replacement of some ceiling tiles: \$3,000
- Replaced all cooking and serving equipment, including pans, pots, sheet pans, and serving dishes: \$19,000
- Electrical updates: \$15,000
- Deep clean: \$8,000
- Plumbing upgrades: \$10,000
- Hand sink install: \$13,000

(Whole \$)

FY2026 USDA Inspection: 4 findings

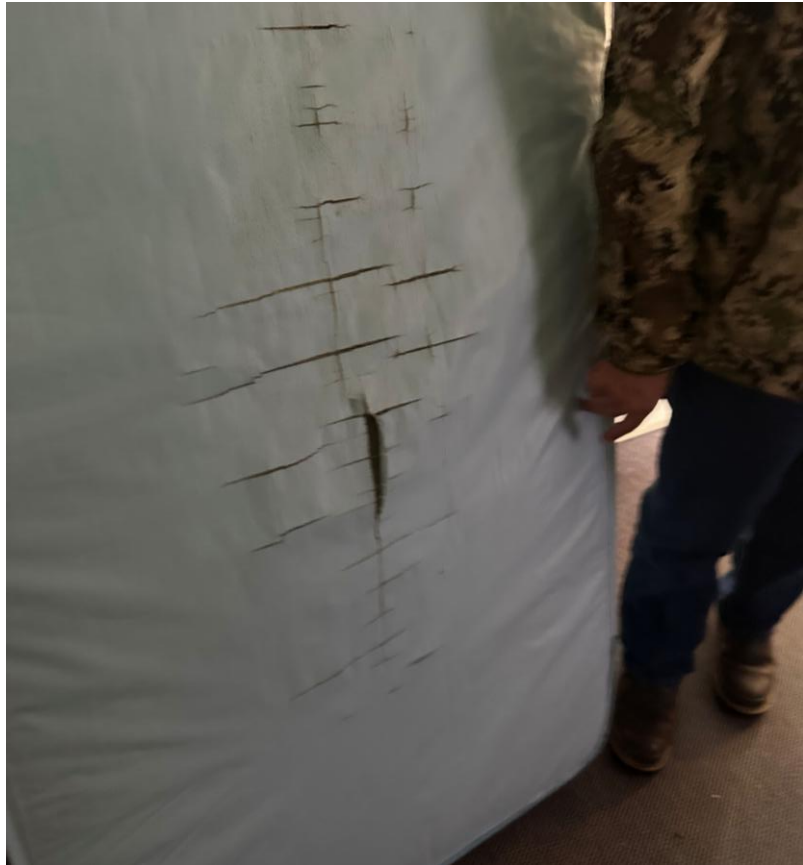
- Student snacks not logged in the correct format
- 3 Clerical errors

Student Engagement

NANA Management took over the Kitchen and Dorm contracts in July 2025. Since then:

- Year-to-date meal counts are up by **20%**
- Monthly collaboration between NANA & Students
- Student workers hired
- Incorporation of indigenous foods
- The school year started on time





MEHS State Dormitories – June 2025

Dormitory Upgrades

- MEHS & NANA fully staffed
- Dorms received a deep clean
- 40 new mattresses
- All dorm lounges received new furniture and updated looks
- Vending machines stocked with healthier alternatives
- Student Handbooks are being updated
- New 15-passenger van replaced
- Ivy Dorm Roof Patch

Total Investment: \$73,400

(Whole \$)



Major Maintenance Projects Update

Completed FY2026

- Campus-wide bathroom upgrades
- New bleachers installed at the Aquatic Center
- Campus-wide ADA upgrades

Continuing FY2027

- Kitchen Ventilation System Replacement

Beginning May 2026

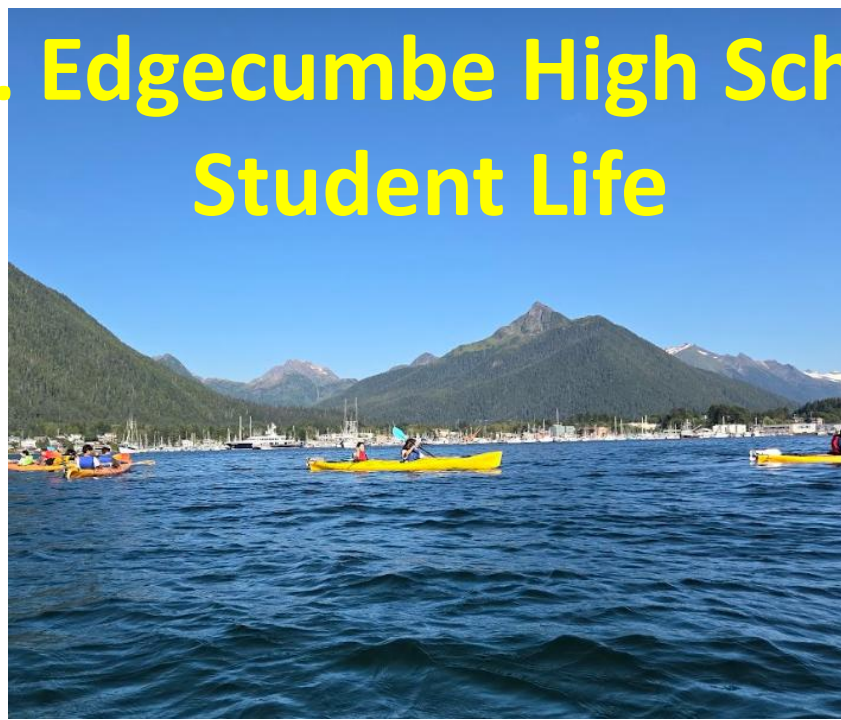
- Replacement of Ivy Hall and both dorm roofs
- Boys' dorm ventilation system upgrade

