



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

February, 2022

Newsletter – February, 2022
Superintendent
Randy Kort

It is hard to believe that it is the time of year to be writing our February newsletter. During a typical year it seems coming back from break that this stretch in January seems really long. Not this year, I am not sure if it is a change and having a warmer January or I am getting to the age where time just goes faster and faster.

Our seniors are down to approximately 14 weeks until graduation; this will move fast. Please prepare and get your plans ready for your next step.

Parents, please check your students grades and see how they are doing during the start of our 2nd semester.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on February 14th and 16th, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm.

Weather has been feeling like a typical Nebraska winter, cold. Please continue to monitor and stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when weather is in our area: KLKN – TV: Lincoln KHAS – TV: Hastings KOLN/KGIN TV: Lincoln/Grand Island.

Please continue to come support the winter sports as their season are coming to an end. Wrestlers will be at districts February 11th and 12th located at Pleasanton, NE with state in Omaha on February 17th, 18th and 19th.

Girls sub-district basketball will be the week of February 15th. Boys basketball will also play sub-districts the week of February 22nd.



Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District – 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, January 17, 2022

Regular January 17, 2022 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 17, 2022, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing 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.

Superintendent Kort was appointed to preside over the process to elect a president.

Scheer nominated and Vorderstrasse seconded to elect Bartels as Board President.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Vorderstrasse – aye, Bartels – abstain, Scheer – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 4-0. Bartels was elected President.

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to President Bartels.

Scheer nominated and Rut seconded to elect Sobotka as Board Vice President.

Niederklein moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0. Sobotka was elected Board Vice President.

Scheer nominated and Rut seconded to elect Niederklein as Board Secretary.

Vorderstrasse moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – abstain, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0. Niederklein was elected Board Secretary.

Scheer nominated and Niederklein seconded to elect Vorderstrasse Board Treasurer.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – abstain, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0. Vorderstrasse was elected Board Treasurer.

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.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, December 20, 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:

- Principal Scott and staff are attending an English/Language Arts workshop to review new standards for the 2022/2023 school year.
- Principal Scott and staff are going to go to Geneva to visit the Success Program.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to retain the current committee assignments.

- Americanism: Bartels, Rut, Scheer



- Building & Grounds: Niederklein, Sobotka, Vorderstrasse
- Transportation: Niederklein, Scheer, Vorderstrasse
- Curriculum & Instruction: Bartels, Rut, Vorderstrasse
- Negotiations: Bartels, Niederklein, Sobotka

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

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to approve Heartland Bank as the Official District Depository. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the Fairbury Journal -News as the District Newspaper. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion was held on the proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

Rut moved and Scheer seconded to approve 3% wage increases for the non-certified staff. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.



Principal's Report:

- We welcome a new exchange student for second semester. She will be with the sophomores for most classes, but will participate in senior activities, including recognition of attendance at graduation.
- Thank you to MPIE for sponsoring the movie for the elementary the last day of first semester. MPIE will host their annual soup supper during the E-M basketball games on Tuesday, January 18 from 5-8pm.
- Winter sports are underway. CRC basketball tournament starts January 22. Girls sub districts start February 14; boys sub districts start February 21. District wrestling is February 11 & 12. State wrestling is February 17-19.

- Speech season began on Saturday, January 15 (weather permitting).
- CRC JH Honor Choir is scheduled for Monday, January 31.
- Updates for lights and sound for the stage area is getting started with first round of materials scheduled to arrive in 2-3 weeks.
- Winter MAP testing in math and reading is being done throughout the month of January.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday and Wednesday, February 14 & 16 from 4-8pm.
- State cheer/dance competition is February 18 & 19.
- We want to welcome Deputy Sheriff Nate Van Anne to Meridian. He will become our new School Resource Officer.

