



# 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)

January, 2022

Newsletter - January, 2022  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

### Welcome 2022!

Every year when I prepare to write the January newsletter, I take time to reflect on the first semester and each year it seems to go faster and faster. This year is no different. It has been a fast-moving year, and the numerous activities the students are involved in seem to make it even fly by faster. The music concerts were a great start to the month of December, and the winter sports teams are having great success. Other than the one day of storms moving through our area, it has been a nice entrance to winter; yet, to me, a nice, soft snow makes a great Christmas day. However, I don't see that in the forecast. Everyone please take this time to spend with your family and loved ones. Everyone have a great start to your 2022.

Meridian honored the NSAA Moratorium which began December 22<sup>nd</sup> and concluded on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Students will be reporting back for class on January 5<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the basketball and wrestling teams will still be competing. The wrestlers will have a meet in Geneva on December 29<sup>th</sup>, the start time will be 9:00 AM. The basketball teams will be entering into the first year of the DGMT (Dragons, Griffins, Mustangs, Trojans) Holiday tournament. Meridian will play at Tri County on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> with Girls JV starting at 4:00 PM. Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, will be varsity only in the following format: Girls consolation 3:00 PM, Boys consolation 4:30 PM, Girls championship 6:00 PM, and Boys championship 7:30 PM.

**There will be a schedule change on January 4<sup>th</sup>.** Lewiston has no JV so our JV girls will run a 2-quarter scrimmage starting at 5:00 followed by **BOYS varsity at 6:00 PM and GIRLS varsity at 7:30 PM.** Also there are NO JV games on January 8<sup>th</sup> at Shelby. **Girls'**

varsity will begin at 1:00 PM followed by boys' varsity at 2:30 PM.

### Meridian Community Fitness Center

The Meridian Community Fitness Center needs your continued assistance in keeping the facility organized and clean. Please continue to put weights, dumbbells, and equipment away when your workout is complete. The facility is available to members 24-7, so please keep each other in mind when completing your workout.

### SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

If Meridian Public Schools should decide to delay or close school due to inclement weather, we will utilize our SchoolReach Instant Parent Contact program. This program will allow us to communicate directly to parents, students, and staff via phone and/or email. If you are not receiving messages via SchoolReach, we will need to update your contact information. In the event of an early out due to inclement weather, we will also contact the news media as soon as possible. The media outlets we will contact are as follows:

KLKN-TV / Lincoln  
KHAS-TV / Hastings  
KOLN/KGIN-TV /  
Lincoln/Grand Island

**Board of Education**  
**Meridian Public Schools**  
**District - 48-0303**  
**Daykin, Nebraska, 68338**  
**Monday, December 20, 2021**

### Regular December 20, 2021 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on December 20, 2021, 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.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse - present, Niederklein - present, Rut - present, Scheer - present, and Bartels -

present. Also present was Superintendent Kort and Principal Scott.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to excuse Sobotka from the meeting. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

No comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, November 15, 2021 Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

### Curriculum report:

- The Language Arts and Math scores from NSCAS for the 2020/2021 school year were reviewed.

Mr. Kort gave an update on the ESSERS funds. The fund will be spent on cleaning supplies/equipment, technology and shop equipment. There has also been discussion on the ESU having a new teacher trainer.

The 6000s policy was sent out and reviewed last month. Rut moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the 6000s policy. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

### Principal's Report:

- Current student count - Elementary - 110 and High School - 95, including 2 exchange students.
- Congratulations to the JH boys basketball team who won the Lewiston invite.
- Meridian one act "Mmmbeth" placed 4th at CRC South (one judge placed us



3rd), 4th out of 8 at Pawnee City Invite vs class A,B,C & D schools, and 3rd at districts (one judge placed us 2nd). The team had a great season.

- Meridian students in grades 3-8 overall scored above the state average in English/Language Arts in percent proficiency on the NSCAS state test last spring. Math scores overall were slightly below the state average.
- NSAA Moratorium is December 22-26. No practice or competitions.
- Teachers return on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 for a full day of in-service meetings.
- Students return on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.
- Speech season begins with the first meet on Saturday, January 15th at Fairbury. There are currently 12 students signed up to participate, with several other students still considering.
- Mr. Scott & Miss Drees continue to work with Yandas on the new light & sound system. This will potentially be installed the first part of April.

Superintendent's Report

- 2022-2023 Calendar
- NCSA and Legislative Update
- Update NSAA
- Updates from CRC and Mudecas
- Ms. Ruiz and Progress
- Start Looking at Non-Certified Wages
- ALICAP Refund of \$5,400
- Reindeer Run Raised Approximately \$4,100
- Scorer's Table is Expected to Arrive this Week
- Plymouth Electric will be doing work on the panel on the stage, electric in the ag shop, and new LED lighting in the Fitness Center.

Evaluation forms for Superintendent Kort were reviewed. The Board felt that Superintendent Kort meets or exceeds expectations in all four performance objectives that include budget, communication, positive school culture, and instructional leadership.

