



# Meridian High School



## Vision Statement

"Each student will succeed through quality, inspirational and innovative education."

## Mission Statement

"The Meridian School District works in partnership with our families and our community to educate each student in a safe and supportive learning environment to become a positive contributor to society."

## Principal's Message

Dear MHS Students and Parents,

We hope you are all enjoying your summer. June meant the end of school and a celebration to send off our graduates. We are excited to welcome back our returning students and the Class of 2020. This year will be a fun and exciting one with new opportunities and programs to support and challenge our students throughout the year.

Things have been busy on campus as we get ready for the new school year. Our custodial staff is getting the facility ready for students and staff to return. We have been hiring some new staff and preparing our T3 time (more information on both of these things can be found in the newsletter).

This newsletter will provide you with information to start the school year off right while also highlighting upcoming events and changes at the high school. Please review the information and contact me at 360.398.8111 or at [dforbes@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:dforbes@meridian.wednet.edu) if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to what the 16/17 school year will bring to MHS, our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

*Derek o Forbes*

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## Important Dates

### August

- 10** High School Office Opens 8:00-3:00pm
- 10** Athletic Participation Meeting 6:00pm Auditorium for all athletes (fall/winter/spring)
- 17** Football Practice Begins
- 22** Volleyball/Cross Country/Girls Soccer Practice Begins
- 24** Freshmen Orientation 9:30am-12:30pm
- 24** Picture Day-see schedule under "Student News"
- 31** First Day of School 7:55am-2:30pm

### September

- 5** Labor Day-No School
- 13** Open House 6:30pm-8:00pm
- 21** Early Release at 12:10pm
- 28** Early Release at 12:10pm
- 28** Picture Re-take Day

### October

- 13** Homecoming Assembly
- 14** Teacher Work Day-No School for Students
- 19** PSAT Testing
- 21** Homecoming Football Game
- 22** Homecoming Dance 8:00pm-11:00pm at MHS
- 26** Early Release at 12:10pm

## PARENT/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

It is important for us to partner with parents and our Meridian Community. We want to provide you different ways to connect with the great things taking place on campus. Our goal is to better inform you about what is happening at MHS and provide opportunities for your involvement to make things even better.

**Skyward Family Access** – Skyward provides you information about your student. You can check student grades, attendance and homework throughout the year. If you do not have login credentials, or have lost them, please call Robin Brinkman at 398-8111.

**Newsletter** – In a continued effort to save on paper and postage, future MHS Newsletters will be available online at [www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs](http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs) under the "Communication" tab. We will also send out an e-copy in Skyward.

**Website** – Calendars, school information, staff contact (email and phone) can be found on our website at [www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs/](http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs/) We are also adding additional documents to make our website a better resource for you.

### Booster Clubs –

We have several booster clubs that support students at MHS.

- The Meridian Booster Club supports students and activities that, in most case, require financial assistance for one reason or another. Most of our programs are represented through this umbrella organization. Meetings take place the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the MHS Library.
- The FFA Booster Club supports students and programs that are connected to various Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs. Meetings take place the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the welding shop.

**Attend Events/Activities** – Our students are involved in many clubs, activities, and sports throughout the school year. This is a great opportunity to support students and experience student learning outside the classroom.

**Communication from Home** – Please keep your address and phone numbers current so that mailings and report cards will be received in a timely manner. If your student did not receive their report card call the office to find out if a fine is involved.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Class Schedules-** Schedules for the 2016-2017 school year will be handed out to **all** students on August 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition to getting your schedule, students will also have the opportunity to pay for their yearbook and ASB membership, class fees and have their school picture taken.

For students who are not able to pick up their schedules, they will be available later in the week via Skyward. No changes will be made to student's schedules before the first day of school. If changes are necessary, students will be notified on the proper procedures to follow and given forms to complete on the first day of school.

**Picture Day** – Picture day will take place a week before school, on August 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be the picture used for the yearbook, your ASB card and any pictures your family chooses to purchase. Picture packet ordering forms from Inter State Studios will be arriving in your mailboxes soon. If you do not receive an ordering form there will be some available at the school on picture day. If you wish to order pictures please bring your completed form and payment with you on the 24<sup>th</sup>. All students will be photographed regardless of whether you are purchasing a packet or not.

- Freshman pictures will be taken at the end of freshman orientation from 11:30-12:30
- Sophomore pictures will be from 12:30-1:15
- Junior pictures will be from 1:15-2:00
- Senior pictures will be from 2:00-2:45

**PSAT Testing-** We are happy to announce MHS will cover the cost for all of our juniors to take the PSAT this fall. The exam is on October 19<sup>th</sup> and will be given to all juniors during the school day. Sophomores interested in taking the PSAT are encouraged to connect with their counselor.

