

*Marriotts Ridge High School*  
**12100 Woodford Drive**  
**Marriottsville, MD 21104**

Dear Senior,

This brochure contains information that you will find very helpful during your final weeks at Marriotts Ridge High School. We are giving you this information at this time so that you may begin to make plans for your senior activities. Attendance at graduation rehearsals is mandatory if you wish to participate in the graduation ceremony. Please share this information with your parents. All questions may be directed to Mrs. Rashid, Graduation Coordinator at 410-313-5568.

\*\*\*\*\* **All seniors are required to attend school through Friday, May 28, 2010 as usual**\*\*\*\*\*

- April 16** Senior Information Sheet due to the Student Services Center
- April 28 & 29** Spring Concerts I & II, 7:00 pm
- May 3-7 & May 10-14** A.P. Exams – Times and Locations to be Announced
- May 5** Fine Arts Dept. Banquet - 7:00 pm
- May 8** Junior/Senior **PROM** at Hyatt Regency Baltimore from 7:00 pm – 12 midnight  
PTSA After Prom Party, 12 midnight – 5 am, at Dave & Buster’s Arundel Mills
- May 12** MAAAC Senior Farewell, 7:00 pm
- May 13 & 14** Dance Concerts I & II, 7:00 pm
- May 17** **Requests for additional Graduation Tickets due to Mrs. Burdick, Principal’s Secretary.**  
**All graduates will automatically receive 8 tickets.**  
**Please list all additional guests on your written request for tickets.**
- HCPSS employees wishing to present the diploma to their student must submit a request in writing to Mrs. Burdick by May 17, no later than 3 pm please.**
- May 19** **All debts must be paid by Wednesday, May 19**  
Graduation tickets and Caps & Gowns will be issued beginning on May 26 to those seniors who have fulfilled all financial obligations with Marriotts Ridge High School.
- May 24** **Regular Class Schedule – A Day**  
Review for Final Exams
- May 25** **Regular Class Schedule – B Day**  
Final Exams during Period 4B, 10:15 am – 12:20 pm
- **CLASS NIGHT at Turf Valley Resort, 7 – 11:00 pm**
    - Dinner, Senior/Staff Skits, Senior Superlatives, Dance
- May 26** **Period 1 & 2** **Mandatory Farewell Assembly Rehearsal**  
**Any student who is absent or late for practice will not participate in the graduation ceremony.**
  - Distribution of Caps & Gowns and Graduation Tickets following rehearsal.  
Please make sure to take the gown out of its cover and hang it up immediately. **Do not iron your gown.**
- Period 3** **Exam Study Hall (in student’s Period 3 class)**  
**Period 4A, 5, 6** **Final Exams**

**May 27**            **Period 1, 2, 3**    **Final Exams**  
**Lunch**            **A lunch for ALL Seniors, 10:30 – 11:00 am**  
**11:00 – 2:10 pm**  
**Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal**  
Any student who is absent or late for practice will not participate in the graduation ceremony.

**SENIOR EVENING of EXCELLENCE – MRHS Auditorium, 7 – 9:00 pm**

- Community and Business Partnership Awards, Club Awards, Academic Awards, Fine Arts Awards, Senior Athletic Recognition, Student Speeches, Fine Arts Performances, and Reception in the Commons afterwards.  
All students and parents are invited!

**May 28**            **SENIOR CLASS BREAKFAST – MRHS Cafeteria, 7:25 – 8:30 am**  
**SENIOR FAREWELL ASSEMBLY - MRHS Auditorium, 8:45 – 11:00 am**

- Departmental Awards, Administration Awards, Student Speeches, Fine Arts Performances, Senior Video
- Due to seating limitations, only parents of award recipients and performers will be invited.
- Caps, gowns, and appropriate attire are required. (**Males: dark dress pants, collared shirt with tie, dark socks, dress shoes. Females: white dress/skirt or white pants, white dress shoes**)

**SENIOR PICNIC, 11 am – 2:10 pm, MRHS Campus**

**June 2**            **GRADUATION CEREMONY 4:00 pm**

**Merriweather Post Pavilion, Columbia**

Graduates must arrive by 3:30 pm with caps and gowns and dressed in appropriate attire. Graduates must report directly to the designated area and are not allowed to walk around the pavilion in their caps and gowns prior to the ceremony.

