**Principal’s Message**

It is truly amazing to stop for a moment to realize we are already more than half-way through March, 2012! A lot of great things have occurred this year at MHS. For starters, the Career & Technical Education (CTE) building is nearing completion. We will move Mrs. Tronsdal, Mr. Holz, Mr. Vande Putte, and Mr. Feller into that building over spring break! It’s hard to imagine that area behind the library was just grass and dirt last September! We will have a dedication ceremony for the community on April 26. Plan to view the building and get a sense of the quality facilities we will have at MHS!

During the second week of March we completed the HSPE, MAP, and ASVAB testing. Thank you for encouraging your students to be at school with us! We still have Math and Science End Of Course (EOC) testing to do…but those will occur in their particular classrooms and during the last three weeks of school. But, please be aware that they are coming!

We are currently updating our course catalog. Know that registration is going to occur later this spring and I encourage parents and students to work together when making scheduling decisions. Our counselors are available for your questions, too. 360-398-8111. I’d like you to be aware of some upcoming events:

- On April 26th we will welcome the community to a CTE Open House & Celebration. This will provide us the opportunity to share our CTE programs and introduce our new superintendent before the school board’s regular monthly meeting.
- Our next Parent Roundtable is now on Thursday, April 19 from 6:00-7:00pm in the MHS library. (It was set for April 26!)

Thank you for your incredible support this year. We have huge amounts of students participating in music and athletics. We are looking forward to a fantastic spring and finishing the year strong!

**Important Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>School Building Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-6 Spring Break</td>
<td>Evening of Excellence May 29, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Jostens to deliver grad items</td>
<td>The MHS Evening of Excellence is a special event designed to celebrate our students for their academic success and scholarship awards. The evening will begin at 6:30pm in the high school auditorium. Families of students being recognized will receive invitations in mid-May. We hope you will plan on joining us for this special evening.</td>
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| 19 Parent Roundtable 6-7:00pm, MHS Library | Mock Trial
| 19 Talent Show Grades K-8 7:00pm | On February 25th Meridian’s Mock Trial team won the District Championship for the sixth time in a row. They then went on to compete at the State Competition in Olympia where they finished in a very impressive 4th place! Congratulations to Mr. Lawrence and his talented team. |
| 20 Talent Show Grades 9-12 7:00pm | Talent Show
| 21 Talent Show Finals 7:00pm | The theme this year is “A Night at the Grammy’s”. We are looking forward to three nights of great entertainment. Please join us as we celebrate the talented students of the Meridian School District. All shows are held in the MHS auditorium. Dates and times are listed under “Important Dates To Remember”.
| 25 Early Release at 12:10pm, Grad Project Banquet Panel Presentations | Conferences
| 26 CTE Open House & Celebration! | Spring conferences will be held on Monday, March 26 in the cafeteria from 3:30-7:00. Please take this opportunity to meet with your student’s teachers to ask questions and check on their progress. |

**May**

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<td>5 Prom</td>
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<td>28 Memorial Day-No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Evening of Excellence 6:30pm Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Early Release at 12:10pm</td>
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<td>30 Grad. Project Panel Presentation Make up</td>
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**June**

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<td>4 All District Choir Festival 7:00pm</td>
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<td>4 Athletic Clearance Deadline for Summer Activities</td>
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<td>5 All District Band Festival 7:00pm</td>
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<td>12 MHS BBQ &amp; Moving Up Assembly</td>
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<td>12 Baccalaureate 7:00 pm Auditorium</td>
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<td>14 Graduation 7:00 pm MHS Gymnasium</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Last Day of School, Early Release at 12:10</td>
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Career and Technical Education Building

We will host an evening of celebration on April 26th as we share the new MHS CTE building, welcome the new superintendent, and host the monthly school board meeting. We will have MHS CTE staff on hand to share their programs and answer questions. Please mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, April 26th to celebrate at MHS!

MHS Athletics

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.

Sports physicals will be given at Bellingham High School on May 29th from 7:30-8:30pm. They are for high school students only, and the cost is $10.00. Physicals are good for two years.

Athletes planning to participate in camps during the summer need to have the 2012/2013 eligibility form completed and turned in to Mrs. Heslep by June 4th.

