



Meridian Public Schools

"The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Mission Statement:

Meridian Public Schools will educate all students in a safe, nurturing environment while challenging them to develop their integrity, knowledge, and unique talents to become responsible, productive citizens.

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

May, 2020

Newsletter - May, 2020
 Superintendent
 Randy Kort

I wanted to start by saying the staff, Board, and myself have been thinking about our Meridian students and families and wishing them nothing but the best during this time. We have continued to check in with families, sending information home to elementary students weekly, and sending lunches twice a week as our secondary teachers email videos and lesson materials to their students. Our dedicated faculty also continue to Zoom with students on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help with lessons and check in. Once again, all student in grades 7 through 12 should be checking their emails daily, and if you have questions email your teachers.

We are planning to have graduation. What we do not know is the exact date and what it might look like. During the meeting with the Commissioner and Governor, a variety of schools were discussed and how every one will be different depending on their needs. Our graduating class of 18 might be able to have something in June; where other bigger schools might have to wait until July. However, the Commissioner and Governor might declare a mandate stating we cannot hold a ceremony or have a ceremony with a very limited number. We will make those decisions at the beginning of May when we expect to receive more information.

As students have worked in this unusual and difficult time, we have created a system that will reward students and their work during this unprecedented fourth quarter.

In an effort to encourage students to proceed with instruction and completion of class work, the following is a rubric that will be used to add to a student's 3rd quarter grade.

Increase 5 points	When a student completes materials at 90% accuracy and/or attends meetings as possible and submits material in a timely manner.
Increase 3 points	When a student completes materials at 80% accuracy and/or attends meetings as possible and submits material in a timely manner.
Increase 1 points	When a student completes materials at 70% accuracy and/or attends meetings as possible and submits material in a timely manner.

- No student will receive over a 100% for their 4th quarter grade.
- This will be added to the students 3rd quarter grade and represent the 4th quarter grade.

Jr High and High School students can come in and clean out their lockers starting Tuesday, April 14th, by appointment only. To keep this process organized, please call the school and set up a time with Trish at extension 2.

Elementary students' belongings will be sent home on a weekly schedule.

- April 14 was 3rd grade
- April 20 was PK & K
- April 27 was 1st
- May 4 will be 2nd
- May 11 will be 4th
- May 18 will be 5th & 6th

High School

Seniors last day will be May 11.

Students will check in materials - including books, computers, etc. on the following dates:

- ♦ Seniors will be May 12
- ♦ Juniors will be May 15
- ♦ Sophomores will be May 18
- ♦ Freshman will be May 19
- ♦ 8th grade will be May 20
- ♦ 7th grade will be May 21

Please call Trish to organize what time you will be at the school on your designated date.

Other important dates are:

May 4 at 7:00 PM - Mrs. Kruse is organizing a Zoom ceremony for the National Honor Society inductees.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Round Up Zoom **May 6.**

- ▶ We will host Zoom meetings on May 6th, with the Pre-K meeting starting at 6:00 and Kindergarten meeting at 7:00. This meeting is for everyone who has a child who will be entering those specific classes. Please contact Kelly Kanost at kkanost@meridianmustangs.org or 402-446-7265 Ext 4 with your email address so we can send that Zoom link to you.

Academic and athletic award information will be posted on the webpage approximately **May 8th**.

**Board of Education
 Meridian Public Schools
 District - 48-0303
 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
 Monday, April 20, 2020**

Regular April 20, 2020 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Monday, April 20, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Sobotka, VanWesten, Vorderstrasse, Scheer, Niederklein, and Bartels. Also present was Superintendent Kort. Principal Scott attended via videoconferencing.



Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Roll call was taken: Sobotka - present, VanWesten - present, Vorderstrasse - present, Scheer - present, Niederklein - present, and Bartels - present.

No comments were made by the public.

VanWesten moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes of the Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting
- District Financial Report
- Activity Fund Report
- Hot Lunch Report
- Bills

Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the Curriculum Report. A wider variety of classes in the Family and Consumer Science and Business areas are being looked at for next school year. The District is still working to bring Mary Ruiz back to teach at Meridian for the 2020-2021 school year. The COVID-19 Pandemic has slowed this process.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the retirement of Kathy Soukup, with regrets. The Board would like to thank Kathy for her many years of service to the Meridian Public School District. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the resignation of Ms. Hanna Borgmann, with regrets. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the hiring of Jane Zabokrtsky as the 3rd grade teacher. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Niederklein moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the hiring of Holly Adam as the 1st grade teacher. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye,

Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0. VanWesten moved and Scheer seconded to approve the hiring of John Adam as the Business teacher. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the hiring of non-certified staff with a 3% increase. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

VanWesten moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the COVID-19 Resolution: Grades, Graduation, Curriculum and Related Matters. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the COVID-19 Resolution: Emergency Expenditures and State or Federal Relief. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

VanWesten moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the Inter-Local Agreement with Southeast Nebraska Regional Program (SNRP). Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Principal Scott gave the Principal's Report:

- Tuesday, March 17, 2020 was the last day students and teachers met in person. Textbooks and laptops were sent home with 7th - 12th grade students. Chrome Books were sent home a week later to the 4th - 6th grade students.
- Faculty meetings are being held weekly via Zoom on Friday mornings with high school at 9:00 a.m. and elementary at 10:00 a.m. This is providing an opportunity for teachers to connect and for administration to share any pertinent update information.
- Teachers have started sharing

pictures from Zoom meetings. Examples were from 'bring your pet to class' day and FCS home cooking and sewing.