Superintendent's Report

- Legislative Update
- CRC/NSAA Discussions Update
- File for School Board at Jefferson County

Next Meeting was set for Sunday, February 20, 2022, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Rut seconded to adjourn at 7:56 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 1-17-22

PreK	5	7th	13
Kindergarten	21	8th	17
1st	15	9th	18
2nd	10	10th	11
3rd	17	11th	19 -1 +1
4th	15	12th	15
5th	12		93
6th	15	Exchange	3 +1
	110		96
Grand Total	206		

NSAA 9th-11th 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)

We welcome Emma Slopsema, a new exchange student, for second semester. She will be with the sophomores for most classes, but will participate in senior activities, including recognition of attendance at graduation.

Thank you to MPIE for sponsoring the movie for the elementary on December 21, 2021.

MPIE hosted their annual soup supper during the E-M basketball games on Tuesday, January 18 from 5-8pm. As always, the soup was delicious and enjoyed by many patrons and fans.

Winter sports are heading into their last several weeks. CRC basketball tournament concluded on January 28 (at the time of print, our girls are playing in the semifinals). Girls sub districts start February 15 and boys sub districts start February 21. District wrestling is February 11 and 12, with state wrestling occurring on February 17-19.

Speech season was to began on Saturday, January 15, however that meet was canceled due to inclement weather. The January 22, meet at Thayer Central had 4 Meridian students competing in 5 events. Brynn Holtmeier placed 7th in Persuasive, McKenzie Hofstetter earned 6th in Novice Extemp, Evelyn Woitalewicz received 6th in Novice Serious Prose, and J.D. Adam earned 7th place in Novice Extemp and competed in the Novice Informative event earning a superior. The full team will attend the MUDECAS meet hosted at HTRS, on Saturday, January 29th.

CRC JH Honor Choir is scheduled for Monday, January 31.

Updates for lights and sound for the stage area is getting started with the first round of materials scheduled to arrive in 2-3 weeks.

Winter MAP testing in math and reading was done throughout the month of January.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday and Wednesday, February 14 and 16 from 4-8pm.

State cheer/dance competition is February 18 and 19 in Grand Island. The girls have been working hard and are looking forward to the competition.



We want to welcome Deputy Sheriff Nate Van Anne to Meridian. He is our new School Resource Officer and will be on campus several days each week.



Seniors & Parents...make sure you complete the FAFSA process...Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the process so that you don't miss out on money for college.

1. **If you haven't already, complete your 2022-2023 FAFSA** at FAFSA.gov using 2020 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov as you'll need them to access and sign your FAFSA.
2. **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link.** The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.
3. **You might receive a verification notice** from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid until you provide required documents.
4. **Watch for financial aid award notifications.** Once you're accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering.

Watch your email and student portal carefully for important details about admission and financial aid.

What you need to know about scholarships...Scholarship time is here! Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Here's where you can find scholarships:

- **ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org** features over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships

that fit your criteria. You'll also find links to national sites that EducationQuest recommends.

- **Your school counselor's office website.** Our list of local scholarships is posted on the school website under the "Administration" tab and then click "Counselor." Click on the link that says "go here to my website." From there, find the Scholarship tab and they will all be listed. Make sure you 'download' the documents and save them to your computer so they stay formatted correctly. I have included a local checklist on my page to help you keep track of each scholarship and the requirements. This document is only for your benefit and does not need to be turned into me. Please notice due dates and requirements for each scholarship. Do not wait until the last minute to start these! If you need letters of recommendation, make sure you give your recommenders plenty of time to write a letter (a minimum two week notification is ideal)!
- **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school or check the school's website for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- **National search sites such as collegeboard.org,** www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx, chegg.com/scholarships
- **Other resources** could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

Two easy-to-apply-for scholarships from EducationQuest...Nebraska students in grades 9-12 are invited to pursue these \$500 scholarships from EducationQuest:

- **Get Social Scholarship** – By following EducationQuest on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, you can enter into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship each time we hit another 250 followers.
- **Scavenger Hunt Scholarship** – To apply for this scholarship, create a *ScholarshipQuest* profile at EducationQuest.org and then scavenge around the EducationQuest website to find answers to questions on a survey. The deadline to apply is **March 31**. We'll draw two winners from those who answer all questions correctly.

