



Student Handbook 2009-10

This agenda belongs to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

ZIP CODE _____ STUDENT NO. _____

PHONE _____

Mission Statement

To educate all students for improved achievement.

Shared Vision

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

Introduction

Welcome to Meridian High School! By working together, we can help ensure that attending high school will be a fun and rewarding experience. You can invest in your future by putting forth your best effort, both academically and through participation in extra-curricular activities. Your Meridian High School experience will be shaped by your choices and involvement. In other words, your high school experience will be what *you* want it to be!

Meridian High School offers courses and programs designed to help students with varied interests and abilities grow academically, physically and socially. Included are programs in business, music, home and family life, physical education, agriculture, technology, the arts, English, social studies, world languages, science and mathematics. In addition, juniors and seniors are eligible to participate in the Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College through Running Start and in cooperative programs with other educational institutions. Students at Meridian High School are encouraged to enrich their four years by becoming involved in student government, athletics, class-sponsored activities, clubs and other extra-curricular activities.

The Meridian School District believes in fostering respect and recognition of cultural diversity, human dignity, and individual rights. In this regard, the district complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extra-curricular activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RW28A.640/Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Fredrika Smith (360-398-7111), Meridian School District, 214 W Laurel Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226.

This handbook is important and needs to be read carefully. If you have questions regarding any information contained in this handbook, please inquire in the office.

ASB OFFICERS

President	Lydia Hazel
Vice President	Cailean McWhorter
Secretary	Emma Dickson
Treasurer	Aime Hofbauer
Publicity Mgr.	Kaitelyn Michaelson

CLASS OFFICERS

Senior (2010)

President
Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Rep/Historian

Junior (2011)

President
Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Rep/Historian

Sophomore (2012)

President
Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Rep/Historian

Freshman (2013)

President
Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Rep/Historian

Mr. Armerding

Brycen Campfield
Austin Oltman
TBA
TBA

Mr. Gulyas

Eli Pratt
Jacob Hazel
TBA
TBA

Mr. Jacoby

J.J. Hansen
Heidi Hoyt
Glendy Gallardo
Kela Goodwin

Mrs. Erickson

Evan Childs
Trinell Carpenter
Kelsea Clark
Mystra Mezo

School Board Representatives: Chris Holland & Joel Wiebe

BEHAVIORAL PHILOSOPHY AND EXPECTATIONS

To function effectively and safely, a group must have rules and regulations. These are a reflection of the needs of a particular group at a particular time and are subject to change as the needs of the group change. One way to deal with a new environment is to know what the new rules and expectations are; therefore, please read this handbook thoroughly.

All faculty and adult staff members share the responsibility of seeing that Meridian High School rules are followed. Whenever any teacher or staff member gives a direct instruction to a student, that student must follow the instruction. This is not only a school rule but a Washington State Law.

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Behavior expectations and discipline policies outlined in this handbook are based upon School Board Policies and Procedures. All students who attend Meridian High School are expected to comply with the written rights and responsibilities of the Meridian School District and all applicable state and local laws. In addition, all students shall submit to the reasonable discipline of school authorities designated by the Meridian school District Board of Directors.

- *3200 Rights and Responsibilities*
- *3224 Student Dress*
- *3230 Student Privacy (student searches, lockers etc)*
- *3240 Student Conduct*
- *3241 Student Corrective Actions or Punishment*
- *3242 Closed Campus*
- *6605 Student Conduct and Safety on Buses*

ACADEMIC POLICY

Academic Support: Students who receive one or more failing grades at a grade check (every two weeks) may be put on Academic Alert and assigned to After School Studies (Monday -Thursday from 2:35-3:30pm). **Lack of academic progress at periodic reviews may result in consideration of alternative placements or programs of study.**

VISITORS and GUESTS

All visitors and guests must be pre-approved by administration and must sign in and out of the main office upon arrival and departure. Guests will be required to wear clearly visible "Visitor" badges while on campus.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Meridian High School is a closed campus. All parking lots, athletic fields and surrounding crosswalks are off campus areas. Students shall remain on school grounds from the time of arrival until the close of school unless officially excused and signed out through the office.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION

Students may participate in extra-curricular activities only if they have read, understood, signed and turned in their **Meridian High School Student Extra-Curricular Policy**. Please refer to the Extra-Curricular Code of conduct, contact an advisor or coach, or contact the Meridian High School Athletic Director for specific information about these expectations.

