



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, 2016

Newsletter-February, 2016
Superintendent
Randy Kort

I would like to start this month's letter by congratulating the Meridian Girls' Basketball team on their B Division Championship last week at the MUDECAS Tournament. Meridian has 4 more home games remaining this year. If you have been supporting our teams we say, "Thank You!" If you have not attended a game, please take time to visit our school and attend one of the basketball contests. Both the boys' and girls' teams play hard and continue to fight hard throughout the games.

Happy Valentines Day

It is hard to believe but we are nearing the end of January 2016. It is even harder to believe, but the students have completed 4 weeks of school and Parent Teacher Conferences are just around the corner, February 8th and 10th.

Special Notice

February 10th will be an early out (1:30) with Parent Teacher Conference's running 2:00 – 6:00.

Thanks to all the athletes and the time and effort they put forth. Speech, Swing Choir, Spelling Bee, Reading Classics, and Quiz Bowl are just some of the events whose season is just beginning. With all of these activities, please continue to visit with your child to confirm his/her academics are being completed and that he/she is managing their time.

Option Enrollment

Help spread the news that Meridian is a great school to attend. Present parental enthusiasm is the best advertising tool Meridian utilizes to attract option students. Please feel free to brag about

Meridian Public School and encourage others to check us out. This is a reminder to parents and students who wish to option into Meridian Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents must fill out Form NDE 25-010 and submit it to the Option School District by March 15, of the prior school year. After March 15, Section 2 of the application must be completed by the resident school district.

Meridian Public Schools has much to offer students in the areas of academics, fine arts, and extracurricular activities. We have an excellent student to teacher ratio and offer a great variety of learning experiences for every student. We have laptops for all students in grades 7-12. We provide Distance Learning classes, Career Academy classes, and K-12 Enrichment opportunity along with our in-house academic curriculum. College credit courses are also available to Meridian students. Parents interested in optioning their child into the district are encouraged and welcome to contact our offices and arrange a visit to the school

School Closing or Late Start

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



Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, January 18, 2016
Regular January 18, 2016 Meeting
7:30 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 18, 2016, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Vorderstrasse, Miller, Sobotka, Bartels, Scheer, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, and guests Andi Kort, Mr. Smiley, and Ms. Ruiz.

Sobotka moved and Miller seconded to approve Superintendent Kort to preside over the process to elect a president. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate VanWesten as Board President.

Scheer moved and Bartels seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to approve newly elected President VanWesten to preside over the meeting. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate Vorderstrasse as Board Vice-President.



Scheer moved and Bartels seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Vorderstrasse was elected Vice-President.

Miller moved and Bartels seconded to nominate Sobotka as Board Secretary.

Scheer moved and Bartels seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Sobotka was elected as Board Secretary.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate Miller as Board Treasurer.

Bartels moved and Sobotka seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Miller was elected as Board Treasurer.

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

1. Minutes of the Wednesday, December 16, 2015 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

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

Andi Kort, StuCo representative, informed the Board about the Student Council District meeting in Superior.

Principal Scott stated that the math curriculum is being reviewed. Testing of writing and math by the students will begin in the next couple of weeks.

Miller updated the Board on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. Discussion about several proposed projects including the construction of a second gym was held. The board nominated a twelve member committee to assist with the design of the

proposed facility. The committee includes members from the public, Board, teaching staff, and administration. The committee will make recommendations to the full Board on the design of the facility.

Superintendent Kort reviewed two options for the 2016-2017 school calendar. The Board will approve the 2016-2017 calendar at the February meeting.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to keep the three standing committees (Americanism: Scheer, VanWesten, Bartels; Building & Grounds, and Transportation: Miller, Vorderstrasse, Scheer; Curriculum & Instruction: Bartels, VanWesten) the same as the 2015 calendar year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Kort shared with the Board the request for Friend Public Schools to join the CRC. All CRC member school boards will vote on the request by Friend to join the conference. Miller moved and Bartels seconded to approve the addition of Friend Public Schools to the CRC conference. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 4-2.

Principal Scott reported:

1. Red Cross Blood Drive - 45 people donated blood to help Meridian meet their goal
2. M-Pie Soup Supper
3. MUDECAS Speech Tournament
4. MAP Testing (NWEA)
5. State Writing Tests are the Week of January 25th
6. Parent Teachers Conferences - will be held on February 8th and February 10th
7. Student Enrollment - 224 Students
8. Congratulation to Girls Basketball Team for Winning Class B MUDECAS

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. CRC Meeting
2. NSAA Legislative Update
3. Band Uniforms

4. Track Supplies and Projects
5. Building and Grounds Projects
6. Board Retreat
7. Staff Letters of Intent
8. Weight Room Summer Schedule
9. Memorial Fund received from Lonnie Schwisow Family

Next Regular Meeting was set for Sunday, February 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. due to a conflict on the third Monday.

