Mt. Edgecumbe High School Parent Experience Survey

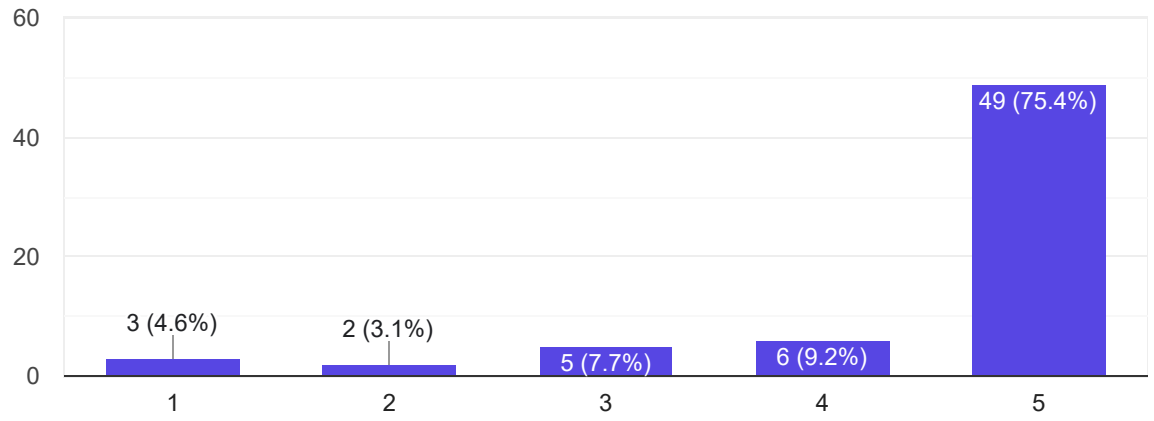
65 responses

Publish analytics

MEHS provides valuable educational opportunities for students from across Alaska.

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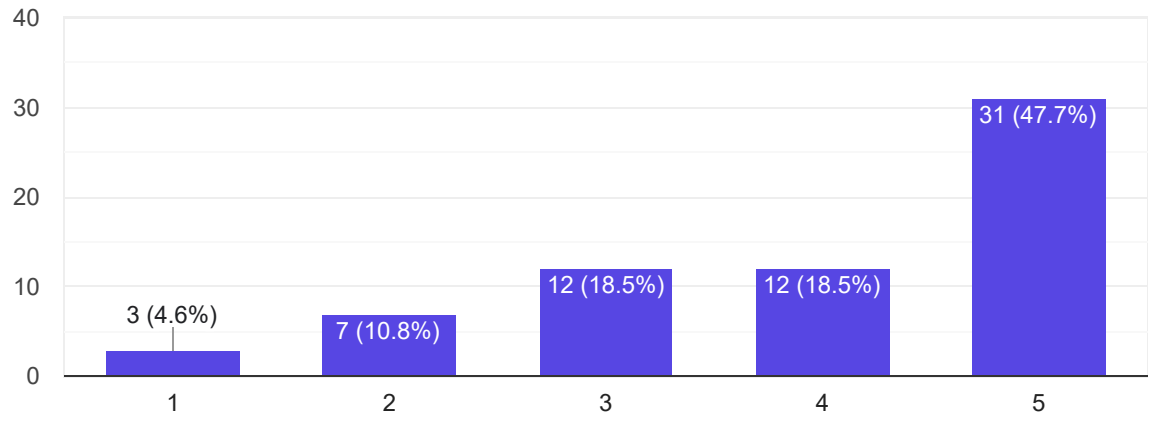
65 responses



