

# Meridian High School Newsletter



Winter 2020

Our Mission: *"To inspire and challenge active learners to positively impact a changing world."*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

While January marks the beginning of 2020, two events took place on the final school days of 2019 that I would like to highlight. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, all students on campus participated in "Give Before You Get." Students were involved in close to 20 different community service projects that included field trips to a retirement home to sing, going to IRE to read to elementary students, and to Stepping Stones Outreach to deliver care packages. Students also stayed on campus and assembled care packages for other community organizations using donations that were collected, or wrote cards for first responders and children staying in hospitals. It was a great success. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, our leadership class presented us with a Winter Wishes Assembly that was then followed by many of our students getting gifts that their peers wished for them. Every new student received a gift and each student receives at least one gift over the course of their four years at MHS. To make everything come together this year, \$11,000 in cash and in-kind donations were accepted. Thank you to everyone who donated.

With the end of first semester upon us that means the beginning of second semester starts next Monday. It is a new start and a great time for students to make sure they are taking advantage of supports at school like T3 and TLC (our after-school tutorial support in the library). It is also a great opportunity for parent/guardians to sit down with their student, look over final grades and develop both a plan for second semester and strategies to successfully meet the goals of that plan. Part of that plan should include choosing where to go for T3 on tutorial days. To help with your planning, the T3 Week-at-a-Glance is listed on our website each Monday for you to review with your student.

As we move forward to second semester, this newsletter has school information for the coming months. I hope you find it useful. The pages that follow include important dates and deadlines for you to know about until the next newsletter in the spring. You can stay up to date by following the Meridian School District's pages on social media. You can also check our website for additional school information. It is updated weekly.

*Derek Forbes*

## IMPORTANT DATES

### February

- |    |                              |        |
|----|------------------------------|--------|
| 1  | Drama Showcase               | 7:00pm |
| 7  | Trojan Café Dinner & Movie   | 5:30pm |
| 10 | Dual Credit Interest Meeting | 6:00pm |
| 14 | Mid-Winter Break—No School   |        |
| 17 | President's Day—No School    |        |
| 19 | Father Daughter Banquet      | 6:00pm |

### March

- |    |                                       |                |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 2  | Spring Sports Start                   |                |
| 3  | BTC "Try A Trade" Day                 |                |
| 5  | MHS Music Festival Concert            | 7:00pm         |
| 14 | MHS Tolo                              | 8:00pm—11:00pm |
| 18 | Credit Competency (STAMP) Test        |                |
| 23 | WWU College Fair (interested juniors) |                |
| 30 | N. County Rotary Career Fair          |                |
| 31 | Conferences (by invitation)           |                |



## **SPRING SPORTS SEASON BEGINS MARCH 2nd**

Spring sports include Baseball, Fastpitch, Boys and Girls Golf, Boys Soccer, and Boys and Girls Track. Please see Mrs. Heslep to pay your sports fees and to make sure you have completed your Skyward eligibility and have a current physical on file.

## **MCKINNEY-VENTO**

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- ◆ In a shelter
- ◆ In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- ◆ In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- ◆ Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

If you believe your children may be eligible contact Molly Zinkle to find out what services and supports may be available at (360) 318-2486 or [mmckay@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:mmckay@meridian.wednet.edu)

HAPPY  
NEW  
SEMESTER

## **END/START OF SEMESTER**

First semester ends on Thursday, January 23rd. There is no school for students on Friday, Jan. 24th. Second semester starts on Monday, January 27th.

## **STAY CONNECTED**

Website-[www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs](http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs)

The homepage has access to recent news.

Scroll to the bottom to access things like Skyward, bus routes, the daily bulletin and the bell schedule

Meridian School District on Social Media

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

Instagram: @meridianschooldistrict505

Twitter: @meridian505



## **DRAMA SHOWCASE**

**One Night Only:** Drama Showcase, a collection of dance, song, monologues and skits from all different musicals and more.



**February 1st at 7:00pm**

**Free and open to the public! Come one come all!**

## **CREDIT COMPETENCY EXAM (STAMP TEST)**

We will be offering the Credit Competency Exam (most people know it as STAMP) on March 18th at 8a.m. in the library. See Mrs. Canup for more information.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS**

It has been a great first semester in the Meridian music department. We have welcomed a talented and very passionate new set of faces in our freshmen class. Wonderful work is being done in our bands and choirs. Several students are currently working toward the SJMEA solo/ensemble contest taking place at Sehome high school on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Also, the ensembles are preparing for the Large Group Assessment which happens in March at WWU. Our pep band is proudly supporting our athletic teams.

In preparation of our large group festival, our full department will present their festival concert in the MHS auditorium on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. In April, the MHS music department will be presenting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual MHS Swing Dance on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a department fundraiser to help our students travel and perform in the spring. Hope to see you at our concert and our fundraiser!

It is always our mission to make musical excellence our prime directive and together: Students, Parents and Teachers create a well-rounded music experience.

Registration is just around the corner. The music department is a wonderful place to be. Being a small district, students are pulled many different directions. The music department is designed with flexibilities around other activities. Students involved in music can also participate in other clubs, activities and athletics. Mr. DeGrace works hard to accommodate students who are willing to make efforts on both sides.

If you have an interest in music, please come see Mr. DeGrace or send an email [mdegrace@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:mdegrace@meridian.wednet.edu). Please have a conversation with Mr. DeGrace as you start planning. He can help! He would love talk to you about next year!