Juniors & Parents: All juniors will be taking the ACT test at school on March 22 as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by February 25 for the April 2 test or by May 6 for the June 11 test. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org. If you would like to request a fee waiver, contact Ms. Hermsmeier. All Meridian students have FREE access to the On To College (formerly John Baylor ACT Test Prep program). Contact Ms. Hermsmeier if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity for the spring tests! Note that all juniors will be preparing for the March 22 test using a form of ACT prep. Juniors: it's time to find the right fit for college! Schedule a campus visit. All juniors may have two excused absences to take a college visit! Schedule your visit through the counseling office to ensure your absence is excused. In addition to your two excused days of school, your upcoming spring break is also a good time to visit schools that interest you.

National Honor Society is hosting Pennies for Patients and Nebraska Bloodbank Blood Drive

The National Honor Society will be holding its annual "Pennies for Patients" coin drive the month of February. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Last year the school did amazing and raised almost \$2000!!! For the elementary, just like last year, we are giving away prizes.

Individual donation envelopes will be sent home with each elementary student and group boxes will be available for grades 7-12. A community donation box will also be available in the district office. Lift up those couch cushions and find that spare change.... Any little bit you can contribute will make a difference!

National Honor Society is also hosting a Nebraska Bloodbank Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact a National Honor Society member, call the school office at 402-446-7265, or email lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome!



PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

If your child has turned four by July 31, 2022, they are eligible for Pre-K and if they have turned 5 by that date, they need to be registered for Kindergarten. Please contact Kelly Kanost at Meridian School (402-446-7265 extension 4) to let us know if you are interested in registering your child for the 2022-2023 school year. Parents' meetings for each class will be set at a later date.

FBLA

Second semester is in full swing, and the FBLA chapter is busy preparing for several upcoming events. Members kicked off the canned food drive on January 29th with the assistance of the Student Council. This will run through the 15th of February with prizes awarded to classes who raise the most from elementary, 7th-9th grade, and 10-12th grade.

The State Leadership Conference is fast approaching. Ribbon projects are underway. On February 11th, the chapter will be having a baked goods sale during the home basketball games to raise money for March of Dimes. Members are also preparing for tests and projects to take to SLC, which will be in April at Kearney.

Have a Fantastic February!
Reporter, Jaala Stewart and
President, Brynn Holtmeier

STUCO

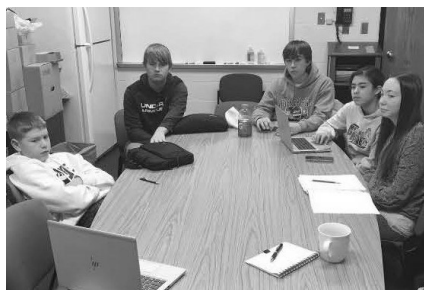
Back from break, and Student Council is busy with activities. Members donated items from the Hat and Mitten Tree this past month. On January 29th, the Student Council hosted the Snowball Semiformal Dance for 7th-12th graders. In partnership with the FBLA chapter, students paid an entrance fee with canned food. During halftime of home basketball games, members will be having a free throw contest.

The Student Council is also preparing for activities in the upcoming months. Stu-Co is excited about the annual dodgeball tournament that will be held in March. Members expect another great turnout of teams from the community.

Wishing everyone a Fabulous February!
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

January 2021 Meridian FFA Newsletter

To kick off the new year, the Meridian FFA Chapter held their January meeting and Community LDE practice night on January 13th. A few highlights from the meeting included reminding seniors of all the scholarship opportunities, preparing for the next round of contest (Career Development Events), and organizing a committee for National FFA Week. Following the meeting, Leadership Development Events (LDE) participants had the opportunity to present their demonstrations and speeches to a panel of judges as well as community members in preparation for the district contest. A special thanks to Jared Knobbe and Lana Hebda for serving as judges and providing members with helpful feedback!



L to R: Tucker Sims, Cooper Wolfe, J.D. Adam, Lana Santaeroce, Peyton Norine de Monbrun

The Launch team continues to make progress on starting up their school-based business utilizing the greenhouse. They used their grant money to purchase 2 additional grow towers and are working on planting seeds to start their first crop. The team also met virtually with Engler Entrepreneurship staff as well as other Launch teams to learn how to market their business and meet with an entrepreneurial advisor.