AP Test Information

Students in AP classes were given registration forms to sign-up for AP exams. The forms are to be returned with your payment to Mrs. Heslep in the Attendance Office no later than April 15th. Cost is $87 per exam unless you qualify for a fee reduction. To qualify for an AP test fee reduction, you need to be eligible for free/or 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. These forms are also available from Mrs. Heslep. Qualifying would entitle you to take up to three exams for a cost of $38 per test. Additional funds are available to all AP students who could apply their newly funded CIS dollars of $75 to help pay for their AP tests. They would then just have to pay the remaining difference. All AP students could also choose to pay for the tests in 2 payments with 1/2 due March 15th, and 1/2 due April 15th. Please contact Mrs. Kheriaty with any questions. All AP exams start at 8:00am and are on the following dates:

- AP Calculus Wednesday, May 9, 2012
- AP Literature Thursday, May 10, 2012
- AP Biology Monday, May 14, 2012
- AP Government Tuesday, May 15, 2012
- AP Language Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Class of 2012

A representative from Jostens will be on campus on Friday, April 13th during both lunches to pass out caps/gowns, announcements and any other items you ordered. If you are unable to pick up your items during that time, and you have paid in full, Jostens will leave your items at the school and you can pick them up from Mrs. Erickson. If you have not paid for your items, Jostens will send them to you when you have paid in full.
MHS Music Department

There are exciting things happening in the music department! Our three concert ensembles: Chamber Choir, Concert Choir and Concert Band just finished building toward their SJMEA large group festival. All three ensembles performed beautifully at their respective festivals. This March marks the best these groups have sounded in the past four years! Mr. DeGrace has not seen this level of rehearsal etiquette and work-ethic in a group of students. The future is bright in this area!

Students have taken advantage of a number of individual musical opportunities. Stevan Worrell and Pearl Petaia took part in the Northwest Honor Band at the beginning of January. On January 28th, 12 entries represented Meridian in the SJMEA Solo/Ensemble contest. Two students represented Meridian at the Prestigious WMEA All-State Festival: Jayna Edmonds sang Alto in the All-State Symphonic Choir and Pearl Petaia played Clarinet in the All-State Wind Symphony.

Now with a few months under their belts, the MHS Monday Night Drumline is starting to play VERY well together and will turn some heads this spring during parade season and into next fall during football season! Rehearsals will continue into the summer!

There are a number of events to look forward to: On May 19th, Our Marching Band will travel and perform in the Port Townsend Rhododendron Festival Parade as well as spend an afternoon enjoying the town. The following Saturday on May 26th, the band will represent Meridian in our 'hometown' Ski to Sea parade in downtown Bellingham. On June 2nd, all MHS musicians have the opportunity to take a trip to Seattle to enjoy the world famous Seattle Symphony. Our concert season will finish up with our All-District Choir Festival on Monday, June 4th and All-District Band Festival on Tuesday, June 5th. Drop by and see us perform!

Registration is just around the corner. There are so many opportunities in the music department. Become part of something special. Make Concert Band or Concert Choir part of your school day - then think about auditioning for one of our select ensembles. You may find that music is an interest you didn't think you had!

Plant Sale

It's finally spring and time to work in our yards and to add splashes of color to brighten our days. Our horticultural students have planted huge hanging baskets consisting of petunia and mixed flower baskets, vegetable starts, and a large selection of annuals.

Mark your calendar to attend our plant sale, which will take place in our greenhouse.

Thursday, May 3rd 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Friday, May 4th 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Saturday, May 5th 10:00 - 4:00 pm
COUNSELOR’S CORNER

REGISTRATION
Students will once again submit class requests and register on-line this spring. We are currently reviewing course offerings and setting up the master schedule. Parents will be able to review the registration material that your student will be instructed to bring home so that you can help them make informed choices about their classes for the 2012-13 school year. The high school dates for registration have not been finalized. As in years past, the order of registration will be as follows: next year’s seniors; juniors; sophomores. Incoming freshmen registration will be during the day on April 17th—at the middle school. We will then host an evening informational gathering at the high school in the evening, starting at 7:00pm. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter!

SENIORS
By this time, all seniors expecting to graduate should have completed the portfolio, and the applied activity portions of their Graduation Projects. All seniors who met these requirements should have scheduled to practice their presentations with their advisors on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 21st, an early release day. Successful completion of the Graduation Project is required for graduation and for participation in the commencement ceremony.

