

2025-2026 Letter Jacket and Lettering Requirements

Last updated September 22, 2025 (Subject to change)



About Meridian Letter Jackets & "Lettering"

A letter jacket is traditionally worn to represent a student's school, team and/or competitive or leadership extracurricular 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 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 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.** In the spring, sophomores may also order their jackets to arrive to wear in the fall of their junior year.

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

Students who have lettered in their activity have earned the opportunity to purchase the Meridian letter jacket with the Meridian "M" patch on the front as well as purchase a patch for the jacket sleeve representing their activity. Additionally, students who have lettered may add an insert in the Meridian "M" patch depicting the 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 activity in which they have not lettered.***

Lettering Requirements for Meridian Activities

All high school competitive, performance and school leadership extracurricular and co-curricular activities are eligible for lettering in the spring each school year. Additionally, fall, winter, and spring sports are eligible for lettering in the spring. In order to "letter" in athletics, competitive, performance, or school leadership extracurricular or co-curricular activities at Meridian School, or for a student to be eligible to purchase a letter jacket and a patch and/or insert representing their activity, the student must **meet all four requirements** below no later than April 3, 2026:



- 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 an 8th grade student is asked to "play up" or advance to the Varsity or Varsity-level team and meets all other requirements, then they 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.
- Academic Eligibility Requirement:** If at any point a student misses a competition or performance due to academic ineligibility, then they will not be qualified to letter in their activity for that academic year. Some activities have additional Academic Eligibility Requirements. See "Participation Requirements" below. All other requirements must also be met.
- Good Standing Requirements:**
 - Character in 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. (The two or more days of suspension do not have to be consecutive. Suspension includes ISS and out of school suspension.) Some activities, such as leadership organizations, have additional Character in Good Standing Requirements. See "Participation Requirements" below.

- B. **Financial Good Standing** - Additionally, the student's family must be in good financial standing with the School prior to ordering a letter jacket. *Note: If a student's financial eligibility is resolved after the ordering window closes, they will need to order directly through Overall Recognition or wait until the next ordering window. All orders placed directly with the vendor will be verified for eligibility.*

All other requirements must also be met.

4. **Participation Requirement:** Each extracurricular and co-curricular activity has its own Participation Requirements. This requirements take into consideration the level, amount and quality of participation that would be considered the highest level for that activity. Please find your Participation Requirements according to your activity below. *If your sport or activity is not listed, it does not qualify for lettering this year. If you believe this is a mistake or if you have questions, please see **Questions About Lettering** below for more information.*

Senior Exception: Students who are seniors (12th grade Meridian student) 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 activity for three years of their high school experience at Meridian, and have displayed dependability and perseverance for that sport or activity as determined by the head coach or club/organization advisor, could be exempt from the Participation Requirements.

Participation Requirements by the type of activity follows. (Requirements 1-3 above must also be met.)

Leadership Organizations:

- **Class Officers** - Elected position. Participates well for one full school year of service. Students who demonstrate commitment to their role and who do not get any disciplinary referrals that lead to consequences, could be rewarded with the opportunity to letter. If a student has been removed from their position, the student will not be eligible to letter. Students must attend and actively participate in all student government meetings and activities unless excused in advance by the advisor. Students must fulfill the requirements of the position to which they were elected for the full year of service. Students must pass all semester 1 classes in order to be eligible to letter in the spring. Students would be eligible to letter in the spring of that first full school year of service.
- **Student Council** - Elected position. Participates well for one full school year of service in high school. Students who demonstrate commitment to their role and who do not get any disciplinary referrals that lead to consequences, could be rewarded with the opportunity to letter. If a student has been removed from their position, the student will not be eligible to letter. Students must attend and actively participate in all student government meetings and activities unless excused in advance by the advisor. Students must fulfill the requirements of the position to which they were elected for the full year of service. Students must pass all classes in the fall semester in order to be eligible to letter in the spring. Students would be eligible to letter in the spring of that first full school year of service.
- **National Honor Society (NHS)** - Upperclassmen. Pre-qualified based on GPA and granted membership through a formal selection process. Students who demonstrate commitment to NHS could be eligible to letter in the spring after actively participating well for the 2025-2026 academic year. (All other lettering requirements apply.) Actively participating well is defined as:
 - Additional Character in Good Standing Requirements:
 - Students cannot receive a disciplinary referral that leads to a suspension during the current academic year.
 - If a student has been removed from NHS, the student will not be eligible to letter.
 - Additional Academic Eligibility Requirement: Students must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the fall semester in order to be eligible to letter in the spring.
 - Participation Requirements:
 - NHS members must attend all NHS meetings unless excused by the advisor.
 - By April 3, 2026, the NHS member must be on track to meet the annual requirements for service hours/points as set by the sponsor (10/semester; 20/year).
- **Newspaper** - Completed Journalism 1 and successfully served in a leadership role on the school newspaper staff, and/or performed duties as expected by the advisor/teacher outside of school hours to cover school events for the school newspaper. Could be eligible to letter in late April of that first full school year on the school newspaper staff.
- **Yearbook** - Completed Yearbook 1 and Yearbook 2 and successfully served in a leadership role on the school yearbook staff, and/or performed duties as expected by the advisor/teacher outside of school hours to cover school events for the school yearbook. Could be eligible to letter in late April of that first full school year on the school yearbook staff.