Miller moved and Sobotka seconded to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

J. Scott Sobotka,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



With the start of 2nd semester, we have several new students joining us at Meridian. This includes Ella Gregori, exchange student from Austria.

The second annual Red Cross blood drive held January 7th at the school, sponsored by the National Honor Society, was another huge success. Approximately 57 people participated with 45 donating blood, helping Meridian to meet the goal!

M-PIE soup supper was held Tuesday, January 19th during the Exeter-Milligan basketball games.

MUDECAS speech tournament will be held on Saturday, January 30th.



Testing season is upon us. Winter MAP testing (NWEA) began January 21st. This will be for our new students and a select group of students to check on progress. All students in grades 3-11 will do spring MAP testing in May.



NeSA state testing began the week of January 25 with 4th and 8th grade writing tests. Juniors will have their writing test the first week of February.

Congratulations to the Meridian girls' varsity basketball team and their coaches for winning the B Division of the MUDECAS Tournament.

Parent teacher conferences will be held Monday, February 8th and Wednesday, February 10th from 4:00-8:30pm each day. We want to remind parents that if they have students in both the elementary and the secondary that they sign in at both areas.

	Girls	Boys	
Pre-Kind	3	4	= 7
Kindergarten	8	7	=15
1 st Grade	4	8	=12
2 nd Grade	7	10	=17
3 rd Grade	9	6	=15
4 th Grade	7	2	= 9
5 th Grade	10	8	=18
6 th Grade	10	7	=17
Total	58	52	= 110

Grade	Girls	Boys	Tot
7 th Grade	12	6	=18
8 th Grade	7	10	=17
9 th Grade	13	14	=27
10 th Grade	10	8	=18
11 th Grade	6	9	=15
12 th Grade	15	4	=19
Total	62	52	114

Grand Total 120 104 224

We anticipate an enrollment of 15 students in Pre-K for the 2016-2017 school year. These 15 children reside within our district and will be 4 years old on or before July 31st, 2016.



Seniors & Parents:

Scholarship time is here! The list of local scholarships is posted on the school website under the "Counselor" tab. 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 handed in. 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)!

It's also FAFSA time! If you're a college-bound senior, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to apply for state, federal and college-based financial aid. Submit the form before your college's FAFSA priority date (typically between March 1 and April 1) as some financial aid is awarded first-come, first-served. Check with your college(s) to learn their priority date. **Complete your taxes early** as the FAFSA requires current tax information. Within three weeks after you and your parents file your tax forms, your IRS data should be available to retrieve and transfer into your FAFSA through the IRS Data Retrieval process (available as of February 7, 2016). Go to FAFSA.gov to apply. If you're filling the FAFSA for the first time and/or want *free* help, call EducationQuest to set up an appointment in Lincoln (800.303.3745). Also, an EducationQuest representative will be available in our area for anyone wishing to have individual free help (EducationQuest is still finalizing this date, but has expressed it will be toward the beginning of March--- Mrs. Kroon will communicate that date with senior students as soon as that information is available).

Seniors February "To Do" List:

- ___ Complete student and parent 2015 tax returns.
- ___ Create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov.
- ___ Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov.

___ Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors & Parents:

All juniors have started the John Baylor ACT Test Prep program in preparation for a spring ACT test. If you missed the registration deadline for this test, please note that the next test is April 9th. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org. Boys & Girls State will be held June 5 - 11 this year. If you are a junior or have a junior student, please know that the opportunity to attend this leadership program is available. Area Legion Posts choose their representatives. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Kroon.

Juniors February "To Do" List:

- ___ Register by March 4 for the April 9 ACT.
- ___ Research College Choices.

March 15th Option Deadline:

If you, or someone you know, is interested in attending Meridian School next year and live outside the district, please note the Option Enrollment Deadline is March 15th. Please contact the school for the correct paperwork or to learn more about this process.

Thank you,
Gina Kroon
PreK-12 School Counselor
gkroon@meridianmustangs.org
402-446-7265 ext. 1253

PARENT-TEACHER TIME CHANGE

Please note the following time change: Meridian Public Schools will be dismissing students at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held from 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. on February 10th, rather than the previously scheduled time.

