



# 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](http://www.meridianmustangs.org)

October, 2021

Newsletter - October, 2021  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

Since harvest has begun we ask that everyone take a little extra time in their travels to and from school and other activities. When behind a combine, tractor or truck please be careful especially before passing. This time of year, the sun begins to play a large factor in your visibility. BE SAFE!

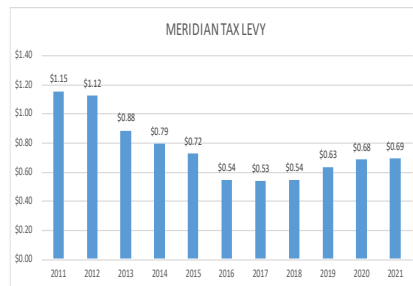
Norris Public Power District came to Meridian and gave a presentation to both elementary and high school students. This was a great opportunity to remind students of the danger of electricity and safety measures that need to be taken if around downed lines.

Our fall activities are half way through their respective seasons. The volleyball team won the Giltner Quad, and had a strong showing at Mudecas A division. Currently, the girls are 6-3 and off to a great start. The football team is learning more and more about 6-man football. They earned a win to start the year against Dorchester and are currently 1-2. Please come out and support our fall sport teams.

The Meridian Board of Education met on September 12, 2021, and the Board approved the 2021-2022 annual budget as presented. The Budget Hearing was held at 6:00 P.M. and the 2021-2022 Tax Request Hearing immediately afterwards.

The District Assessed Valuation increased 1% to a total of \$423,943,288. Based upon this evaluation the Board of Education approved tax requests and levy requests of: \$2,883,838 (\$0.680241 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the General Fund; \$45,455 (\$0.010722 per \$100 assessed valuation) for Special Building Fund; \$0 (\$ .0 per \$100 assessed valuation) Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund; \$0 (\$ .0 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the

Technology Bond Fund. Each of the amounts includes the County Treasurer's one percent commission. The total tax request for the 2021-2022 budget is \$2,929,293 (\$ .690963 per \$100 assessed valuation).



### NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> is National School Bus Safety Week. Meridian would like to thank our great bus drivers: Elizabeth Noel, Janelle Heiserman, Charles Houser, Tonya Griffin, and Wendy McKenzie. These individuals safely transport our students to and from school during daily routes, field trips, and school activities. Safety is their number one priority. Please thank them when you have an opportunity. Please encourage your child/children to obey these School Bus Safety Rules:

1. Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early.
2. Always use bus handrails when entering or exiting the bus.
3. Take your seat promptly.
4. Keep aisles clear at all times.
5. Stay seated until the bus stops or as directed by the driver.
6. Be quiet to avoid accidents – there must be absolute QUIET at a railroad crossing stop.
7. Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
8. Cross street/roads only when it is safe.
9. Obey the bus driver.

**If you are interested in learning more about being a substitute bus driver, please contact Mr. Kort for further information.**

### Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District – 48-0303

Daykin, Nebraska, 68338  
Sunday, September 12, 2021

### Special Budget Hearing – 6:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 12, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse – present, Niederklein – present, Sobotka – present, Rut – present, Scheer – present, and Bartels – present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Kimberly Schropfer, and JD Adam.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Superintendent Kort provided information regarding the proposed 2021-2022 Budget.

No comments were heard from the public.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to close the Special Budget Hearing at 6:05 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

### Special Tax Hearing

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 12, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 6:06 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse – present, Niederklein – present, Sobotka – present, Rut – present, Scheer – present, and Bartels – present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Kimberly Schropfer, and JD Adam.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.



Superintendent Kort provided information concerning the proposed 2021-2022 Tax request which will be .690963. The levy is going up .006524 cents.

No comments were heard from the public.

Vorderstrasse moved and Rut seconded to close the Special Tax Hearing at 6:09 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

**Regular September 12, 2021 Meeting**  
Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 12, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 6:10 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse – present, Niederklein – present, Sobotka – present, Rut – present, Scheer – present, and Bartels – present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Kimberly Schropfer, and JD Adam.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

No comments were heard from the public.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A: Minutes of Wednesday, August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting
- B: District Financial Report
- C: Activity Fund Report
- D: Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E: Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Curriculum report:

- Update the student handbook to allow juniors to participate in the work release program currently only offered to seniors.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the 2021-2022 Tax Request Resolution. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the 2021-2022 Annual Budget. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Negotiations with the Meridian Education Association (MEA) will begin on Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to use North Star Negotiation Software for the 2022-2023 teacher negotiations.