Athletics: Students who miss a practice, competition, or performance due to lost eligibility cannot be eligible to letter. This includes Academic, Character in Good Standing (Behavior), Financial, and Physical eligibility.

1. **Participation Level Requirement** - Students participate at the highest level of the sport. In general, this means participating on the Varsity team or at the Varsity level for sports that do not have a Varsity team.
 - Basketball: The student athlete must participate on the Varsity team in at least a portion of at least 75% of all the team's regular season, Varsity-level, interscholastic games. Does not include tournaments, games on the Spurs court, Staff vs. Students games, or playoffs.
 - Cross Country: The student athlete must participate in at least 75% of the available Varsity races during the season. This includes the Regional Meet.

- Dance Team: Officers must participate in 75% of all Dance Team and Officer competitions and scheduled performances, including pep rallies and home games. (Lettering is only available to Officers.)
- Soccer: The student athlete must participate on the Varsity team in at least a portion of at least 75% of all the team's regular season, Varsity-level, interscholastic games. Does not include Adults/Staff vs. Students games or playoffs.
- Tennis: Tennis players must participate in at least 75% of the available Varsity matches before the State Tournament, and they must qualify for and participate in the State Tournament.
- Volleyball: The student athlete must participate on the Varsity team in at least a portion of at least 75% of all the team's regular season, Varsity-level, interscholastic games. Does not include tournaments, Adults/Staff vs. Students games, or playoffs.
- Student Managers: Must be a member of a Varsity or Varsity-level team and perform all duties well throughout the season as communicated by the coach. Participation Amount requirements also apply.
- Flag Football does not have a Varsity team in 2025-2026. The option to letter in Flag Football will be available the first season a Varsity team is formed.

2. **Participation Amount & Quality Requirement -**

- Promptly attending all practices and exhibitions (unless excused in advance by the coach or by a Standing Conflict Waiver, which was approved by the Athletic Coordinator). To be nominated to letter, students cannot have any unexcused absences.
- Always demonstrating a positive attitude toward their sport, teammates, and opponents.
- Consistently showing that they are working their hardest and showing outstanding effort.

Fine Arts: Students who miss a performance or competition due to academic eligibility cannot be eligible to letter.

- **Art** - Actively participates for two school years in HS Visual Arts courses and participates in TAEA's Region 13N Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) and receives an award of excellence at VASE both years.
- **Band** - Actively participates for at least two school years in HS Band courses and completes ONE of the following
 - Solo & Ensemble Contest (UIL, Pride of Texas, Soundwaves etc.) AND receives an 'excellent' [1] rating for 2 consecutive years
 - All-Region: audition and be selected in Region XXVI Band
 - All-State: audition and be selected for TMEA All-State Band

Note: Those who lettered in Symphonic Orchestra in 2024-2025 will start over with their lettering requirements for lettering in Band in 2025-2026.

- **Orchestra** - Actively participates for at least two school years in HS Orchestra courses and completes ONE of the following
 - Solo & Ensemble Contest (UIL, Pride of Texas, etc.) AND receives an 'excellent' [1] rating for 2 consecutive years
 - All-Region: audition and be selected in Region XXVI Orchestra
 - All-State: audition and be selected for TMEA All-State Orchestra
 - Youth Orchestra: audition and be selected to participate in the Central Texas Youth Orchestra or Austin Youth Orchestra.

Note: Those who lettered in Symphonic Orchestra in 2024-2025 will start over with their lettering requirements for lettering in Orchestra in 2025-2026.

- **Theatre (after school)** - Participation as a cast or crew member in at least one full-scale Meridian production (Fall Play and/or Spring Musical) as a high school student. Promptly attending all required rehearsals and has no more than two unexcused absences for missing rehearsals. Showing a positive attitude toward the production, directors, cast and crew. Consistently showing that they are working their hardest and showing outstanding effort. Participation in class plays does not apply.

