

Ridge Lines

A newsletter for parents, students and friends of ERHS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message.....1

Calendar of Coming Events2

Home Access Center.....2

Attendance as an Intervention3

Culminating Project Dates3

Student Conferences4

Test Dates.....4

Counseling/Career Center News5

Health Room News6

Work-Based Learning6

Safety Reminders.....7

FROM THE FRONT DESK

Jaguar community-

I want to take a few moments to share the goals we have for each of your students at Emerald Ridge High School this year. Actually, I have taken every opportunity I can get my hands on this year to discuss our vision with students, parent, and staff...this newsletter is no exception.

Emerald Ridge High School Improvement Goals...2011-2012

1. Increase student performance on state assessments (*Board Goals 1, 4*)
2. Decrease the number of failing grades recorded at each semester grade report (*Board Goals 1, 4*)
3. Increase the graduation rate of this senior cohort (*Board Goals 1, 4*)
4. Increase the number of students engaged in a rigorous academic schedule (*Board Goals 1, 2, 4*)
5. Increase parent/teacher/student communication (*Board Goal 3*)

As I have shared with each of you, I truly believe that our state assessment scores are only ONE indicator of student achievement. Goals two through five are at least equally important to the success of each of our students. That being said, state assessment scores are important to the ERHS teachers and to our students.

The good news with regards to our state assessment scores? Our students scored better on each of these sections in 2011 over the previous year (gains were made in reading, writing, math, and science) and our students' scores are significantly better than state and district averages.

We need to continue to help our students meet the mark on this important indicator of student learning, though. We are working hard in the classroom and as a whole-school to help our students achieve. Teachers are aligning curriculum to the state standards and collaborating to ensure that each student is meeting the mark in class.

As we work as a school community to meet our school goals, I invite you to take a few moments and talk to your student about these efforts. Have our school goals translated to actions that your student is able to see at school each day? Are you planning on attending student-led conferences on November 16 to discuss your child's learning plans for this year and beyond? Please plan on learning more about your student's plan for high school and beyond during these conferences. See you in November!

Brian Lowney
Principal

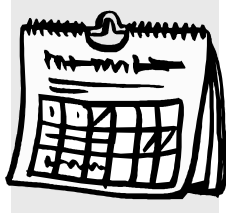


Our Vision

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



NOVEMBER 2011

- 2 Senior Write Night #1, 6:00 pm, Library
- 3-5 Fall Play, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 5 SAT Test
- 8 Site Council Meeting, 5:00 pm, Staff Room
- 9 PRIDE Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
- 10 King of the Jungle, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 11 Veteran's Day - No School
- 15 Daffodil Princess Selection, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 16 Student-Led Conference Night, 2:30 - 8:30 pm
- 17 Interim Progress Reports (distributed to students during Advisory)
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Break - No School

DECEMBER 2011

- 4 SAT Test
- 10 ACT Test
- 10 Winter Tolo, 8 - 11pm, Commons
- 13 Site Council Meeting, 5:00 pm, Staff Room
- 13 Winter Concert #1, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 14 Winter Concert #2, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
- 14 PRIDE Cabinet Meeting, 7:00 pm, Library
- 16 Winter Break Begins - No School

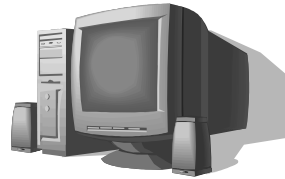
JANUARY 2011

- 2 School Resumes
- 11 PRIDE Cabinet Meeting, 7 pm, Library
- 12 M. L. King Interpretive Performance, Auditorium
- 16 M. L. King Jr. Day - No School
- 18 Site Council Meeting, 5:00 pm, Staff Room
- 25 Senior Write Night #2, 6:00 pm, Library
- 28 SAT Test

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 buffelr@puyallup.k12.wa.us. If you do not have internet access, a computer is available in our Main Office.



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.

At Emerald Ridge, senior students may 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 1st, students may 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.

