



# 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)

November, 2023

Newsletter - November, 2023

Superintendent  
Randy Kort

Nebraska fall weather is here. There have been some really nice cool days and evenings. Watching the fields being harvested and seeing the landscape change daily is truly enjoyable and makes me appreciate where I live and to be in Nebraska. Of course, the past weekend with the Huskers winning football and the volleyball team knocking out number 1 Wisconsin was an added bonus.

Please be careful with your driving as the farmers are working to complete the harvest. We all know Nebraska weather too, we could have 80 degrees one day and snow, sleet, or rain the next day.

We have completed the first quarter of the school year. Please help your student stay on top of their academic work as we enter the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

We have several students heading to national FFA this week. This is located in Indianapolis and will be a great learning experience for the students.

The football team finished the year with a win over Sterling and our volleyball team is preparing to host sub-district games. Please come out and support them as they make a run toward state.

With fall sports in the final stages, please be aware that winter sports practice starts on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Meridian will be adding girls wrestling this year. Please come out and support all of our winter sports teams. One Act will be starting competitions soon and some of the Quiz Bowls teams have started too.



The media outlets Meridian Public Schools will use for late starts and school closings:

**KLKN – TV:** Lincoln

**KHAS – TV:** Hastings

**KOLN/KGIN TV:**

Lincoln/Grand Island

**KUTT/KGMT**

**99.5 FM / 1310 AM Radio:** Fairbury

Along with our All Call system.

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

**Daykin, Nebraska, 68338  
Sunday, October 15, 2023**

### Regular October 15, 2023 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on October 15, 2023, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

Vice President Sobotka called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Barton – present, Niederklein – present, Rut – present, and Sobotka – present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Drees and Principal Hull.

Niederklein moved and Barton seconded to excuse Bartels from the meeting. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Sobotka – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Comments were heard from the public regarding the upcoming NSAA football classification for the next two school years.

Scheer joined the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

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

A. Minutes of the Monday, September 18, 2023 Special Budget Hearing

B. Minutes of the Monday, September 18, 2023 Special Tax Hearing  
C. Minutes of the Monday, September 18, 2023 Regular Meeting  
D. District Financial Report  
E. Activity Fund Report  
F. Hot Lunch Fund Report  
G. Bills

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

Superintendent Kort presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Principal Hull presented enrollment numbers and anticipated participation numbers for football at Meridian in 2024. Mr. Hull has had and will continue to visit with all boys in the 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade to learn why the participation numbers are low. A decision needs to be made by November 30, 2023 as to whether Meridian will play six-man or eight-man football for the 2024/2025 football seasons

Rut moved and Barton seconded to approve Alex Hull as an authorized individual for financial and ordering needs for Meridian Public Schools. As such he is approved as signature at Heartland Bank, Daykin, Nebraska, for the Activity Fund (account #100-192). Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye and Sobotka – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Niederklein moved and Scheer seconded to approve Leslie Drees as an authorized individual for financial and ordering needs for Meridian Public Schools. As such she is approved as signature at Heartland Bank, Daykin, Nebraska, for the Activity Fund (account #100-192). Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye and Sobotka – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort gave an update on the technology needs and how the ESSER funds have been spent. Recent purchases include smartboards, band instruments, a welder and plasma cutters.



Superintendent Kort updated the Board on the verbal audit report received from Dana Cole. The final audit books will be available in November.

Rut moved and Scheer seconded to approve the Meridian Education Association (MEA) as negotiators for the 2025-2026 school year. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye and Sobotka – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Principal Drees and Principal Hull presented the Principals’ Reports to the Board.

Superintendent Kort presented the Superintendent’s Report to the Board.

The next regular meeting was set for Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Niederklein moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye and Sobotka – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

*Jamie Niederklein,*

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303

**“The Dish”  
with Drees**

We’re already a couple of weeks into the second quarter! Wow! October has been filled with volleyball, football, concerts, and more. We love seeing our elementary families and kids supporting our high schoolers in their activities.

We also have some events to look forward to in the next few weeks. We will celebrate Red Ribbon Week the week of Oct. 23. Students will participate in some fun activities and dress-up days to create awareness to keep kids drug-free. Our theme is Young Mustangs Creating Awareness. Elementary classrooms will have their fall parties and costume parade on Oct. 31. Please join us for the Veteran’s Day Program on Nov. 10.

As we move into this new month, where we look forward to celebrating our Thanksgiving holiday, I want to thank everyone for a great first quarter of the year. We have so much to be thankful for at Meridian, and I want to express my

gratitude for your support. Teachers, coaches, staff, students, athletes, parents, and community members are all a vital part of the success of our school and our students' academic and social success. I encourage everyone to take an extra minute this month and reach out to thank a teacher, parent, or friend. Let’s encourage and build one another up and celebrate everything we have to be thankful for! I wish all of you a Happy November and Thanksgiving!

