

About the Meridian School District and Community

The Meridian School District is located in Whatcom County, about five miles north of Bellingham, a city of 60,000. The district has an area of approximately 36 square miles of mostly fertile farm land with a population estimated at 5,000. In addition to farming and agribusiness, residents work in the variety of businesses and industries throughout Whatcom County.

The District serves approximately 1,500 students in grades K-12 and preschool handicapped. The district has four schools (K-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12). The District has about 200 employees and an annual operating budget of approximately \$13 million.

Over the past years the district has upgraded its facilities either through new construction or modernization projects. In 1996 the community passed a bond issue to provide a district-wide fiber network to all classrooms and offices. In 2001, bond funding was approved to construct a new gymnasium at Meridian Middle School and to complete other miscellaneous facility improvements. In 2006, a long-range facilities plan was completed to guide district decisions regarding future new construction and modernization projects as needed.

Meridian schools endeavor to provide strong programs in the basic areas of language, mathematics, science, and social studies. To provide a comprehensive education, attention is given to art, music, health, physical education and foreign language. Career and Technical Education class offerings at Meridian High School include agriculture, business education, family and consumer science and industrial arts/technology.

An excellent special education program is provided for students with handicapping conditions. Remediation programs exist in reading and mathematics. High achieving students are challenged by extension of the regular curriculum, clubs, and interscholastic competitions. School and community sports programs provide elementary and secondary students opportunities to participate.

The headquarters of Whatcom Community College is located near the district's southern boundary. Western Washington University, a four-year public institution with an enrollment of nearly 10,000 students, is located in Bellingham. It is recognized as an outstanding liberal arts university with a strong program in teacher education. Bellingham Technical College is also located in Bellingham.

The Meridian School District lies in the heart of ski-to-sea country with the salt waters and islands of Puget Sound to the west and the Mt. Baker National Forest to the east. Bellingham and WWU provide opportunities for entertainment and cultural enrichment activities and events.