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

CULMINATING PROJECT DATES

- **Senior Write Nights (*opportunity to complete the written component for their portfolio*)**
 - November 2nd - 6 pm in the Library
 - January 25th - 6 pm in the Library
 - March 14th - 6 pm in the Career Center
- **Running Start Meetings**
 - November 9th - 3 pm in the Career Center
 - February 7th - 3 pm in the Career Center
 - March 8th - 1:30 pm in the Career Center

<http://www.runningstartjags.blogspot.com>
- **January 25th - Seniors** need to have all Community Experience paperwork completed (typed plan, mentor evaluation, time log and reflection).
- **April 10th** - Seniors turn in their portfolios.
- **May 17th & May 18th** - Seniors Boards
- **June 4th**
 - 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.



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](http://www.runningstartjags.blogspot.com)

STUDENT CONFERENCES AT ERHS

Since opening our doors, the ERHS staff have held parent/student conferences. The 2011 Conference Night will be November 16th. However, some advisors may be asking you to schedule a conference before or after school from November 1 through December 5, 2011. **New this year!** On conference night, there will be 15 minute open sessions on Key Dates and Hot Topics!

In the Auditorium	Junior 101	5, 6, 7 & 8
In the Library	Senior 101	5, 6, 7 & 8

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 HSPE preparation and support, credit retrieval, and assessments for post-high school opportunities).
- To inform and update Culminating Project expectations, requirements and status.

If you and your son/daughter have not yet scheduled a conference with his/her advisor, please contact your student's advisor immediately.

HSPE CONTACT INFORMATION

www.WAtesting.com

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 13, 2011

Writing - March 14-15, 2011

**** EOC = END OF COURSE EXAMS ****

Math EOC Make-Up Exam: January 24, 2011

Math EOC (Algebra, Geometry): End of May

Science EOC: End of May

IMPORTANT TEST DATES

SAT

- October 1, 2011
- November 5, 2011
- December 3, 2011
- January 28, 2012
- May 5, 2012
- June 2, 2012

ACT

- September 10, 2011
- October 22, 2011
- December 3, 2011
- February 11, 2012
- April 14, 2012
- June 9, 2012

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 2011 and May 2012 at

<http://sers.techprepwa.org>.

Teachers will help register students for this option during their dual-credit class, or they can see Mrs. McMullan in the Career Center.



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 2010).
- 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 28, 2011.

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

ASVAB Testing

March 13, 2012
7:40 am - 10:30 am

Sign-up in the Career and Counseling Center

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION NIGHT

Rogers High School Counseling Center is hosting a Financial Aid Information Night on **December 1st 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, seniors should make sure they have a plan in place for after high school. Many resources are available in the Counseling and Career Center, and online, to assist students. Information and links to many post-high school options (college, military, apprenticeships, jobs) are available at www.erhs.org, go to **Counseling**, then **Post-High School Planning**.

Important notes for college-bound seniors:

- Get info on financial aid by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. All college-bound students (2-year and 4-year) are encouraged to apply in January.
- Live help to fill out the FAFSA will be available in 2011. Check www.collegegoalsundayusa.com for location and dates.
- Make sure you are aware of application deadlines, SAT/ACT test dates, and financial aid priority deadlines.
- If you are considering participation in college athletics, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
- Keep your grades up! Senior year grades count, and some colleges have withdrawn admissions offers after seeing slacking senior year grades.
- University of Washington (Seattle campus) application deadline is December 1st. This is a month earlier than it has been in the past, and students should plan accordingly.
- Apply to 3-6 colleges, to be safe. College admissions is more competitive than in the past.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Whooping cough (Pertussis) is on the rise nationally. In order to effectively protect our community, we want to emphasize the importance of keeping vaccines up to date.

Whooping cough (also known as Pertussis) is highly infectious and spreads through coughing and sneezing. It causes mild to severe coughing that can last for months and may eventually turn more serious, particularly in infants.

Ask your doctor for a Tdap (a booster) shot for your children and teens 11 and older, as well as for yourself. Since protection from the disease and the shots wears off, it is very important that your children get a booster shot. Thankfully, there are safe and effective vaccines available to protect children and adults from whooping cough.

One dose of Tdap is recommended to everyone ages 11 through 64 years old. Tdap should replace one routine tetanus (Td) shot.

To attend sixth grade in Washington State, students 11 and older must show proof of Tdap vaccination.