I believe my student feels safe, supported, and cared for at MEHS

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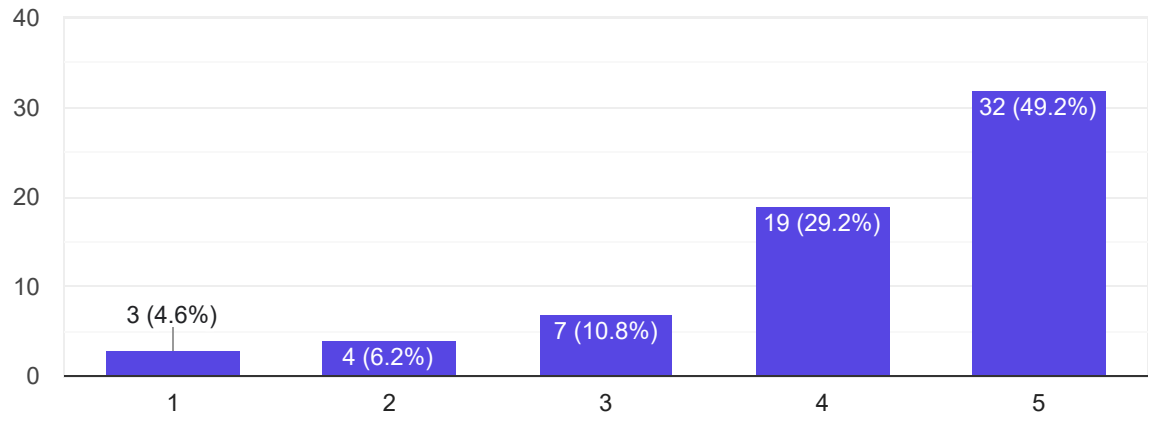
65 responses



MEHS promotes a respectful and inclusive environment for students from different backgrounds and communities.

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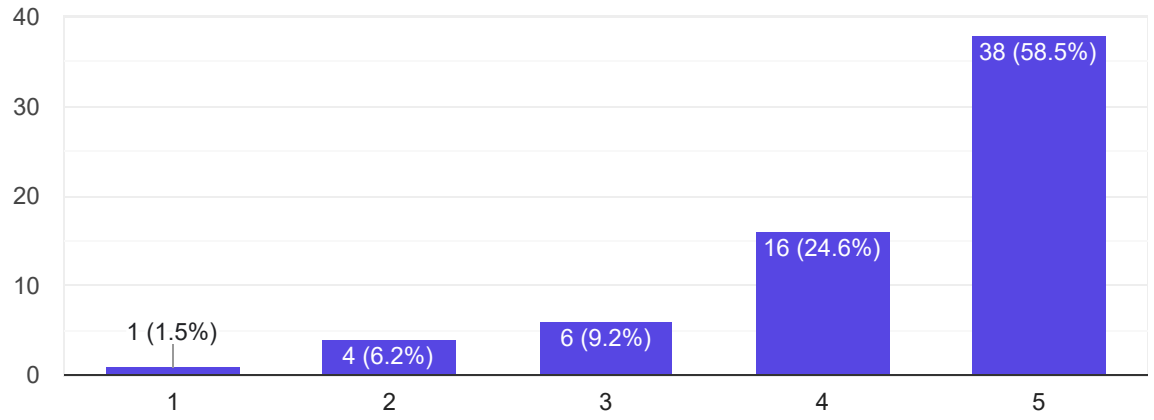
65 responses



My student has developed positive relationships with peers and adults at MEHS.

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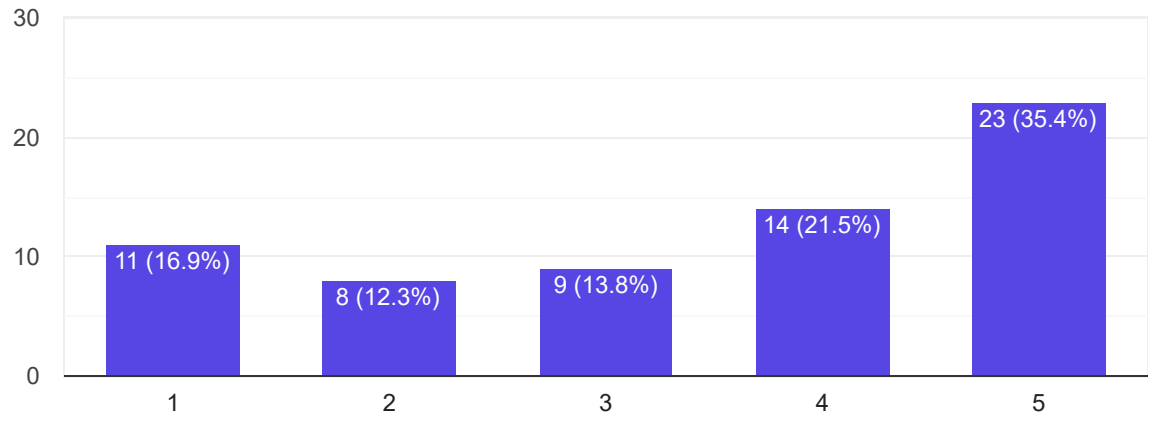
65 responses



The residential environment provides a supportive community for students.