Students who have any fines, fees, or overdue materials will be required to have them cleared before participation in extra-curricular activities is approved.

ASSEMBLIES

Students will go directly to the assembly after they are dismissed from class. All students are expected to attend assemblies as part of their school day, however, an alternative, supervised study time is provided for students that do not attend. At the assemblies, students are expected to behave as they do in the classroom. Rude or disruptive students will be removed and will face additional school discipline.

GENERAL MISCONDUCT

The following types of conduct may be considered general misconduct:

1. Failure to follow directions of an adult who works for the Meridian School District
2. Being in a place other than that assigned for that particular time
3. Leaving school property without signing out through the office
4. Use of water devices or throwing of water balloons or snowballs
5. Misbehavior on a school bus (See Bus Behavior Policy)
6. Excessive physical expressions of affection. In this case the parents will be called as well as the prescribed discipline
7. Use of obscenity or profanity, and/or rude or abusive language
8. Disruptive classroom behavior
9. Misbehavior in the cafeteria
10. Use of or possession of skateboards/scooters/wheeled objects on campus, with the exception of bicycles used for transportation purposes.
11. Use of electronic devices without specific teacher permission (ipod, walkman, etc)

Students involved in the above behaviors may be subject to the following consequences:

1. **First Offense:** Student will be assigned **at least** one ASD (**A**fter **S**chool **D**etention) and parents will be notified.
2. **Second Offense:** Student will be assigned **at least** two ASDs and parents will be notified.
3. **Third Offense:** Student will be assigned Saturday or Friday Evening Detention and parents will be notified.
4. **Fourth Offense:** Student may be assigned a 1-3 day suspension and required parent-student-administrator re-entry conference.
5. **Fifth Offense:** Student will be assigned at least a three day suspension and will be required to adhere to a behavior contract. Failure to comply with the terms of the contract will result in long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the term and loss of credit in all classes.

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

Telecommunication devices shall be turned on and operated only before and after the school day, during the student's lunch break, and during passing periods, unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger or a school administrator or teacher authorizes the student to do otherwise. To avoid disruption of the instructional process, students shall not display, use, activate, or permit telecommunication devices to be activated during the time the student's class is in session. Students are responsible to ensure that their devices are turned off during all times other than outlined above.

Progressive Discipline is as follows:

1. **First Offense:** Administrator or teacher confiscates the device, it is logged in at the attendance office and returned to the student at the end of the school day.
2. **Second Offense:** Administrator or teacher confiscates the device, it is logged in at the attendance office, and a parent/guardian must pick up the device or phone conference with the administrator before it is returned to the student.
3. **Subsequent offenses** Progressive Discipline as determined by Administration.

DRESS CODE

Students' choice in matters of dress and appearance shall be regulated when the sensibilities of others are impacted, **in the judgment of school officials**. Prohibited dress includes, **but is not limited to**, promotion of drugs, alcohol, violence, racism, sexism, tobacco, use of profanity or associated innuendos, or displaying symbols or exhibiting behavior representing gang membership or affiliation. Students are **NOT** allowed to wear clothing that exposes the body or undergarments (i.e. no bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, short shorts/skirts, saggy jeans, open-sided tank tops, or tops which are too revealing). Students found to be in violation of the above policy, will be sent to the office and:

1. Be required to change clothing or go home (with guardian)
2. Subsequent offenses will be regarded as **insubordination** and will be handled according to guidelines in the policy handbook.

Of particular concern under this policy is dress or behavior which associates the person in question with gangs or gang activity. When, in the judgment of school officials, a student violates policy:

1. Parents will be immediately notified and a parent-student-administrator conference will be arranged. When possible, "tagged" items or articles of clothing will be confiscated until they can be given to the parent. **Police may be notified.**
 2. At the conference a contract will be signed by the parent & student with consequences of future violations relating to dress and behavior connected to gangs and gang activity.
- A violation of the terms of the contract may result in suspension from Meridian High School.

OFF-CAMPUS SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Students attending off-campus, school-sponsored activities such as athletic events, field trips, and other such affairs, will follow the same rules and regulations as if they were being held at Meridian High School. Failure to conduct themselves in this manner will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with the same principles that are used for at-home events.

