



MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Spring 2017

Shared Mission

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

Shared Vision

"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

March Madness is a topic of conversation with the start of the NCAA basketball tournament. It means something a little different at MHS as we begin the registration process to select classes for the 2017-2018 school year. During the week of March 20th, counselors will be visiting students in their classes and handing out registration materials. Our course catalog will also be posted on our website, both in the recent news section and the school information tab. The week before spring break students will be selecting the classes each would like to take next year.

In the time between getting registration materials and signing up for classes I hope you will be able to take some time to review available classes, your student's selections, and how those apply to future plans after high school. The course catalog includes options to earn dual credit, a sheet to plan classes through high school, along with descriptions of each class offered on campus. Choices made in March will help us build a master schedule for next year.

While we are already planning for next year, there are several activities and events taking place this spring. In addition to the daily learning taking place in class, the events happening throughout the spring are a part of what makes MHS a great place. I hope you are able to take advantage of some of them as we move towards the end of the school year.

The first of these activities is our spring conferences. They will take place on March 28th from 3:30 to 7:00pm in the south gym. Teachers will be available to share your student's progress. Progress can also be checked by using your skyward account to access grades, assignments, and contact information for teachers.

There are also several pieces of information located in this newsletter. If there is other information that is not included in this newsletter, or you have questions or concerns, please contact us. We want to help partner with you to make your student's experience a positive one while at MHS.

Sincerely,
Derek Forbes

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- Extra Curricular Spotlight
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- Career Counseling News

IMPORTANT DATES

April

- 3-7 Spring Break
- 12 ASB Elections
- 19 Early Release at 12:10
- 19 Senior Project Banquet & Presentations, 12:00
- 20 Smarter Balanced Testing-English
- 20-22 MHS Talent Show, 7:00pm each evening
- 21 Teacher Work Day-No School for Students
- 24 Smarter Balanced Testing-English
- 26 Early Release at 12:10
- 27-29 FFA Plant Sale (see inside for details)
- 27 Smarter Balanced Testing-Math

May

- 2 Smarter Balanced Testing-Math
- 3 AP Literature Test, 8:00am
- 3-6 FFA Plant Sale
- 4 AP Government Test, 8:00am
- 6 Prom, 8:00-11:00pm
- 8 AP Biology Test, 8:00 am
- 9 AP Calculus Test, 8:00am
- 11 AP Statistics Test, 12:00pm
- 11-13 State FFA in Pullman
- 29 Memorial Day-No School
- 30 Senior Night of Excellence, 6:30pm

June

- 2-4 Music Department Spring Trip
- 5-6 District Wide Music Concerts, 7:00pm both nights
- 5-8 End of Course Exam-Biology
- 9 Yearbook Distribution
- 14 Recognition Assembly & Picnic
- 14 Baccalaureate, MHS Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 15 Senior Trip
- 16 Graduation Rehearsal, 9:00am
- 16 Graduation, 6:30pm MHS Gymnasium
- 23 Last Day of School, Early Release at 12:10

School Building Information

AP Test Information

Students in AP classes will soon be asked to sign-up to take AP exams in May. Make checks payable to MHS and bring them to Mrs. Heslep in the office. The cost for each exam this year is \$93.00, unless you qualify for a fee reduction. To qualify for the \$31.00 fee reduction, your family must be eligible for the free/reduced lunch program, Medicaid medical assistance, or meet certain income requirements. You need to fill out a verification form to qualify. The cost for these families would be \$62.00. The form is available from Mrs. Heslep in the office.

AP exams are on the following dates:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| • AP Literature | Wednesday May 3, 2017 | 8:00am |
| • AP US Government | Thursday May 4, 2017 | 8:00am |
| • AP Biology | Monday May 8, 2017 | 8:00am |
| • AP Calculus | Tuesday May 9, 2017 | 8:00am |
| • AP Statistics | Thursday May 11, 2017 | 12:00 noon |

SBAC-State Graduation Required Testing

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is a state graduation requirement for the class of 2017 and beyond. This is a computer based test that evaluates how well students are performing by comparing them with other students across the nation. The results will provide a clear indication of how well students are progressing toward mastering the academic knowledge and skill necessary for college and career readiness. All testing periods will be from 8:00 to 11:30am each day.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| • ELA (English Language Arts) | April 20 and 24 |
| • Math | April 27 and May 2 |

End of Course Exam

The Biology End of Course (EOC) exam is also a state graduation requirement for the class of 2017 and beyond. This is a pencil and paper test that the students take toward the end of their Biology class. This will be given the week of June 5–9.