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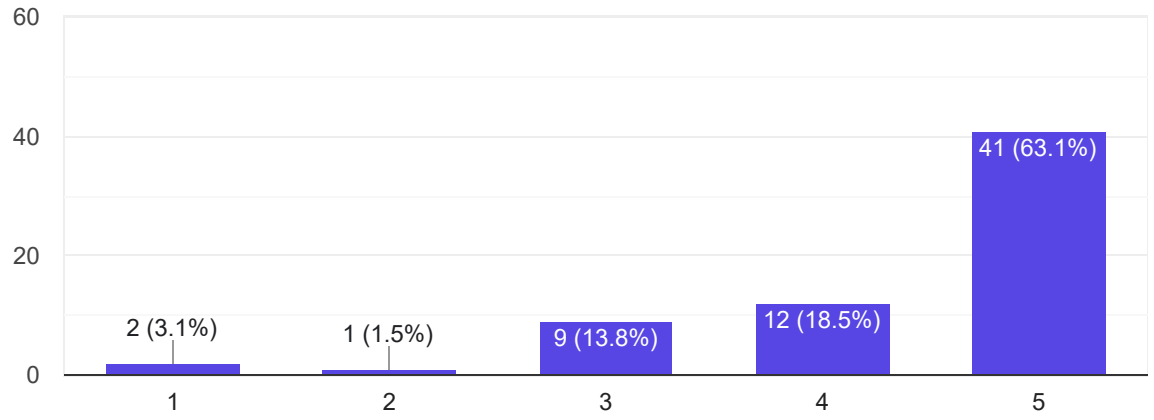
65 responses



I believe MEHS helps students grow in independence, responsibility, and leadership skills.

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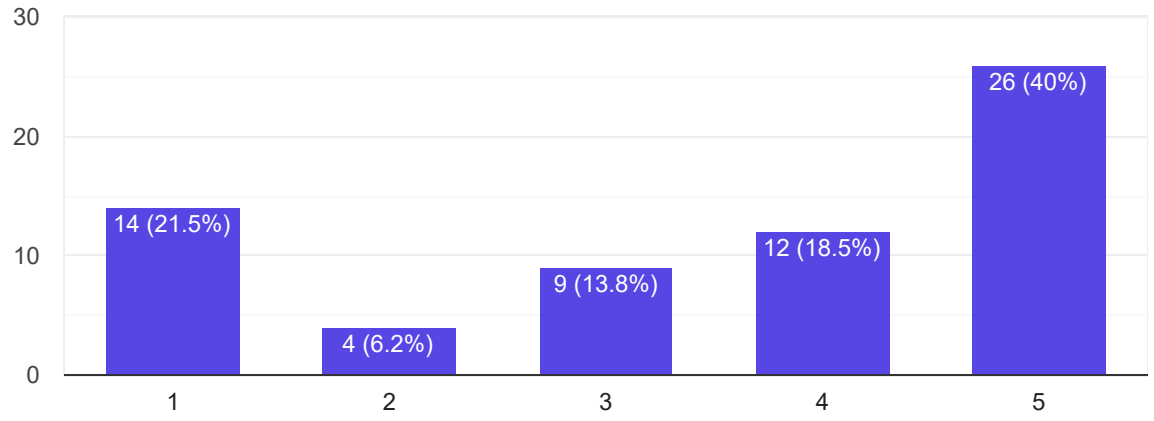
65 responses



Communication from MEHS staff and leadership is clear and timely.