When violations of rules occur at extra-curricular activities, the consequences will typically also include loss of the privilege of participation in similar activities for a period of time.

DRIVING AND PARKING POLICY

In order to have the privilege of parking at school, students must abide by certain rules that include driving behaviors and parking protocol. Driving in a way that endangers a person or property in the parking lot or in front of school may result in loss of parking privileges for 5 to 180 days, and/or suspension or expulsion.

Students will park their cars **only** in the assigned student parking lot. Students may not occupy a vehicle **during the school day**. Cars are **not an acceptable place to be during lunch or breaks**.

Vehicles using the school parking lot must be free of adornments (i.e. bumper stickers, window stickers, etc.) that offend the sensibilities of others. (For further clarification please see the dress code provisions.)

Students found loitering in the parking lots at any time during the school day will be considered truant.

Students who violate the driving or parking policy may be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1st Offense: Administrative warning and notification of parents.

2nd Offense: One week loss of parking privilege and notification of parents.

3rd Offense: Two week loss of parking privilege and notification of parents.

4th Offense: Loss of parking privilege for the remainder of the school year and notification of parents.

Please make sure you understand the law about parking in the **fire lanes** and in the **handicapped parking spots**. In addition to a ticket and monetary fine through the legal authorities, you will be also be assigned Evening Detention(s) for the violation.

PLAGIARISM

Cheating or plagiarizing homework, a test, or quiz will result in automatic failure for the work, plus Saturday School or Evening Detention. 2nd offense: loss of credit and possible removal from class.

AFTER SCHOOL AND EVENING DETENTION

Detention may be assigned by teachers or the administration as a consequence. Detention takes precedence over turnout, work study programs, Running Start, and any other school activity. Failure to make up detention when assigned is truancy and will result in additional disciplinary action. School detention is from Monday through Thursday from 2:40 to 3:30 pm, and students are to have homework or reading to do when they report to ASD (After School Detention), and/or be prepared to engage in community service around the school grounds. Teacher assigned detention is scheduled by the individual teacher. If students do not come to detention prepared, they will be asked to leave, and they will have double the time to make up. When making up detention for teachers, students may request a postponement, but that must have teacher approval. Any reason for postponement must be approved by the administration.

Evening Detention is an assigned detention from 3 pm until 6 pm on those days designated by administrators. If students miss assigned evening detention, short-term suspension may be assigned unless prior arrangements have been made with an administrator. In case of emergency situations where a student is unable to attend, a parent or guardian needs to contact an administrator ASAP.

Detention which is assigned but has not been completed by the end of the school year must be completed at school before grades or records are released. Seniors must complete detention prior to graduation or they will not be eligible to take part in graduation ceremonies.

SUSPENSION

While suspended from school, students are **not to be on campus nor at any school sponsored events** except when prior approval has been granted by the administration.

EXCEPTIONAL MISCONDUCT

In accordance with Board Policy 3241, certain actions that are damaging to people, property or the educational process are classified as exceptional student misconduct and may be punishable by suspension or expulsion on the first offense. Parents will be notified and consequences will be imposed. When appropriate, students may be referred to the police. When the violation is related to or occurs at a student activity, consequences may include removal from similar activities for an extended period of time.

1. Possessing and/or using a weapon or anything that can inflict serious bodily harm:
 - ✓ Any firearm
 - ✓ Any dangerous weapon as defined in RCW 9.41.250 and RCW 9.41.270; (b) an air gun, which includes any air pistol or air rifle designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide or other gas, or any items which appear to be realistic firearms or air guns; or (c) a slung shot, which is a piece of metal, or a stone fastened to a short strap, chain or thong, used as a weapon; or (d) a sling shot, which is a forked piece of wood, plastic or metal having an elastic band fastened to the prongs for shooting small stones, metal balls, or pebbles; or (e) a club, chains or metal knuckles; or (f) devices commonly known as "throwing stars," multi-pointed metal objects designed to embed upon impact from any aspect; or (g) any knife which is a cutting or stabbing instrument with a sharp blade set in a handle; or (h) a dirk which is a type of dagger; or (i) any device commonly known as "nun-chu-ka-sticks," consisting of two or more lengths of wood, metal, plastic or similar substance connected with wire, rope or other means.
 - ✓ Any device that looks like or is alleged to be a firearm
2. Possessing and/or using or threatening to use explosive devices, including ammunition
3. Possessing, distributing or using tobacco products
4. Threatening or causing physical injury, fighting, malicious harassment, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, bullying (to include cyber-bullying) or intimidation
5. Substantially disrupting the educational process
6. Participating in an incident of student misconduct as a spectator who is actively inciting or encouraging such conduct by words, actions or group presence.
7. Setting a fire; theft or damage of school property. Vandalism to the homes and property of Meridian School Employees may be considered "school related" and subject to the discipline code.
8. Refusing to follow the reasonable directions of staff
9. Gang representation or participation in gang-related activity at school
10. Insubordination, including refusal to go where directed by a staff member
11. Failure to promptly and correctly identify oneself to an employee of the Meridian School District
12. Lewd conduct or exposing oneself