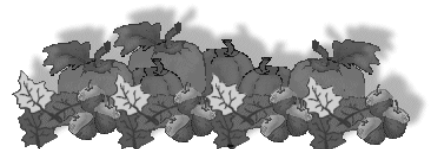
**PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING  
WITH MR. HULL**

We have reached the end of the first quarter. We had a busy October with a number of great things happening at our school. Our band had performed at Harvest of Harmony and represented our school very well. They also had a concert along with the junior high band and the junior high and high school choirs the next day. All four groups did very well.

FFA has been busy with land judging, livestock judging, and hosting the Live On Tailgate. The Senior Division of Livestock Judging qualified for state and the Junior Division were alternates. FFA members are also preparing for National Convention at the beginning of November.

The volleyball team has had a strong month as well. The team won the Crossroads Conference Tournament in five sets over Cross County. Congratulations to All-Tournament Team selections: Jaala Stewart, Kaira Niederklein, and Kendall Filipi!

As Fall activities begin to wrap up, we begin the transition to Winter activities. The first day of Winter practice is November 13. As a reminder, students who do not have a physical on file for this year will not be able to participate in a Winter sport. We are excited to offer Girls Wrestling this year in addition to Boys Wrestling and Boys and Girls Basketball. Go Mustangs!



**COUNSELOR’S CONNECTION**  
by  
*Lisa Hermsmeier*

**Upcoming Dates:**  
**November 10**  
Veteran’s Day Program @ 10 a.m.  
**December 9**  
ACT Test (registration is due by Nov. 3)

**Red Ribbon Week:**  
The end of October was filled with fun and presentations for our Meridian students. Our theme was “YMCA (Young Mustangs Creating Awareness).” The daily themes were “Y- Yawn Your Way Into Red Ribbon Week”, “M-I ‘Mustache’ You To Be Drug Free”, “C-You Are ‘Coconuts’ If You Think Drugs Are Cool, A- Stay Active, Be Drug Free.” Monday the students and staff were invited to wear pajamas. The junior high and high school had a speaker, Casey Holsing, who spoke on her experience with a wreck because of someone one texting and driving. The elementary had a presentation with Darcy Pesek from the Extension Office. On Tuesday, students and staff wore mustaches and signed pledges to be drug free. Wednesday, students and staff wore tropical dress and participated in coconut bowling during PE. Thursday, students and staff wore athletic wear and Jen Johnson from the Fairbury Wellness Center presented. If you have not done so, please take a few moments to talk to your child about the activities they participated during Red Ribbon Week.

**Career Academy/Dual Credit Classes:**  
High school students who want to explore a career field and are interested in getting a first-hand look at what college classes will be like by taking a dual-credit college class for second semester, should check out SENCAP’s Career Academy. Besides the experience gained, the other big benefit is the cost. Southeast Community College-Beatrice and Meridian will cover the full cost of tuition, which means the only cost to the student is the textbook. This option is for juniors and seniors, but sophomores can be considering the option for next year. Please check out <https://www.southeast.edu/sencap> or talk to Ms. Hermsmeier for more information.



Junior and Senior students also have the option of taking dual-credit college classes from Peru State College at half cost tuition price. They can also take courses through Doane University or other options that they have found. Students are encouraged to stop by Mrs. Hermsmeier's office in the next few weeks if they are interested in taking a college class second semester. Class sizes are limited, so early registration is encouraged.

**EducationQuest – A Useful Tool  
Seniors...a reminder of what to do this fall...**

There's A LOT going on right now with the financial aid and college admission processes, but don't get overwhelmed! Here's a recap of tasks you should complete this fall to stay on track to college.

**1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – opens in December**

- First, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need it to access and sign the FAFSA.
- Review our FAFSA Checklist for a list of items to gather before you start the form.
- Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. You may also complete it via the new myStudentAid app for iOS and Android.
- For free personal help, you can call EducationQuest to make an appointment:

Omaha – 888.357.6300

Lincoln – 800.303.3745

Kearney – 800.666.3721, or

Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

**2. Apply to your top college choices**

- Hopefully by now, you have some top choices for colleges. Now is a good time to apply to them! Most colleges have a free application process (exceptions are the University of Nebraska and KState), so you won't be out of anything if you apply and change your mind later on. Once you apply, let Ms. Hermsmeier know and you can be added to the Applied to College Wall. As always, if you need help, stop by Mrs. Hermsmeier's office.

**3. Retake the ACT and/or SAT. Colleges use your best scores for college admission and scholarships. Register by November 3 for the December 9 ACT.**

**4. Get serious about applying for scholarships.** See ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships and a list of national search sites. You can also visit the counselor's website off of the school website at <https://sites.google.com/meridianmustangs.org/schoolcounselor>

**Juniors...start researching colleges**

If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

1. **Review College Profiles at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country and/or the College Prep Handbook in the Counselors Office.** If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program to learn about tuition discounts.
2. **Meet with college representatives** who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.
3. Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits.** Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session. Remember to get a sign-out sheet from the office **BEFORE** you go on your college visit.

