About Meridian Letter Jackets & "Lettering"
A letter jacket is traditionally worn to represent a student's school, team and/or competitive or leadership extra-curricular activity. At Meridian, a letter jacket includes the red and black jacket itself and the Meridian "M" patch on the front left (see image to left). The "M" may or may not include an earned insert (see Tennis insert in image to left and IB insert in image below). To earn an insert, the student must have lettered in that Meridian extra-curricular activity (see Lettering Requirements below). The IB insert is the only exception. All Meridian students who are eligible to purchase a letter jacket and/or who have lettered in an extra-curricular activity may choose the IB insert (see image below).

In recognition of the dedication and commitment required to be an IB student, all Meridian juniors and seniors have the privilege of purchasing a letter jacket with the Meridian "M" on the front. Both the fall and the spring letter jacket ordering windows include all juniors and seniors. The spring ordering window also includes sophomores so that their jackets can be purchased and arrive to wear in the fall of their junior year.

To letter at Meridian means that the student has met all of the qualifications for that extra-curricular activity. Lettering in an extra-curricular activity at Meridian is one of the most distinguished honors a student can achieve. Please see the Lettering Requirements for Fall Extra-Curricular Activities below.

Twice a year, in the late fall and late spring, the school assesses who is eligible to purchase a letter jacket and who has lettered in an extra-curricular activity. Fall sports are included in the fall letter jacket ordering period. Winter and spring sports are part of the spring letter jacket ordering period. School leadership organizations and competitive clubs and groups are also included in the spring ordering period.

Students who have lettered in their extra-curricular activity have earned the opportunity to purchase the Meridian letter jacket with the Meridian "M" patch on the front as well as a patch for the jacket sleeve representing his/her extra-curricular activity. Additionally, students who have lettered may add an insert in the Meridian "M" patch depicting the extra-curricular activity in which they lettered or the IB insert (as shown to the right). **Students cannot purchase an insert for their Meridian "M" or a letter jacket patch for a Meridian sport or Meridian extra-curricular activity in which they have not lettered.**

**Lettering Requirements for Fall Extra-Curricular Activities**

**Overview**
Fall sports are eligible for lettering in the fall letter jacket period. In order to "letter" in athletics, or in order for a student to be eligible to purchase a letter jacket and a patch and/or insert representing his/her sport, the student must meet all four requirements below no later than October 30, 2018:

1) **Grade-Level Requirement:** Lettering is only available to high school students. The student must be enrolled in Meridian School as a 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student.

   **Athletics' Playing Up Exception** - If a 7th or 8th grade student is asked to "play up" or advance to the Varsity or Varsity-level team and meets all other requirements, then he/she could earn the opportunity to purchase their letter jacket and the patch and/or insert in their sport in the spring of their 8th grade year. In this case, the letter jacket cannot be worn until the fall of their freshman year. All other requirements must also be met.

2) **Academic Eligibility Requirement:** If at any point a student misses a competition or performance due to academic ineligibility, then he/she will not be qualified to letter in his/her extra-curricular activity for that academic year. All other requirements must also be met.
3) **Good Standing Requirements:**
   a) **Character Good Standing** - Students responsible for an offense or offenses that resulted in two or more days of suspension while enrolled at Meridian School cannot meet the Character Good Standing Requirement for 12 months from the date of the last suspension.
   b) **Financial Good Standing** - Additionally, the student's family must be in good financial standing with the School, especially as it pertains to any fees owed to participate in that extra-curricular activity, prior to ordering a letter jacket.
   
   **Note:** If a student's financial eligibility is resolved after the ordering window closes, he/she will need to order directly through Herff Jones or wait until the next ordering window. All other requirements must also be met.

4) **Participation Requirement:** Each extra-curricular activity has its own Participation Requirement. This requirement takes into consideration the level and amount of participation that would be considered the highest level for that extra-curricular activity. During the fall, only fall sports are eligible for Lettering. Winter and spring sports will be eligible to letter in the spring. Qualifying clubs and leadership organizations will also be eligible to letter during the spring.
   
   **Senior Exception:** Students who are seniors (12th grade Meridian students) and who meet the Academic Eligibility and Good Standing (Character Good Standing and Financial Good Standing) Requirements, and who have participated in that sport or extra-curricular activity for three years of his/her high school experience at Meridian, and have displayed dependability and perseverance for that sport or extra-curricular activity as determined by the head coach or club/organization sponsor, could be exempt from the Participation Requirement. All other requirements must also be met.

a) **Team-Level Requirement** -
   i) **Varsity Team Sports** - For team sports that have Varsity-level team, such as Baseball, Basketball, Soccer and Volleyball, the student athlete must be on the Varsity team's roster for at least 50% of the season to qualify for lettering.
   
   ii) **High School Teams with Varsity Meet/Match-Specific Entries** - For sports that assess a student athlete's competition level before assigning to a team prior to each match/meet, such as Cross Country, Swimming and Tennis, the student athlete must meet the following Team-Level Requirements for their sport to qualify.
   