**Diplomas** will be issued immediately following the ceremony backstage at Merriweather Post Pavilion.

**A Special Note from Pat Saunderson regarding the Graduation Ceremony.....**

We are very excited about our upcoming Graduation Ceremony. I have listed a few quick reminders below:

Please make sure that our seniors are dressed appropriately. Please do not forget your cap, gown, and tassel. Don't laugh ... it has happened before ....

Seniors need to arrive by 3:30 PM. Be careful as you enter Merriweather ... the school holding Graduation before us has assured me that they will be done well before we arrive, but there still might be some traffic.

During the ceremony, please help us to recognize the accomplishments of each graduate by not being overly noisy as we read names. We know that this is a wonderful celebration and would hate it to be ruined for a family because they could not hear their graduate's name being read ... I am sure that nobody wants that to happen to them ...

As we know that this is an exciting and wonderful experience, we understand that people want to celebrate. However, we do not want to disrespect others at this ceremony by wearing anything inappropriate or acting out in some way that dishonors our school or community. As much as I also want to celebrate with our students, I have explained to them that it is also my job to ensure the dignity of this special occasion.

If at all possible, I ask that we refrain from beach balls or air horns during the actual ceremony ... if someone feels that they absolutely must include a beach ball or air horn, please at least wait until the celebration at the end when the tassels are turned. At that point in the ceremony, we will all celebrate!!!

We have many special guests coming because they heard about the phenomenal MRHS graduation ceremonies of past years ... make us proud to be Mustangs!

Last instruction ... enjoy, enjoy, enjoy ... I believe that this is my 20<sup>th</sup> graduation and each one is such a special memory.

## GRADUATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. You do not have to participate in the graduation ceremony in order to receive a diploma. **Parents must submit a written request for non-participation to Mr. Saunderson by Friday, May 7, 2010.**
2. Although participation in the graduation ceremony is voluntary, **attendance at all graduation rehearsals is mandatory in order to participate in the ceremony.** Be on time and stay for the full time. Perfect practice makes a perfect ceremony.
3. Caps and gowns are required attire for the Graduation Ceremony and the Senior Farewell Assembly.
  - a) Seniors should wear their caps straight on their heads with the deep part at the back and the tassel over the left temple.
  - b) Some of the caps will not fit easily with all present hair fashions. Adjust your hair fashion accordingly.
  - c) Females should wear an all-white or light pastel dress, skirt or dress pants and light dress shoes. No flip-flops. Avoid large earrings and bracelets.
  - d) Males should wear white shirts or light colored collared shirts, dark background necktie, dress pants, dark shoes and dark socks. No sneakers, tennis shoes, boots, flip flops or other such footwear will be allowed. All shirts are to be buttoned and collars inside the gown.
4. When you receive your cap and gown, hang it up! Wrinkles do not come out when the gowns stay in the bags. **Do not iron your gown.**
5. During the ceremony:
  - a) When crossing the stage, walk briskly.
  - b) Posture: straight – heads up – proud appearance – smile – show a sense of pride.
  - c) Spacing: 6 to 8 feet – while walking.
  - d) Stand for the National Anthem. Gentlemen remove their caps.
6. All Howard County School System policies and school rules will remain in effect and will be enforced. Please do not jeopardize your privilege of participating in graduation. Listen! Pay attention! If you do not cooperate during practices, you will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.
7. Each graduate will receive 8 graduation tickets. **If you need extra tickets, you must submit a written request to Mrs. Burdick, Principal's Secretary, by Monday May 17, 2010.** Any requests received after May 17th will not be accepted.
8. There will be a professional photographer photographing each graduate as their diploma is awarded. Information will be available on the school's website ([marriottsridge.net](http://marriottsridge.net)). There will also be a professional videographer. An order form for the DVD will be available in the front office and at graduation practices.
9. **Handicapped parking and seating requests must be submitted in writing to Mrs. Burdick by Monday, May 17, 2010.** Any requests received after that date will not be accepted.
10. **HCPSS employees wishing to present the diploma to their student must submit a request in writing to Mrs. Burdick by May 17, 2010 no later than 3 pm.**
10. Questions: Contact Mrs. Rashid, Graduation Coordinator at 410-313-5568.