



# Ridge Lines

A newsletter for parents, students and friends of ERHS

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## FROM THE FRONT DESK

Jaguar Community-

*"Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another."*

~John Dewey

Although it seems as if one school year has just been completed, here we are on the brink of a new year, new challenges, and the starting point for our tenth graduating class at Emerald Ridge.

I am constantly reminded, most often by your students, that the start of a new school year is the perfect time to dream big dreams. Every September students, parents, and teachers are given a swift gust of new aspirations. In September anything and everything is possible. We have all had an opportunity to put the previous year in perspective, "recharge our batteries" with time spent with family and friends, and planned for all of the opportunities that a fresh start will surely provide.

At Emerald Ridge we have been busily planning to continue the positive work that has been put into motion AND to make 2010-2011 a truly "breakthrough" year for each of your students. The ERHS staff is truly committed to making this school year the most remarkable on record.

We will continue to focus on rigorous academics for each student. This challenge includes the HSPE (formerly known as the WASL) but goes well beyond, as well. We will work hard with you to ensure that each child is taking honors and Advanced Placement courses, is engaged in math and science courses, is taking college-level career and technical courses, and is involved in upper-level world language, health and fitness, art, and music classes.

Our focus on each child will also yield amazing results outside of the classroom. I believe whole-heartedly that Emerald Ridge athletic, activities, and arts programs will achieve unprecedented levels of participation and success. There is a positive sense on the field, on the stage, and in the studio!

Please take a few moments to peruse the contents of this newsletter and to reinforce with your children the incredible dreams you have for each of them. Here's to an outstanding school year. Go Jags!

Brian Lowney  
Principal



## Our Vision

*Emerald Ridge High School*

1. Every student will be well-known, both personally and academically, by at least one adult staff member.
2. Every student will be challenged to meet rigorous academic standards in an appropriate educational program.
3. Every student will be provided with opportunities to experience the benefits of community membership and to develop and practice leadership skills.
4. Every student will be prepared for whatever he/she chooses to do after graduation, with a strong transcript, a career pathway, a plan and a portfolio.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS



### AUGUST

- 18 Football Practice Begins
- 23 First Day of Fall Athletic Team Practices
- 25 Student Orientation, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 25 New Parent Orientation, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 First Day of School
- 11 ACT Test
- 15 Fair Day, Early Dismissal for Students
- 17 Make-up picture day (ASB, ID cards)
- 24 Homecoming Game
- 25 Homecoming Dance, 8:00 - 11:00 pm, Commons
- 26 College Fair at the Fair, WW Fairgrounds
- 27 District Post-High Planning Night at Puyallup HS, 6:00 pm
- 29 Back-to-School Night, 6:30 pm

### OCTOBER

- 7 Teacher Learning Day - No School
- 8 State In-Service Day - No School
- 9 SAT Test
- 16 PSAT Test
- 18 Healthy Youth Survey (in advisory)
- 20 Fall Concert, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 21 Picture Retake Day
- 23 ACT Test

### Items for Purchase 2010-2011

(all available at Student Orientation)

**ASB Card..... \$30.00**

(mandatory for students participating in activities/athletics)

**Yearbook ..... \$50.00**

(if purchased by December 1, 2010)

**Parking Permit..... \$25.00**

**Athletic User Fee..... \$60.00**

(per season)

**School Pictures**

(see order form sent directly from photographer)

## STUDENT ORIENTATION FOR 2010-2011

Student orientation for the 2010-11 school year will be as follows:

### August 25

- Seniors (A-L) 8:00 am
- Seniors (M-Z) 9:00 am

### August 25

- Juniors (A-L) 11:00 am
- Juniors (M-Z) 12:00 pm

### August 25

- Sophomores (A-H) 2:00 pm
- Sophomores (I-P) 3:00 pm
- Sophomores (Q-Z) 4:00 pm
- Parent Orientation 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Student athletes who are participating in fall sports can complete their orientation on August 17 (Football only) from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, or August 18 from 7:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Students will receive their schedule for next year when they attend orientation. Please fill out the Enrollment Verification Form completely and bring it to orientation with you.