Factors affecting the length of suspension or the decision to expel include (but are not limited to) intent, premeditation, degree of danger, amount of damage, loss or injury to persons or property, degree of disruption, legal classification of the action and/or degree of involvement.

While on school grounds, in school provided transportation, or at school events, a student shall not possess or transmit a knife of any kind or any object that can reasonably be considered a firearm, air gun or a dangerous weapon. Violation of this rule with a firearm shall result in a minimum one-year expulsion, unless modified by the superintendent. The parent/guardian as well as law enforcement shall be notified. Parents have the right to appeal such disciplinary action as specified in board policy.

TOBACCO POLICY

The **possession and/or use of tobacco products** by Meridian students on or within 1,000 feet of school property or at school sponsored events is a violation of Washington State Law. Students who are found to be in violation of this policy will face the following consequences:

First Offense: Two-day suspension and successful completion of smoking cessation class to be paid for by the student or a five-day suspension. (Arrangements will be made with the cessation class to notify Drug and Alcohol Intervention Specialist of student's attendance. If a student misses a class, he/she immediately begins serving the entire suspension). Parents will be contacted.

Second Offense: Five-day suspension and successful completion of a smoking cessation class to be paid for by the student, or a ten-day suspension. A conference with parents will be arranged.

Third Offense: Conference with parent, student, and administrator. Long term suspension with loss of credit.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, and MOOD-ALTERING SUBSTANCES

Meridian School District Board Policy #2121 expresses a strong commitment to providing schools that are drug free. **Prevention** (promoting a strong no-use message to alcohol and other drugs) and **intervention** (identifying and intervening with students exhibiting certain behaviors) are two key components of this policy. The following regulations and procedures will apply in all cases involving drug and alcohol violations on, or adjacent to, district campuses or at school-related events off campus:

When there is **reasonable cause** to believe that a student illegally uses, sells, distributes, or possesses drug paraphernalia, drugs, over the counter or prescription drugs, alcohol, or other mood-altering substances in school, on or adjacent to school property, or at school functions, the student will be subject to the disciplinary procedures contained in this regulation. All investigative procedures will be performed with discretion and will be documented. Refusal to submit to a request to any of the procedures will result in immediate notification of parents or guardians. Disciplinary action will follow.

As used in this regulation, "**reasonable cause**" shall mean the existence of specific, observable evidence or behaviors that can be described. All contraband shall be confiscated by authorities.

Evidence or behaviors shall include but not be limited to the smell of alcohol or other mood-altering substances, impaired speech, impaired coordination, erratic behavior, defiance or disrespect toward authority or other recognizable characteristics unusual for the particular student. Possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs or drug paraphernalia is also considered evidence of reasonable cause to believe that a student is in violation of these regulations.

Offenses for elementary students shall be cumulative from grades K-5, and offenses for secondary students shall be cumulative from grades 6-12.

First Offense for Use or Possession (Grades 6-12)
Student will be suspended for ten days.

Suspension may be modified to a minimum of five days if the District is sent a report on the assessment from the evaluating agency *and* if parents and the student agree to follow the agency recommendations as well as completing the school's re-admittance program through the Meridian Substance Abuse Intervention Specialist to remain in school.

Parents/ guardians and law enforcement will be contacted, and Child Protective Services (CPS) may be contacted.

If a student does not complete the evaluation and agree to follow the recommendations of the agency, the entire period of suspension will be served.

Second Offense for Use or Possession (Grades 6-12).

