



MESA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Our mission is to provide a safe, supportive, academically rich environment utilizing best practices to develop all students to be productive citizens and preparing lifelong learners for post-secondary readiness and success in a global society.

Dear Mesa Ridge Seniors, Parents and Guardians,

**** Please read this e-mail in its entirety for information regarding end-of-year senior events.**

I hope this finds you all healthy and safe! We are approaching a very bitter-sweet time of year where seniors will be closing out their high school chapter and beginning another. We know this time of distance learning has taken a toll not only on seniors but parents and staff as well. We have some final business to take care of with our seniors. We have been working diligently to develop a plan for the end of the year processes. There is detailed information coming out from Mr. Smith and Mr. Latino regarding the process for locker clean-out and returning school resources (instruments, textbooks, library books, uniforms, cameras etc.). Mesa Ridge would like to honor and fully recognize our seniors and to do so, we need help from you.

Last Days of Distance Learning

Seniors last day - May 11, 2020

Seniors with a hard-copy homework will need to return the completed packets to the black drop box located in the bus drop off lane not later than 12:00 pm May 11, 2020

Senior grades will be finalized: May 13, 2020

Virtual Graduation Release Date - Friday, June 12, 2020, at 7:00 pm

It is important for us to find a way to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2020. In order for us to create a virtual graduation that follows a traditional graduation format and timeline, we will need your help capturing some pictures of our seniors. Additional graduation information below.

Senior Locker Cleanout and Resource Return - May 8, 2020 between 9:00 am 11:00 am

Detailed information will be sent out by Mr. Smith and Mr. Latino. You will follow this process **FIRST** then go to "Pick-up"

Senior "Pick-up date - May 8, 2020 between 9:00am and 11:00 am (Courtyard behind school) Seniors will complete the Locker Cleanout and Resource Return **FIRST**, then drive around the back of the school entering behind the small gym and drive towards the cafeteria courtyard to pick up senior items.

Items for pick up:

- Diploma covers
- Cap/Gown
- Grizzlies Class of 2020 Yard Signs
- Military Cords
- NHS and AVID Sashes (qualifying students only)

- Renaissance Medallions/etc. (qualifying students only)
- Conditions sheet (If they have anything on the books)
- Honor cords (top 3% (Gold) and 15%(Silver) will be distributed after final grades are calculated) There will be a separate pick-up day. Seniors will be contacted directly and informed when to pick them up.

Guidelines for the Graduate Pictures

5 Senior Pictures due date - May 22, 2020, by 6:00 pm

- **Picture #1** - Graduate in cap and gown wearing their cords/sashes (cap and gown must remain in traditional form - no decorations of cap and/or gown) - Background must be school appropriate (Shown during the laying of Pomp and Circumstance - Graduates enter)
- **Picture #2** - Graduate and family - family member(s) handing student his/her diploma - Waist up picture - 2 people plus the graduate (total of 3 in the picture) - Background must be school appropriate (Shown during reading of graduates names receiving their diploma)
- **Picture #3** - Graduate celebrating getting their diploma - Background and celebration activities must be school appropriate (Shown during the recession of graduates when they exit)
- **Picture #4** - Senior memory picture - appropriate picture shared from their senior year memory or experience (**Optional**)
- **Picture #5** - Senior memory picture - appropriate picture shared from their senior year memory or experience (**Optional**)

****Please note, all pictures must be school appropriate, follow all school dress codes and code of conduct.**

Mesa Ridge would like to honor and fully recognize our seniors and to do so, we need help from you. Please make sure you follow the directions to ensure that your student has picture(s) in our virtual graduation. If you do not follow the instructions, your student will have a general slide with the name only on the graduation video.

Taking Pictures for Virtual Graduation

We request that you take **THREE PICTURES (Pictures #1, #2, #3)** and upload.

For best picture quality, helpful hints are listed:

- Make sure there is ample light.
 - If you have big windows in your home, take the picture near a window.
 - If you take the picture outside and the sun is too bright, find shade.
- Make sure there is little distraction in the background.
 - You want your graduate to be the focus of the picture so before you snap the photo, look behind you to see if that is the background you want in your picture.
- Take the picture in a **horizontal or landscape format**. Turn your camera onto its side. The picture will be long, not narrow in its focus.
- Take the picture from head to toe.

Uploading the Pictures:

- You will receive an email and it will instruct you to add files into a secure dropbox account under our school counselor Regina Shea.
- You will open the link, you will select "choose from computer". Select that button and upload from your photo library on your phone, iPad or computer. **YOU DON'T NEED A COMPUTER FOR THE UPLOAD.**
 - Please know these photos will only be used by those creating the graduation video.
 - IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, CONTACT Ms. Shea at shear@wsd3.org. She can assist you in submitting the picture through email.
 - The dropbox is the preferred method. **ONLY** contact Ms. Shea if you cannot access or have difficulty with your upload.
- When you are uploading pictures to the dropbox, it will ask you what size to upload. Please select the "**actual size**" of the photo so we have the best quality of the picture.
- You will label your pictures in the following manner. All pictures need your student's name. Please type into your upload LAST NAME, FIRST NAME (**ALL CAPITAL LETTERS**) for each picture followed by the details of the picture. The format is as follows:
 - **Picture #1: LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, CAP**
(Example: **SAGE,SCOTT_CAP**)
 - **Picture #2: LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, DIPLOMA**
(Example: **SAGE,SCOTT_DIPLOMA**)
 - **Picture #3: LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, CELEBRATE**
(Example: **SAGE,SCOTT_CELEBRATION**)
 - **Picture #4 and #5 are "optional". If you have memories/experiences to share from senior year upload them to the same dropbox.**

The **deadline for submission is May 22nd** but **WE ASK THAT YOU SUBMIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to allow our team to create a meaningful virtual graduation video. By submitting early, you give our staff more time to make a better quality video.

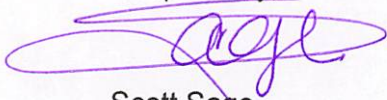
In-person Graduation Ceremony UPDATE:

- Mesa Ridge High School and Widefield School District #3 is committed to attempting to have an in-person graduation ceremony and understand there may be some restrictions based on guidance from local health officials. We have submitted an official request to the El Paso County Health Department to gain approval for an in-person graduation ceremony, with appropriate limitations, during the month of June. We will provide all seniors and their parents with updated information once the Health Department has made their decision.

**** Seniors can pick up their actual diploma on Tuesday, May 26, in the front bus drop off lane. You must have turned in all pictures by May 22nd to pick up your diploma. If a senior had any conditions on the books, they will need to take care of these before getting their diploma.**

Thank you for making it to the end of yet another lengthy email. I appreciate all of your support, patience, understanding, and poise during this unparalleled time. We miss you all and hope you are staying safe and healthy. **GO GRIZZLY NATION!!!!**

Respectfully,



Scott Sage
Principal