ASB cards will be on sale during orientation. They entitle students to participate in ERHS clubs and athletics. They also provide free or reduced cover charges to school activities such as dances and sporting events. During orientation you may also purchase your parking pass and yearbook. If you plan to purchase school pictures, be sure to include a check payable to Magic Photography. Picture packets will be sent directly to you from the photographer. All other expenses can be combined and made payable to Emerald Ridge High School.

### IMPORTANT SCHOOL NUMBERS

Administration/Main Office	435-6300
Athletic Director	435-6306
Attendance	435-6305
Bookkeeping	435-6304
Counseling/Career Center	435-6311
Nurse/Health Room	435-6352

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## **JAGUAR PARENTS ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM**

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Mark your calendars for August 25, 6:00-7:30 pm. That's when the Emerald Ridge Site Council will sponsor our annual Parent Orientation Program. While the program has been designed with parents of sophomores in mind, all parents are welcome to attend.

The orientation program will begin with a general session in the auditorium where we will provide an overview of our school and its programs. The agenda for the evening will follow this schedule:

6:00-6:15 pm    General Session in the Auditorium  
6:20-6:40 pm    Break-Out Session #1  
6:45-7:05 pm    Break-Out Session #2  
7:10-7:30 pm    Break-Out Session #3

During the break-out sessions, parents will have the opportunity to choose three different workshops conducted in smaller settings. The workshops will focus on the following topics:

- The Advisory Program: Finding out what it's about and how to make it work for your student.
- The Culminating Project: Supporting your student in completing this graduation requirement.
- Options for Honors Students: Meeting individual needs.
- Thinking Beyond the Diploma: Starting early with post-high planning.
- The Power of Parent Involvement: Learning about opportunities for getting involved at ERHS.
- Activities and Athletics: Extending learning beyond the classroom.
- Jag Crew/Tour of the building: Sharing how we will transition your student from junior high to high school.

At Emerald Ridge, we recognize parents as essential partners in the business of educating young people. The task is too big and too important for us to approach it in isolation from one another. We need to work together, and we need to trust one another. For our kids' sake, we need to build positive partnerships with one another from the very beginning. For these purposes, we have planned this orientation program. We know that common information and understanding provide a critical foundation for positive partnerships, and we are anxious to get to know you and have you get to know us.

We hope you will join us on August 25th.

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## **SCHEDULES AND SCHEDULE CORRECTIONS**

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Student schedules will be distributed to students at orientation in August and will reflect their courses for the full year, not just for first semester. They are based upon the selections that were made during the registration process last spring. In some cases where scheduling conflicts occurred, students may receive their second-choice, rather than first-choice electives.

Although no master schedule ever works out perfectly for over 1500 students, we have done our best to get all students enrolled in the classes they need to take as well as the ones they told us they want to take. There will be very few options for schedule corrections at this point, except for students who meet one of the following criteria: (1) they do not have a full schedule of six classes; (2) they are missing a required course such as Spanish 2 or English; or (3) they are misplaced in a course that is either significantly above or significantly below their ability level such as the wrong math class. We will not be able to make schedule corrections to accommodate specific teacher, time-of-day, or time-of-year preferences. In most cases, we will not be able to make adjustments to accommodate changes of heart either, as most of our classes are full.

Students needing schedule corrections should plan on taking care of this during orientation. Administrators and counselors will be available to help clear up any schedule problems.

**First Day of School  
Thursday,  
September 2, 2010**

**Sophomores Only  
7:40 - 9:50 am**

**Classes Begin for Everyone  
10:00 am**

*\*A revised bell schedule for the first day is included in this packet.*

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## CULMINATING PROJECT

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Students worked hard through advisory all last year to stay on track with their Culminating Project. As the new school year approaches, it is vital that *all* students realize the importance of staying on track and to seek assistance from the Culminating Project Coordinator.