Superintendent Kort gave an update on ESSER/Safe Return. Different options are being discussed which include updates to the family & consumer science room, updates to the shop, new vacuums and new musical instruments for the band department.

Principal’s Report:

- Current student count – Elementary – 110 and High School – 97, including 2 exchange students.
- Homecoming week was held September 7-11, 2021. Activities included a homecoming parade in downtown
- Daykin on Wednesday, volleyball triangular with McCool Junction and Exeter-Milligan on Thursday, the homecoming football game vs. Wilcox-Hildreth on Friday, and the homecoming coronation and dance on Saturday.
- MUDECAS volleyball tournament to start on Monday, September 13.
- The next varsity football game is at St. Edward Friday, September 17, with a 2:30 pm kickoff.
- Norris Public Power District will be at Meridian for a safety presentation on Tuesday, September 21.
- Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, September 22 from 4-8 pm, and Thursday,
- September 23 from 2-6 pm. There is a home varsity football game that Thursday vs Pawnee City starting at 7 pm and volleyball at BDS.
- There is no school on Friday, September 24.
- School picture retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, September 29. There is also a 1:30 pm dismissal that day for teacher in-service training.
- October 2 is the Harvest of Harmony parade in Grand Island.

Superintendent’s Report:

- NASB Meetings
  - Regional Meeting in York on September 15
  - State Meeting in Omaha on November 17 – 19

Next Meeting was set for Wednesday, October 13, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. with a Negotiations Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Rut seconded to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

*Jamie Niederklein,*

Secretary Meridian District #48-030



Student Count for 2021-2022  
As of 9-7-21

PreK	5	+1	7th	12
Kindergarten	21	+1	8th	18
1st	16		9th	19
2nd	10		10th	11
3rd	17		11th	19
4th	15		12th	16
5th	12			95
6th	14	Exchange		+2
	110			97

Grand Total 204  
NSAA 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> count – (Current 49) (Last year 49)(2 years 51)(3 years 58) (4 years 60)(5 years 67)(6 years 59)(7 years 46)

Homecoming week was held September 7-11, 2021. Activities included a homecoming parade in downtown Daykin on Wednesday, volleyball triangular with McCool Junction and Exeter-Milligan on Thursday, the homecoming football game vs. Wilcox-Hildreth on Friday, and the homecoming coronation and dance on Saturday.

MUDECAS volleyball tournament began on Monday, September 13. Meridian played on Monday against BDS and met Palmyra on Tuesday. Unfortunately they lost both games.





The next varsity football game after homecoming was at St. Edward on Friday, September 17. The kick off was at 2:30pm.

Norris Public Power District was at Meridian for a safety presentation on Tuesday, September 21. Thank you to the NPPD employees who gave an informative and interesting demonstration.

Parent-teacher conferences were scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, from 4-8pm, and Thursday, September 23, from 2-6pm. There was a home varsity football game that Thursday versus Pawnee City starting at 7pm.

There was no school on Friday, September 24, due to parent-teacher conferences.

School picture retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, September 29. There is also a 1:30pm dismissal that day for teacher in-service training with continued instruction on close reading.

October 2, the Harvest of Harmony parade is in Grand Island.

Friday, October 8, the Foundation Tailgate will be at the varsity home football game vs. McCool Junction.

Monday, October 11, the National Honor Society is holding their Blood Drive.



Testing:

The On To College Prep (formerly John Baylor ACT Prep) is an investment provided by our school to assist your student in preparing for the ACT. All students have access to this test prep. All seniors are more than welcome to take it this semester, and all juniors will take in next semester before the required state ACT test. For more information, talk to Ms. Hermsmeier.

Seniors:

It is time to start the admission process! College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will hit as early as December. Follow these steps to stay on track:

Contact your top colleges NOW and ask:

- About application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships, and financial aid.
If you need a separate application for scholarships.
If you should apply online or submit a hardcopy application.
About application fees.

Much of this information can be found by visiting their website and visiting the college rep when they come to Meridian.

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- Don't pay for scholarship services! Free resources include ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org, your school counselor's office, and EducationQuest offices in Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney.
Focus on college-based and local scholarships. You're more likely to earn them over large national awards.
Keep an updated list of activities, honors, and volunteer or paid jobs
Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year. Use the On To College Prep to help study.
Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Give them advance notice (at least 2 weeks), a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.
Ask at least two people to proofread your college or scholarship application.