Colleges will consider final grades for both first and second semesters of a student’s senior year so please encourage your “waning seniors” to continue to work hard as they approach the end of the year. Requests for final transcripts that need to be mailed to colleges after second semester need to be filled out and turned in to Mrs. Brinkman before the end of the school year.

FINANCIAL AID
Many seniors have been receiving letters of acceptance and offers of financial aid. In most cases, seniors who have been accepted to a 4-year college or university have until May 1st to inform the school of their decision to attend. A deposit needs to be included in order to guarantee the space will be held. It is also important to inform colleges if a student is declining acceptance, as that space can then be offered to another student. Early application for housing can also help a student obtain his/her preferred room assignment.

Students needing financial aid or scholarships for 2 year or 4 year colleges or technical schools need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. They also need to be checking the scholarship list regularly which is now available on-line @ the Meridian High School website. All seniors planning to attend a 2 or 4 year college should complete the application for the Meridian Public School Foundation. April 20th is the deadline to return the application to Mrs. Stephens. She and I will complete the Counselor portion of the application once the applications are submitted.

Please have your student inform Mrs. Stephens of any scholarship offers he/she is awarded, so that recognition may be given at the Evening of Excellence.

If you have any questions regarding your senior’s graduation status, please feel free to contact Mrs. Kheriaty. All graduation requirements must be met in order for seniors to participate in the graduation ceremony on June 14th.

SOPHOMORES/JUNIORS
Applications are currently available for the following inter-high school programs for current sophomores and juniors. Next year in cooperation with the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, MHS will host both the Construction Career Academy and the Academy of Engineering. These classes offer an incredible opportunity to explore construction-related and engineering careers, gain valuable skills, and possibly earn college credit. Applications are available in the Career Center.
Juniors planning on attending a 4-year college are advised to register for the SAT or ACT this spring. The tests may be repeated in the fall if students hope to improve their scores. Students can register online @ collegeboard.org or act.org. The CEEB code for Meridian High School is #480-080. Students should have their scores sent to 4 colleges they are currently considering attending, as those scores will be sent free of charge. The registration deadline for the May 5th SAT test is April 6th. The registration deadline for the June 2nd test is May 8th. The deadline for the June 9th ACT is May 4th.

Juniors should begin researching their options for 4-year colleges now. Start by checking out college websites. Spring and summer break are good times to visit potential college choices. You can set up appointments with Admissions offices or become part of a tour weekend on-line or by phone. A visit can tell a student so much about how well a college matches their needs.

Information on college application timelines and financial aid are available in the Counseling Center. Students should plan to apply to college early next fall in order to maximize their chances for scholarships and admission.

Juniors and their parents will have the opportunity to attend information sessions on the Graduation Project this spring (date to be determined). Students will have to submit their Applied Activity proposal form shortly after those meetings. This gives students the opportunity to have their proposal approved and completed over the summer which can significantly reduce student stress senior year.

**HSPE TESTING**

We have completed the HSPE Reading and Writing testing for all sophomores and juniors and seniors who had not yet met standard.

Mrs. Stephens and I met with small groups of freshmen during the HSPE test time. We helped them explore their interests and links to possible careers, evaluated their credits and progress toward graduation and began to consider their 4-year plan for future scheduling. We also discussed post-high school options and the impact of education on their future goals. It is easy for students to focus on the present and not realize the importance of planning for the future. All of us are aware of the challenging time economically. For our children to be able to eventually be independent, they need to graduate and be prepared to take advantage of future educational experiences. We are so fortunate to have Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Community College, and Western Washington University in our backyard.

Let’s hope spring is arriving soon!

*Elaine Kheriaty*
CAREER CENTER NEWS

GRADUATION PROJECT

SENIORS

- The Applied Activity, Portfolio and Practice Presentations should be completed.

The Senior Luncheon and Final Presentation will be on **April 25th 12:00 – 3:00.**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILLARY PROGRAMS

BOYS STATE

This is a week-long simulation of Washington State Government. It is held on the campus of Central Washington University, June 17 – 23rd. Male high school juniors are the only candidates. Contact Mrs. Stephens for more information and visit the website [www.evergreenboysstate.org](http://www.evergreenboysstate.org) for the application.