Request Transcripts through Parchment

Meridian High School is proud to announce an upcoming partnership with parchment.com to fulfill transcript requests for current students and MHS alumni. The electronic process will be much easier for students, families, alumni and the high school office.

Transcripts can be securely sent electronically to colleges and universities across the nation, resulting in less loss of documents at the admission offices. Transcripts may also be sent to Parchment participating employers and scholarship programs. Transcripts will be free of charge to current students. Alumni will pay a small fee. More details will soon be on the MHS website and in the MHS office. Please call Robin Brinkman, (Registrar at Meridian High School) at 398-8111 with any questions.

Transcript Information for the Class of 2017

In order for your final transcript to arrive at your college or university for fall 2017 registration you need to go to the MHS website <http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs> to access the Parchment website and complete your request.

Transcripts will be processed after school is out in June and the grades are posted. There may be a delay for running start students. All grades should be ready by the end of June. Please call Robin Brinkman, at 398-8111 with any questions.

Extra Curricular Spotlight

MHS Talent Show

The theme this year is "Talent Out of this World". We are looking forward to three nights of great entertainment. Please join us as we celebrate the talented students of the Meridian School District. Try-outs, rehearsals, and performances are held in the MHS auditorium.

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|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| • Try-outs K-8 | March 27 | 6:00pm |
| • Try-outs 9-12 | March 28 | 7:00pm |
| • Rehearsal 9-12 | April 10 | 6:00pm |
| • Rehearsal K-8 | April 11 | 6:00pm |
| • K-8 Grade Performance | April 20 | 7:00pm |
| • 9-12 Grade Performance | April 21 | 7:00pm |
| • Talent Show Finals | April 22 | 7:00pm |



FFA Plant Sale

Spring is on it's way!! Come out and support the Meridian FFA chapter and pick up some flowers, herbs, veggies or hanging baskets. We've got more plants and veggies to offer this year than ever before, so mark your calendar and plan on taking care of your gardening needs on the dates and times listed below:



- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| • April 27 & 28 | 2:30-6:30pm |
| • April 29 | 9:00am-2:00pm |
| • May 3, 4 & 5 | 2:30-6:30pm |
| • May 6 | 9:00am-2:00pm |

MHS Music Department

Great things have been happening in the Music Department! Great Sounds are being made! The groups have never sounded better. The SJMEA Large Group Assessment is happening this week and Last week's SJMEA Jazz Festival was successful! The students performed very well! This spring, we unveil some new exciting music! The year's final public performances will be June 5th and 6th in the MHS Main Gym. Hope to see you there!

On the horizon,

- Full music department spring trip to the Music in the Parks Festival in Federal Way June 2nd through 4th
- The Meridian Marching Trojans will again be participating in the Port Townsend and Bellingham Parades. Full Band will rehearse three Monday evenings to prepare.
- Our All-District Band and Choir concerts on June 5th and 6th, featuring ensembles from the middle school and high school. Both concerts start at 7pm in the MHS Main Gym.

Registration for next year is happening. If you have an interest in music, it's not too late, please come see Mr. DeGrace or send an email mdegrace@meridian.wednet.edu. He would love talk to you about next year!

It's been a sincere pleasure working with the students of the Meridian Music Department.



Community Connections

Courtyard Bricks

Get your memory brick to be laid in the Meridian High School Courtyard. Each brick costs \$50.00 and includes 3 Lines of up to 16 characters per line.

Checks can be made to Meridian Booster Club and mailed to Michele Mack, 1114 Kelly Road, Bellingham, WA 98226. Please include EXACTLY what you want on your brick and your email address. I will type up your order and then send it you for final approval. Our goal is to have your brick in place for the Class of 2017 Graduation on June 16th. This will be the last time we take orders until next spring.