**Fall Sports**– Please review the attached document for athletic clearance information and important dates for eligible students participating in a fall sport.

## SCHOOL/BUILDING INFORMATION

**Open House**-Please plan on joining us on Tuesday, September 13 from 6:30pm-8:00pm for our Open House. We will start the evening off in the auditorium with a brief welcome by Mr. Forbes and an introduction of our new staff members. We look forward to seeing you here.

**Summer Office Hours**-The office will re-open on Monday, August 10 from 8:00am-3:00pm. On Tuesday, August 30 the office will be closed from 8:00am-1:00pm as all MHS staff will be in a meeting.

**"Hall Pass" School Tour**-Community members are invited to join District Superintendent, Tom Churchill, on a short tour of each of the school buildings in our district. You will ride a school bus between schools and at the conclusion of the tour you will be able to enjoy a school lunch at MHS (optional). Tour date is Wednesday, September 7th. Please contact Julie Dodd at the District Office to reserve your space at 398-7111 or jdodd@meridian.wednet.edu

**Daily Bulletin**-Receiving our daily bulletin via email is a great way to stay informed about activities happening on campus. If you would like to sign up please contact Shannon Waterman at 318-2279 or swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu

## TROJAN TUTORIAL TIME (T3)

This school year, Meridian High School will be offering a designated time during the school day to better meet the needs of students as they learn the skills and knowledge taught in class each day. We call this time Trojan Tutorial Time (T3).

T3 will be used primarily as a way to give students time and support to better understand the material they are learning in class. Some students will be assigned to a particular room for specific help, while others will be able to choose a location that offers help on an area or provides a place to work with peers. T3 will also be used to provide mentoring to our freshman, conduct our assemblies and class meetings. This provides students a more consistent bell schedule and reduces interruptions during the school year.

T3 will take place on our block days (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays). We will not have it on early release days or six period days.

Our students are successful at MHS, but we know we can provide more time and support to better meet their learning needs. We believe this structure will produce more successful students. Students will better understand the material and not be as stressed about balancing all the demands of their schedule.

## OPT-OUT FORM

The MSD School Board amended the opt-in / opt-out form to just an opt-out form last April. Parents/Guardians have a right to opt out of having their student's photo/image published in any manner by the school district. This includes in yearbooks, newsletters, web pages and other District approved publications. If parents/guardians wish to opt out, form 2022F must be filled out and submitted to the student's school. This election must be done annually and is good only for that current school year. The form can be picked up in our main office or found online at:

[http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/drupal/sites/default/files/Policies\\_and\\_Procedures/2000\\_Series/2022F.pdf](http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/drupal/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Procedures/2000_Series/2022F.pdf)

If we do not receive this signed opt-out request, we will assume the parent/guardian allows the Meridian School District to publish photos/images of their student in District-approved publications.

If you have questions regarding this form, please contact Meridian School District Superintendent, Tom Churchill at (360) 398-7111.

## STAFF CHANGES

This spring/summer included some changes to our personnel as six staff members either retired, resigned, or are taking a year's leave, and four staff will serve in new roles in the district.

- Val Grube (Spanish) and Julie Kratzig (counseling) have both retired after serving MHS for decades.
- Sara Gribble (English) has left MHS to teach at Squalicum High School.
- Tami Scott (CTE/English) and Cindy Clark (learning support) are each taking a year's leave and plan to return in the 2017-2018 school year.
- Tirra Seely served two years as an AmeriCorps Volunteer through Communities in Schools. She has returned to Spokane to attend law school.
- Kurt Harvill (administration), Aaron Jacoby (learning support), Martha Kusche (ELL) and Stacy Wakefield (CTE/health) are remaining in the district, but serving in different roles.
  - Mr. Harvill will be serving in the district office.
  - Mr. Jacoby will be serving MHS as our Dean of Students.
  - Mrs. Kusche will serve ELL students at Meridian MS.
  - Ms. Wakefield will be a full-time substitute for the district, primarily serving at MHS.

These changes bring the need for new staff in our building. I am very excited to welcome these new staff members. There are many great things said about these people. Please welcome:

- Ryan Killian (English),
- Kaley Bishop (health/CTE),
- Chris Ruether (social studies),
- Cheryl McBride (counseling),
- Kimberly Greene (learning support),
- Keifa Herzog (Spanish),
- Simone Mack (CIS Coordinator),
- Taylor Lawson (AmeriCorps Volunteer) and
- Katherine Rogers (ELL)

With all the new staff we thought it would be nice to have each introduce themselves to the Meridian HS community. Below you will find introductions from half of our new staff members, the other half of our new staff will introduce themselves in the fall newsletter.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

### **Ryan Killian – English**

After completing my student teaching with Mr. Kurz last year I am excited to be back full-time as a teacher at Meridian High School. Though this time around I will be teaching English, I am excited that even though I am teaching a new subject I get to work with many of the same students who made my time student teaching and substituting at Meridian so memorable: they are the reason I am coming back. I never thought I would work in such a small school, but now I can't imagine it any other way.