Competitive Organizations - Students who miss a competition or performance due to academic eligibility cannot be eligible to letter.

- **Model UN** - To meet the Participation Requirements in Model UN for 2025-2026, high school students must either:
 - 1) Participate in a minimum of two conferences in one school year as a high school student and win a specific award (see below) in one of those conferences.

Awards that qualify must be equivalent or more distinguished than: Best Delegate; Honorable Delegate; Distinguished Delegate; Outstanding Delegate; Commendation, Position Paper Award. (A Chair Award or certificate acknowledging participation is not considered distinguished and would not qualify a student for lettering.)

2) Or, participate in a minimum of four conferences in one year in high school at Meridian.

In addition to conference participation, the student must also meet the following standards each year:

1. Must attend **all** Model UN meetings, unless excused in advance by the Advisors
2. Must be well prepared for conferences; and
3. Must maintain an impeccable standard of behavior while representing themselves and our school at MUN conferences.

Important: As of the 2025-2026 academic year, Model UN participants must accomplish all lettering requirements within one academic year. The option to accomplish the requirements over two school years in high school expired with the 2024-2025 academic year.

- **DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)**
Student advances to State and/or serves well as a DECA officer for one school year.
In addition the student must:
 - Must attend all DECA meetings, unless excused in advance by the Advisors;
 - Must maintain an impeccable standard of behavior at school and at DECA events.
- **Speech and Debate Club** -For the academic year, 2025-2026, members of the Speech & Debate Club will be eligible to be nominated for lettering in Speech & Debate if they meet all other requirements.
Participation Requirements for a Lettering Nomination
Students who compete at the *varsity* level at all tournaments in which they participate may be nominated by the club advisors to letter in Speech & Debate Club after meeting one of two participation requirements:
 - Competing in at least 3 high school debate tournaments at the varsity level, OR
 - Advancing to nationals for National Speech & Debate Association, and/or qualifying and competing at the state tournament for Texas Forensic Association State (TFA).
- **HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)**
To letter in one year, the student must achieve at least one of the following:
 - 1) Serves well as a HOSA officer for one year.
 - 2) Qualifies for the Area Spring Leadership Conference and/or State Conference and/or ILC via testing or a qualifying online submission. (Autoqualifiers are not eligible to letter)
 - 3) Earn the Barbara James Service Award (100 service hour minimum).
 In addition, the student must also:
 - Attend all HOSA meetings, unless excused in advance by the Advisors.
 - Maintain an impeccable standard of behavior at school and at HOSA events.

Questions About Lettering & Letter Jackets

Questions About the Lettering Process or Requirements

Questions about the lettering requirements or process may be sent to [Secondary Enrichment](#).

Questions About Nominations

Questions about nominations from the coach advisor should be sent directly to the coach or advisor first by the student. Then if follow up is necessary, they should be sent by the student's parent/guardian to the coach or advisor before finally contacting Ms. Tester, Secondary Enrichment Specialist, if still unresolved. please email [Secondary Enrichment](#).

Questions or Concerns About an Existing Letter Jacket or Pending Letter Jacket Order

Please contact Meridian's Letter Jacket Partner directly

Herff Jones/ Overall Recognition
customerservice@texashj.com
512-243-7901

Missed the Letter Jacket Ordering Event?

Please contact Meridian's Letter Jacket Partner directly.

Herff Jones/ Overall Recognition
customerservice@texashj.com
512-243-7901

Please note that all orders must be verified by the school for eligibility. (Herff Jones/ Overall Recognition will work with the school to verify your order before it can be placed.)

All Other Questions

For all other questions, please contact [Mrs. Holcombe](#).

Please allow two school days for each response.

Tentative Dates for 2025-2026 Lettering

- Monday, September 22 - 2025-2026 Lettering Requirements published.
- Friday, April 3 - Deadline for all Lettering Requirements to be met for 2025-2026 Lettering.

- Monday, April 6 - Lettering nominations due from Advisors and Coaches.(No prompting is needed from the student or their parents/guardians. There are systems in place to consider all participants on the eligible team/group roster.)
- Wednesday, April 22 - List of students who have lettered in 2025-2026 is published on [Lettering Jackets & Lettering web page](#) of the school website.
- Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1 - Letter Jacket and patch ordering during C lunch and during Advisory (1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.). Parents/guardians are welcome.
- Back to School Night - Letter jackets will be distributed at school (unless delayed for a reason beyond Meridian's control)