L to R: McKenzie Hofstetter, Hadden Woods, J.D. Adam, Rebecca Vinsonhaler, R.J. Paul, Samuel Thomas, Taelyn Filipi

On January 19th, FFA members competed in District Leadership Development Events (LDEs) in York. These events focus on showcasing leadership and public speaking skills in both individual and team events. The Conduct of Chapter Meeting (CCM) team consisting of Becca Vinsonhaler, Taelyn Filipi, McKenzie Hofstetter, Hadden Woods, Samuel Thomas, RJ Paul and JD Adam earned a blue ribbon. The Senior Parliamentary



L to R: Chase Bartels, Kymber Schwisow, Erika Schwisow, Kim Schropfer, Bailey Holtmeier, Brayden Rut

Procedure team consisting of Kim Schropfer, Erika Schwisow, Kymber Schwisow, Bailey Holtmeier, Brayden Rut and Chase Bartels earned a red ribbon. In Natural Resources Speaking, Kailyn Paul presented on No-Till Farming and earned district champion and will compete at state! In Cooperative Speaking, Bailey Holtmeier earned district champion and will compete at state! In Senior Public Speaking, Erika Schwisow presented on GMOs and earned a purple ribbon. In Extemporaneous Speaking, JD Adam earned a blue ribbon. In Creed Speaking, both Taelyn Filipi and Samuel Thomas earned a blue ribbon. Congratulations to all LDE participants, and a special thanks to Mike Hofstetter for driving the members to the contest.

Upcoming Events:

- February 2: Proficiency Reviews - Tri County
- February 9: State FFA Officer Visit - Meridian
- February 23: District Welding Contest - Lincoln
- March 1: District Career Development Events - Beatrice

SFS BASEBALL

If anyone is interested in coaching SFS baseball this spring, please contact Toby Sones (402-300-0681) by March 1, 2022.

SFS baseball will be selling advertisement banners to be hung on



the outfield fence in Tobias. Area businesses will be contacted by an SFS member with information such as pricing, size, etc. at a later date. If you are interested in purchasing a banner, please contact Lonnie Schafer (402-520-1916) or Aaron Wolfe (402-300-0450).

POST PROM SELLING KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUTS

The Meridian Post Prom Committee is once again holding a fundraising campaign to help raise money for this year's post prom event. The committee will be taking orders for Krispy Kreme doughnut dozens during the January 18th and February 4th basketball games. Order forms will also be sent home with elementary students and available in the newsletter, on the Meridian Mustang website and on Facebook.

Doughnut selections include: original glazed, chocolate iced, lemon filled, raspberry filled, and kreme filled. Certificates for original glazed doughnuts will also be for sale. The advantage of these certificates is that you may pick up your doughnuts at your convenience when near a Krispy Kreme store.

The original glazed dozens and the certificates will cost \$10. Special variety dozens will cost \$13. Make checks payable to the "Meridian Activity Fund". Orders are due by Tuesday, February 8th at 4 p.m.

These will be able to be picked up at the school on February 16th during Parent-Teacher Conferences. If unable to pick up at that time, you may stop at the school any time during the school day on Thursday, the 17th, or call Mrs. Schropfer at the school to make arrangements.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schropfer at 402-446-7265.

CUSTOMER NAME

Seller Name



ORDER FORM

Orders due by Tuesday, February 8.
Pick up orders at P-T Conferences at the school on Wednesday, February 16.

Make checks payable to **Meridian Activity Fund**.
Proceeds go toward Post Prom.

# OF DOUGHNUT DOZENS						TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
\$10	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$10	
ORIGINAL GLAZED	CHOCOLATE ICED	KREME FILLED	RASPBERRY FILLED	LEMON FILLED	ORIGINAL GLAZED DOZEN CERTIFICATE	

Our facilities produce products with peanuts, tree nuts, soy, milk, eggs and wheat. While we take steps to minimize the risk of cross contamination, we cannot guarantee that any of our products are safe to consume for people with peanut, tree nut, soy, milk, egg or wheat allergies.




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