A little bit about myself, I grew up down in Marysville, but have been in Whatcom County since entering Western in the fall of 2010. Outside of teaching, I love being in the outdoors and traveling. Just this summer, I completed nearly a month long road trip to a handful of National Parks in Canada and the United States.

### **Chris Ruether - Social Studies**

I cannot wait for not only the school year to start but also my teaching career. I worked through most of last year as a substitute teacher in the Meridian School District so I feel incredibly lucky to be able to become a member of the high school staff. In addition to subbing I coached three sports, Football and Basketball at the middle school and Track at the high school. I am really looking forward to continuing coaching and working with your children in the athletic arena.

I will be teaching Current World Problems this upcoming school year. This is a subject that has always fascinated me and I have wanted to teach it for as long as I can remember! Connecting the lives of my students to the world around them and bringing global issues into the classroom I believe is paramount to being a successful participant in a Democratic society.

When not teaching I like to spend my time reading new books and seeing the newest films in theaters. I love to travel and look forward to bring my experiences abroad into the classroom.

I have already been hard at work preparing my plans for the upcoming school year and look forward to playing a bigger role in the Meridian community!

## WELCOME NEW STAFF (continued)

### **Cheryl McBride - School Counselor**

I am excited for the school year to begin and to meet the Meridian High School community. I have heard only good things about Meridian and have received a warm welcome from everyone I have met thus far. As a school counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote the academic, personal and social development of all students. I look forward to offering my support to students, staff, and families where ever I can be of assistance. I have worked as an educator for 20 years and have been fortunate to have worked overseas in two different countries. I enjoy photography and reading. However, travel is my passion and I have visited 39 countries so far. I feel fortunate to be a member of the Meridian team.

### **Kimberly Greene - Learning Support Teacher**

I am thrilled to have been invited to teach at such an amazing school as Meridian High School! I am excited to meet both the staff and the students at the end of August. In California, I taught three years of Special Education and one year of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts.

My husband and I just moved to Lynden with our twin 15 year olds and a 12 year old. I am now a stone's throw away from where I grew up in Langley, BC Canada, eh? My husband is retired Navy, and has just started a new job at IKO in Sumas. In my free time, I enjoy exercising, reading, hanging out with my kids, going to Canada to visit relatives, and playing with my 3 dogs.

Please don't hesitate to call me, email me, or meet me in person if you have any questions or comments about your student. I would love to get to know my students and their parents throughout this educational year of adventure! I'm sure it will be a smooth ride!

### **Keifa Herzog - Spanish**

My name is Keifa Herzog and this upcoming year will be my 11th year of teaching Spanish. I have had the pleasure of splitting positions between alternative high schools and mainstream schools, developing language programs and teaching every age level, from 1st grade all the way through high school. I come most recently from the Everett district, where I loved teaching, but missed my friends and family. I'm a Bellingham native and knew I needed to be home. Over a year ago, my parents asked what my ideal school would be and Meridian was my first and only response. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to continue the amazing work Mrs. Grube has been doing at Meridian for the past 35 years. I feel I have found my forever home and look forward to this amazing district.

When not teaching, I love to golf, fish, ski and travel. My favorite destinations are Mexico and Spain.

### **Kaley Bishop - Health/Culinary Arts**

I am so excited to be joining such an awesome team of staff and can't wait to meet all the students!

I will be joining MHS as the Health and Culinary Arts teacher and feel so honored to get to teach my two favorite subjects.

I moved from Portland, Oregon last year and have worked in a variety of health and education venues.

In my free time I love to run and bake, and I spent this summer planning for my August wedding.

## COLLEGE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

We are fortunate to have built a partnership with Everett Community College to offer students an opportunity to earn college credit while taking classes at MHS.

We are starting small, only offering a few classes, but look forward to developing this program to allow students to earn more college credit during their time at MHS.

Classes we are planning to offer include AP Calculus, AP Stats, AP Biology, Honors Chemistry. There are a few more classes that we are waiting for approval. We will be offering more information about the program during our Open House on September 13th. If you want to learn more about it you can go to the College in the High School page on the EvCC website:

<https://www.everettcc.edu/ccec/college-in-high-school/>

## MHS ATHLETICS

Listed below is information for any student wishing to participate in the upcoming fall sports season. **The following paperwork must be submitted prior to participation in extra-curricular athletics.**

1. Every student athlete must turn in a fully signed Meridian School District Eligibility Form. This form features the *Medical Release, Parent Approval, Proof of Insurance, and Extra-Curricular Code* on one side, with the sports physical form on the other.
2. Watch concussion video and sign acknowledgement of information form.
3. A current physical. If you are unsure as to the expiration of your last physical, please contact the MHS office at 398-8111.
4. School insurance is available for those student-athletes needing insurance coverage. All student-athletes must have insurance to participate. School insurance forms can be located in the school office.
5. ASB Membership (\$30) for the 2016-2017 school year. All students must be ASB members in order to participate in extra-curricular activities.
6. Participation fee (\$100 per sport, \$25.00 free and reduced lunch).