Next Meeting was set for Monday, January 17, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

*Jamie Niederklein,*

Secretary Meridian District #48-030



Student Count for 2021-2022  
As of 12-20-21

PreK	5	7th	13
Kindergarten	21	8th	17 -1
1st	15	9th	18 -1
2nd	10	10th	11
3rd	17	11th	19
4th	15	12th	15
5th	12		93
6th	15	Exchange	+2
	110		95

Grand Total 205

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

Congratulations to the JH boys basketball team who won the Lewiston invite.

Meridian one act "Mmmbeth" placed 4<sup>th</sup> at CRC South (one judge placed us 3<sup>rd</sup>), 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8 at Pawnee City Invite vs class A,B,C & D schools, and 3<sup>rd</sup> at districts (one judge placed us 2<sup>nd</sup>). The team had a great season.

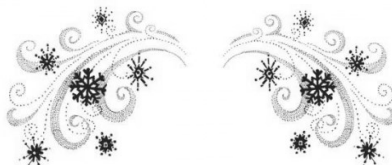
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Teachers will return on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. There is a full day of in-service meetings scheduled.

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Speech season begins with the first meet on Saturday, January 15th at Fairbury. There are currently 12 students signed up to participate, with several other students still considering.



**Seniors:**

- \* Many seniors are beginning to finalize their college plans. Seniors should be done at this point with applying to their top college choices. If they have not done so, they need to complete their college applications as soon as possible! The deadlines for certain scholarship applications are coming due.
- \* Local scholarship applications will be available at the end of the month. Please note that one of the biggest state scholarships is the Susan Buffett Scholarship (due February 1st). A link to this scholarship and all others are found on the "Counselor" link of the school website.
- \* Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships. Make an account at ScholarshipQuest to find Nebraska-based awards, and also check out the counselor website for the ones that Ms. Hermsmeier has received.
- \* Please check my counselor website often for scholarship updates! Seniors, see additional information regarding the FAFSA below!



**Juniors:**

- \* Juniors interested in taking the ACT should sign up to take the February 12<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, or June 11<sup>th</sup> test. When making ACT plans, juniors should know that they will also be taking the ACT free of charge at school in March as a part of state testing. For all ACT tests other than the school test, go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register. If you qualify for Free & Reduced meals, you may be able to use a Fee Waiver (please see Ms. Hermsmeier for details).
- \* Juniors will also have the option to take the ACCUPLACER (previously known as the COMPASS) test at the beginning of this semester. The ACCUPLACER test is similar to the ACT, but is used more as a college placement test for many two-year schools. Please sign up with Ms. Hermsmeier if you are interested.
- \* Parents... please note that Girls and Boys State applications will be out next month. If your child is interested

in attending this weeklong event next summer, make sure they submit their applications.

**Campus Visits:**

- \* Seniors and parents: You are encouraged to make any remaining campus visits in January if possible to schools you are seriously considering attending in the fall of 2022.
- \* Juniors and parents: Don't forget that you are allowed two excused absences during your junior year to go on a campus visit! Arrangements should be made through Ms. Hermsmeier for campus visits and student sign out sheets.
- \* Forms with sample questions are available in the counselors office.

**Information on Collegebound Nebraska (for the University of Nebraska):**

You will pay no tuition as an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska if you: ·Are a Nebraska Resident; ·Meet the university's admission requirements; and ·Qualify for the Federal Pell Grant Program. If you file the FAFSA and are told you are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, the university will automatically review your FAFSA to determine whether you

qualify for Collegebound Nebraska. If your expected family contribution is \$5,000 or less, you will qualify. (Note: students with expected family contributions above \$5,300 may qualify for grant assistance but for amounts less than full tuition.)

**Seniors, complete your FAFSA:**

Seniors... if you haven't done so already, it's time to complete the FAFSA! The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for state, federal, and college-specific financial aid. Contact Ms. Hermsmeier for more information if you haven't already filed the FAFSA. Priority filing dates will soon be approaching! For those of you who have already completed the FAFSA, expect financial aid award notifications soon from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. The notifications will detail the financial aid assistance the colleges are offering (could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you!  
Lisa Hermsmeier; PreK-12 Guidance;  
lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org  
402-446-7265 ext 1253

**STUCO**

The first semester has flown by! The Student Council has been hard at work these two quarters. Meridian students finished off the semester with a party that included games, movies, cookie decorating, hot chocolate, and a volleyball tournament. The cookies were given to the staff at school. Classes also got to make cards for residents at the Heritage Care Center.

This past month also included the Hat, Mitten, and Scarf Tree. All of the items donated went to Blue Valley. Thank you to everyone who donated to this great cause! Student Council has a lot planned for the upcoming months including the winter dance that will be on January 29th. More details to come in the Daily Bulletins.

Wishing everyone a Wonderful Winter!  
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

**THANK YOU!**

A special "thank you" to MPIE for supplying the concession stand with a new popcorn popper. We certainly appreciate your thoughtful donation and cannot wait to taste the results! Meridian could not experience the level of success it does without the sincere support of patrons like you. Thank you!



*happy new year*




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