

Welcome to the very first senior email!

Congrats Class of 2022!

This is your year!

I will be sending an email like this once a month, or more often if necessary. In it will be virtual college fair links, information about senior presentations, scholarships, financial aid and other senior-related info you need to know. Please pay attention to due dates and directions! If you have questions about anything, please let me know via email (swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu), phone (360-318-2279).

Please note the following people and their roles at MHS:

Ms. McBride – counselor (last names beginning with A-J) – cmcbride@meridian.wednet.edu - 360-319-9925

- Credits, class registration, Running Start registration, graduation requirements, High School and Beyond Plan and family/student support

Mr. McMains – counselor (last names beginning with K-Z) – dmc mains@meridian.wednet.edu - 360-319-4390

- Credits, class registration, Running Start registration, graduation requirements, High School and Beyond Plan and family/student support

Mrs. Brinkman – registrar, transcripts – rbrinkman@meridian.wednet.edu – 360-318-2284

Mrs. Waterman (me) – senior presentations, scholarships, college/career help - swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu – 360-318-2279

College Visits and Fairs

Reps from the following colleges/military will be here at MHS during all lunches.

- PLU webinars – Sept, 16th (Running Start to 4-yr), Sept. 23 (College Bound scholars), Sept 30th (paying for college)
 - <https://www.plu.edu/admission/important-dates/suit-up/>
- Army – September 20th
- National Guard – September 22nd
- Grand Canyon University – September 23rd - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GoJw1bJzEI>

Transcripts

MHS uses a service called Parchment. You need to make an account using a code. Your specific code is available from Mrs. Brinkman or me. You can choose to send one to yourself or to a college, both electronically. This service is free for current students. Go to www.parchment.com to register.

FAFSA/WASFA* (Free Application for Federal Student Aid and Washington Application for State Financial Aid)

It is suggested that ALL students who are headed for post-high school education fill this out. Even if you think you won't get aid, it doesn't hurt to try. Many scholarships will require your FAFSA/WASFA data. The State of Washington has a new rule that high school seniors submit a FAFSA/WASFA or complete an opt-out form. More on that when the event gets closer.

We will have a virtual financial aid night October 20th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm. We partner with a local group to have financial aid experts help you learn about college financial aid and complete the **FAFSA/WASFA**. I will send out an email with the Zoom link, what you need to have on hand to complete the FAFSA/WASFA and other details before the event.

Note: If you qualified for the College Bound program in middle school, you MUST fill out the FAFSA/WAFSA in order to receive that money. It will not cover all expenses, and will be based on your family income now, not your income when you signed up.

**State Financial Aid for Undocumented Individuals and Select Non-Citizens - Washington State offers financial aid programs to students who aren't eligible for federal financial aid because of immigration status. These students still need to meet other program requirements.*

Scholarships

We maintain a database of scholarships. This list is not comprehensive but includes ones MHS students have received in the past as well as many others. You do not have to have perfect grades to apply – just do it! The majority of scholarship applications open in late winter/early spring. The link to our database is [HERE](#). The due dates are in the process of being updated for 2021-2022. You can also search sites like www.washboard.org (for colleges in Washington state) or www.fastweb.com. Never, ever pay for a scholarship application! I will update deadlines as they are posted on scholarship websites.

I am available to read over any essays for scholarships or college applications and give you tips!

What do you want to do? (students only)

If you haven't already, please fill out the form located [HERE](#). This gives more contact information for you, lets me know what you are considering for next year, and allows me to keep you notified about specific college visits and scholarships.

Running Start Students

Please make sure you are in contact with MHS staff and keep track of deadlines here. As a college student, this is in your hands. If you are receiving this email, then great! If you have classmates who are also Running Start, please pass the word for them to share their emails.

Parents/guardians: Please check Skyward and add your email address to ensure you get any school-wide announcements and the MHS weekly newsletter. A link for the weekly newsletter is on the MHS website as well.

I know this is a lot of info. Please don't hesitate to contact me over email (swaterman@meridian.wednet.edu), by phone (318-2279) or in person. Hold on - it's a crazy year! ~Mrs. Waterman

Si desea información en español, envíeme un correo electrónico