Senior "To Do" List:

- Create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent. You'll need them for FAFSA. You can also do this at the EducationQuest Financial Meeting in October.
Complete the FAFSA on or after October 1.
Complete college applications.

EducationQuest Website a Useful Tool

EducationQuest provides a FREE service to students, parents, and schools in Nebraska for:

- Nebraska-based scholarship search
Nebraska college search and links to Nebraska college websites
College Funding Estimator (estimates students' eligibility for financial aid)

- Countdown to College - students may sign up for monthly college planning tips by email (grades 9-12)
College preparation and financial aid information
Student loan calculations

The website for EducationQuest is: www.educationquest.org or you can contact them for free personal help and make an appointment: Omaha - 888.357.6300, Lincoln - 800.303.3745, Kearney - 800.666.3721.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require accommodations in college, ask Ms. Hermsmeier for a copy of College Planning for Students with Disabilities. In addition, visit Educational Opportunities Beyond High School at: http://www.unl.edu/ssd/content/accommodations.

DATE CHANGE

There has been a change to Meridian's annual calendar. The ESU has moved the teacher in-service scheduled for November 5th, 2021, to October 29th. There will be NO SCHOOL for students on October 29th, however school WILL BE in session on November 5th.

STRIV Opportunity



Meridian Public School is looking for 1-2 people in the community interested in commentating home varsity volleyball, football and basketball contests. Knowledge of the game and the rules is a must! Please contact Mrs. Schropfer at the school at 402.446.7265 if interested.

SINK THE FLU AND COVID-19 TOO!

Public Health Solutions needs your help to wash out the Influenza and Covid-19 viruses. When more people receive the flu/covid-19 vaccine, less people will become sick and thus there will be less people spreading these viruses to others. This is especially important if you are around infants 6 months or younger, immunocompromised individuals, or the elderly as they are at a greater risk to have serious complications due to influenza and coronavirus.

Public Health Solutions District Health Department will again be offering flu immunization clinics for students at your school and will be offering Covid-19



vaccines to anyone with a returned consent form who is 12 years and up. Prior to the start of clinics, students will bring home consent forms and fact sheets explaining the importance of receiving flu immunizations. For the Pfizer consent we have our vaccine fact sheet on our website: phsneb.org, we will also bring EUA fact sheets to the school for anyone who receives the Pfizer vaccine. Parents and guardians are encouraged to read the information carefully, complete and sign the consent form, and send it back to the school with their student.

**Sink the viruses and become a winner!** All students who return a completed permission form AND receive the vaccine/vaccines on the day of the school clinic will be entered into a drawing for a \$20.00 gift card. Do not let the viruses win!

Public Health Solutions will be at your school on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

For more information, contact your school health office or PHS at 402-826-3880.

### FBLA

The Meridian FBLA chapter kicked off with its first meeting this past month. Members are excited that FBLA conferences are scheduled to be in person this year. Officers and a few other members attended the Fall Leadership Conference to learn how to better serve the Meridian chapter. The chapter is planning on having fundraisers as well as trash pick-up in November. Membership fees and agreement forms are due October 15th.

Have a Fantastic Fall!  
President, Brynn Holtmeier

### STUCO

This past month has sure flown by for the Student Council. It was very busy with Homecoming festivities. The parade, the coronation, and the dance were huge successes. Congratulations to Kimberly Schropfer and Drew Niederklein for being elected Homecoming Queen and King! Also, congratulations to the whole court: Allyson Kort, Erika Schwisow, Brayden Rut, and Keagan Sones. Thank you to all those who helped with the Homecoming activities. Another congratulations goes to the 9th graders for winning the

hallway wars between them and the Junior High.

Student Council is now hard at work with the magazine sales and planning other fun activities for the student body. Stu-Co has a lot planned for this year and can't wait to share all of it with the community.

Wishing everyone a Fall-tastic October!  
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

### September 2021 Report

The Meridian FFA Chapter is off to a great start. On August 30, our chapter picked up trash along Highway 4. We



L to R: Beau Bartels, Samuel Thomas

also held our first official meeting on September 1st. At the meeting, we discussed new member information and upcoming opportunities. We decided to try something new this year. Nine members including Sam Thomas, Brayden Rut, Chase Bartels, Keagan Sones, Erika Schwisow, Kymber Schwisow, and Kailyn Paul participated in Range Judging. Members identified the name of the plant, determined characteristics of that species, looked at ecological