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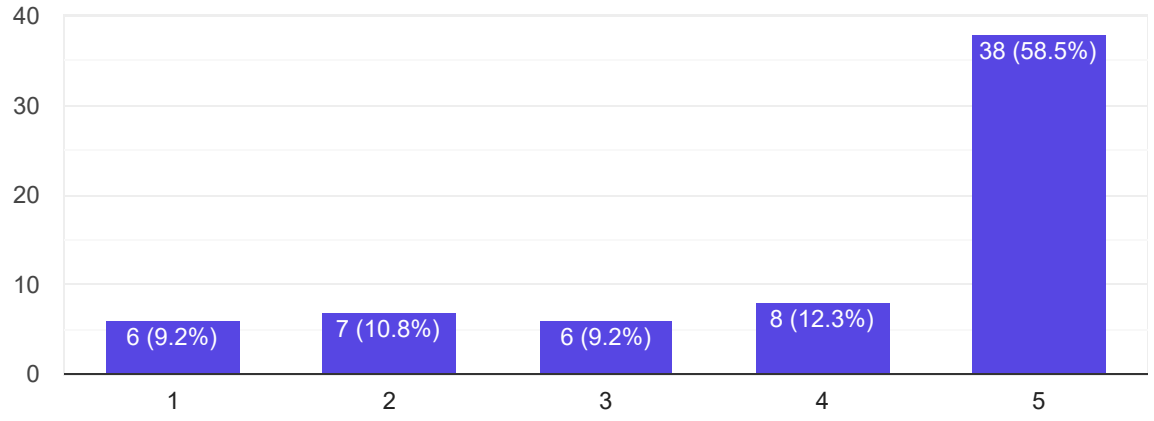
65 responses



I feel comfortable reaching out to MEHS staff or administration when concerns arise.

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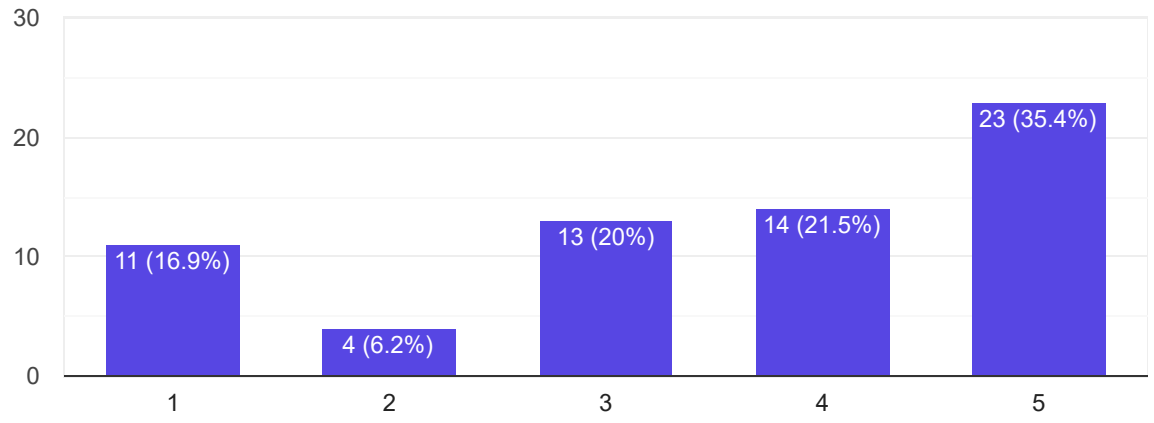
65 responses



School leadership demonstrates a commitment to improving the student experience at MEHS.

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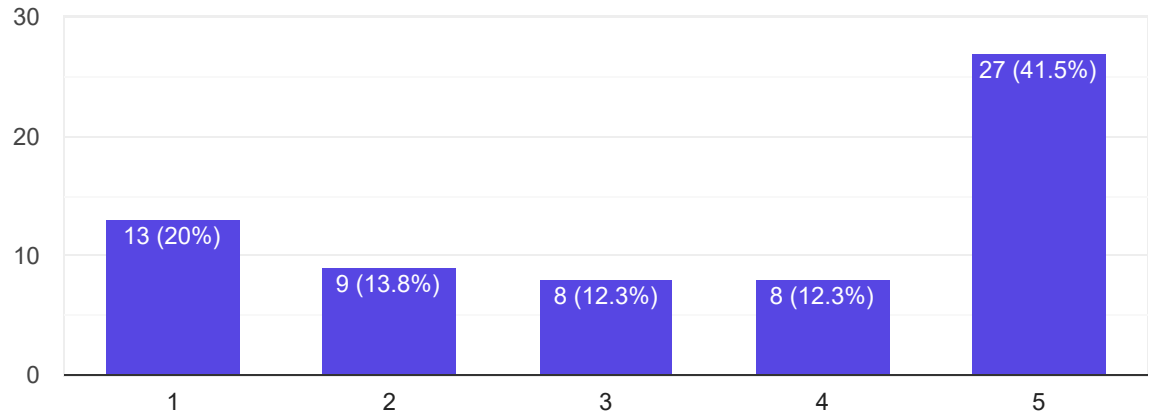
65 responses



MEHS responds appropriately to student concerns and family feedback.

