



MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL

May 2016

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

As you can see from the calendar included, the final weeks of the year are a very busy time. As we continue through spring and near the end of the year, excitement starts to build as we prepare to celebrate our seniors and send them on to new adventures and responsibilities as graduates of Meridian High School.

Before graduation, there are still plenty of things taking place on campus. In the classroom, students are being challenged each day by an awesome teaching staff. Our regular seasons are wrapping up for spring sports as we head into the play-offs. Our FFA program prepares for the state conference in Pullman. Our AP students are gearing up for their AP exams.

We see the results of student involvement inside and outside of the classroom each day. We know what a special group of students we have and enjoy celebrating their accomplishments. It is always nice to hear others recognize our students. Recently U.S. News & World Report awarded Meridian High School with a Silver Medal. The award was based on serving all students well, being able to show that we are educating students using various performance indicators, and graduation rates.

While it is nice to be recognized, our work remains to make MHS an even better place for all students. Work continues this spring to have the 2016-2017 school year be the best year yet. While we prepare to say goodbye to our great seniors, we are also looking forward to the Class of 2020, as they begin to make their mark on MHS and building on the success of the class of 2016.

Derek Forbes

Important Dates to Remember

School Building Information

May

- 5-6 MHS Plant Sale 2:30-5:00pm
- 7 MHS Plant Sale 9:00am-2:00pm
- 10 AP Government Test 8:00am
- 11 AP Language & Composition Test 8:00am
- 12 AP Statistics Test 12:00pm
- 13 Band/Choir trip to Silverwood
- 18 Early Release at 12:10pm
- 23 All District Choir Concert 7:00pm
- 24 All District Band Concert 7:00pm
- 25 Early Release at 12:10
- 27 LID-No School for students
- 30 Memorial Day-No School
- 31 Senior Night of Excellence 6:30pm

June

- 2 End of Course Exams-Algebra & Geometry
- 6 Yearbook Distribution
- 7 End of Course Exam-Biology
- 10 Recognition Assembly & Picnic
- 10 Last Day of School for Seniors
- 12 Baccalaureate, MHS Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 13 Senior Trip to Seattle
- 14 Graduation, 6:30pm MHS Gymnasium
- 16 Last Day of School, Early Release at 12:10

MHS Athletics

The Meridian Athletic Participation meeting is scheduled for August 10th at 6:00pm in the MHS auditorium. If you plan on participating in athletics during the 2016/2017 school year please make plans to attend this important meeting. Coaches for fall, winter and spring sports will be in attendance. It's important for both the athlete and their guardian to attend. You will have a chance to turn in your eligibility paperwork, and pay ASB and athletic participation fees.

Senior Night of Excellence

Please have your student inform Mrs. Waterman of scholarships he or she is awarded, so they can be recognized at the Senior Night of Excellence on May 31st. This event is by invitation only and is meant to recognize seniors who have been granted scholarships, MHS department awards and other honors. Invitations will be sent out by May 18th, 2016.

Transcript Information for the Class of 2016

In order for your final transcript to arrive at your college or university for fall 2016 registration you must let Mrs. Brinkman know where to send it. Please find the clipboard on the counter next to Mrs. Brinkman's desk in the main office. Please provide your name and the college or university name and address.

Transcripts will be processed after school is out in June and the grades are posted. There will be a delay for running start students. Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College are both still in session after we are done at the high school. All grades should be ready by the end of June.

AP Test Information

Students in AP classes were recently asked to sign-up to take AP exams in May. Payment for the tests will be accepted from April 18-May 6. **The payment is due to Mrs. Heslep in the office no later than May 6th.** Cost is \$92 per exam unless you qualify for a fee reduction. To qualify for an AP test fee reduction, you need to be eligible for free/reduced lunch or Medicaid medical assistance, or your family would have to meet certain income requirements. You need to fill out a verification form to qualify. The form is available from Mrs. Heslep in the office. The U.S. Dept. of Education has set the price at \$15 per exam, and qualifying students may take as many AP exams as they want at the reduced rate. AP exams are on the following dates:

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| • AP Government & Politics | Tuesday, May 10, 2015 | 8:00am |
| • AP English Language & Composition | Wednesday, May 11, 2015 | 8:00am |
| • AP Statistics | Wednesday, May 12, 2015 | 12:00 noon |

End of Course Exams

End-of-Course (EOC) exams in math and biology allow students in grades 9-12 to be tested on the knowledge and skills they've gained from taking specific courses. They are different from tests like Smarter Balanced, which are comprehensive and assess overall content-area knowledge.