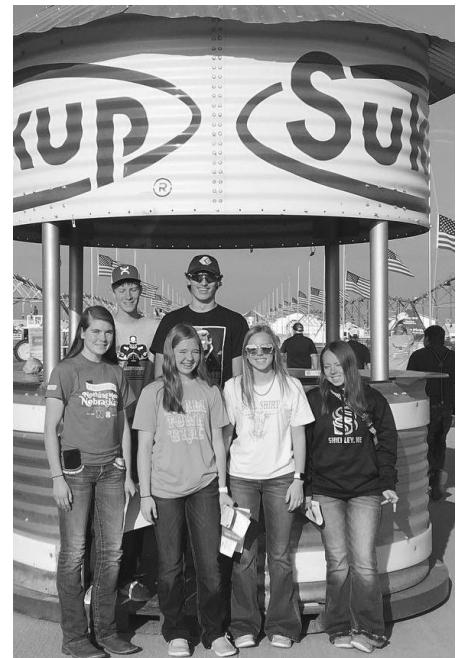
### RANGE JUDGING

Front Row (L to R): Erika Schwisow, Kymber Schwisow, Kailyn Paul  
Back Row (L to R): Samuel Thomas, Brayden Rut, Chase Bartels, Keagan Sones

sites, and made livestock stocking recommendations. On September 15, the officers, Kailyn Paul, Brayden Rut, Bailey Holtmeier, Chase Bartels, Erika Schwisow, and Kymber Schwisow all attended Husker Harvest Days. While there, officers got to meet with a diverse group of ag companies and learn about what they do to improve the agriculture industry. Upcoming events include:

- October 2nd at 9am: Mock Land Judging Practice, location TBD
- October 6th: Area Land Judging Contest
- October 13th at 7:30am: October FFA Meeting
- October 15th: Live On Tailgate
- October 27-30th: National FFA Convention in Indianapolis
- November 3rd: District Livestock Judging Contest

Sincerely,  
Kymber Schwisow  
Meridian FFA Reporter



### HUSKER HARVEST DAYS

Front Row (L to R): Kailyn Paul, Bailey Holtmeier, Erika Schwisow, Kymber Schwisow  
Back Row (L to R): Chase Bartels, Brayden Rut

### WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

A White Elephant Sale will be held on October 16th and 17th, at the Western Gym. The doors will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. both days. If you would like to donate items, please drop them off between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on October 5th or 12th. Volunteers are welcome!



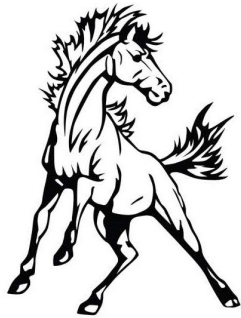
# MERIDIAN FOUNDATION

If you would like to take a more “hands on” approach to supporting the students of Meridian Public School, join us in making a difference! The MERIDIAN FOUNDATION has done more than award scholarships - it is responsible for the construction of the Meridian Community Fitness Center and the greenhouse. These projects were made possible by generous donations from people who truly want to show their support and encourage our students to continue their education beyond these walls.



If you don't want to join the Foundation but would still like to contribute, we accept donations and encourage input on ideas for future projects. If you would like to contribute in this way or join our organization, please contact one of the members or call Meridian Public Schools at 402-446-7265 extension 2. Thank you!!

**PRESIDENT**  
Jason Bartels  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Megan Haake  
**TREASURER**  
Patty Johnson  
**SECRETARY**  
Trish Endorf



