



MESA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

6070 Mesa Ridge Parkway • Colorado Springs 80911 • (719)391-3600

FAX (719)390-9697

Scott
Sage
Principal

Branda Morgan
George Smith
Assistant Principals

D.J. Latino
Dean of Students

Brett Humphrey
*Athletic Director /
Dean of Students*

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 Grizzly Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Greetings from Mesa Ridge High School! I hope you are doing well.

I am very happy to report that, after many long hours of planning and preparation, our proposal for a “voluntary” in-person graduation ceremony for Mesa Ridge High School was approved by the Health Department! **On Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 11:00 am Mesa Ridge High School will be hosting the graduation ceremonies on our football field.** We are extremely excited and thankful to be able to provide this graduation ceremony for our magnificent graduating class of 2020.

As part of the approval from the Health Department, we will strictly adhere to all social distancing norms, and we will practice safety in all aspects of the graduation. Additionally, and as a result of the Health Department guidelines, **the in-person ceremony will be purely “voluntary” and limited to graduates only and a handful of staff to coordinate the ceremony. No family members, spectators, or observers will be allowed to attend the ceremony.** Our ceremony which was approved by the Health Department is modeled after the Air Force Academy graduation ceremony. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) provided the following guidelines for students that participate in the in-person graduation ceremony:

- Students are encouraged to avoid vulnerable persons for two weeks following their participation in a graduation ceremony
- Communication to students should include a recommendation that they not participate if a family member is considered vulnerable.

**** We will still provide a virtual video graduation ceremony on Friday, June 12, 2020, at 7:00 pm. A link will be provided to view the ceremony in the near future.**

In-Person Graduation Procedures:

Please note the following details regarding our in-person graduation ceremony:

1. The in-person graduation ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 11:00 am at Mesa Ridge Football field. The ceremony will follow guidelines set forth by the El Paso County Health Department.
2. The in-person graduation ceremony will be live streamed for parents, family, friends, and the community to enjoy. A link will be provided to families and the Grizzly community as we get closer to June 11, 2020.
3. In order to participate in the voluntary in-person graduation ceremony, each graduate will be asked to adhere to the following:
 - a. Submit a signed parent/guardian Graduation Waiver. You will receive this waiver electronically prior to the in-person graduation.
 - b. Complete a health release and undergo a possible temperature check on the day of the graduation to determine if they are healthy and can participate in the ceremony. This health check will be conducted by a WSD#3 Nurse.
4. Graduates should report to the south student parking lot at 8:00 am on June 11, 2020. Upon arrival, please note the following:
 - a. Graduates will park in the south end of the student parking lot near Mesa Ridge Parkway (NOT by the baseball field)
 - b. Get in line for the health release (mentioned above) near the baseball field
 - c. Graduates will report to the track to identify their seat assignment (Left/Right side)
 - d. Graduates will be seated in chairs on the football field. The chairs will be spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart. I will review the order of the ceremony with the graduates prior to the actual ceremony beginning.
 - e. Graduates and staff must wear masks at all times during the ceremony (except those who are speaking on the stage). We ask that graduates wear their MR mask (provided after the health release) during the graduation ceremony.

Senior Celebration and Diploma pick-up procedures:

Please also note the following information:

1. Diploma pick-up is Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Students/parents will drive through the south parking lot entrance and follow the path around the school to the back of the cafeteria to pick up diploma. Staff will be present to acknowledge and honor our seniors as they pick up their diplomas. Please have some form of identification available when picking up diplomas. We will adhere to the following schedule for pick up:
 - a. Last name beginning with A - J 9:00 - 9:40 am
 - b. Last name beginning with K - S 9:40 - 10:30 am
 - c. Last name beginning with T - Z 10:30 – 11:10 pm
2. During the diploma pick up, we will have the voluntary in-person graduation waivers available. As mentioned above, we must have a parent-signed

graduation waiver for all graduates planning on attending and participating in the voluntary in-person graduation ceremony.

I am very thankful that we are able to provide an in-person graduation for the class of 2020. I look forward to seeing all of the graduates on June 11, 2020 at 8:00 am.

Thanks again for your patience and support! GO GRIZZLIES!!!

Scott A. Sage
Principal