Student shall be placed on long-term suspension for a minimum of twenty days or emergency expulsion depending upon the circumstances of the offense. All long-term suspensions and emergency expulsions are subject to WAC 180-40-290.

Suspension may be modified to a minimum of ten days if the student participates in an assessment by an agency approved by the Meridian School District, agrees to share the recommendations of the evaluation with the District and agrees to follow those recommendations and must complete the school's re-admittance program through the Meridian Substance Abuse Intervention Specialist to remain in school.

Parents/ guardians and law enforcement will be contacted, and Child Protective Services (CPS) may be contacted.

If a student does not complete the recommendations of the assessment, the entire period of the suspension or expulsion will be served.

Third Offense for Use or Possession (Grades 6-12).

The student will be expelled from the School District pursuant to WAC 180-40-275.

Parents/ guardians and law enforcement will be contacted, and Child Protective Services (CPS) may be contacted.

First Offense for Selling and/or Delivering (Grades 6-12).

Student shall be placed on long term suspension for a minimum of twenty days or expelled depending upon the circumstances of the offense. All long-term suspensions and emergency expulsions are subject to WAC 180-40-260 and WAC 180-40-290.

Suspension or expulsion may be modified if the student participates in an assessment by an agency approved by the Meridian School District. The student must further agree to follow the recommendations of the assessment.

Parents/ guardians and law enforcement will be contacted, and Child Protective Services (CPS) may be contacted.

Second Offense for Selling and/or Delivering (Grades 6-12).

The student shall be expelled from the School District pursuant to WAC 180-40-275. The student will be placed on emergency expulsion prior to being expelled from the District.

Parents/ guardians and law enforcement will be contacted, and Child Protective Services (CPS) may be contacted.

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

As students grow throughout our school system, their regular and continued attendance is vital for the following three reasons:

1. **To support Academic Achievement:** A direct correlation exists between student conduct, student attendance and academic achievement. When a student is frequently tardy or absent, his/her academic achievement suffers.
2. **To Ensure a Positive Learning Environment:** Students who are tardy disrupt the educational environment upon arrival. Students who are absent or out of class for discipline reasons miss valuable instruction as well as collaborative learning opportunities.
3. **To Support Employability Skills:** Meridian High School graduates will be prepared to find and keep living wage jobs. MHS graduates will understand the value of positive behavior, punctuality and regular attendance as it relates to the academic and work world.

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance and punctuality are not only essential employability skills, but are essential for academic success. The rules that govern attendance at Meridian High School are as follows:

1. An absence is defined as not being in a classroom during the class period. Students who are 15 minutes late are marked absent.
2. An absence is either excused or unexcused.

3. All absences from class require a parent excuse and will be processed through the Attendance Office.
4. All tardies to class are marked unexcused unless a parent excuse is furnished.
5. Permission from parent(s) or guardian(s) must be obtained before a student is allowed to leave school early.
6. When a student accumulates eight 8 absences in a class, the following actions may occur:
7.
 - a). The school administrator and family will discuss any extenuating circumstances for the absences. Extenuating circumstances may include school related, contracted, or emergency absences.
 - b). Following this determination, the teacher and administrator will develop a Contract of Attendance for the student that will set attendance limits based on mitigation of absences allowed for extenuating circumstances and establish the consequence for additional absences.
 - c). Should this meeting not take place, disciplinary action may occur.
 - d). A student and his/her parent/guardian will have the right to appeal this process with the District Attendance Hearing Officer in a timely manner.
 - e). Following a decision by the Hearing Officer, the next levels of appeal are, first, to the Superintendent, and, second, to the School Board.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Per Board Policy 3122, in order to be considered an excused absence, it must qualify as one of the following:

1. Personal illness
2. Medical or dental appointment **which cannot be made at any other time.**
3. Court appearance
4. A death in the immediate family
5. A legitimate (To be determined by the administrator) family emergency that requires a student to be absent.
6. Planned absences for personal or educational purposes that have been approved in advance.
 - a) A completed and signed contract must be turned in for review and approval five school days before the absence.
 - b) Following consideration of the circumstances and teacher input and comments, an administrator will determine final approval.
 - c) Students will be liable for work missed during a contracted absence, understanding that all work may not be adequately duplicated outside of the classroom environment.

A student **CANNOT** make up work for an unexcused absence.