Bricks can be ordered for current, future, past graduates, or in honor of someone. Please contact Michele Mack for more information or if you have any questions, (360) 738-1253 or edmack50@comcast.net

Communities In Schools



Dear Meridian Community,

My name is Rachel Ramondetta and I am the new site coordinator with Communities in Schools at Meridian High School! I recently graduated from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. I have a passion for empowering youth and supporting their social and emotional wellness. Utilizing a holistic perspective, I believe that personal growth and academic achievement are made possible through valuing all facets of a person and their life experiences. During my undergraduate studies, I developed a love for serving my community through volunteer work with Lydia Place, the Girls on the Run program through YMCA, and most recently as an advocacy counselor at Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services. I look forward to drawing on my past experiences with children and family advocacy to help support students to the best of my ability. Now, I am excited to apply my passion and compassion for youth towards building meaningful relationships with students, parents, and staff within the Meridian school community!

Dental Van

The Unity Care Northwest Mobile Dental Clinic will be back in the district on Friday, March 24. The primary purpose is to provide sealants for students that were served by them when they were here last month, however, other students may be served on this day as well. If your student was absent the last time they were here, forgot their registration, or are newly enrolled in the Meridian district please contact the high school office for a registration form.

Connect with Meridian on social media!

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/meridianschooldistrict505/>

Instagram: @meridianschooldistrict505

Twitter: @meridian505

These are the official Meridian School District social media pages! Please "like", follow & share!

Trojan Athletics

Spring Sports

Spring weather in Whatcom County is ever-changing and unpredictable. If a game is postponed or cancelled it will be posted on the NW Conference Athletics website, which is www.nwcathletics.com. Click on the orange "subscribe" link on their website to sign up to have game updates sent to you.

Meridian Youth Basketball Academy

The Meridian High School Boy's Basketball program will be hosting its Summer Basketball Academy for all girls and boys currently in K-7. This skills camp is scheduled for June 20th-June 22nd at MHS from 5:00-6:30 for K-3rd grade and 7:00-8:30 for 4th-7th grade. Look for brochures at MMS and IRE this spring. Questions? Email Shane Stacy at [sstacy@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:ss Stacy@meridian.wednet.edu)

Little Trojan Volleyball Camp

This camp is open to Meridian School District girls entering grades Kindergarten-6th and will be held June 6th-9th at MHS from 5:00-6:30pm. Flyers and registration forms will be available in the Irene Reither Elementary School office. Email Shannon Claeys at sclaeys@meridian.wednet.edu for more information.

Meridian Track & Field Camp

Join Meridian Track and Field coaches Patrick Ames, Mike Holz, Andrea Ames, Josh Winters, and Chris Ruether in this five-day instructional Track and Field Camp.

The first four days of camp will focus on learning the basics in the track and field disciplines of running, jumping, and throwing with a meet on the last day of camp to show off the newly-learned skills. All athletes will be divided into small groups for closer instructional purposes and will rotate through different event stations on each day.

Meridian High School Track coaches have coached 14 Washington state track and field champions and 103 state medalists since 2000—come take part in this fantastic opportunity to learn and improve upon your track and field skills!

Ages: Boys & Girls Grades K-6

Dates: Tuesday, April 18

Thursday, April 20

Tuesday, April 25

Thursday, April 27

Friday, April 28 (Track Meet; including the family "Meridian Mile" run/walk as the final event—parents/adults can donate to the MHS Track program to participate in the Meridian Mile!)

Times: 5:15 P.M.—6:45 P.M. each night

Location: Meridian High School Track

To register: Bring registration form and **\$40 cash or check** (made payable to Meridian High School Track and Field) to the school office before Thursday, April 13

Cost: \$40.00 (Includes T-Shirt)

Questions? Call Patrick Ames at (360) 318-2205 or Mike Holz at (360) 318-2222 (emails: pames@meridian.wednet.edu and mholz@meridian.wednet.edu)

Athletic Facilities Fundraiser

Please join us on April 20th at 5:30pm in the MHS Commons for a fundraiser aimed at updating our MHS athletic facilities. Food will be catered by Olive Garden and will include an all you can eat pasta bar, salad, bread sticks and dessert. Adult price is \$15.00, kids 10 and under are \$10.00.

