



Ridge Lines

A newsletter for parents, students and friends of ERHS

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FROM THE FRONT DESK

Jaguar Community-

Your students, OUR students, are off to a great start this year at Emerald Ridge. Our seniors are in the process of making plans and preparing to be *college ready* at the conclusion of the year; our juniors are engaged in rigorous courses and are providing strong leadership on our campus; and our newest Jaguars, our 600 student strong sophomore class of 2012, are now fully engaged in Emerald Ridge academics, athletics, activities, and arts programs.

We want each of you to hear more about each of these endeavors straight from the source-your young adults. As we near our annual student-led conferences, I would like to *strongly* encourage each of you to join your students as they share their personal progress, goals, and plans for this school year and beyond. These conferences are a critical component of our school improvement plans to improve communication with parents and in ensuring that each of our students is successful and prepared for college success after high school. The majority of these conferences will be scheduled for the afternoon/evening of Thursday, November 12 (look for schedules and conference invitations to come home through advisory in late October).

Finally, I want to thank you for partnering with us as we work to make a positive difference in the lives of our students. In addition to the conferences in November, stay connected via email with teachers, through online grades, or through our ERHS website (all of these resources are available through www.ERHS.org). I look forward to seeing you soon.

Go Jags!

Brian M. 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



NOVEMBER 2009

- 4 Senior Write Night, 6:00 pm, CCC
- 4 PRIDE Cabinet Meeting, 7:00 pm, Library
- 7 SAT Test
- 10 Site Council, 5:00 pm, Staff Lounge
- 11 Veteran's Day - No School
- 12 Interim Progress Reports (distributed to students during 5th period)
- 12 Student-Led Conference Night, 2:30 - 8:30 pm
- 19-21 Fall Play, 7:30 pm, Auditorium
- 24 Daffodil Princess Selection, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Break - No School

DECEMBER 2009

- 2 PRIDE Cabinet Meeting, 7:00 pm, Library
- 5 SAT Test
- 8 Site Council, 5:00 pm, Staff Lounge
- 12 ACT Test
- 12 Winter Tolo, 8 - 11pm, Commons
- 15 Holiday Concert #1, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 16 Holiday Concert #2, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 21 Winter Break Begins - No School

JANUARY 2010

- 4 School Resumes
- 6 PRIDE Cabinet Meeting, 7 pm, Library
- 12 Site Council, 5 pm, Staff Lounge
- 18 M. L. King Jr. Day - No School
- 20 PRIDE General Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Library
- 23 SAT Test
- 26 Senior Write Night, 6:00 pm, Library
- 28 End of First Semester
- 28-30 Winter Play, 7:30 pm, Auditorium

HOME ACCESS CENTER

All ERHS students and parents/guardians have 24-hour web-based access to information such as attendance, class schedules, grades, and assignments. All ERHS teachers/advisors will post grades on-line.

You may reach the "Home Access Center," from the internet. An e-mail address is required to register as a user. If you do not have an e-mail address on file with the school, you may send yours to buffelr1@puyallup.k12.wa.us. If you do not have internet access, a computer is available in our Main Office.



HOMEWORK HELP FOR OUR KIDS

The Pierce County Library System has help for students and the whole family with its improved online homework service - Online Homework Help.



Online Homework Help is free to anyone with a Pierce County Library card at piercecountylibrary.org. People can get cards online and start using the service immediately.

Online tutors are available on demand every day from 1:00 to 10:00 pm for one-to-one help with everything from homework to state-aligned skills building and test prep.

Professionally trained and experienced tutors will help students in kindergarten through 12th grades with math, science, English and social studies. You may choose to communicate with a tutor in either English or Spanish.

Students also have access to a 24-hour writing lab, using a secure file sharing feature to submit their papers to trained writing instructors any time of the day.

ATTENDANCE AS AN INTERVENTION

At Emerald Ridge High School, our number one goal is to improve student learning. Because there is a correlation between attendance and grades, one means of improving student learning is through attendance. We firmly believe that students' grades will increase if they attend school. Most classes here are structured or designed where students interact with classmates in activities that cannot be duplicated or reconstructed in a make-up assignment.