- Meals are being delivered twice a week to families that requested them. Thank you to the cooks, drivers, paras, and teachers for making these deliveries happen.
- We have offered our three open teaching positions to interview candidates. The School Board is encouraged to approve these selections. We wish the best to the teachers that are retiring or have accepted other teaching assignments.
- We want to thank Cole Stark for being available for our teacher Zoom meetings last week to discuss mental health issues connected to COVID-19.

Superintendent Kort reported:

- Update on Legislative Issues
- Diode Communications - quotes were received for new cameras and fobs on several doors.
- Submitted E-Rate for 4 New Switches
- 2020-2021 Coaching Assignments
- Painting of Locker Rooms
- Plymouth Electric Work in the Welding Shop
- New Door Installed in the Woods Shop
- Grading Implementation Due to COVID-19
- Graduation Ceremony Held at Earliest Mid-July
- Discussion on whether Prom will be Cancelled
- All-Star Games Probably Cancelled

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, May 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Scheer - aye, Niederklein - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303





Mustang MEMO
Mr. Harold Scott
Principal

The last day we met if person with students was Tuesday, March 17. Textbooks and laptops were sent home with 7th-12th grade students. Chrome books were sent home a week later to our 4th-6th grade students.

Faculty meetings are being held weekly via Zoom on Friday mornings with high school at 9am and elementary at 10am. This is providing an opportunity for teachers to connect and for administration to share any pertinent updated information.

Teachers have started sharing pictures from Zoom meetings. Examples were from 'bring your pet to class' day and FCS home cooking and sewing.

Lower elementary classes are using packets of materials exchanged weekly.

Meals are being delivered twice a week to families that requested them. Thank you to the cooks, drivers, paras, and teachers for helping make these deliveries happen.

We have offered our three open teaching positions to interview candidates. I encourage the school board to approve these selections. We wish the best to the teachers that are retiring or have accepted other teaching assignments.

We want to thank Cole Stark for being available for our teacher Zoom meetings last week to discuss mental health issues connected to Covid-19.



COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION
by
Lisa Kruse

Another great year is coming to an end. This year is completely ending on a different note than anyone has expected. Know that I am still there for all the students and will help them however I can. Don't be afraid to email me, and I will get back to you with any answers to questions and/or zoom if necessary.

Senior Information:

I have sent out a couple surveys to seniors to let me know what scholarships they have received. Please have them fill out this survey if they haven't already. It gives us a way to contact them after graduation in addition to knowing where to send final transcripts, and it also gives us a list of scholarships so we can recognize their accomplishments via Facebook, Twitter, and the school website. I will continue to update the senior spotlight video as I know about more scholarships.

Seniors Who Took College Credit Courses:

Seniors must request an official transcript from Peru State College or Southeast Community College (depending on where classes were taken) – this includes any dual credit courses taken during high school. Transcript request forms are available online at the college websites. This should be done prior to college registration, so students can have their dual credits transferred to the college they plan to attend. If you need help, please email me and I can help.

THANK YOU NOTES!

Seniors, remember to send thank you notes to providers of any scholarship received. Meridian is very fortunate to have many generous donors to help our students get a good start in college, so please do not forget to thank them for their support of our Meridian students.

2019-2020 Schedules:

Current 7-11th graders will soon be finalizing their class schedule for next year. I will be sending out a google form soon for students to sign up for next year's classes. This schedule will be mailed home at the end of the year. Parents, please take a moment to look over these papers with your child.

Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

Review these tips before you decide how much to borrow in student loans:

- * **Borrow only what you need**, even if it's less than the amount offered in your award letter.
- * Try to use your student loan money *only* for tuition, room and board, books, and fees. Get a part-time job during college to pay other expenses.

- * Apply for financial aid each year you attend college by completing the FAFSA.
- * Continue to look for scholarships while you're in college.
- * Keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at nslsds.ed.gov.