GIRLS STATE

This is a nationwide program for girls who have just completed their junior year at high school. It is a week-long simulation of Washington State government. It is being held on the Central Washington University campus June 10-16th. See Mrs. Stephens for an application or Visit the website [www.walegion-aux.org](http://www.walegion-aux.org) and click on programs to apply.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS**

**Assistance League of Bellingham** offers scholarships up to **$1,000** for eligible students who want to attend a summer Program. Pick up an application from Mrs. Stephens. Completed application must be returned no later than April 11, 2012.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

SUMMER ADVANTAGE

**Students, who will be attending WSU** for the first time in the fall, have an opportunity to attend the Summer Advantage. It is a 5 week seven-credit mini-semester from June 22nd– July 27th. It provides students an early start and help in adjusting to the academic and social demands of college life. Pick up a brochure in the career center/library or email [advantage@wsu.edu](mailto:advantage@wsu.edu) for more information.

Energy Week

Through a hands-on approach, students will learn about solar, wind, hydro and geothermal energy. They will learn how it is produced, consumed and how energy is creating career opportunities. As a team, they will create a proposal convincing home contractors to use the latest energy tools.

July 22-28th – Central Washington University

Get Ampt

You will be part of a team working on real life business scenarios in manufacturing. You will learn about many career opportunities.

July 14-30th – Western Washington University

For more information and to register go to [www.wbw.org](http://www.wbw.org)
WASHINGTON BUSINESS WEEK SUMMER PROGRAMS

This is a summer program for high school students where they have a week-long, hands-on learning experience. They stay at a college and explore the real-world with their teammates by working in interactive simulations. They can also earn college credit!

Business Week

This program is great for any career track. Students create “companies” and compete in an interactive business simulation to develop and market products while pitching their company to investors and trying to keep stock prices rising.

- June 24-30th Western Washington University
- July 8-14th Gonzaga University
- July 22-28th Central Washington University
- Aug 5-Aug 11th Pacific Lutheran University

Healthcare Week

“Clinics” of students participate in an interactive simulation where they assume operation of a low-cost health clinic. They will learn about the business of healthcare and have an opportunity to explore careers.

July 8-14th – Gonzaga University
August 5-11th – Pacific Lutheran University

COLLEGE QUEST

High School students can experience college life this summer from July 15-20th at Western Washington University.

College Quest offers a “real College” experience for high school students entering grades 10-12. They will be college students; living in the dorms, completing a college course, and earning one college credit. They can pick from the following topics:

- Multicultural Analysis of Children’s Literature for the Classroom
- Writing for the State
- Film/Video Production
- Health/Physical Education
- Environmental Science & Sustainability

More information on the Web at www.wwu.edu/collegequest

UW NURSE CAMP- June 25-29th

There is a free week-long camp for students who are currently sophomores or juniors and interested in learning about the nursing field. Some of the activities will be:

Shadowing nurses at the UW Medical Center in various units, getting your CPR certificate. Learning how to prepare for college, having a chance to learn in the School of Nursing Learning Lab, and connect with nurses, students and faculty at the University of Washington.

See Mrs. Stephens in the Library/Career Center for more information or go online to:

http://www.son.washington.edu/diversity/dawg/nursecamp/

Application deadline is April 15th
THE ECOLOGY YOUTH CORPS:
This is an opportunity for teens who want to help clean the environment and earn money
Go to http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eyc/nwro.html for an application. Completed applications and reference forms must be received by April 10, 2012

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MERIDIAN SENIORS
Mt. Baker Rotary Scholarship
They award a scholarship to Meridian seniors. It is due April 15th so there is still time to apply. See Mrs. Stephens for the application.

Meridian Public School Foundation Scholarship:
The Meridian Public School Foundation provides scholarships for Meridian graduates who plan to attend a 4 year or 2 year college. Some of the scholarships are awarded for specific course of study or for certain schools. For example, there are some outstanding scholarships for students who plan to attend WSU and pursue agricultural or engineering studies. Also, the FFA scholarship and the Big Kahuna Scholarship are through the Meridian Public School Foundation. Applications are due April 20, 2012.
There will be an informational evening for parents of 8th grade students planning to attend Meridian High School as freshmen in the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. James Everett (Principal), Mr. Don McMains and Mrs. Elaine Kheriaty (Counselors) will be presenting registration packets to MMS students Monday & Tuesday, April 16th & 17th. This informational meeting will give parents the opportunity to ask questions and understand the materials coming home.

See you there!