



CLASS OF 2020 RESOURCE PAGE

Our Mission – To inspire and challenge active learners to positively impact a changing world.

**ALL NEW INFORMATION ADDED EACH WEEK WILL BE IN RED PRINT
UPDATED May 24, 2020 (there wasn't an update on May 17th)**

CLASS OF 2020 RESOURCES

We are working to put together information to help our seniors both with finishing this spring and in preparation for what each senior is doing after high school.

If you have resources to share or need information that is not on here, please email your counselor and we will work to add resources to this site.

Information is provided in the following categories

- MHS Spring 2020 Info
- College Info
- Financial Aid Info
- Scholarships
- Career / Job Info

MHS SPRING 2020 INFO

Graduation Ceremony Information

The Meridian School District has been able to secure a vendor that will allow us to provide a virtual graduation ceremony that will be recorded on June 5th and then shared “live”. The tentative date of the “live” airing of graduation is Friday, June 12th.

The virtual graduation recording on June 5th will involve students walking across the stage one graduate at a time. Due to the guidelines from the health department, the graduate will not be able to have anyone else with him/her during the recording.

Appointments for individual students to come to school will be set up in the coming week. For now, please know that appointments will take place between 10:30 am and 2 pm on June 5th. Those giving speeches or performing a musical number will be arriving between 9 am and 10 am for their recording.

It is important to remember that Whatcom County will need to be in Phase 2 in order to do this on June 5th. We are not going to sponsor any events that are not within the guidelines of the Whatcom County and State Health Departments' expectations and the Governor's order.

Register To Vote

Starting May 16th, 17-year olds can complete voter registration as they will be old enough to vote in the Presidential Election held on November 6th. Go to <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>

Senior Presentation Graduation Requirement is Waived

Wednesday night the MSD School Board waived this graduation requirement for the Class of 2020. Board members appreciated the work that staff and students had done over the course of the year but followed the recommendation of the MHS staff to waive this graduation requirement given logistics involved and impact on staff and students with everything else taking place this spring

Seniors Need to Stay Engaged in Their Coursework

Seniors still must meet the requirements for their education institutions to earn the credits needed to graduate high school.

- For MHS students that means they need to be engaged in their coursework. A more specific definition will be shared with all students soon. Just give your best effort to get your work done and you will be fine. If current situations are impacting your ability to complete the work, please contact both your teacher and counselor.
- For students participating at WCC, EvCC, BTC or taking online courses from other providers for credit (like BYU), be sure to consult with your education institution for their expectations.
- For students taking credit retrieval with Mr. Kurz and Mr. Hutchinson, you need to follow the expectations shared with your progress report that is emailed each Friday.
- For students taking AP classes or College in the HS courses, there may additional requirements for your courses. Please be sure to confirm those expectations with your teacher.

Other Graduation Requirements are Still in Place

Seniors need to

- Complete their high school and beyond plan
- Have satisfied the Graduation Pathway requirement
- Meet their Washington State History requirement (for many this was done in 7th grade)

Your counselor has been working with you to document that these requirements have been met. If you are not sure, please contact your counselor.

Senior Spotlight

MHS Staff still want to highlight those presentations. Be looking for an opportunity to share your presentation on social media or our website. This is optional for those that want to share.

Graduation Caps & Gowns Pick up

If you didn't pick up your cap and gown, please contact Gina Heslep at gheslep@meridian.wednet.edu

Senior Evening of Excellence

Even though we are still looking at how to recognize you in some way, please send Mrs. Waterman the names of any scholarships you have received so far. If you have already done this, thank you! Her email is swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu.

Ordering Transcripts

To order transcripts, go to

- <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/25174/account> OR
- the Meridian High School website. Under Families and Students/Resources you will find Order Transcripts through Parchment.

If you do not know your code to set up a profile please contact Mrs. Brinkman at rbrinkman@meridian.wednet.edu Remember that you will need to order one sent to your college or university at the end of the year. They will go out after all grades are posted.

HSBP and Graduation Pathway

To graduate it is still required that you have completed your High School and Beyond Plan and have met your Graduation Pathway requirements. Some students may be eligible to have their Graduation Pathway waived.