**All seniors** need to have the following completed in order to stay on track and *obtain their parking permit on their orientation day*:

- Graded Research Paper (Those without this completed requirement need to see Mrs. McMullan in the CCC on orientation day)
- Completed job shadow packet (turned in to the Career Center)
- An approved 20-hour community service plan (turned in to the Career Center)

**All juniors** need to have the following completed in order to stay on track and *obtain their parking permit on their orientation day*:

- Completed job shadow packet (turned in to the Career Center)

For further information please contact Patti McMullan at (253) 435-6312 or [mcmullpl@puyallup.k12.wa.us](mailto:mcmullpl@puyallup.k12.wa.us).

\*Running Start students can stay updated by viewing the Running Start Blog at <http://runningstartjags.blogspot.com>.



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## ADVISORY: A CORNERSTONE AT ERHS

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Advisors at Emerald Ridge play an important role in communicating information, matching students with opportunities, tracking progress, providing educational guidance, assisting with the development of high school portfolios and career plans, and generally serving as student advocates. The advisory program is a primary vehicle through which we work to achieve the number one goal of our school community, which is to make sure that we know each of our students, both personally and academically, so that we can serve him or her well. At Emerald Ridge, we are not willing to lose any student through the cracks in a too-large, too-impersonal system. We are committed to success for all. Advisors will play a key role in making this happen. We hope you will encourage your sons and daughters to make the most of the opportunities afforded by advisory. We also hope you will take time to get to know your child's advisor yourself, since he or she will be your primary partner in Jaguar territory.

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## HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY

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Sophomores and seniors will be taking the Healthy Youth Survey on October 18-22, 2010. The Washington State Healthy Youth Survey measures health risk behaviors that contribute to morbidity, mortality, and social problems among youth in Washington State. These behaviors include alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries (e.g. violence, dietary behaviors, physical activity, and related risk and protective factors).

The survey results are an important source of needs-assessment data for school districts, community-based organizations, local health and human service agencies, and state agencies. The results are used to monitor the health status of adolescents and track progress on state and federal education and health-related goals.

The information from the Healthy Youth Survey may be used to identify trends in patterns of behavior over time. State-level results may also be used to compare national and other state-level results. State agencies, local health jurisdictions, county prevention coordinators, community mobilization coalitions, community public health and safety networks, and others use this information to guide policies and programs that serve youth.

A flyer will be mailed or sent home prior to the survey. For more information, contact Lisa Kusche at [kuschelm@puyallup.k12.wa.us](mailto:kuschelm@puyallup.k12.wa.us).

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## TEST DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

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SAT	ACT
October 9, 2010	September 11, 2010
November 6, 2010	October 23, 2010
December 4, 2010	December 11, 2010
January 22, 2011	February 12, 2011
March 12, 2011	April 9, 2011
May 7, 2011	June 11, 2011
June 4, 2011	

**Seniors** who still need to take the SAT or ACT or who want to take one of them again in hopes of a better score, should sign up for a date in the early fall in order to have results back in time for college applications. For the SAT, register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). For the ACT, register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).



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## PSAT RECOMMENDED FOR JUNIORS

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**Juniors** are encouraged to take the PSAT test on Saturday, October 16, at Emerald Ridge High School. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills that students have been developing throughout their lives. The PSAT/NMSQT also gives them firsthand practice for the SAT I and SAT II: Subject Test in Writing. In addition, it is the only opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

### So Why Take the PSAT/NMSQT?

So you can . . .

- Compare yourself with other college-bound students around the country.
- Find out what the **SAT** is like. (The PSAT/NMSQT includes actual SAT questions.)
- Assess your verbal, math, and writing skills.
- Forecast your **SAT** scores.
- Participate in the [Student Search Service](#)<sup>®</sup> to get mail from colleges.
- Enter [NMSC](#) scholarship competitions.

To take the test, you must register in late September and early October with the bookkeeper. Additional information on the PSAT, test preparation, and college planning advice can be found at: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

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## SITE COUNCIL SETS DIRECTIONS

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The Emerald Ridge Site Council is made up of 20 parents, students, teachers, support staff, community members and administrators. First established in the fall of 2000, the Council has four broad goals:

1. To facilitate open communication among all members of the Emerald Ridge community.
2. To provide opportunities for parents and community members to become involved in the school.
3. To assist in the evaluation of the school's programs.
4. To establish areas for improvement and set future directions for the school.