The biology EOC is based on the Washington State Learning Standards in science. This test is used to fulfill assessment graduation requirements for the Class of 2017 and beyond. It is also used for federal accountability, because states are required to assess students in science once in high school. All students in the class of 2017 and 2018 who haven't passed will need to test. All current freshman who are currently taking biology will need to test.

The EOC Algebra and EOC Geometry are required for graduation for classes of 2013 through 2018; Students who have not yet met the mathematics assessment graduation requirement will need to test. Students only have to pass one of the two content area exams for graduation.

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| • EOC Algebra | June 2 |
| • EOC Geometry | June 2 |
| • EOC Biology | June 7 |

Physics Grant

Last month, Meridian High School was awarded one of 20 nation wide classroom grants awarded from the national AIAA Foundation. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Foundation based in Reston, VA. awarded \$250 each for teachers to supplement their lesson plans with hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities. A matching \$250 grant is being awarded from the PNW Branch of the AIAA Foundation. Mrs. Jan Dormaier's physics class will be adding an airplane design challenge to their curriculum thanks to the support of AIAA.

MHS Music Department

Here we are, nearing the end of the school year. Great things have been happening in the Music Department! The groups have never sounded better. SJMEA Large group and SJMEA Jazz Festival were a huge success! The students performed very well! The choirs came home with 'Excellent' ratings and the symphonic band came home with their very first 'Superior' rating. The students are working very hard to prepare for our spring trip to the MUSIC IN THE PARKS festival in Coeur d'Alene, ID, spring all-district festivals and parades!

On the horizon:

- Full music department spring trip to Silverwood in Idaho for the Music in the Parks contest.
- The Meridian Marching Trojans will again be participating in the Port Townsend, Bellingham and Lynden Parades Mid-May through the beginning of June.
- Our All-District Band and Choir concerts on May 23rd and 24th, featuring ensembles from the middle school and high school. Both concerts start at 7pm.

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.

Look at the music department calendar for detailed information
<http://meridianhsmusic.weebly.com/mhs-music-events.html>



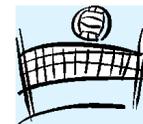
Meridian Youth Basketball Academy

The Meridian Boy's Basketball program is putting on a youth basketball camp for Meridian girls and boys in grades Kindergarten-7th grade. The skills-based camp runs from June 6th-June 9th at Meridian High School. The cost of the camp is \$60 and includes a t-shirt and basketball. If you have questions or need a brochure for the camp, please email Shane Stacy at sstacy@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 28th-30th at MHS from 1:00-3:00pm. 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.



Class of 2018 Parent Contact List

The class of 2018 is in charge of organizing the Father-Daughter Banquet and Prom next year. We will need a lot of help from students and parents. If you are willing to help out in some capacity (what that looks like is still TBD), please email Andrea Ames at aames@meridian.wednet.edu so I can include you on our parent contact list. Thank you!



Career Center News

This spring please encourage your students to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them through the Career Center. On the career bulletin board students can check for job postings, summer programs, internships or volunteer experiences. Here are some interesting websites to check out.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/new-free-course-teaches-the-basics-of-how-to-get-the-most-out-of-college/>

[Career/College web page](http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/MHS/career_center)—http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/MHS/career_center

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

Washboard.org

Fastweb.com

Scholarships.com

Scholarships

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 a link there as well. The number of available scholarships is decreasing. There are a few left that are still open:

Deming Log Show

Related to someone in the logging industry

Applications in library

Due (postmarked) by May 4th

Victor Community Club

Based on academics & community involvement

Applications in library

Due May 13th to Mrs. Waterman

Irene Reither Scholarship

Must be pursuing a degree in education

Applications in library

Due May 13th to Mrs. Waterman

Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association

www.whatcomsoccer.com

Applications online or in library

Due (postmarked) by May 16th

Meridian Education Association

Must be pursuing an education (teaching) degree

Please allow time to give teachers the recommendation page in the application

Due to Mrs. Waterman by May 24th

Meridian Youth Soccer Club

Must be accepted at a college or university

Must have coached, played or participated with MYSC for at least one season

Due (postmarked) May 25th

Whatcom Youth Soccer District 1

Must be involved in high school soccer, Min 3.2 GPA

Must be accepted to university/college/tech school

Applications in library

Due (postmarked) by May 15