Expedited Assessment Appeals (EAA) Waiver: It is required that the student, through one of the options below, show that they have attained the skills and knowledge to meet the high school standards and possess the skills necessary to successfully achieve college or career goals established in their HSBP.

- Admission to a higher education institution or career preparation program
- Award of a scholarship for higher education
- Enlist in a branch of the military

Please contact your counselor if you are interested in knowing more about the EAA waiver.

COLLEGE INFO

Washington Public Four-Year College & Universities COVID-19 FAQ

The link provides questions and answers concerning fall 2020 admissions, fall 2020 transfer applicants, financial aid, info for prospective students and contact information <https://councilofpresidents.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information-resources/washington-public-four-year-college-universities-covid-19-faq/>

BTC Virtual Info Session

Click [HERE](#) to register

BTC Next Steps: find a helpful chart [HERE](#)

College Virtual Tours - tinyurl.com/u768vby

- [Verto Spring Virtual College Fair](#)
- <https://www.ecampustours.com/>
- <https://campustours.com/>
- <https://www.youvisit.com/colledesearch/>

NACAC offers online information to help students understand the college admissions status during the COVID-19 response: <https://www.nacacnet.org/college-admission-status-coronavirus>.

NCAA Information

<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/open-letter-ncaa-student-athletes>

College Planning - [Cappex](#)

University of Washington admissions page - <https://admit.washington.edu/covid-19/>

Whatcom Community College English and Math Placement

Contact - Carmen Green, cgreen@whatcom.edu | 360.383.3002 | *ZOOM appointments available!*

www.instagram.com/outreachwcc

ENGLISH

Students who have applied to WCC, who have a Student ID Number and access to their [MyWCC](#) student portal can still do the [Informed Self Placement for English here](#).

Students who are having trouble accessing the ISP for English, or who would prefer to work directly with me for English Placement, can use the attached document titled [English Placement Guidance for student](#).

- This document provides descriptions of each English Course offered

MATH

Because we can no longer host on-campus proctored Math Placement Tests at this time, [students can work directly with me to select](#) a Math Placement.

- The philosophy right now is to simplify the process for students, and to provide them with the autonomy to make a good choice.
- § Students who have applied to WCC, who have a Student ID Number and access to their [MyWCC](#) student portal may want to take a *PRACTICE ALEKS* Math Placement Test *independently from home* for their own

- Students will simply choose a class and email me (cgreen@whatcom.edu) with that choice and I will enter their placement choice manually

understanding of their math abilities, and how they align with WCC math courses.

- § Students can also use the attached document titled *Math Placement via Transcripts All High Schools* to see what course their most recent grade in their most recent math class places them into.

- § Students can also use the attached document titled *Math Course Descriptions* to get a sense of what each math class at WCC entails, and make a decision based on that information.

- With one/a combination of the three measure above, students must simply email me (cgreen@whatcom.edu) with their Math Placement choice and I will enter their placement manually
- If students are unsure about what course would be the best fit for them, I can help them use the tools attached to make a strong choice. We can connect via EMAIL, PHONE, or ZOOM

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid Appeals - Colleges May Adjust Financial Aid Based on Change in Circumstances

If someone in your family has lost a job or is working less, colleges may be able to provide more financial aid. Colleges may **adjust financial aid** based on a student's or parent's job loss, reduced income, loss of benefits (like child support), or even extraordinary medical or dental bills. Each situation is different, and colleges' requirements vary, so students should contact the financial aid office to talk about options:

- If you've already filed a 2020-21 FAFSA or WASFA, talk to the financial aid office about your situation.
- If you haven't applied for financial aid, it's not too late. **Submit your application**, then follow up with the college to discuss changes.

Learn more about **financial aid appeals** and **planning for the future** during COVID on the Washington Student Achievement Council website.

Don't let financial aid myths limit your options for the future

Think you can't afford college or career education? Financial aid helps many students pay for education after high school, and more families in Washington are now eligible. Even if you didn't qualify before, you might now!

Myth #1: My parents make too much money, so I won't qualify for financial aid.

