



August 2009

Meridian High School

Shared Mission

"To educate all students for improved achievement"

Shared Vision

"Creating a fun and challenging learning environment while demonstrating respect, integrity, and tolerance for all"

Principal's Message

Greetings:

I hope all of you have had the opportunity to enjoy the incredible summer weather we have been having in the Pacific Northwest! As summer begins to draw to a close the staff of Meridian High School is busily preparing for the upcoming school year.

We are excited to implement the new bell schedule this year. Meridian High School will be on an 8 period schedule. Periods 1-4 will meet on black days and periods 5-8 will meet on gold days. Black and gold days will alternate each day of the week. Please check out the calendar on-line by visiting our website www.meridian.wednet.edu. This new schedule has given us the opportunity to offer a variety of classes and programs to meet the academic needs of our students.

I am looking forward to working with all of the students, staff, and parents to make this year both positive and productive! The goal of the Meridian High School staff is to provide a quality educational experience that not only gives students necessary academic skills in the classroom, but one that prepares all students for continued career and educational endeavors after high school.

Just a reminder that school starts very late this school year-the first day of school is September 8.

Important Dates to Remember

School Building Updates

August

17&18-Sports Participation Fee Pay Day
8:30-2:30 MHS Office

September

3-Orientation & ASB Pre-Sale MHS Auditorium
Freshmen 9:30-11:00
Seniors, Juniors & Sophomores 11:30-1:00
8-First Day of School 8:00-2:30
11-Picture Day
23-Open House @ 6:30
30-Early release @ 12:10

October

2-Staff in-service. No school for students
9-Picture make up and re-take day
10-Homecoming Dance
28-Early release @ 12:10.

November

9-Veterans Day Assembly
11-Veterans Day. No school.
16-Winter Sports Practice Begins
18-MHS Blood Drive
19-Josten's to meet with Senior Class 9:00am
23-Parent/Teacher conferences. Early Release
at 12:10
25-Early release @ 12:10
26&27-Thanksgiving Break. No school

Class schedules for the 2009-2010 school year will be handed out at the class orientation for Freshmen and on the first day of school for everyone else. **No changes will be made to student's schedules before the first day of school.** If changes are necessary, students will be notified of the proper procedures to follow and given forms to complete on the first day of school.

Calendars, school information, e-mail addresses and phone numbers can be found on the main District website or at each school website at www.meridian.wednet.edu.

School pictures for those who choose to purchase them and photo identification cards for all students will be done by Artiem Studios on September 11.

A Note from the Registrar

Please remember to keep your address and phone numbers current so that mailings and report cards will be received in a timely manner. If your student did not receive their report card call the office to find out if a fine is involved.

If you are withdrawing your student from Meridian School District please remember to formally withdraw them from the school office. It is important to let the high school know to avoid hang-ups with the transfer.

The registrar will be available beginning Monday, August 24 for transcript requests, withdrawal and enrollment questions and forms.

New Staff

Over the course of the summer several new staff members have joined the Meridian High School family.

Mr. Sonny Gnuthake comes to us from Burlington Edison High School where he taught Special Services for the last five years. Mr. Gnuthake previously worked at Meridian High School as a para professional in our Special Services Department. Mr. Gnuthake will be teaching in the Independent Learning Center.

Mr. Rob Burkett joins us from the Camas School District where he taught Special Services for the last four years. Prior to teaching in Camas, Mr. Burkett worked at Meridian High School for eight years. He will be teaching in the Special Services Department and the Independent Learning Center.

Mrs. Lynnette DeLaMare joins us from IRPS. She will be assisting students in the Independent Learning Center.

Mrs. Gina Heslep joins us from private industry and will be working as secretarial support for the Athletic Director and the Counseling Department. She will be a member of the Academic Emphasis Team.

Mrs. Mary Wilson will be working with the Academic Emphasis Team as a bilingual tutor.

Welcome to all of the new staff members!!

New MHS Programs

This year MHS will be introducing four new academic programs. The goal of these four separate programs will be to provide opportunities for student academic success. Each one of the programs will have a specific focus.

Academic Course Support

This class is designed to give students the opportunity to complete assignments, research and study under the direction of a certificated staff member. All students have the option of taking this class as an elective.

Guided Study

This class is designed to provide academic support in specific academic content areas under the direction of a content certificated staff member. Students are assigned to this class based on staff recommendation, academic history, and choice.

Independent Learning Center

The Independent Learning Center is designed as an educational option for students who are not making sufficient academic progress. Classes in this program will be smaller and individualized to meet student needs. Students are placed in this program based on administrative, parent, student and counselor input.