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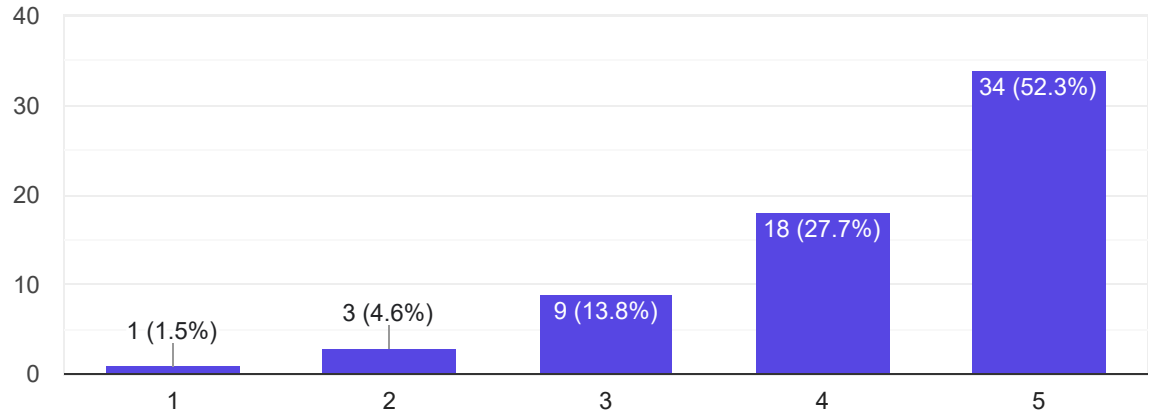
65 responses



MEHS prepares students for future college, career, and leadership opportunities.

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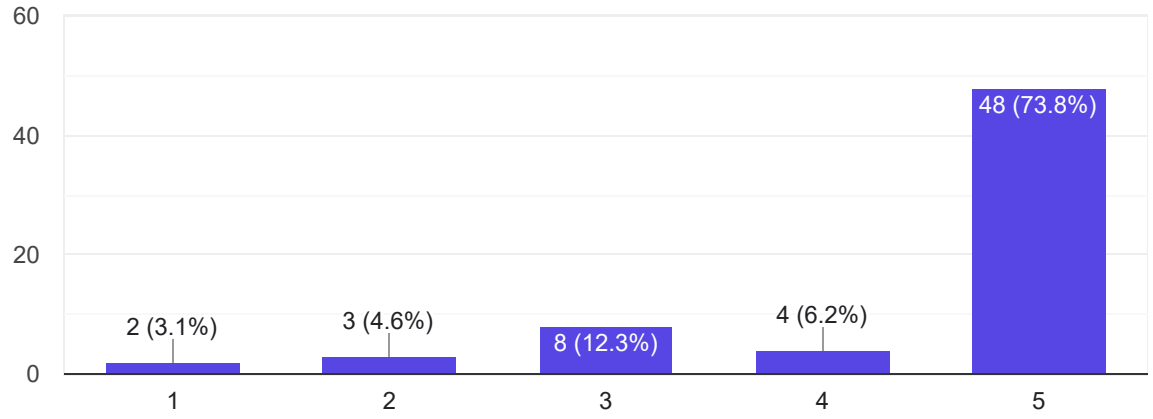
65 responses



I am proud to have my student attend MEHS.

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65 responses



Parent Survey Comments

Comments are grouped into 5 categories:

School Culture -Comments that relate to the social and learning environment of MEHS.

Engagement - Comments that relate to student involvement in the school community.

Communication - Comments that relate to communication between MEHS staff, parents, and students.

Academics - Comments that relate to the academic program at MEHS.