   - For **Swimming**, Varsity means:
     - Achieved and swam in a meet or a combination of meets a minimum of four USA Swimming BB times*, or
     - Achieved and swam in a meet or a combination of meets a minimum of two USA Swimming A times*  
       *Based on the 2017-2020 National Age Group Motivational Times for 15-16 year-olds, according to the student athlete's gender.
   
   - For **Cross Country**, Varsity means:
     - Maintained a minimum time of 22:30 (7:15 pace) for a 5K (boys), or 15:30 (7:45 pace) for 2 miles (girls)
   
   - For **Tennis**, Varsity means:
     - Competed in at least one more than half of available high school team matches within one season (fall season, spring season)
       - The 2019 TCAL State Tennis Tournament qualifies as one high school team match towards the spring season.
   
   All other requirements must also be met.

b) **Participation Amount Requirement** - Student athlete lettering candidates must meet both the practice and competition Participation Amount Requirements:
   
   - **Practices:** All Meridian students athletes are expected to show dedication and commitment to their sport by:
     - Promptly attending all practices and exhibitions (unless excused by the coach)
     - Showing a positive attitude toward the sport, his/her teammates as well as opponents
     - Consistently showing that he/she is working their hardest; showing outstanding effort
   
   - **Competitions:** All Meridian Student athletes participate in 50% of all the sport or team's interscholastic games/matches/meets. No exceptions will be made for injury or illness. All other requirements must also be met. Senior Exception may apply (see above).
     - This applies to all sports. The participation amounts per sport are as follows:
       - **Baseball:** The student athlete played in at least 50% of the innings during the regular season.
       - **Basketball:** The student athlete played in at least 50% of the total game minutes during the regular season.
       - **Cross Country:** The student athlete ran and finished as an individual at the Varsity level or on the Varsity team in at least half of those meets for the season.
       - **Soccer:** The student athlete played in at least 50% of the total game minutes during the regular season.
       - **Swimming:** The student athlete competed in at least half of the total swim meets for the regular season.
       - **Tennis:** The student athlete competed in at least one more than half of the total high school matches in the regular season.
         (Tennis has two seasons and two opportunities to letter each year, with all requirements needing to be met each season to letter that season.)
       - **Volleyball:** The student athlete played in at least 50% of the total sets during the regular season.
   
   All other requirements must also be met.
Lettering Nomination and Approval Process for Athletics

This process will occur twice a year - in late fall and in late spring.

1. To the head coaches of the varsity or varsity-level teams, the Athletics Department will send the current rosters with notes about academic eligibility and financial eligibility.

2. Within three school days, the coaches will respond to the Athletics Department with those names who meet the participation requirements.

3. Next, the coaches’ recommendations are sent from the Athletics Department to the assistant principal in charge of discipline to confirm for each recommended student that he/she has met the Character Good Standing requirement.

4. Finally, the student athletes who meet all four criteria, or who are seniors and qualify for the Senior Exception, are informed that they have lettered in their sport and they will be given the letter jacket and lettering patch ordering information.

Notes are kept by the Athletics Department on why others did not qualify should a student athlete or parent inquire.

Questions About Lettering

Questions about the Lettering Process
Questions about the lettering requirements or process may be sent to Meridian-athletics@mwschool.org.

Questions about Nominations
Questions about nominations from the coach or sponsor should be sent directly to the coach or sponsor first by the student. Then if follow up is necessary, they should be sent by the student’s parent or guardian to the coach or sponsor before finally contacting Mrs. Tester, Secondary Enrichment Assistant, if still unresolved. Mrs. Tester can be reached at Meridian-athletics@mwschool.org.

All Other Questions
For all other questions, please contact Mrs. Holcombe at s.holcombe@mwschool.org.

Please allow two school days for each response.

Important Dates for Fall Lettering

- October 30 - Deadline for all four Lettering Requirements to met for Fall Lettering
- Tuesday, November 6 - List of students who have lettered in fall 2018 is published on website and in Advisory Slides
- Before Thanksgiving - Information session and on-campus ordering opportunity
- February - Letter jackets arrive and will be distributed at school