The Meridian Foundation is proud to sponsor

# Tailgate Night



Friday, October 8th, 2021

Night of the McCool Junction Football Game

At Jim Durflinger Field  
IN THE CONCESSION STAND

Serving from 6:00 p.m. thru Halftime

**\$6.00 Hamburger Meal Deal**

**\$5.00 Hotdog Meal Deal**

Includes Hamburger or Hotdog, Chips,  
Bar/Cookie, and Drink

Individual Hamburgers are \$3.00

Individual Hotdogs are \$2.00

Individual Bar/Cookies are 50 cents



**All Community Members are Welcome!!**

Proceeds will go towards Meridian Foundation projects



# *Live On Nebraska Tailgate Night*

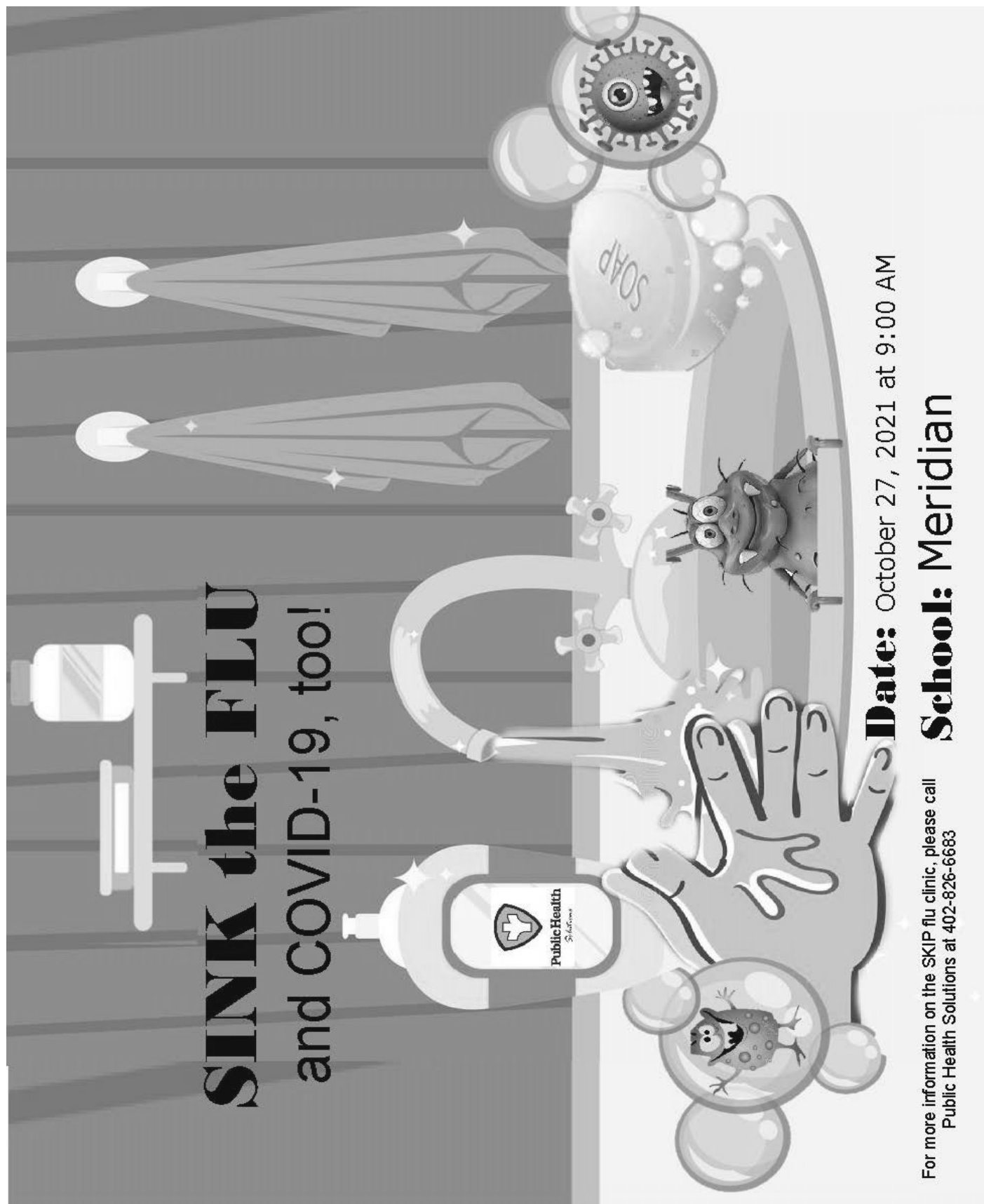


*Please join the Meridian FFA Chapter for a tailgate meal  
and a blue/green out to support Live On Nebraska.*

*Friday, October 15th vs  
Deshler at the Jim Durfliner  
Football Field*

*A hamburger meal will be served starting at 5:30pm.  
Please wear your Live On t-shirt or blue/green to show  
your support!*

*\*All proceeds from the tailgate and shirts will be donated to Live On Nebraska\**



**SINK the FLU**  
and COVID-19, too!

**Date:** October 27, 2021 at 9:00 AM

**School:** Meridian

For more information on the SKIP flu clinic, please call  
Public Health Solutions at 402-826-6683





# BUY THE YARD

**You could win \$250!**

**Randomly draw a yard line, and if the ball is on that yard line at the end of the 3rd quarter on**

**October 15--you win!**

**Cost per pick is \$25.**

**Enter to win at all home football games.**

**Need not be present on October 15 to win.**

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