2016-2017 KINDERGARTEN PARENTS' MEETING

Parents who have children turning 5 years old on or before July 31st, 2016, are invited to a Parents' Meeting . The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1st, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the



Kindergarten room at Meridian Public Schools. We will discuss the requirements your child must meet in order to be enrolled, so your attendance will be greatly appreciated.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SPELLING CONTEST

The Jefferson County Spelling Contest will be held on Monday, February 8th, 2016, at the Fairbury High School Auditorium. The fifth and sixth grade division will register at 8:30 a.m. and begin spelling at 9:00 a.m. Seventh and eighth graders will register at 12:30 p.m., and their contest will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Meridian seventh and eighth grade students participating in the Spelling Contest are: Mo’Nae Moody (7th), Melissa Kramer (7th), Kezia Connealy (7th), Makenzie Rau (7th), Halle Pribyl (8th), Alma Dimas (8th), Maria Alonzo-Sandoval (8th), Zacharia Kerwood (8th), and Tori Brubaker (8th). The Junior High sponsor for this event is Ms. Amanda Hanzlik.

Mrs. Natalie Meyer, the fifth grade teacher, has entered Kaylee Pribyl, Kailyn Paul, Anissa Gonzales, Josh Albert, and Bailey Holtmeier in the

contest. Sixth grade teacher, Mr. Shawn Pohlmann, is sending Briannah Stromer, Brynn Holtmeier, Ally Kort, Drew Niederklein, and Erika Schwisow as participants. Good luck to all Meridian contestants and their sponsors.

2016-2017 PRE-K

Parents of qualifying Pre-K children, please contact the school (402-446-7265) and let us know if you are interested in sending your child to Meridian. To qualify for Pre-K, a child must be 4 years old on or before July 31st, 2016. Option Enrollment papers are NOT required at Pre-K level. Once we know how many students will be attending our Pre-K, a parents’ meeting will be scheduled.

PHOTOS FOR YEARBOOK

Do you have a picture of that “Kodak moment” that could be used in the yearbook? Take a look at the Meridian homepage and you will find a purple banner called “Yearbook Photos” next to the Striv button. Click on the banner and you will be able to upload your photos that could be used in the yearbook. Community upload will appear on your screen and then you will need to click submit photos. The

access code is *mustangs*. Upload your photos from your camera or phone and fill out the information it requests. Submit as many photos as you would like. These photos can be anything that is school related—sports, cheerleaders, drama, music, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Soukup at the school.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

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. Individual donation boxes 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. So lift up those couch cushions and find that spare change. Any little bit you can contribute will make a difference!

A huge THANK YOU to those who were able to support our second annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Forty-five people were able to donate on January 7th! What a great way to help others and support a great community organization.


HELP WANTED

Meridian Public School is looking for help in the kitchen. A substitute is needed for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. Hours are not regular as you would be called when needed. An assistant cook is needed for the 2016-2017 school year. Hours will be regular: Monday-Friday, 6:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please call Mr. Kort or Elaine Bartels at 402-446-7265.



Children's Dental Day

Día Dental Infantil



Public Health
Solutions

FREE dental clinic open to children ages 5-12. Appointment and pre-screenings required. Contact Public Health Solutions District Health Department for applications, pre-screenings, appointments, and transportation arrangements.

1-844-830-0813
402-826-3880

Covering Gage, Jefferson, Fillmore, Saline, & Thayer Counties.



Public Health
Solutions

Clínica dental GRATUITA para niños de 5 a 12 años de edad. Se requiere una cita y una pre-evaluación. Comuníquese con el Departamento de Salud Public Health Solutions para recibir las aplicaciones, pre-evaluaciones, citas y hacer arreglos para transporte.

402-826-3880 o 1-844-830-0813

Sirviendo a los condados de Gage, Jefferson, Fillmore, Saline y Thayer.

When: Friday, February 5, 2016

Cuándo: Viernes, 5 de febrero, 2016

Where: UNMC College of Dentistry (Lincoln)

Dónde: UNMC Facultad de Odontología (Lincoln)

Singing Valentines Order Form

The Meridian High School Choir will be selling singing Valentines from February 1st-February 10th. Valentines will be delivered on Thursday, February 11th. Along with the singing valentine, the recipient will also receive a few Hershey's kisses. Song options will be available the week of February 1st. Order forms should be turned into Mrs. VanderSchaaf, or you can email or call evander@meridianmustangs.org, 402-446-7265.

Receiver of Valentine: _____

Purchased by: _____

Send Anonymously? YES or NO

\$2.00 each or 3/\$5.00 (If you are ordering for an entire class, please add \$3-each student will receive 1 Hershey's Kiss)

Daykin Community! We can deliver in Daykin on the morning of February 11th! Location _____

Community Orders will be delivered in the morning, we will try to accommodate specific time requests.

Elementary Grade _____

Elementary Orders will be delivered at a time convenient for the classroom teacher.

JH/HS Grade _____

Secondary Orders-requests for specific classes or times will be honored when possible.

Please indicate your preferred time and place of delivery.

____Anytime

____READ Period

____Study Hall

____Lunch (Mark A or B)






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