TRUANCY

Students who are truant from school are in violation of WA State Law and district rules & regulations. As such, students who are truant may face disciplinary action. Some examples of truancy include:

1. Leaving a class without permission or without a hall pass
2. Not going to class
3. Leaving campus during lunch
4. Being absent without parental and school permission

A student who chooses to be truant will receive a zero on all work for that class for that day. In addition, the following range of disciplinary action will be imposed based upon frequency or severity of the offense.

First Offense through Fourth Offense

Progressive Discipline applies.

MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL TARDY POLICY

1. Students must be in the classroom ready to engage when the bell rings.
2. Students arriving late from another class/counseling office/main office will need a note from an MHS staff member (i.e. counselor, teacher of late test taker, etc). The latter should not be considered a tardy.
3. A tardy may be excused by the office in cases of medical appointments or family emergencies only.

The consequences are as follows:

Tabulated per class period

Tardy 1 & 2:	These are handled by the teacher. A verbal warning is given and documented by the teacher.
Tardy 3:	Teacher makes contact with parent/guardian and one 20 minute teacher assigned detention will be assigned by the teacher.

Tabulated school wide, all class periods

Tardy 4-9:	Student will receive formal after school detention.
Tardy 10:	Friday Night Experience and parent conference.
Tardy 11+:	May result in suspension.

ATTENDANCE PHONE LINE: 318-2295

Call any time to excuse your student's absence.

Meridian High School Student Extra-Curricular Policy

Revised 2006

Philosophy:

Participation in extra-curricular activities at Meridian High School is voluntary and therefore should be considered a privilege. A high priority is placed in extra-curricular programs on building positive character traits such as: **respect for authority, sportsmanship, high standards in academics, ethics and citizenship.** In order to reach those high standards, compliance with an established set of guidelines and policies is expected. Students who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities at Meridian must understand their obligation to maintain these standards. **Students must be a positive reflection of Meridian High School for the school, community, and all other schools that our representatives interact with.**

Definition:

"Extra-Curricular Activities" applies to all athletic teams, and all clubs, organizations and activities which occur at Meridian under the guidance of a coach or advisor and which are not parts of the regular curriculum of the school.

Expectations:

Every student who participates in extra-curricular activities at Meridian High School and his/her parent or guardian must read the Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and sign the participation form before the commencement of that activity.

Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct

As a participant in Meridian High School's extra-curricular programs and activities, I understand that the following rules apply for the entire year. These rules are in effect from the first day of practice one year, through the first day of practice the following year.

Attendance:

A student participant must be in school **the entire day of a game/activity** in order to participate in that game/activity unless he/she has a prearranged excused absence. Students must also be in attendance **the entire day following a game/activity** unless they have a prearranged excused absence or an absence excused for illness or injury; not more than one of these exceptions is allowed in a school quarter. Any exception to this due to additional extenuating circumstances must be appealed through building administration.

Behavior:

The first violation of the following rules may result in a probationary period of one year (after the applicable discipline has been imposed). A further violation of the following rules, after a violation-free probationary period of one year, may be eligible to begin the "offense count" back at a first offense.

- No smoking
- No chewing of tobacco
- No excessive use of profane or vulgar language
- No engagement in any delinquent behavior
- Abide by all regulations as prescribed by the Meridian Board of Directors and Meridian High School Rules of Student Conduct, and understand that any act of exceptional misconduct as outlined in the Meridian Student Handbook will also be considered a violation of the MHS Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.

All violations of the following rules are cumulative during the student's four years of high school.

- No use or possession of intoxicating beverages
- No use or possession of illegal drugs
- No misuse of OTC or prescription drugs
- Commit no unlawful acts
- Not to be present at any function or in any circumstance where alcohol or illegal drugs are involved.

First Offense:

The student will be immediately suspended from activities for fourteen calendar days to include a minimum of two complete games or contests. Should the period of suspension be less than fourteen days, the student will forfeit participation in two complete games/events in a subsequent sport or activity. The student may, at the discretion of the coach, be allowed to participate in practices but cannot take part in contests during the time of suspension.

Second Offense:

The student will be dismissed from the team/group for the remainder of that season. Should the period of suspension be less than twenty-one days, the student will forfeit participation in one-third of the games or events in a subsequent sport or activity. The student may, at the discretion of the coach, be allowed to participate in practices but cannot take part in contests during the time of suspension.