**This app will help you stay on track to college**

**Download the EducationQuest app** for easy access to tools like *Activities Resume, College Profiles, College Timeline, Reality Check, and ScholarshipQuest.* There's also a calendar that will guide you through college-planning steps - and you can personalize it with your own tasks.

The app will help you stay on track for college with easy access to these tools:

- **Activities Resume** – allows you to record and print your extracurricular activities and awards.
- **College Profiles** – has details about colleges in Nebraska and nationwide.
- **College Timeline** – provides college-planning steps for each year of high school.

- **Reality Check** – helps you find careers that will fund your desired future lifestyle.
- **ScholarshipQuest** – matches you with Nebraska-based scholarships that fit your criteria.

Talk to Mrs. Hermsmeier if you would like more information on finding the app.

**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The Meridian National Honor Society plans to participate in Mustang Merriment, a toy and clothing drive for those in need, for the holiday season. Please look for information in this newsletter about donations we plan to collect for our annual Mustang Merriment.

**Just a 🎵 From the Music Department**

What an eventful school year so far! Between marching & pep band performances, our fall concert, and gearing up for Veterans Day, our music students have made us proud! It was wonderful to have such a nice crowd at our Sunday Fall Concert in October. We don't normally have concerts on the weekend, but we were so pleased with the nice crowd there to support our students!

Congratulations to junior high choir students: Jacob Buresh, Lani Lutjemeyer, Levi McKenzie, Ximena Nunez, Jetta Stewart, Darius Suarez, Kylee VanWesten, and Cylas Welch who were selected to represent Meridian at the Crete Middle School Vocal Clinic in early November!

As we look forward to upcoming performances, please be sure to mark your calendars for our Elementary Winter Concert on Monday, December 4 at 7pm and our Junior High & High School Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 5 at 7pm. Both performances will be in the high school gym.

Thank you for all you do to support music in our school!



# November 2023



We'll give a cheer for the varsity... Long may they reign supreme ...



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1 Blueberry Muffin</b> Beef Enchiladas Spanish Rice Refried Beans	<b>2 Sausage Pancake Stick</b> Creamy Italian Parmesan Pasta Green Beans Texas Toast	<b>3 Apple Frudel</b> Walking Taco Lettuce/Salsa Corn Pudding Cup	<b>4</b> Menu is subject to Change without notice.
<b>5</b>	<b>6 Pop-Tart</b> Corn Dog Baked Beans Krispy Rice Bar	<b>7 Blueberry Muffin</b> Cheeseburger Macaroni Green Beans Roll	<b>8 Donut</b> Warm Ham & Cheese Sandwich chips Carrots	<b>9 Breakfast Burrito</b> Chili Soup Crackers Cinnamon Roll String Cheese	<b>10 Veteran's Day                      French Toast Sticks</b> Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Roll Corn	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13 Ham Egg Bar</b> Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Green Beans Frozen Fruit Cup	<b>14 Pop-Tart</b> Chicken Fajitas Lettuce/salsa Spanish Rice Corn	<b>15 Apple Frudel</b> Turkey Deli Sandwich Chips Pickle Spear	<b>16 Breakfast Pizza</b> Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Roll	<b>17 Donut</b> Turkey Slice Mashed Potatoes Gravy Roll/Green Beans Pumpkin Dessert	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20 French Toast Sticks</b> Chicken Cheese Crispito Refried Beans Cookie	<b>21 Blue Berry Muffin</b> Pulled Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Cole Slaw	<b>22 1:30 DISMISSAL                      Breakfast Burrito</b> Hotdog Chips Baked Beans	<b>23 NO SCHOOL                      Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>24 NO SCHOOL                      Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27 Pop-tart</b> Pizza Green Beans Cookie	<b>28 Pancakes</b> Soft Shell Taco Lettuce/Salsa Refried Beans Churro	<b>29 Ham Egg Bar</b> Chicken Patty/Bun Scalloped Potatoes Carrots	<b>30 Breakfast Pizza</b> Mac & Cheese Little Smokies Corn/Roll		This institution is an equal opportunity employer



# Mustang Merriment

In the spirit of the season, the Meridian National Honor Society is sponsoring the 9<sup>th</sup> annual **Mustang Merriment Movement**. This is a community service project to provide gifts for families of children attending Meridian Public School that are in need of assistance. We hope this year we can help relieve a little of the worry and stress of the season for some families and help bring joy to as many Mustangs as we can.