Severe illness is more common in young children who have not been immunized.

Babies are Most at Risk

Whooping cough is easily passed to infants and young children who are more likely to suffer severe complications, like pneumonia and hospitalization.

Circle Your Baby with Protection

Whooping cough shots for children (Dtap) safely prevent the disease, but, your new baby is too young to get the shot. The first whooping cough vaccine (Dtap) is scheduled at 2 months of age.

New Moms need Tdap Protection

Babies most often catch whooping cough from a family member. By protecting yourself from the disease, you also protect your baby. It is now recommended that adults and adolescents receive a Tdap booster vaccine. It is especially important for those in contact with infants younger than 12 months.

Talk with your doctor about getting a whooping cough shot.

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 20 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 Emerald Ridge High School, please contact Leo Bullock, WBL Coordinator at (253) 841-8781, or email at bullockl@puyallup.k12.wa.us.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Harassment Policy

The Puyallup School District has an anti-discrimination policy (Policy 3211) and a policy covering harassment, intimidation and bullying (Policy 3207). The policies were revised and adopted by our board of directors in August of 2003 as a means of providing the safest and most optimum learning environment for all students. Copies of these policies are available on the District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us or by calling the Office of Diversity Affairs at (253) 840-8966.

Complaint Drop Box

Each school in our District has a (suggestion/complaint/help) box on site. Our box is located in the library. The box is one method that students, staff, and families can raise issues of concern related to harassment and discrimination.

SODA Representative

Any complaint of harassment or discrimination will be immediately addressed by the administrator on site assigned to complaints of harassment and discrimination. This person is our Site Level Office of Diversity Affairs (SODA) representative, Mr. Steve Leifsen.

Additional Information

Please feel free to contact Mr. Steve Leifsen, at (253) 435-6300, if you have additional questions about the Puyallup School District's commitment to diversity. We also encourage you to consider participating in the Involved Multi-Cultural Parent and Community Advisory Council (IMPACT). This group meets monthly. Information about scheduled meetings can be found on the District website www.puyallup.k12.wa.us Office of Diversity Affairs page or by calling the Office of Diversity Affairs at (253) 840-8966.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

Hey Jags! As I write to you I am amazed that we are well into the second month of school. Serving as the Deputy assigned to be the School Resource Officer for Emerald Ridge is a privilege and I appreciate the warm welcome from students, parents and faculty. While deciding what to write about I consider some of the most frequently asked questions I hear from you. So the focus of this article is on traffic safety and clarification of some new driving laws.

One alarming fact is that **motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens**. That's more than triple the number of teen suicides and more than double the number of teen homicide victims (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). Here's some more reality for you. For 16 and 17 year olds, carrying just one passenger increases the crash risk by about 50% (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety). Fortunately, teen motor vehicle crashes are preventable, and proven strategies can improve the safety of young drivers on the road.

The good news is that **Washington State has implemented the Intermediate Driver's License (I.D.L.)** which has helped reduce fatal and injury related crashes for 16 year old drivers by up to 40%. When parents know their state's I.D.L. laws, they can help enforce the laws and, in effect, help keep their teen drivers safe. Here is what parents of new teen drivers need to know:

- For the **first six months**, your teen can't drive with people under the age of 20 unless they are a member of your immediate family. ***This means no friends.***
- For the **second six months**, your teen can't drive with more than three people under the age of 20 unless they are members of your immediate family.
- For the **first year**, your teen cannot drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- While driving with an I.D.L. your teen may not use any wireless communication device at all unless to report illegal activity, summon medical or emergency help or prevent injury to a person or property.

If these rules are not followed. Teens could get a ticket and pay fines or have their license suspended and your insurance rates could go up. See R.C.W. 46.20.075 for further details.

Deputy Jeff Papen

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PUYALLUP, WA 98371
PERMIT #91

RETURN SERVICE REEQUESTED

William Shakespeare's
The Tempest
Presented by ERHS Theatre

November 3rd, 4th and 5th
Curtain goes up at 7:00 p.m.

\$8.00 Adults and Students w/o ASB;
\$6.00 Students w/ASB, Under 12 and Seniors

Tickets available at the door beginning at 6:15.