Residential Life - Comments that relate to dormitory and cafeteria aspects at MEHS.

Staff - Comments that relate to staff members' impact on the school environment and program.

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Question 1: What is the greatest strength of MEHS that should continue moving forward?

School Culture

Pride of being a MEHS Attendee.

Creating a family environment &safety.

Close-knit community among some staff and students. And better education

Student's excel at MEHS because the staff are supportive in every aspect of living and learning on campus.

Community

Our MEHS community traditions, loving and dedicated staff

Continue to keep the school going.

Student input

Community for kids

Community involvement

Grooming our young adults to be able to make decisions on their own for everything moving forward in life! School work, college, dorm life, accountability, lifelong friendships with their classmates.

Making our children more responsible for their actions, providing a path of success in life.

Providing the opportunity to attend MEHS and network with other Alaska Native youth and students from across Alaska.

The greatest strength of MEHD that should continue moving forward is their educational system and strong commitment for the success of each student whether in academics or social aspect of the student.

Engagement

Providing plenty of opportunities for students to choose from

Keeping the kids busy, activities between classes which increases engagement, belonging and new friendships, this added value encourages the kids to stay at MEHS and do their school work

All the extra programs such as DDF and SAALT that help teach the students responsibility, leadership, and so many other life linguistics skills.

MEHS should continue offering as many exciting, engaging, and unique opportunities as possible for students to experience and participate in. The majority of student applications express a desire to try new things, meet new people, and receive a great education. A quality residential life keeps kids there.

The possibility of doing better than Rural AK, music, extra curriculum

NYO

Kayaking, canoeing, hiking, whale watching

Continue to provide opportunities for students.

Funding for sports.

Great Sports Program , wonderful experience

Communication

Updates on things through email

Communication

Communication with family

Academics

Having a strong academic base should always be the foundation of the school. Students should have access to excellent core courses taught by qualified teachers. I know there are many factors that go into retaining the best teachers to provide strong academics, but this should remain a priority for MEHS.

Excellence in Achievement.

My students seem academically motivated and interested in their own academic achievements.

Challenging students, offering classes for college

Wide variety of classes offered

Academics

Keep educating the students

Academic rigor, college-preparedness, and different clubs that students can join to explore options before post-secondary opportunities arise.

Community, Star Center, High Attention to Academics, AP Classes, Middle College

Keep offering academic challenges to students

Making our kids move ahead with education

Education Quality

Learning classes the village schools don't offer

Residential Life

Better fresh foods

Staff

Teachers support given to students who struggle and given an opportunity to get caught up on their academic work with the students with out prejudice.

The continuity of teaching staff commitment to well being of students.

Teachers

Leadership of MEHS

The teaching staff are excellent.

The dorm staff expect students to be safe, responsible, and safe. When need clarification on grades or assignments, the teachers are responsive.

Current continuity of courses and core teaching staff.

The dedicated teaching staff & all the extracurriculars

The teachers who choose to work at MEHS need their contract to be negotiated FINALLY. The teachers are the greatest strength of the school and their work needs to be recognized.

Retaining longtime quality teachers and residential staff who actually care for our children. Also, valued are the tutoring and recreational opportunities. Quyaana!

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Question 2: What is one improvement that would strengthen the student experience at MEHS in the future?

School Culture

Administration officials need to be dedicated to the mission of protecting and promoting our leadership from this level. They are working with the next generation of leadership. Transparency and accountability are vital!

More opportunity for students to develop independence and confidence, too much "helicopter parenting" from dorm administration.

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Engagement

A wider variety of residential activities would be amazing! Starting a swim team would be a cherry on top!

More rec staff would assist the above even if it’s a volunteer pool from the churches or community

Extra curricular activities outside of school.

More student recreation activities

A way for students to earn money while they learn

More outdoor recreational opportunities

Student involvement in residential / academic boards.

Independence

Talking more about careers and giving the students educational opportunities beyond high school. And identifying scholarships that they can apply for early on, setting them up for work and career goals. MEHS doesn't do this well and the they don’t seem to know where to find Alaska Native scholarships or how to help students apply for the big dollar amount ones you must apply for in your Junior year.

