
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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Happy Holidays

*From
The Staff
At
Meredith Hill*

No Child Left Behind—What Does It Mean?

Schools across the nation are in the midst of educational reform which began in the early 1990's. What is involved and what does it mean for your child? In the next several issues of the newsletter, I will provide answers to some of your questions on the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act of 2001, which outlines changes for public schools in all 50 states.

What is the No Child Left Behind Act?

“No Child Left Behind” is the name President Bush gave to the congressional act spelling out federal education spending for all elementary and secondary public schools. The law that details federal education spending was first approved in 1965 and is regularly reauthorized by Congress. The president signed the current reauthorization bill in January, 2002. He called it “No Child Left Behind” to attract attention to changes in the law.

How does it differ from past federal spending laws?

The biggest difference is that this federal spending plan contains sanctions for schools and districts that don't make the academic progress spelled out by Congress.

What is the major focus of the new law?

The major focus of NCLB 2001 is to provide all children with a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. NCLB is built on four principles:

- 1) **Accountability for results:** To ensure those students who are disadvantaged achieve academic proficiency.
- 2) **Greater local control:** Allows school districts flexibility in how they use federal education funds to improve student achievement.
- 3) **Research-based education:** Emphasizes educational programs and practices that have been proven effective through scientific research.
- 4) **Parent options:** Increases the choices available to the parents of students attending Title 1 schools.

What does it require of schools, districts and states?

The centerpiece of the act is a requirement that public schools have 100 percent of students meeting the state standards by 2014. Updates in the law in the spring of 2005 brought some additional flexibility, but held on to these key components:

- 1) **Annual assessments in reading and math** for all students in grades 3-8, and at least once in high school.
- 2) **Disaggregated data on student achievement by subgroup.** The data must be provided in a timely manner to parents and the public in clear and understandable school and district report cards. (To view our district and school report card, go to reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ .)
- 3) **State standards for proficiency in reading and math by 2013-14.** States must include all students in school accountability systems and set targets for all students to reach proficiency. (To view our state's standards, or Grade Level Expectations

(GLEs), go to ospi.k12.wa.us (Scroll down under “Curriculum and Instruction” and choose a subject. On the subject page, click on “GLEs.”)

- 4) **Highly qualified teachers:** States are responsible for implementing a rigorous system for ensuring teachers are highly qualified, and providing support for recruiting and retaining the best and brightest teachers to our schools.
- 5) **Options for families**—including access to tutoring services, charter schools and transfer options to better performing schools—especially for families of children attending persistently low-performing schools.

It is important that parents understand the expectations for their children and their children's schools. If you have questions or would like additional information on any of these topics, please give me a call at 253-945-3200.

Sincerely,
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

Safety Corner

Thanks to your help and cooperation, dismissal time is much safer and is working well! Thanks to all of you! We have several simple rules that will ensure safety when you pick up your child after school.

Upper Parking Lot

- * Park cars in all the available spaces.
- * Cars can line up after all the parking spaces are full.
- * Pull forward in line as far as possible to load students.

Lower Parking Lot

- * Use crosswalks to cross the driveway or street.
- * Do not walk between busses.
- * The parking circle in front of the school is one-way.

To All

- * Be courteous to crossing guard and staff members on traffic duty! Be patient as busses leave! They get priority!

Thank You Volunteers

Our warmest thanks to the many volunteers who put in 267 hours during the first two months of school, to help the students and teachers at Meredith Hill. Your presence here makes Meredith Hill an even better place to be.

DECEMBER Calendar

- 5-8– PTA Holiday Shop
- 9– PTA Family Winterfest
5:00-8:00 pm
- 15– Cookie Day
- 16– Holiday Assembly 2:15
- Dec 17 - Jan 1– Winter Vacation

JANUARY Calendar

- 2– School Resumes
- 5– PTA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12– Cookie Day
- 13– Martin Luther King Assembly
10:00 am
- 16– NO School
Martin Luther King Holiday
- 26– End of First Semester
Cookie Day

Parents We Need Your Help

In the morning, our warning bell rings at 8:48, and students should be in line with their classes by 8:50. We have noticed a number of parents dropping students off in the upper parking lot after the warning bell has already rung.

Parents, it would be very helpful if you could leave just a few minutes earlier in the morning and pull your vehicle up to the farthest end of the parking lot. Mrs. Schneider, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mrs. Foster, and Mrs. Gillick will be there to meet your student(s) and help them out of your vehicle so that they can make it to class in time.

Another Reminder

Meredith Hill is required to account for EACH student EACH day. Call the office at (253) 945-3200 to report an absence or late arrival. Students arriving late to school must be accompanied by a parent who signs them in, or have a written note from the parent when they check in at the office. We appreciate a follow up note whenever a child returns from an absence. If we do not receive a call or a note, the absence will be recorded as “unexcused”.

Dress for the Weather!

Meredith Hill students will be going outside as much as possible for recess throughout the winter so that they can get physical activity. Please dress your children to be at recess on wet and cold weather days. When the weather is severe, we will make sure the students are inside and safe.



From the Nurse: The, Oh So Common, Cold

Winter is here, and with it comes cold season. Each cold may last from one to two weeks, and may progress through various combinations of stuffy nose, runny nose, sneezing, sore or scratchy throat, cough, watery eyes, fever, and feeling tired. Cold viruses spread easily. The best prevention is GOOD HANDWASHING. You should wash your hands after blowing your nose, after using the restroom, and before preparing or eating food.

Every child with cold symptoms can't stay out of school or be sent home. But if a child is not well enough to participate in class, because of an uncontrollable cough or fatigue for example, he doesn't belong in school. A child with a temperature of 100F or greater, needs to stay home.

School district policy guidelines state that children with any of the following symptoms must be sent home:

- * Oral temperature of 100 degrees or higher.
- * Any vomiting or diarrhea at school.
- * The presence of any of the following untreated communicable diseases – head lice, scabies, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, fifth's disease, strep throat and/or scarlet fever, pink eye, ringworm, and impetigo.

To help the office, please provide us with any changes to your child's emergency information, as soon as possible.