Academic Emphasis Team

The purpose of the Academic Emphasis Team is to track student academic progress on a regular basis. The primary focus of the team is to *catch* students before they get behind academically, monitor attendance, and make regular contact home.

Thank You Whatcom North Rotary

Thank you to Whatcom North Rotary for another donation of time and resources. Meridian High School has 18 new computer lab tables thanks to a summer work party of Rotarians, community and high school staff. The new lab will support 35 new computers (some of which were also donated by the Rotary Club) and serve both the high school and the Whatcom Literacy Council. Whatcom North Rotary also built picnic tables this past spring that are enjoyed by both students and staff. We appreciate the time, resources and community spirit the Rotary Club has shared with Meridian High School.

Meridian High School-Fall Sports 2009-2010

Listed below is information for any student wishing to participate in the upcoming fall sports season. **The following paperwork must be submitted prior to participation in extra-curricular athletics.**

1. Every student athlete must turn in a fully signed Meridian School District Eligibility Form. This form features the *Medical Release, Parent Approval, Proof of Insurance, and Extra-Curricular Code* on one side, with the sports physical form on the other.
2. A current physical. If you are unsure as to the expiration of your last physical, please contact your coach who will know.
3. School insurance is available for those student-athletes needing insurance coverage. All student-athletes must have insurance to participate. School insurance forms can be located in the main office or outside the athletic office.
4. ASB Membership (\$30) for the 2009-2010 school year. All students must be ASB members in order to participate in extra-curricular activities.
5. Participation fee (\$100 per sport). To be paid on August 17-18 from 8:30 - 2:30. For details, see: <http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs/sports/sindex.htm>

Starting dates for students who are cleared to participate:

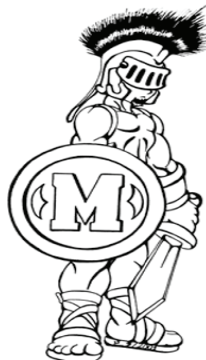
Football: **Wednesday, August 19th**

Girls Soccer, Volleyball, and Cross Country: **Monday, August 24th**

Also:

Unpaid fines from previous years need to be paid in the main office at your earliest convenience. Remember, students who owe fines are not eligible to participate in sports, clubs, activities or claim their report cards until fines are paid.

Go Trojans!!





WELCOME FRESHMAN ORIENTATION: SEPT. 3RD 9:30 – 11:00AM

Please join us for our *very important* **Freshman Orientation** on **Thursday, September 3, 2009** from **9:30 am -11:00 am**. We begin the morning in the MHS cafeteria with a **welcome** assembly. Leadership students will guide you on campus tours and help you with lockers. You will be able to purchase annuals, ASB cards and put money on your breakfast and lunch accounts (and pay any fines or other fees). *We will close our morning with lunch and refreshments!* Mark your calendars and feel free to call the MHS office @ 398-8111 if you have any questions.

FAQs

When does school start?

The first day of school is September 8.

What should I bring to Orientation?

*A completed **ASB envelope** (included in this newsletter)*

How much does everything cost?

Annuals: \$55 ASB Cards: \$30
Breakfast: \$1.50 Lunch: \$2.75 Milk: \$.50

Who do I make the CHECKS out to?

Please make checks out to **MHS**. Make **one** check out for meal money and **one** check for ASB cards/Annuals.

What supplies do I need for school?

Be prepared with pen & pencil, notebook, and paper. Once classes begin, your teachers may have additional supply requests. We will provide you with a **Student Handbook/Planner** the first week of class.

Parents are welcome to attend – a special Parent/Guardian session will be held following the 9:30 assembly. Bring your questions – it is our hope that we begin your student's high school career on the path to success! Contact Jill Iwasaki 318-2281 or jiwasaki@meridian.wednet.edu for more information or if you have questions and cannot make the September 3rd event.

Returning Student Orientation Date

Please join us on **Thursday, September 3 from 11:30-1:00PM** in the cafeteria for our Returning Student Orientation, where you'll have an opportunity to pay any fines or fees, sign up for lockers, purchase ASB cards and annuals, and put money into your meal accounts. Please fill out and bring the enclosed ASB envelope with you. **We ask that you bring two separate checks**, one for ASB/Annual and one for lunch money. Checks should be made payable to MHS. Schedules will be available the first day of school in the cafeteria from 7:30-8:00 AM. Please note: ASB cards are \$30, Annuals are \$55, and Parking is \$30.