



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.**

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June 9, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Class of 2020,

Greetings from Mesa Ridge High School! I hope this finds you well. I am excited to announce that the state of Colorado released a new amendment to the current public health order and we are working with local health officials to follow guidelines in order to have two guests per graduate on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 11:00 am. This came down late Monday night and we are diligently working to adjust our venue to accommodate two guests per graduate. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!** Please read the following letter in its entirety for procedures and expectations. As promised, we are still providing a link so parents, family members and friends can access the Live Stream for the modified IN-PERSON GRADUATION CEREMONY. Please follow the instructions referenced below to access the link for the Live Stream.

- Click on the following link: <http://events.locallive.tv/school/widefield-district-3>  
(The link will also be available on the Mesa Ridge website)
- Click the drop down menu with "Upcoming Sports Events" and click on "Upcoming School Events"
- Click on "Watch" next to the Mesa Ridge High School event. You will be able to watch the ceremony LIVE when it starts at 11:00 am.

#### **VOLUNTARY IN-PERSON GRADUATION CEREMONY:**

- The voluntary in-person graduation is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, at 11:00 am at Mesa Ridge High School on the lower JV Baseball/football practice field. Graduates should arrive at 8:30 am in the south student parking lot dressed in their cap and gown and **have their Diploma Cover with them.**
- **Parents should arrive no earlier than 10:00 am**

#### **EXPECTATIONS:**

- All participants/Parents/Guests at the ceremony will be required to wear masks when they enter and exit the ceremony.
  - Speakers will remove masks during their speech
  - Graduates will remove their masks for pictures and immediately put it back on before going to their seats
- Maintain social distancing (6 feet apart) **at all times**
- No person-person exchanges during the ceremony (**YOU MUST HAVE YOUR DIPLOMA COVER**)
- Parents/Guests must practice social distancing before, during and after the ceremony as well as be required to wear a masks

## PRE-CEREMONY PROCEDURES:

- **Station 1: Parking**
  - Seniors will arrive at 8:30 am and check in to the Health Station (Tent) at the side of the JV baseball field.
  - Parents/Guests must arrive no earlier than 10:00 am and will be guided where to park in the south student parking lot. Guests will check in at the Guest Station at the top of the student parking lot near the football storage shed. Parents/guests will sign names next to their graduates prior to being let into the ceremony seating area. **REMINDER ONLY TWO GUEST PER GRADUATE.**
  - **GRADUATES and GUESTS MUST WEAR MASKS AT ALL TIMES!**
  - Campus Security will be monitoring parking lot to avoid social gatherings and maintain distancing
- **Station 2: Health Station**
  - Students will form a line practicing social distancing maintaining a distance of six feet apart
  - Students will get a MR Logo mask to wear immediately and throughout the ceremony
  - School nurses will perform the health screening and paperwork using the County Health screening document that was provided for us.
  - Students will grab a commemorative MR Logo pen to sign their paperwork (keep pen)
- **Station 3: Counseling Center**
  - Counselor will direct student to their ceremony seating assignments
  - Students will grab a bottle of water if they choose to have during the ceremony
- **Station 4: Graduate Ceremony Seating**
  - Graduates will sit in their assigned ceremony seating and await instructions and expectations from staff
  - Graduates will practice a “Walk-through” of how the ceremony will flow

## CEREMONY PROCEDURES:

- Staging graduates for the start of the ceremony at 10:45 am. Ceremony will begin at 11:00 am.
  - Graduates will be staged in five lines of 20 social distanced 6ft apart (Left/Right)
  - Enter ceremony seating area from the East moving West filling 10 graduates per row in 10 rows left side and right side (maintain social distancing 6 feet apart)
- Graduates will be sitting in 10 rows of 10 (Left and Right sides) spaced six feet apart
- During ceremonial announcement of graduate’s name, Counselors will guide graduates to stand and exit their row to the outside, maintain social distancing
- Graduates will take two pictures with GradImages
- Graduate will walk to a podium, set their name card on a music stand, (maintain social distancing) for Admin to read their name then they will enter the stage, walk to the middle for a picture then exit the front of the stage (alternating left and right side one graduate on the stage at a time)
- Graduate will **NOT** be handed anything, they will simply **bring their Diploma Cover with them to the stage** and take their picture. **(NO EXCHANGES from person-person)**
- Recession of graduates (End of ceremony)
  - Graduates will exit row by row maintain social distancing to the parking lot
  - Parents will wait to be dismissed by event staff after graduates have left the event area to help ensure social distancing and social gatherings. We ask that you leave campus to gather with family and friends to support us in being in compliance with the Health Department and Governor’s graduation variance. **PLEASE support our efforts!!!**
  - Event staff and Campus Security will monitor graduates and guests to prevent social gatherings and to encourage graduates to leave campus in a timely manner. **There will be no gathering on campus so we remain in compliance with the Health Department and Governor’s graduation variance.**

- **GradImages** is the professional photography company that will be taking photos of your graduates. They will be in contact with graduates and their families via email to purchase senior graduation photos after the ceremony. Types of photos that will be available are as follows:
  1. Head shot
  2. Torso up shot
  3. Stage shot

#### **PARENT/GUEST SEATING:**

- Due to the quick turnaround to accommodate two guests per graduate, we will need your help! PLEASE DRESS CASUAL! We will have minimal chairs for seating (150) and will need to utilize the athletic hillside for “picnic” style seating, so bring a blanket for seating. The hillside seating will be marked with sprinkler flags. We ask that each graduate’s two guests sit to the “RIGHT SIDE” of each flag. There will be a 6 foot distance between the two guests and the next flag. PLEASE do not sit in the space in between the flags. **PLEASE bring lawn chairs for additional seating in the quest seating area on the north and south ends of the field.** We will have a section on the south end of the ceremony for handicap seating only. **All seating areas MUST maintain the 6 feet social distancing.**
- **Final announcements and clarifications for expectations and procedures will be addressed prior to going LIVE with the ceremony.**

#### **VIRTUAL GRADUATION VIDEO: June 12, 2020**

- The virtual graduation video will be released on Friday, June 12, at 7:00 pm. A link to the video will be accessible on the Mesa Ridge High School webpage. <https://mrhs.wsd3.org/>.
- The virtual graduation ceremony will contain additional content so please make sure you set aside time to watch the video with your graduate. For family members or friends who would like the opportunity to view the virtual graduation ceremony, please direct them to the Mesa Ridge website at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12 and we will provide a link to the video.

The staff at Mesa Ridge have worked hard to honor the 2020 graduates within the guidelines outlined by the El Paso County Health Department, CDC and the state. We truly appreciate all of your support and understanding throughout this unprecedented crisis!

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Class of 2020 and their parents as we have crossed these uncharted waters at the end of the school year. Our Mesa Ridge High School students, parents, and staff are truly the best. **GRIZZLY NATION ROCKS!!!**

Respectfully,

Scott A. Sage  
Principal