Other High Priority Projects

- Girls' Dorm Siding Project and Asbestos Abatement
- Academic Building exterior and roofing replacement
- Window replacements



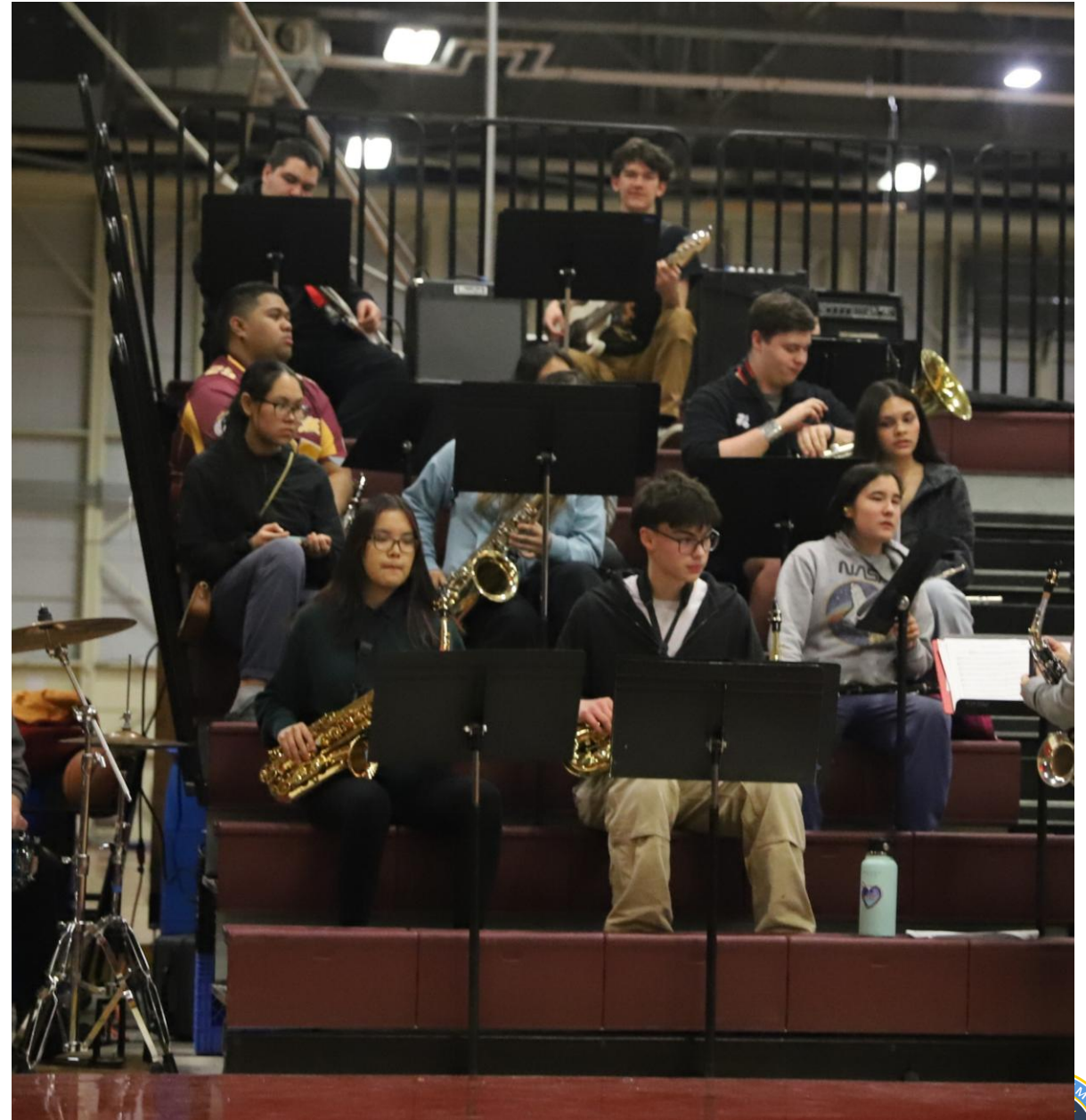
Mt. Edgecumbe High School Student Life



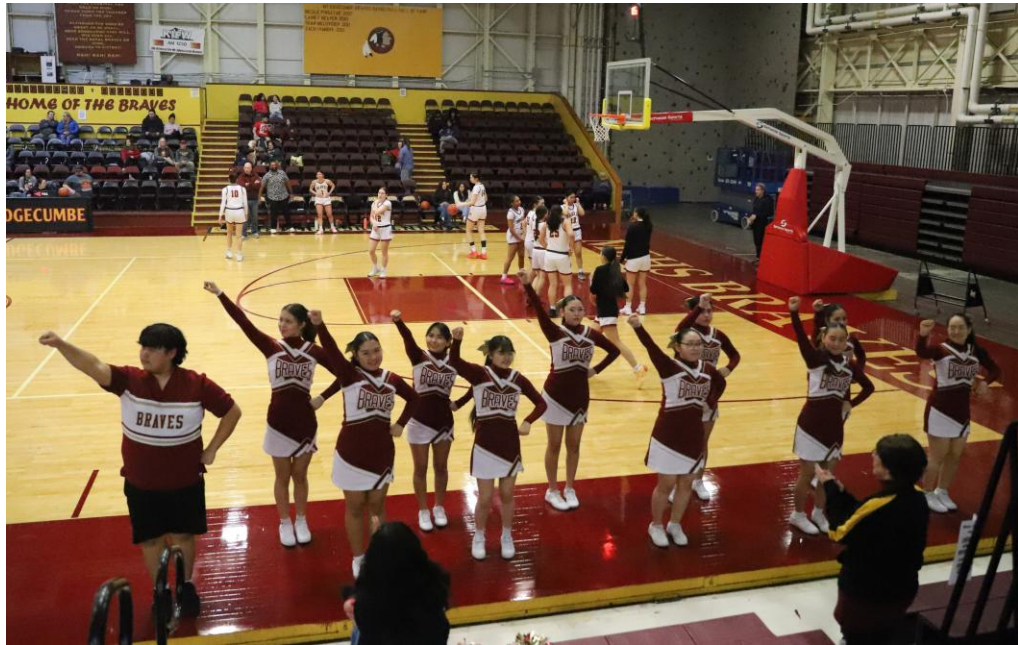


MEHS – Educating Alaska’s Future

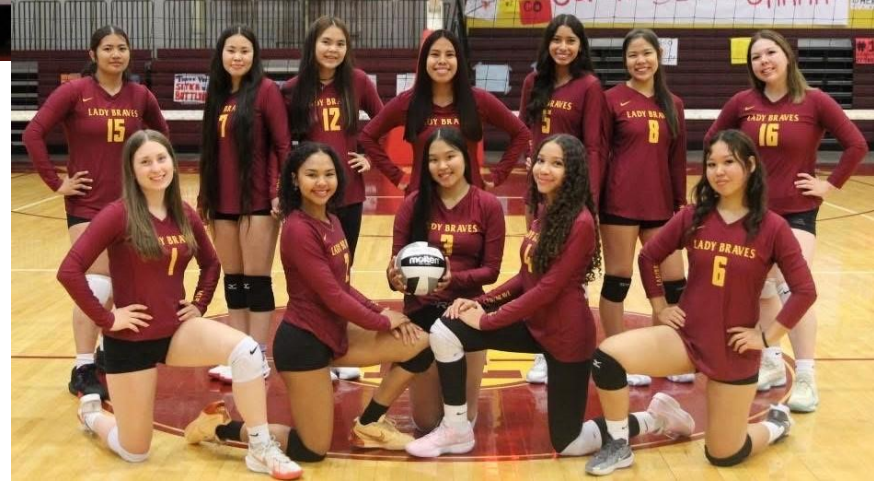




MEHS Debate Team - Jazz Band - Pep Band



MEHS Cheer



MEHS Lady Braves Volleyball 19



MEHS Wrestling & Cross Country

MEHS Basketball Braves and Lady Braves



Looking Forward

- With student help – rebuild enrollment
- Increase assessment outcomes
- Prioritize summer facilities usage – Aquatic Center, dorms, parking lot
- Dormitory roof replacements
- School year 2026/27 curriculum & course planning
- Developing administrative process' that ensures compliance while also supporting a school structure

Contact Information

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Stay Connected



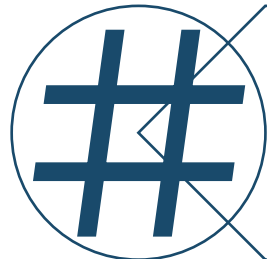
Website

- education.alaska.gov



Phone

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Social Media

- @AlaskaDEED