Juniors... here's your summer to-do list

- o **Narrow your college choices** to three or four by the time school starts. Visit some college campuses this summer and check out college websites. I have sent out a list of virtual college tour via emails to all juniors. Check these out!
- o **Become familiar with the FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Beginning **October 1, 2020**, you and your parents can complete this form to apply for college financial aid.
- o **Update (or begin working on) your resume.** Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards, and part-time jobs.
- o **Look for scholarships.** Check out the school counseling webpage and *ScholarshipQuest* at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships, and pay attention to scholarships current seniors have received.
- o **Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses.** Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

Summer Opportunities:

Mrs. Kruse has been collecting brochures for upcoming summer camps, jobs, and other opportunities! Email Mrs. Kruse if you are interested!

Stay safe and as always do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Lisa Kruse
lkruse@meridianmustangs.org
402-446-7265 ext. 1253.

NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

You are cordially invited to attend the surprise induction ceremony to be held via zoom on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. As with the past, the students do not know who will be inducted until they are announced at the ceremony. Please join us to be part of the surprise and support our new National Honor Society inductees.



Please attend the zoom meeting via the link below on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.:

Topic: National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Time: May 4, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

[https://zoom.us/j/95767166840?](https://zoom.us/j/95767166840?pwd=ekJlb2tnZ2tqdDBHMWFBdGdzUWhodz09)

[pwd=ekJlb2tnZ2tqdDBHMWFBdGdzUWhodz09](https://zoom.us/j/95767166840?pwd=ekJlb2tnZ2tqdDBHMWFBdGdzUWhodz09)

Meeting ID: 957 6716 6840

Password: 020400

CONGRATULATIONS!
**IN THE END, WE ARE NOT JUDGED BY
THE ADVERSITY WE FACED, BUT BY
THE GRACE WITH WHICH WE
HANDLED IT.**





Meridian Public Schools 2020 - 2021

July

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*** Friday dismissal is 3:10**

Jan 1: Holiday Break
Jan 4: Inservice: NS
Jan 5: Classes Resume

January

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Aug 10: FB / VB Practice	Feb 15: PTC 4-8:00pm
Aug 14, 17, 18: Inservice	Feb 17: PTC 4-8:00pm
Aug 19: 1st day /half dy	Feb 19: Comp Day: NS
	Feb 24: CRC Speech: NS
Sep 7: Labor Day: NS	Mar 6: Spring Break: NS
Sep 23 & 24: PTC	Mar 11: end 3rd Quarter
Sep 24: Early Out	Mar 12 Spring Break: NS
Sep 25: Comp Day: NS	
Oct 16: end 1st Quarter	April 2 & 5: Easter Break
Oct 23: Fall Break: NS	April 9: JH Honor Clinic

Nov 6: Inservice : NS	May 12: District Track
Nov 25: 1:30 dismissal	May 15: Graduation
Nov 26: Thanksgiving: NS	May 20: end 4th Quarter early out
Nov 27: Thanksgiving : NS	May 20: Last Day
	May 21: Last Day Teachers

Dec 22: 1:30 dismissal
Dec :23-27 NSAA Moritorium
Dec :23-31 Holiday Break



Meridian Alumni Banquet June 6th, 2020

Activities are being planned for the Meridian Alumni Banquet to be held Saturday, June 6th, 2020, at the Tobias Auditorium. Social Hour starting at 6:00 and meal served at 7:00.

Honored classes for this year will be: 1970, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 2000, 05, 10, 15, and 2020.

The honored class of 1970 is sponsoring our entertainment this year, Evan Bartels (2011 alum). Evan, who grew up in Tobias, is now located in Nashville, TN and is a successful singer/songwriter.

The Alumni Association is sponsoring a sand volleyball and cornhole tournament to be played in Tobias. You are welcome to participate in one or both events.

If you are interested in helping with the banquet, please contact one of the following:

Pat Johnson (402) 446-2018

Dwayne Wolfe (402) 520-2688

Cost of \$20.00 per person payable to Meridian Alumni. Mail registrations to:

Meridian Alumni
PO Box 172
Daykin, NE 68338

DUE TO COVID-19 THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS STILL DELIBERATING THE CANCELLATION OF THESE EVENTS. A DECISION WILL BE MADE BY MAY 1ST. PLEASE CHECK THE ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES.

Meridian Alumni Banquet – June 6th, 2020 – Deadline: May 29th, 2020

Cost of \$20.00 per person payable to Meridian Alumni. Mail registrations to:

Meridian Alumni
PO Box 172
Daykin, NE 68338

Please contact **JILL STEWART** for sand volleyball at 402-300-0535 (TEXT ONLY)

Please contact **MATT VANWESTEN** for cornhole at 402-300-1347 (TEXT ONLY)

Name _____ Phone# _____

Meridian Class of _____ T-shirt size _____ Sand Volleyball Yes _____ No _____

Cornhole Tournament Yes _____ No _____

Name _____ Phone# _____

Meridian Class of _____ T-shirt size _____ Sand Volleyball Yes _____ No _____

Cornhole Tournament Yes _____ No _____




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