There are two ways to participate in the **Mustang Merriment Movement**:

### Gift Request

If your family would like to receive gifts, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by November 16<sup>th</sup>. All gift requests will be assigned a number and then distributed. Ms. Hermsmeier will be making the numeric assignments. Please note: all gift requests will remain anonymous. If your family is in need of multiple gifts, please list your students' names individually below:

-----

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Phone

_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's name	age/gender	description of gift	size(s) if needed
_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's name	age/gender	description of gift	size(s) if needed
_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's name	age/gender	description of gift	size(s) if needed
_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's name	age/gender	description of gift	size(s) if needed
_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's name	age/gender	description of gift	size(s) if needed



**Gift Donations**

If your family would like to provide a gift, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by November 16<sup>th</sup>, and a gift request will be assigned to you by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The request will detail the age/gender of the child, and in most cases, a suggested gift idea. If you would like to provide multiple gifts, please indicate the number of gifts your family would like to donate.

All gifts should be new and should be sent to school unwrapped and turned into the office by December 8<sup>th</sup> with the gift request form taped to the gift.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hermsmeier at (402)446-7265 or email lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org.

Thank you to everyone for participating in this Community Service Project!

**Meridian National Honor Society members**  
**Lisa Hermsmeier, School Counselor/NHS sponsor**

-----  
Please fill out the form below and return it to the office by November 16<sup>th</sup>, and a gift request will be assigned to you by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Family/Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Family Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, our family would like to donate \_\_\_\_\_ gift(s) in support of the **Mustang Merriment Movement**.



# MPIE's Annual Basket Raffle

- **Basket donations are now being accepted for our annual basket raffle! Cash donations for larger raffle items are also accepted and appreciated. A great way to advertise your business!**
- **Donations are requested by November 29th. You may drop them off at the school or call Megan Haake (402-446-2028) or Anne Simms (785-275-1933).**
- **Prizes will be raffled at home basketball games during boys' half time on December 1st, 8th, 12th, and 21st.**
- **Each year, M-PIE helps to support the student body, teachers, and staff in various ways. Last year, we provided scholarships, playground equipment, assisted in funding the Awards banquet meal, gave staff small tokens of appreciation during special events, and purchased a new concessions popcorn machine.**





**Daykin Lumber Co.**

DAYKIN, NE 68338

READY MIXED CONCRETE · BUILDING MATERIALS  
ASTRO BUILDINGS · PRATT & LAMBERT PAINT  
CONCRETE FEED BUNKS

PH. 402-446-7305    daykinlumber@windstream.net  
800-637-9711



**JONESGROUP**  
INSURANCE | FINANCIAL SERVICES

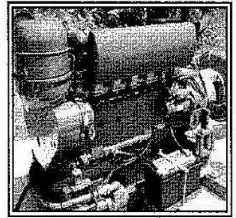
**Scott Woitalewicz**

Agent

402-821-2156  
swoitalewicz@jones-ins.com  
113 W 3rd St, Wilber, NE 68465

**Craig's Automotive**

*Sales & Service  
Of All Makes & Models  
Irrigation Engines*



**AUTO & AG  
EQUIPMENT REPAIR**

**CRAIG BURKHART • 402-446-7435 • DAYKIN**

**First State**

**BANK NEBRASKA**  
Member FDIC

**1FSB.BANK**

WESTERN | 104 N. West Ave. | 402.433.2601

**Western Oil**

Western, NE 68464

402-433-4156

402-300-1178



**PANKO AG  
SERVICES, LLC**

Dave Panko

402-587-0367

Patrick Ondrak

402-587-1865

404 Nichol Ave, Daykin, NE 68338



**CNCS inc**

**AMY RAINS Crop Insurance Agent**

402-228-6255 | AMYRCNCS@GMAIL.COM



**Heartland Bank**

Daykin Branch | 402-446-7233

Fairbury Branch | 402-729-3344

MyHeartland.Bank | Member FDIC | EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



Husker Rehab  
504 E St.  
Fairbury, NE  
402.729.2639  
www.huskerrehab.com



Milligan Insurance Agency, Inc.  
P.O. Box 248  
MILLIGAN NE 68406

402-629-4531

www.zaleskyonline.com

**Zalesky REALTY & AUCTION LLC**

1241 Main St. • Box 159 • Crete • Nebraska 68333

**Deb Schwisow, SALESPERSON**

402-243-3012

dschwisow3@gmail.com

**Auto Repair Plus**

306 East Main

Plymouth, NE 68424



402.656.5155 Car

402.656.4245 Truck



**JOHN DEERE**



www.landmarkimp.com

Beatrice, NE

Hebron, NE

402-228-3478

402-768-6077



**Reinke ReinCoat**

**PROUD OF OUR AREA  
ATHLETES AND THEIR  
ACHIEVEMENTS**

**REINKE MANUFACTURING CO., INC.**

Deshler, NE • (402) 365-7251 • reinke.com