Keep an eye on the music department calendar for detailed information

<http://meridianhsmusic.weebly.com/mhs-music-events.html>





*You Are Royally Invited  
to Attend  
Father Daughter Banquet  
February 19th, 2020  
6:00pm  
Meridian High School  
\$20 per couple \$8.00 for each  
additional daughter*

*Tickets can be purchased at  
IRE & MMS by cash or check  
Credit Cards accepted at MHS*

*Wear Your Favorite Princess  
Attire and Join Us for  
Dinner and Games*

## **TOLO**

MHS Tolo dance is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>  
from 8:00-11:00pm in the high school commons.

Stay tuned more information coming. soon.



## **REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS THROUGH PARCHMENT**

Meridian High School has partnered with parchment.com to fulfill transcript requests for current students and MHS alumni. Transcripts are securely sent electronically to colleges and universities across the nation, resulting in a reduction of lost documents at the programs. The service is free of charge to current students. Alumni pay a small fee. Please make sure that your intended college accepts electronic transcripts.

Please find the "Order Records" button located on the bottom of the MHS website. Current students may come to Mrs. Brinkman or Mrs. Waterman to receive their Parchment access code. Codes will given to the class of 2020 seniors soon.

### **SENIORS**

By this time, all students should have their senior presentation worksheet checked off by their adviser. When the worksheet is approved, the PowerPoint may be started. One-half (approx. 8 slides) of the PowerPoint presentation needs to be shown to the adviser by **February 7th**. Practice presentations are the week of March 23rd and a successful practice is mandatory before presentation day. It may take more than one practice to be ready, and the absolute last day to pass your practice is April 17th. No exceptions. Remember, a successful senior presentation is required for graduation!

The senior luncheon and final presentations are **Thursday, April 23rd at noon** (an early release day). Our time will begin with a catered lunch followed by presentations in small groups. Please make sure your student blocks out this time, especially if they are involved in Running Start.

**If you have questions or concerns, please call Mrs. Waterman at (360) 318-2279 or email at [swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu)**

### **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 26th.



### **CONTACTS FOR CLASS OF 2020 INFORMATION**

Gina Heslep - graduation ceremony  
[gheslep@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:gheslep@meridian.wednet.edu)

Facebook page: Meridian High School Class of 2020

Shannon Waterman— senior presentations, scholarships, and career/  
college visits  
[swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu](mailto:swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu)

## **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](#).

### **Bellingham-Whatcom County Professional Firefighters**

#### **IAFF LOCAL Firefighter Jason Karwhite Memorial Scholarship – due date 1/31/2020**

Pursuing a career in one

of the following fields: fire service, fire sciences, health, emergency medical or medical sciences.

\*Preference may be given to fire service employee/IAFF member children.\*

Minimum 2.5 GPA. Information and applications are available in the library.

### **Asian Pacific Islanders for Professional and**

#### **Community Advancement (APCA) - for all ethnicities – due date 1/31/2020**

<https://inspirasian.us/programs/scholarship-program/>

Minimum GPA 3.4, any ethnicity

### **Washington Fair Foundation - Fair Chance – due date 1/31/2020**

<https://thefairfoundation.awardspring.com/>

Whatcom County student that plans to major in an agricultural related field.

Judging is determined by academics, character, essay and personal interview.

Information and application are available on the website.

### **Elks Legacy Award – due date 1/31/2020**

<http://www.elks.org/ENF/scholars/legacy.cfm>

must be child or grandchild of living Elks member

### **Washington Student Achievement Council - American Indian Scholarship – due date 2/1/2020**

<https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/college/american-indian-endowed-scholarship>

use education to further work in Native American work; college must be in WA state; must have tribal affiliation

### **Washington Opportunity Scholarship (Baccalaureate/4-yr degree) - due date 2/6/2020**

<https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/students/applicants/>

For STEM majors—income limits, must file FAFSA/transcript by Feb. 10

### **BBB Students of Integrity – due date 2/13/2020**

<https://bbbpnw.awardspring.com/>

Up to \$10,000 - Create a 90-second video on how BBB helps people become smart consumers.

Remember to tell a story that makes an impact.

### **Skagit Valley College – due 2/14/2020**

<http://skagitfoundation.org/scholarships/>

Must apply to college first!

### **Whatcom Dollars for Scholars – due date 2/20/20**

[www.whatcom.dollarsforscholars.org/](http://www.whatcom.dollarsforscholars.org/)

One application – multiple scholarships offered

**Meridian Public School Foundation applications will be available in March-date TBD**

## **CAREER CENTER NEWS**

This spring, please encourage your students to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them through the Career Center. We hope to have an after-school workshop on resume writing, interview skills, and other employment topics. Stay tuned!

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](http://Washboard.org)

[Fastweb.com](http://Fastweb.com)

[Scholarships.com](http://Scholarships.com)

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration for the 2020 – 21 school year is fast approaching. The counselors will be meeting with each of the grade levels in early February. The registration process will be slightly different this year as the students will no longer be putting in their own requests into Skyward. That task will be completed by our office staff. However, each of the registration forms are required to have a parent's signature. We will not proceed with inputting the requests without a parent's signature. We absolutely are wanting all of you to be completely aware of the choices being made around next year's classes.

## **GRADUATION PATHWAYS**

The State has created several new avenues to help students graduate high school. They have created eight separate pathways for graduation. Some of these are still being finalized at the state level. Look for more information to be coming soon!

## **COLLEGE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL / RUNNING START**

We will have an information night for all students and parents interested in information concerning College in the High School and Running Start. These opportunities offer both college and high school credit. This meeting is also mandatory for those interested in Running Start on Monday Feb. 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. This is a great opportunity to learn more about these programs.

*The Meridian School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX, ADA, and Compliance Coordinator (RCW 28A.640/28A.642) Kurt Harvill, Director of Personnel, 214 W. Laurel Rd., Bellingham WA 98226. 360-398-7111. Section 504 questions*