

# Finding Her Place - Mahalia Jones

One of the hidden challenges that high school students face is finding how they fit in between all the classes, students, sports, and activities. For Mesa Ridge senior Mahalia Jones, figuring out her identity among the crowd of Grizzlies was not so much a challenge, but rather an opportunity. Competing in multiple sports, taking AP classes, participating in HOSA, and taking dance lessons outside of school have all helped shape Mahalia's identity. Her determination to forge her own path at Mesa Ridge is what makes Mahalia a Grizzly Great.



What sets Mahalia apart from other Mesa Ridge students is the diversity of activities in which she chose to pursue during high school. First off, she is one of the only girls in school history to ever participate in football. She also recently placed third in the state in her weight class at the state championships for girls' wrestling. But she's not only an athlete! Mahalia is also an honors student enrolled in many AP classes and has been a member of HOSA during all four years of high school. On top of all that, she still found time to keep up with tap dance and ballet, a passion she has had since the third grade.

Mahalia's future plans include attending Hastings College in Nebraska to study pre-med in order to become a trauma surgeon. Mahalia's advice to young Grizzlies searching for their spot at Mesa Ridge is simple: let it happen.

*"Take your time. If you focus on yourself, you'll find your place in the crowd."*

This talented football-playing, tap-dancing, pre-med wrestler Grizzly saw Mesa Ridge not only as a place to pursue her interests but also as a place to learn about herself which is why Mahalia Jones is a superb example of Grizzly Greatness.

