

MELBA HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE *MUSTANGS*

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December 1, 2025

I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving and that you are enjoying this Christmas season. The school year is speeding by as we are quickly approaching the half-way point! December is a very busy month, so I wanted to make sure that you had the most recent update:

Mustang Awards – At Melba Jr/Sr High School we believe that character counts. Part of education is learning how to be a good citizen; it is not just about academics. The values that we want our students to develop include Effort, Discipline, Toughness, Commitment, and Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort (PRIDE). A student becomes a Champion when they challenge themselves daily in these areas. Each week, we recognize students who have shown themselves to be exemplary in one of these core values. They receive a Mustang Award; a certificate, one treat from the vending machine, and a place on the selfie-wall. The Champion Mustangs for the month of November are:

Elias R – Effort
Taylor D – Toughness
Anzley N – Commitment
Jackson O – Toughness
Liam T – Effort
Belle M – P.R.I.D.E.
Kamron B – Discipline
Tavin H - Commitment

Evelyn A – P.R.I.D.E.
Ruby B – Discipline
Madison M – P.R.I.D.E.
Colton A – Discipline
Gracie B – Commitment
Landon L – Toughness
Kynden C – Effort

Christmas Break – Christmas Break will begin on December 20th with school starting again on Monday, January 6th, 2025.

I-Ready Diagnostic – The Jr/Sr High School will begin the 2nd I-Ready Diagnostic for all students grades 7-11 on December 1st.

Semester Finals – Will be December 17th and 18th. Each class will have a final or final project on that day. Even-numbered periods, 2, 4, and 6, will have finals on Wednesday the 17th and odd-numbered periods will have finals on Thursday the 18th. A few teachers might have

students start early on a final like the day before, in order to be sure that they have time to finish. If a class does not give a final (like even-numbered periods on Thursday or odd on Wednesday) that class period will be used as a review period and give students an opportunity to study for the final that they will have next. If a student is going to be absent, arrangements will need to be made with the teacher to take the final earlier.

Attendance and finals -Some students might not need to take the final. This is the second year that we will be doing our attendance incentive. From the student handbook:

Attendance Incentive

At Melba Jr/Sr High School, students have the option of not attending the final two days of the semester and thus not taking a semester final if the following parameters are met for the class:

A “C” in the class, with **no absences and no tardies** for the semester.

A “B” in the class, with **no more than one absence and one tardy** for the semester.

An “A” in the class, with **no more than two absences and two tardies** for the semester.

Absences that are exempt from this procedure are:

Extraordinary absences – absences accompanied by a doctor’s note, required court dates, absences due to a death in the family. Doctor’s notes must be turned in the office within three school days of the appointment, to be accepted.

School activity absences – FFA, BPA, FCCLA, HOSA, Melba School Sports, Melba School Field Trips, and Off-site academic examinations.

All other Excused and Unexcused absences will be calculated for this procedure. Acquiring a Trancy in a class period will exempt that class from this procedure. This attendance and finals procedure is calculated on a per class basis.

Students will not be allowed to leave and return during these days. However, they may arrive later or leave earlier if they do not have a final that they need to take due to this incentive. For example: Student A only takes finals for periods 3, 4 and 5. Student may miss first 2 periods on Wednesday and Thursday and leave for home after 5th period each day as he or she has earned the attendance incentive for periods 1, 2, 6 and 7. Student B only takes finals periods 2, 5, 6 and 7. They have earned the incentive for periods 1, 3, and 4 but they cannot leave school once they arrive so they must stay periods 2-7. They can arrive late and miss period 1 both Wednesday and Thursday.

FAFSA – Attention Seniors and Senior parents! The FAFSA opened on December 1st. You need to fill this out if you are interested in Grants or Scholarships. Contact Tia Short or Mr. Mellen if you have any questions.

Lunch Balances – Please check your child’s account on MealTime and see if there is a lunch balance that needs to be paid.

Christmas in Melba – Will be Wednesday, December 3rd. Events start around 6:30. If you haven’t experienced this Melba tradition, I would invite you to go and enjoy some cocoa,

cookies, and caroling with other community members at the lighting of the city Christmas Tree. Additionally, our Jr/Sr High Music students will be performing at Extreme Pizza.

Christmas Families – Every year as a school we sponsor a few families who might need some extra help at Christmas time. If you know of a family who could use some help, or if you would like to contribute in some way, please contact Eric Forsgren – eforsgren@melbaschools.org or call 208-615-3555.

Winter Sports – Winter sports have started and are competing well. Make sure that you come down and enjoy a great basketball game or wrestling match. As you do so, remember to be a great example of sportsmanship.

I hope that you enjoy a great Christmas season with your family and loved ones. We are truly fortunate to live in and be part of such a great community. “Who’s got it better than Melba? NOBODY!”

GO MUSTANGS!

Eric Forsgren
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