Evening dorm activities. Open gym in the evenings. Have to be back by 6(some students don’t like the food so town is helpful to get something to eat), be respectful to the students (staff/be kind they are 100s of miles away from home), make it welcoming for visitors (girls dorm lounge was an area for visitors and students to visit together and play board games/puzzles), Heritage Hall where the craft room
Was students were invited to cook together if they wanted), be creative with various evening activities so it allows students to be involved and not get homesick)

Bring back Edgecamp for team building, and a way to break the ice for new students.

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Communication

Better communication with parents and reaching out to parents when their child is not doing so well to come up with a plan on how to help them and actually see improvements

Communication, and actually paying attention to what a student needs

Possibly having a virtual parent-teacher conference meeting with the students so that everyone is involved, since we can’t physically be there

To have clear and concise rules, not just everyone's "interpretation" of multiple versions of handbooks. For the leaders of the school to actually LISTEN when parents and students bring issues to their attention. Then actually do something about those issues instead of ignoring them.

Many of these questions above say “school leadership” but my experiences with staff within those titles vary greatly. Residential principals would call me back, academic ones would not. Not sure that I ever called the superintendent, but he did forward a few of my emails to staff.

Parents entrust our children to the school when students travel for sports or student council and those travel plans change, parents absolutely should be informed. Don't just "I told the student" and hope it trickles down to parents. They are minors.

Better communication

Graduation on Thursday, travel early Friday morning to connect to village flights

One improvement that would significantly strengthen the student experience at MEHS would be improving dorm support systems, communication, and student mental health services. This year, many students experienced bullying that was not addressed quickly or consistently enough, and when concerns were brought to dorm staff, communication with families was often lacking. There were instances where calls and emails went unanswered, leaving parents feeling unheard and unsupported. There also seemed to be inconsistency in how rules were communicated and enforced. Some students were disciplined for rules they were unaware of, while others were not held to the same standards. For example, dress code expectations in the dorms appeared unevenly enforced, which created frustration and a sense of unfairness among students. Additionally, some RA interactions came across as unnecessarily harsh or unkind toward students, which I personally witnessed during a FaceTime call with my daughter. Students thrive when they feel safe, supported, respected, and treated fairly. Strengthening staff training in communication, conflict resolution, mental health response, and consistent policy enforcement would go a long way toward improving the overall student experience at MEHS.

Being open and transparent about what is going on at the school, instead of hiding the truth and being secretive about what is going on. Transparency is essential and necessary.

After this year, it became clear that the Advisory Board was not taken seriously, or at least not fully listened to, despite raising many concerns about decisions made by both the Superintendent and DEED. It also became apparent that the State Board of Education was disconnected from many of the issues facing MEHS. The Advisory Board is made up of parents, alumni, and other stakeholders who hear concerns directly and have valuable ideas on how to improve MEHS. This board should have a stronger voice in how MEHS is run. Giving the Advisory Board more meaningful input would help strengthen not only the student experience, but also parent trust and confidence in the school.

Academics

Making students responsible for passing all classes

Be more concentrated on school work

College credits

A bigger Alaska Native language offering.

I believe the curriculum is inflexible for students with learning challenges. Some of the assignments is very lengthy w/o a lot of support outside of the classroom. Its difficult to get help at the STAR Center if one is struggling with math.

Residential Life

Making sure the cafeteria provides fully cooked food and that the students will eat there.

Better food longer freetime

Student Dorm environment

Better food

The cafeteria food could improve.

Dorms

Dorm life and cafeteria food

Something has to be done about the use of WiFi in the dorms after hours. My son and other roomates/students cannot control their overuse of technology and get a good night's sleep. I advocated taking away my son's phone and iPad but unless all students are on the same No WiFi page it still impacted him getting a good night's sleep. Please address this issue for next year.

Better lunch experience

Better food

Providing enjoyable & tasty meals,

Make sure students are receiving good meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Dorm rules. Couldn't even go visit my son to his room this second time I was in Sitka! First time a couple years ago we were able to go visit his dorm room with no problems.

Maybe the dorm and not too many homework for each class.

More satisfaction in dorm living.

Give dorm students more input on the dorm living conditions & don't remove privileges

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Staff

When ever a teachers sees a student struggle ,please work with them to succeed .

The removal of contract help replaced with vetted MEHS employees

Retaining valuable teachers

More teachers, more staff.