Fact: Applying for financial aid is the only way to know for sure whether you qualify. With the new Washington College Grant, an eligible student from a family of four making up to around \$97,000 per year can receive some money for their education.

Myth #2: Financial aid only pays for universities. That takes four years—I need to start working now.

Fact: Financial aid can be used for many types of full-time or part-time education, including career and technical schools, community colleges, some apprenticeships, and yes, universities too. You have options!

Myth #3: I can't apply for financial aid, because I don't know what I'm going to do after high school.

Fact: You can complete a FAFSA or WASFA financial aid application before applying for college or training. You can make your final choice about whether and where to go later, and you'll know more about what you can afford.

Learn more and [apply for financial aid](#) on the Washington Student Achievement Council website.

Swift Student- tool to help students write for appeal based on special circumstances i.e. change in income due to Covid 19. <https://formswift.com/swift-student>

The FAFSA opens Oct. 1 each year. Fill it out as soon as possible. We will have a FAFSA help night each fall.

www.fafsa.org (for U.S. citizens)

<http://www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa> (for non-citizens)

OTTER" Chatbox Provides Student Support and Financial Aid Info

Otterbot is a free texting service designed to help Washington high school seniors navigate financial aid for college and career education.

- Students can access Otterbot via text message 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by text texting "Hi Otter" to 360-928-7281.
- Otter sends periodic messages with financial aid information, resources, and deadlines.
- Students can text Otter with questions about financial aid, college planning, and more.

For more info please visit www.wsac.wa.gov/otterbot.

Attention Prospective College Bound Scholars Recipients you must complete the FAFSA or WASFA (undocumented student) to receive aid. www.fafsa.gov
Reminder all seniors should apply!

SCHOLARSHIP INFO

MHS Scholarship Database

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16ANIWuw5s1mLnBsy5EcrlxKaTvBh3zHTjbsE8nXGsyA/edit?usp=sharing>

Other Scholarship Sources

www.scholarships.com

www.washboard.org (WA schools only)

www.fastweb.com

LendEDU.com

Don't hesitate to apply - almost everyone gets some amount! If you have questions, please let me know.

~Mrs. Waterman

Highlighted Scholarship

This is a great scholarship for anyone going into the trades and planning to get a certificate, enter an apprenticeship program or get your associate's degree in a trades-related field!

The **Career and Technical Scholarship** is now open for Washington residents of any age planning to go to community or technical college on their path to a high-demand, family-wage career in the trades, STEM or health care. This scholarship offers \$1,500 per quarter in scholarship funding for anyone planning to enter the workforce after earning their certificate, apprenticeship and associate degree. The scholarship can be used to cover tuition, fees and other costs of attendance like housing, transportation, food and more.

The application closes on June 4 at 11:59 pm. Visit our website to learn more, then watch this **video** for tips about how to apply! Haga **clic aquí** para obtener más información en español.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at awards@waopportunityscholarship.org.

CAREER / JOB INFO

Explore your options post high school <https://compass.wsac.wa.gov/>

For students who want to explore military career option in any of the branches www.careerinthemilitary.com

Every day at 3:30pm, starting May 4th, students can engage in 30-45 minute live sessions hosted via Zoom and live streamed on YouTube. Students will hear about Washington-based jobs that might align with their interests and goals, and engage in employer-created challenges. Information and recordings of previous discussions will be posted at [CareerConnect@Home](#).

Each week there is a different theme and different companies that will be sharing information about their jobs and answering students' questions.

Sample Resumes - <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/high-school-resume-examples-and-writing-tips-2063554>

Reume Tips - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1x9bvg4A0zEgSzUPX-cTFsDKIewsqocK_mMJ68iTVxVk/edit#slide=id.p

Resume Builder - [Resume Builder](#)

Career Planning & Research
[Career Information & Links](#)
[Washington Career Bridge](#)

Career Search
[Worksource](#) – community resource for job-related information (resume help, job searches, etc.)
[MyNextMove](#) – career searches, surveys
[Washington Dept. of Labor](#) - apprenticeships
[Jobs in Health Care](#)