We view attendance as an intervention for the success of all students. Administrators, counselors, attendance secretary, and office manager are working as a team and taking an active roll in addressing students' attendance immediately as an intervention process. Each day an administrator meets and greets students who do not have an excused absence or who are tardy to class. After the administrator seeks reasons for their absence or tardy, (on the spot) the administrator calls parents to verify the absence. He or she then writes the admit slip or assigns the student to a Tuesday School. Our objective of getting in touch with the parent is to create a partnership for the success of the students and to demonstrate our sincere efforts that attendance is important.

Counselors will continue to dialogue with parents and students about the need for students to attend in order to graduate. In addition, our office manager has taken on the roll of spear-heading the BECCA process. BECCA Law is the Washington truancy legislation. It requires schools to file petitions with the Juvenile Court. The legislators, school districts, and courts share the common goal of requiring students to attend school on a regular, full-time basis without acquiring unexcused absences.

We will continue to uphold the attendance policies of the district and building. If you have any questions regarding attendance, please get in touch with our attendance secretary or Collette Stewart, Assistant Principal at (253) 435-6309.

Please call the Attendance Office
the morning of your student's absence.

(253) 435-6305

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

Beginning no later than the fifth grade, students shall receive yearly instruction in the life-threatening dangers of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, its spread, and its prevention. However, *no student may be required to participate in AIDS prevention education if the student's parent or guardian, having attended one of the district presentations, objects in writing to such participation.* Washington State Legislature, 1988.

Here at Emerald Ridge, senior students will receive HIV/AIDS education in their Senior Social Studies, AP Government, Biology, Health, and/or Early Human Development class. All seniors will receive HIV/AIDS education during a "World Disease Unit" taught in their Social Studies 12 class. The time and date of this lesson may fluctuate from teacher to teacher. In addition, on December 1, all students will participate in an advisory lesson recognizing "World Aids Day".

If you would like to preview our HIV/AIDS materials, please contact the Main Office. If, upon examination of the curriculum you would like to request your child opt out of the HIV/AIDS instruction, please submit a written request to Brian Lowney, Principal. An alternate activity will be provided.

CULMINATING PROJECT DATES

- **Senior Write Nights**
 - November 4th - 6 pm in the Career Center
 - January 26th - 6 pm in the Library
 - March 24th - 6 pm in the Library
- **January 29th** - Seniors need to have all Community Experience paperwork completed.
- **April 6th** - Seniors turn in their portfolios.
- **May 11th & May 13** - Seniors Boards
- **June 2nd**
 - Juniors need to have a 20-hour community experience plan turned in. Get those hours done during the summer.
 - Sophomores who have not completed the Job Shadow Component need to find a mentor and have the Job Shadow registration form turned in.

STUDENT CONFERENCES AT ERHS

Since opening our doors, the ERHS staff have held parent/student conferences every year. Conferences this year will be student-led with emphasis on individual student learning plans. Conference Night will be November 12, however, advisors will be asking you to schedule a conference before or after school from November 5 through December 4, 2009.

The purpose of a Student-Led Conference is:

- To establish and/or continue a home-school **relationship** that supports each student's academic success.
- To annually review **relevant** individual student goals and progress.
- To assess each student's course selection for appropriate academic **rigor** (including any plans for **HSPE intervention** and support, credit retrieval, and assessments for post-high school opportunities.
- To discuss grade level plans and/or school-wide activities for the year.
- To inform and update Culminating Project expectations and status.
- To update contact information.

If you and your son/daughter have not yet held a conference with their advisor, please contact the school and your student's advisor immediately.

HSPE CONTACT INFORMATION

State Testing@k12.wa.us

CAA Options website

www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/default.asp

Appeals/Waivers website

www.k12.wa.us/assessment/Appeals.aspx

ERHS Contact

kuschelm@puyallup.k12.wa.us

TEST DATES

Reading - March 16, 2010

Writing - March 17-18, 2010

Math - April 13, 2010

Science - April 15, 2010

IMPORTANT TEST DATES

SAT

- December 5, 2009
- January 23, 2010
- March 13, 2010
- May 1, 2010
- June 5, 2010

ACT

- December 12, 2009
- February 6, 2010
- April 10, 2010
- June 12, 2010

Register online at www.collegeboard.com for the SAT and at www.act.org for the ACT test.