Third Offense:

The student will be suspended from participating in all extra curricular activity programs within the Meridian School District for the remainder of his/her high school career.

In all cases involving the use of illegal drugs or alcohol, the student shall be required to submit to a drug/alcohol evaluation by an accredited community agency and must abide by the recommendation of that agency before being reinstated.

Academic Eligibility:

In order to participate in extra-curricular activities, students must continuously demonstrate academic achievement. Evidence of passing grades must be presented every two weeks. If there are any failing grades, the student must bring the grade up to passing or have special circumstances approved by administration before participating in the next competition.

A student must pass all classes during the previous grading period as well as maintain passing grades throughout the quarter. If the student earns a grade of F, NC, or I, the student may begin participating in interscholastic competitions when...

◆ If the student received a grade of I:

When the incomplete has been made up and the teacher has submitted a passing grade to the registrar.

◆ If the student received a grade of NC:

When a weekly progress report shows that the student has 90% or better attendance for a minimum of three school weeks during the current semester.

◆ If the student has received a grade of F:

When, after a probationary period of three school weeks (during which a student may not play in games, but may practice) a progress report shows that the student is passing all classes and the student is participating regularly in a scheduled After School Study Program.

Or when the student documents successful completion of course work (pre-approved by school administration) that makes up credit for the same classes failed.

In addition, it is understood that as a member of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, all students in the Meridian School District are subject to WIAA regulations.

Appeal Process:

A student dismissed from a team/group for violation of rules may petition the high school principal to arrange an appeals hearing. The hearing is to be held within three days of the petition. The appeals committee will consist of the athletic director, the principal and a teacher or coach selected by the principal. If additional conferences are necessary to resolve an issue, the student may appeal to the Superintendent.

Approval For Participation:

Every student who participates in interscholastic athletics (including cheerleaders) must have each of the following completed documents signed and on file through the office of the Athletic Director:

- ASB card
- Physical Examination Form
- Eligibility Form
- Paid Participation Fee

Equipment:

Students are fully responsible for all equipment checked out for the sport or activity in which they are engaged. Equipment is to be kept clean and in good condition, and it is the student's responsibility to turn in the equipment promptly at the end of the sports season. Students who fail to turn in equipment will not be allowed to participate in any subsequent sport or activity until they have done so.

INTERNET POLICY

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on school computer networks just as they are in the classroom. Access to network services is a privilege given to students who agree to act in a responsible and considerate manner. Please sign the Student Handbook page and note any permissions that *you do not want to grant*. Progressive discipline will apply including legal action as necessary.

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET PERMISSION GUIDELINES



Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access entails responsibility.

Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private.

Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio, and other potentially offensive media.

As outlined in Board policy and procedures on student rights and responsibilities (3200), copies of which are available in school offices, the following are not permitted:

- ◆ Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- ◆ Using obscene language
- ◆ Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- ◆ Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- ◆ Violating copyright laws
- ◆ Using another's password
- ◆ Trespassing in another's folders, work or

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.



Student Handbook 2009-20010

I have read and understand the rights and responsibilities as described in the, Student Handbook, Extra-Curricular Policy, and Meridian High School Technology Agreement

As a user of the Meridian Public Schools computer network, I hereby agree to comply with the rules and guidelines associated with the Meridian School District Internet and Web policies — communicating over the network in a reliable fashion while honoring all relevant laws and restrictions.

At this time I also give the Meridian School District permission to publish the following items on the school district internet site:

- student name (first name and last initial)
- student photograph (usually a group shot unless related to specific project)
- student creation (essay, project, etc.)
- student e-mail address (only if required for specific project or activity)

Please check any of the above items that you **Do Not** want included on the district web site.

As the parent or legal guardian of the minor student signing above, I grant permission for my daughter or son to access networked computer services such as electronic mail and the Internet. I understand that individuals and families may be held liable for violations. I also realize that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable, but I accept the responsibility for guidance of Internet use — setting and conveying standards for my daughter or son to follow when selecting or exploring information and media. I also give permission for the school and district to publish student information (as mentioned above) on the district and school web sites.

This signature page will be collected by the appropriate Meridian High School staff member.

Student's PRINTED Name

Student's Signature

Date

Guardian's PRINTED Name

Guardian Signature

Date