Counselor's Update

Registration

Spring means it is time to select classes for next year! Some key dates are as follows:

Week of March 20th	Current 9 th -11 th grade students receive registration packets.
Week of March 27th	Students will be meeting one on one with their counselor to finalize their schedules.
TBD	Current 8 th grade students receive registration packets.
TBD	8 th Grade Parent Night at MHS beginning at 6:00 PM in the auditorium. At 6:30pm MHS staff will be available for questions on academics/electives/clubs/sport.
Week of March 27th	Students will be meeting one on one with their counselor to finalize their schedules.

Class of 2018 News

If you have a junior who plans to attend a 4 year university upon graduation, May and June are good months to take the SAT or ACT. The students can repeat the test in the fall of their senior year if they feel it is necessary to do so. The registration websites are as follows:

SAT <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

ACT <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html>

Fee waivers are available for students on free or reduced lunch. Please see your counselor.

STRATEGY 1: KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT

Spend a little time doing research before you take a standardized test. Make sure you understand the rules for each section: for instance, whether a specific section will require multiple choice answers or an essay. Even better, take a practice test so that you get a feel for the types of questions you will encounter.

STRATEGY 2: READ THE INSTRUCTIONS

Even if you've done your research, make sure you read the instructions for each section of the test. Know what the section is asking you to do, what types of answers are expected, how many questions are in that section, and how much time you have. Don't assume that a section on an exam is just like a practice test. Read the instructions before you begin.

STRATEGY 3: PACE YOURSELF

On most standardized tests, there is a time limit for each section. Before you begin each section, make sure you know how much time you are allowed. Check your watch or the clock in the exam room to determine when you will have to finish. Then, calculate how many questions you must answer and determine how quickly you must work (for instance, two minutes per question or ten minutes per essay).

STRATEGY 4: ANSWER EASY QUESTIONS FIRST

Because the test is timed, it's important to move through it as quickly as you can. If you don't know the answer to a question right away, move on and come back to it later. Remember to skip that question on your answer sheet as well.

STRATEGY 5: USE THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION FOR DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

If you don't know the answer to a question, see if you can eliminate any answers that are obviously wrong. If you are able to eliminate several of the possible answers, you can then make an educated guess from those that remain.

Source: [Career Guidance WA](#)

Your student can take free online practice tests at the following websites:

- For SAT: <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>
- For ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/>

Career Center News

Senior Presentations are April 19th, 2017 from noon-3pm. Seniors are expected to speak for about 12 minutes and have a slide show about their high school experiences and future plans. This is a requirement for graduation.

If you would like to serve as a panelist to score presentations, please email Shannon Waterman at swaterman@meridian.wed.net.edu. This is a wonderful experience to support our seniors. Unfortunately, you can't be a parent of a MHS senior to sit on a panel.

Career Exploration: Washington Career Bridge—<http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/>

Apprenticeships—Washington State Dept. of Labor and Industries—
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/default.asp>

Scholarship Search Engines

<http://www.thewashboard.org/login.aspx>

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

Meridian Public School Foundation scholarship application is available now!

www.meridianpublicschoolfoundation.org/application/

Due date is April 24.

Do not hesitate to apply! Over \$80,000 was given away last year.

This is only a partial list of available scholarships. Please see the latest edition of the senior email, or go to our scholarship database [here](#). You can also go to the MHS web page, click "student support" then "career center". There will be a link there as well. There are still scholarships to apply for!

Whatcom Women in Business

<http://wwib.org/programs/scholarship-info/>

\$5,000 renewable

Must commit to 20 hrs. of volunteer for Whatcom

Women in Business

Due 3/31/17

Hearthstone Housing Foundation

<http://www.hearthstonehousing.org/high-school-applicants>

Min. 3.0 GPA

Income limits

applications available in library

Due 3/31/17

Lynden Lions

\$1000

High degree of community service

Applications in library

Due 4/4/17

Mount Baker Rotary

www.mountbakerrotary.com

applications in library

academics, community service, leadership,

extra-curricular, special circumstances

Due 4/14/2017

Trans-Ocean Products

Academics, goals,

application in library when available

Due 4/14/17

Republican Women of Whatcom County

application in library - both guys and gals

essay

Due 4/14/17