Positions for parents, community members, students, teachers, and support staff will be open on the Emerald Ridge Site Council for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested in becoming a member, please complete the application form included with your registration materials and return it to our school office by September 10, 2010.

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## ATTENTION SENIORS AND PARENTS

### District Post-High Planning Night

For students and their parents to learn more about options after high school, including application forms, timelines, and available resources.

**Monday, September 27**

**6:00-8:00 pm (at Puyallup High School)**

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## COLLEGE FAIR

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Western Washington Fair is hosting a College Fair on September 26th from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. If you're in high school and getting ready to head off to college or if you're already working and looking to change careers or broaden your horizons, you'll want to stop by our College Fair.

Over 35 universities, colleges and technical schools will be on hand to discuss curriculum, tuition, running start, financial aid, activities, campus life and more! This exhibit is housed in the Pavilion and offers a series of 30-minute information sessions. Topics include financial aid, essay writing, NCAA athletics and more.

More information will be available in the Career and Counseling Center here at ERHS.

## **PREPAREDNESS + UNDERSTANDING = SMOOTH START**

Hey Jags! Welcome back to the start of another great school year!! As we prepare for the beginning of a new school year, I'd like to share some ideas that I think go a long way toward protecting your property, pocket book and personal welfare. Hello to everyone I have not yet met. My name is Deputy Jeff Papen and I serve the Puyallup School District as a School Resource Officer with the Pierce County Sheriff Department. I am proud to be part of the Emerald Ridge family and look forward to working with ERHS and the surrounding communities. Emerald Ridge High is situated at a dead end County roadway adjacent to Glacier View Jr. High, and near a large housing development. With approximately 800-1000 commuters coming and going each day it is helpful to remember the following.

Traffic congestion is to be expected. Leave early before school so that you don't feel rushed as you arrive near the parking lot. I can still hear my first period high school teacher saying, "Early is on time and on time is late." Realize that the stop and go traffic for arriving students, parents and staff can be very frustrating and dangerous. Driving is a social task and requires patience and courtesy on the road and especially in parking lots. As you negotiate intersections, entrances and exits, be sure to make eye contact with other drivers in an effort to communicate clearly who has the right of way. Where it makes sense, take turns allowing other drivers to go before you. Be watchful and take care of the bicyclists and pedestrians who will be sharing the same space as cars in the parking lot and intersections. If you must use your horn, do it in a way that warns others of a hazard and not as a means of aggravating others.

Finally, safeguard your property. Unless it is completely necessary, leave valuables at home. If you must bring them to school make sure they are not left in open view. Lock them in the trunk or glove box and don't tell others they are there. At the very least hide them out of sight. It is very common to see purses, store bags, electronics and other valuables left lying on the seat or console area where a thief is happy to find them.

These are issues every community faces. I know Jaguars look out for each other and take good care of ourselves. If we take a few extra minutes each day to adopt some of these practices I am confident our school year will have a smooth start and an even smoother finish. I look forward to seeing you in Jag country.

Make it a great day,

Deputy Jeff Papen

## **WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM**

Washington State Career and Technical Education define Work-Based Learning as a learning experience which connects knowledge and skills obtained in the classroom to those needed outside in the business world. Blending school and work site experiences motivates students to acquire high-level academic and in-demand workplace skills that can lead to rewarding employment and future learning opportunities. Work-Based Learning programs also transform how businesses recruit employees, train entry-level workers, profit from hiring decisions, and compete in the global economy.

The benefits for all students have become more apparent with increasing changes in the workplace, emphasizing the need for highly skilled employees whose training includes practical work experience. Encompassing many different strategies, Work-Based Learning is made possible through the development of partnerships between schools, employers, and the community. A quality Work-Based Learning program provides benefits not only to students, but to the business community as well.