Starting dates for students who are cleared to participate:

Football: **Wednesday, August 17th**

Girls Soccer, Volleyball, and Cross Country: **Monday, August 22nd**

### **All Sports Parent/Athlete Meeting**

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, **August 10, 2016 at 6:00pm** in the MHS Auditorium for the parents/guardians and athletes wishing to participate in athletics during the 2016-2017 school year. This is a change from previous years. We will no longer be hosting parent meetings at the beginning of each season, the meeting on Aug. 10th will be the only athletics related parent meeting for the school year (see next page for more information).

Gina Heslep, athletics secretary, will be available at the meeting on Aug 10th to collect the eligibility paperwork and participation fees for student athletes.

Athletic schedules can be found online at [www.nwcathletics.com](http://www.nwcathletics.com)

Reminder:

Unpaid fines from previous years need to be paid in the office at your earliest convenience. Remember, students who owe fines are not eligible to participate in sports, clubs, activities or claim their report cards until fines are paid.



Greetings,

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer, spending time with family, relaxing and enjoying this great weather. As you are probably aware, fall sports are just around the corner, as is the first day of school. With that in mind, the athletic department has decided to hold an **ALL SPORTS** meeting Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 pm in the MHS Auditorium.

This **ALL SPORTS** meeting is intended to take the place of the fall, winter and spring sports meetings that we have had in recent years. The hope is that by having one meeting at the beginning of the year we can honor the time of our parents and athletes while covering all of the pertinent information on how we get students eligible. Here is an idea of what this meeting will look like:

**6:00 pm- Welcome!**

Introduction of new Athletic Director, Bryant Michaelson, and all of our Meridian High School head coaches.

**6:15 pm- Explanation of athletic paperwork and fees**

How to become eligible

**6:30 pm- Concussion video**

This will allow all parents and athletes to view the concussion video together. This will allow you to sign off on our concussion/sudden cardiac arrest form.

**6:45 pm- Multiple vs Single Sport Athlete Presentation**

Mr. Michaelson will introduce district-approved website and explain the benefits of playing multiple sports in high school.

**6:55 pm- Wrap up and questions**

This will give parents and athletes an opportunity to ask any questions about Meridian's Athletic Department and paperwork.

**7:00 pm- Coaching breakout sessions**

At this time, we will dismiss parents and athletes to different areas of the school to meet and talk with their fall coaches. If you do not plan to play a fall sport, winter and spring coaches will be available to talk to and go over what is coming up in the offseason.

We look forward to seeing you all out for our first annual Meridian High School **ALL SPORTS** meeting!

Regards,

Bryant Michaelson  
MHS, Athletic Director

# WELCOME FRESHMAN

ORIENTATION: AUGUST 24TH 9:30AM – 12:30PM

Please join us for our *very important* Freshman Orientation on **Wednesday, August 24th** from **9:30am–12:30pm**. We begin the morning in the MHS gymnasium with a welcome assembly. Leadership students will guide you on campus tours. You will be able to purchase yearbooks, ASB cards, have your school picture taken and put money in your breakfast/lunch account (and pay any fines or other fees). *We will close our morning with lunch and refreshments!* Mark your calendars and feel free to call the MHS office @ 398-8111 if you have any questions.

## What should I bring to Orientation?

*Checks for your ASB Items, and your breakfast/lunch account.*

## How much does everything cost?

*Yearbooks: \$70      ASB Cards: \$30  
Breakfast: \$1.75      Lunch: \$3.00      Milk: \$.50*

## Who do I make the CHECKS out to?

*Please make checks out to **MHS**. Make **one** check out for meal money and **one** check for ASB card/yearbook.*

## What supplies do I need for school?

*Be prepared with pen & pencil, notebook, and paper. Once classes begin, your teachers may have additional supply requests. We will provide you with a **Student Handbook/Planner** the first week of class.*

## Can parents attend?

*Parents are welcome to attend . A special parent/guardian session will be held at 9:30 am in the auditorium. Bring your questions. It is our hope that we begin your student's high school career on the path to success! Contact Aaron Jacoby 318-2281 or [ajacoby@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:ajacoby@meridian.wednet.edu) for more information or if you have questions and cannot make the event.*