STUDENTS CAN EARN COLLEGE CREDIT NOW

You may know that some students also attend college during high school through the Running Start program, but did you know that students can earn college credits in many of the classes they take at Emerald Ridge?

If your son or daughter is enrolled in a dual credit class (these are designated in our Course Catalog) and they earn a "B" grade or better they can receive Community/Technical College credit.

Why earn college credit now?

- You earn both high school and college credit for completing high school courses.
- You receive priority registration (you register before other new students) if you attend your selected Community/Technical College after high school graduation.
- You can stay on your high school campus and receive college credit.
- Save up to \$1,000 in college tuition before you graduate from high school.
- There is no fee.

Students currently enrolled in these courses will have the opportunity to apply for dual credit this semester between December 2009 and May 2010 at www.pc3connect.org or at www.skctechprep.org.



NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER

ADVICE FOR SENIORS

Many of our seniors took advantage over summer break to get started on their community service component of their Culminating Project. To begin work on their community experience, each student needs to identify a project that matches his/her unique interests, provides an opportunity for applying their skills, challenges them to accomplish something significant within the community and is a minimum 20-hour experience. Below you will find the steps and timeline in completing a successful Community Experience Project. This project will allow students to shine in our community, on their resumes, scholarship and college applications and during their Senior Board presentation.

- Contact potential community mentors to discuss possible projects and timelines (these plans were due June 2009).
- Type up your Community Experience Plan and Mentor Verification Form (all forms may be found on the district website <http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/studentprograms/culminating/>). Turn completed forms into the Career Center for approval.
- Once hours are completed, bring the following to the Career Center: hour log, mentor evaluation, typed one-page reflection of experience. Seniors need to have this component completed by January 29, 2010.

Question? Contact ERHS Culminating Project Coordinator, Patti McMullan, at (253) 435-6608 or mcmullpl@puyallup.k12.wa.us.

RUNNING START JAGS!

Keep up-to-date with information regarding culminating project, school schedules, news from the Counseling and Career Center plus graduation info with the Running Start blog!
<http://www.runningstartjags.blogspot.com>

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION NIGHT

Rogers High School Counseling Center is hosting a Financial Aid Information Night on December 3rd from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, in the Performing Arts Center. Parents of seniors will find this information particularly helpful. Learn about the college financial aid process and tips on completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

MORE ADVICE FOR SENIORS

With graduation just a few months away, here are a few helpful hints to assist you in planning your post-high options.

- Research educational options and develop a filing system. Websites are an excellent source of information. Links for Washington State colleges, military and apprenticeship options can be found under Counseling at: www.erhs.org.
- Out-of-state colleges can be accessed at: www.petersons.com and in-state colleges at www.projectopportunity.net.
- Get information on financial aid by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Live help to fill out the FAFSA will be available in 2010. Check www.collegegoalsundayusa.com for location and dates.
- If you plan to attend a four-year college, check the SAT/ACT deadlines.
- Attend presentations by college, military and apprenticeship representatives during Jag Time in the Counseling & Career Center.
- If you are considering participation in college athletics, register for the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- Make formal and informal visits to colleges.
- Prioritize your options to identify the top three or four and apply online.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

As the flu season approaches, the Puyallup School District reminds students, employees, volunteers, and families that good health habits can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the seasonal or 2009 H1N1 flu.

Health educators recommend:

- Washing hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub, especially before eating.
- Covering coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm, or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- Avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Getting plenty of sleep.
- Drinking fluids and eating nutritious food. Teach children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
- Avoiding close contact with sick people.
- Staying home when sick. The Centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC) recommends this fall that people with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).
- Getting vaccinated for seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 flu when vaccines are available.

Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and fatigue. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

Families are encouraged to plan ahead for child care in the event their children get sick and are unable to attend school.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY ELECTION

On February 9, 2010, Puyallup School District voters will be asked to consider a four-year replacement levy to help support school programs and operations such as teacher, smaller class sizes, school safety, textbooks, and athletics.

The Puyallup School District Board of Directors unanimously agreed September 28 to include the four-year school programs and operations levy on the special election ballot.

The levy replaces the school programs and operations levy that was approved in 2006 and expires at the end of the 2010 calendar year.

The proposed annual tax rate in \$3.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is three cents less than the rate approved by voters in 2006. The levy is a fixed-dollar tax on property that does not change with reassessment.

Money generated from a school district levy contributes about 21 percent of the total revenue needed to support school programs and operations in the Puyallup School District.

The state Legislature's funding formula for basic education falls short of providing all that is required to educate students at current levels of staffing and services. To make up the difference, this district, like most others in the state, submits levies to voters to support acceptable levels of staffing and essential educational programs.

The replacement levy supports:

- Teachers and support staff
- Smaller class sizes
- School safety and security
- Programs for students with special needs
- Instructional materials including textbooks
- Music and the arts
- Transportation
- Athletics and other extracurricular programs

Additional information about the 2010 school programs and operations replacement levy is on the Puyallup School District Web site at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

SAFETY REMINDERS WHEN WALKING AND BIKING TO SCHOOL

With more students walking and biking to and from school this year, parents are advised to review the following safety tips with children. Motorists throughout the community are encouraged to drive safely, slow down in school zones, and be aware there are greater numbers of children walking and riding their bikes to and from school.



- Walk with friends or family members. Younger children should always walk with an adult.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, be sure to walk on the side of the road facing traffic (bicyclists should ride on the right side of the road, moving in the same direction as motor vehicles).
- Stay on a safe walking route. Don't take shortcuts that could be dangerous. The district has identified walking routes for the 16 schools with the most significant transportation changes this year. Those walking routes are posted on the district Web site at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us. At the top of any page, click on Bus Schedules, then click on a school to see bus and walking routes. Bus routes are posted for all of the district's elementary, junior high, and high schools that offer bus transportation.
- Watch for cars or trucks parked in driveways, and look for drivers in parked cars who may be getting ready to move their vehicle.
- When crossing the street, use an approved crossing area such as at a traffic signal or other marked intersection. Never dart out between parked cars, jaywalk, or use other illegal methods of crossing the street.
- Stop, look, and listen. When crossing the street, use an approved crossing area. Stop at the curb or the edge of the road. Look and listen for moving cars in all directions. Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing. Keep looking for traffic until finished crossing.
- Walk, don't run, when crossing the street. Also, don't push, shove, or chase others. Bicyclists should walk their bike across each intersection.
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and school crossing guards.

- Be safe, be seen. Wear brightly-colored clothing during the daytime to make it easier to be seen by drivers. When it is dark or hard to see outside, use a flashlight and wear reflective material on shoes, backpacks, and clothing.
- Never take rides from people not arranged by parents.
- Stay alert at all times. Bicyclists should watch out for hazards such as potholes, broken glass, wet leaves, gravel, storm grates, or anything that could cause a rider to lose control of a bike.
- Never wear a headset or earphones when riding a bike.
- Wear a properly fitted bike helmet when cycling to school. Before riding, inflate tires properly and check that the brakes work.

Sources: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and National Center for Safe Routes to School.

TUESDAY TUTORING: A GATEWAY TO GREAT GRADES

Emerald Ridge High School offers free after-school tutoring every Tuesday. For two hours, students can get staff help with their class work, projects, and even their portfolios. Please encourage your student to drop in when they need extra help.

Activity busses are available Monday through Thursday for students who have after-school activities.

The activity bus picks students up in the front of the school at approximately 4:45 pm and leaves the school at 5:00 pm.



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Return Service Requested

ERHS Theatre Presents

“Vacancy in Paradise”



A Comedy in Three Acts

NOVEMBER 19, 20, 21

\$8 Adults and students w/o ASB, \$7 Students with ASB, \$6 Under 12 and Seniors