To be eligible for Work-Based Learning a student must:

- Be a Junior or Senior
- Be currently employed at a work site related to the student's pathway or where the student can learn pathway related skills
- Be able to document 180 hours (.5 credit) or 360 hours (1.0 credit) of work through copied pay stubs. (Approximately 10-12 hours per week)
- Work at a location that actually produces a paycheck and pay stub
- Have two semesters of related Career and Technical Education pathway classes completed or one pathway course completed and enrolled in the second class at the same time during the work experience

For more information on the Work-Based Learning Program at your student's school, please contact Leo Bullock, WBL Coordinator at (253) 841-8781, or email at [bullocll@puyallup.k12.wa.us](mailto:bullocll@puyallup.k12.wa.us).



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## PRACTICE SCHEDULES FOR FALL ATHLETIC TEAMS

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On Monday, August 23, practices will begin for most fall sports teams: girls' soccer, boys' and girls' golf, girls' swimming, boys' water polo, boys' tennis, boys' and girls' cross country and volleyball. Football will begin on Wednesday, August 18.

No athlete can turn out with any ERHS school team until he or she has completed in full all paperwork: current physical, which may not expire during the season, parent permission, evidence of insurance coverage, emergency contact information, and previous school year information. All fees will be paid prior to being cleared: ASB Card - \$30 and PSD user fee - \$60. Our Athletic Director (Dell Dittus) will be available in the main office to collect cards and issue clearances on:

August 17	8:00 am - 1:00 pm (Football Only)
August 18	7:00 am - 2:00 pm
August 20	8:00 am - 1:00 pm
August 23	7:00 am - 2:00 pm

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## ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

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Students who want to participate and/or compete in sports or selected extracurricular activities in fall 2010 must pass a minimum of five classes and maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average this spring.

In 2009, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) toughened its stance on athletic and activities eligibility by requiring every junior high and high school student in Washington to pass a minimum of five classes in a semester.

The Puyallup School Board raised the academic bar even higher by requiring students to earn at least a 2.0 ("C") grade point average to be eligible for sports and extracurricular activities.

Students who sign up for cheer or dance and drill will be held to the same standards as those participating in athletics. If ineligible to "compete," they will not be able to perform at athletic events or other WIAA-sanctioned cheer, dance, and drill competitions.

Drama, forensics, and music program students who are ineligible to compete will be excluded from WIAA-sanctioned events such as state solo ensemble contests and debate competitions.

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## PRIDE!! DO YOU HAVE IT?

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PRIDE Booster Club is a membership group of parents and staff who work on a volunteer basis to encourage excellence in academics, athletics, the arts, and school activities. There is no better way to understand the needs of our school and our students than to be involved in the enrichment of their experience.

**GET INVOLVED!** The PRIDE Booster Club has a full calendar of events and functions that we are sponsoring for the 2010-2011 school year. There are many ways to be involved and we invite you to share in the experience of helping our Emerald Ridge students make the most of their high school years. We encourage your membership to PRIDE! Look for our Booster Club table at orientation. For more information on memberships or volunteering with PRIDE, please contact Spring Sinden at [byanna@seanet.com](mailto:byanna@seanet.com) or 253-841-7119. Please get involved! Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

**FUN RUN:** The Fun Run is tentatively scheduled for September 11, 2010. Come out and enjoy some family time running with the cross country team or just walking the 5k course.

**JAG GEAR:** The new Jag Gear will be available for sale on August 25<sup>th</sup> at student orientation and also at the first home football game. Buy early!! Jag Gear sells out fast. Jag Gear will also be available at Back-to-School Night and at all home football games.

**THANK YOU!** PRIDE would like to thank all of its volunteers over the past year. Without your help, ERHS students and staff would miss out on so much. You are so appreciated and such an essential aspect of PRIDE. We couldn't function without your generous donations of time, energy and goodies.

*Emerald Ridge PRIDE is a non-profit booster club. It is our sole purpose to support the students, staff, and organizations of Emerald Ridge High School. PRIDE is bound by IRS laws of a non-profit 501c3 organization. Our donations and contributions to PRIDE are tax deductible.*



Emerald Ridge High School  
Puyallup School District  
12405 - 184th Street East  
South Hill, WA 98374

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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***Parent Orientation Night***

***Wednesday, August 25, 2010***

***6:00 - 7:30 pm***

***Back-To-School Night***

***Wednesday, September 29, 2010***

***6:30 - 8:15 pm***