



Meridian Public Schools

"The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

January, 2015

Newsletter-January, 2015
Superintendent
Randy Kort

Welcome 2015!!!!

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this first semester one of the most successful I have encountered in education. The welcome that has been extended to my family and I is indescribable. It is truly a family feeling here at Meridian. Talking about family, please take time during the holiday break to enjoy the time and special memories you are able to have with your loved ones.

Here at Meridian, we will have our break beginning December 22nd, and students reporting back for class on January 6th. During this time, the basketball and wrestling teams will still be competing. The wrestlers will have a meet in Geneva on January 3rd. The start time will be 9:00 AM. The basketball teams will compete in the Axtell Tournament on December 22nd and 23rd, travel to O'Dell on Tuesday December 30th, and completing break with hosting Lawrence-Nelson on January 3rd.

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
KUTT/KGMT
99.5 FM / 1310 AM radio

Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday December 15, 2014

Regular December 15, 2014
Meeting -7:30 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on December 15, 2014, as per notice Fairbury Journal News.

President Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Miller, Scheer, Frank, and Wolfe. Also present were Superintendent Kort and Bridgette Jackson.

Frank moved and Miller seconded to excuse members VanWesten and Jackson. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Scheer moved and Frank seconded to approve the meeting's agenda. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe - aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the November 17, 2014 Regular Meeting
2. Districts Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe - aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Bridgette Jackson presented the Board with information concerning the location for this year's prom. The meal and dance will be held at the Tobias gym.

Superintendent Kort discussed current curriculum items.

Scheer moved and Miler seconded to approve the purchase of new band uniforms. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe - aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to approve the purchase of 27 new desktops to replace outdated equipment. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe - aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to approve the sale of the 2002 school bus. No bids were received, so the Board instructed Mr. Kort to contact local salvage yards and sell to the best offer. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe - aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent Kort provided information on bids for the HVAC service contract from 17 Point, Honeywell, and Rome.

Frank moved and Scheer seconded to approve updating the girls shower at the approximate cost of \$2200. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe - aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Frank moved and Miller seconded to approve the advertisement for roof replacement bids. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and Wolfe - aye. Motion carried 4-0.

President Wolfe signed the Teachers' Negotiated Agreement for the 2015-2016 school year.



Principal Scott reported:

1. One Act Play Production Season
2. Elementary Christmas Program
3. Winter Sports are in Full Swing
4. Christmas break will begin at 1:30 p.m. on December 19th, 2014, and school will resume on January 6th, 2015.
5. NSAA Moratorium is December 24th -28th, 2014. No practice or play.
6. MUDECAS Basketball Tournament Begins January 12th, 2015
7. Return of lost items from visiting students, shows how honest our students are.
8. Student enrollment numbers

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. Congratulations to Elementary Music Performance
2. Congratulations to Erin VanderSchaaf for the excellence award for student participation.
3. District Play Production on December 1st, 2014, Ran Smoothly
4. Power School Lunch is Implemented and Working Well
5. ChromeBooks Being Used Throughout the Jr. High With Success
6. CRC Meeting and Discussion of Jr. High Sports
7. CRC Basketball Conference Tourney Scheduled for 2015-2016 Year Will Include a Wednesday of Play

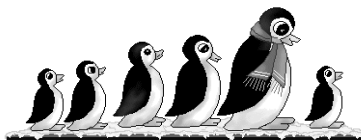
The Board of Education evaluated Superintendent Kort on his performance to this point of the year. The Board is very pleased with the work that Superintendent Kort has accomplished and his leadership in the effective operation of our school.

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, January 19, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

Miller moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Frank-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Larry Miller,

Acting Secretary
Meridian District #48-0303



Mustang MEMO
Mr. Harold Scott
Principal

One Act play production team finished their season. They were awarded the 3rd place plaque at the Crossroads Conference Meet out of 11 schools. Ty B, Lupe D, Brandon J, and Ricky N were recognized for outstanding performances. The team earned a superior rating at the District contest held here on December 1st. They received a 2nd place vote from one of the judges. Recognized for outstanding performances were Ty B, Lupe D, Brandon J, Crystal N, Brooke M, Ricky N, & Kylee S-D. Congratulations to Mr. Smiley and the team.

Congratulations to Mrs. VanderSchaaf and students for a wonderful elementary Christmas program. Thank you to all the family and friends that attended. The parking lot was full!

Basketball and wrestling are in full swing. There are several basketball games and one wrestling meet over Christmas break.

School will dismiss for Christmas break at 1:30pm on Friday, December 19, 2014. School will resume for students on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Teacher in-service will be Monday, January 5th.

NSAA Moratorium will be December 24-28. No practice or play during these 5 days.

MUDECAS basketball tournament begins January 12, 2014.

During the past two weeks, we had two events where students from other schools left an iPad and a class ring. Both of these items were found by Meridian students and were turned in to the office. We are proud of having such honest students in our school!!!

I hope everyone has a great school break and a Happy New Year 2015!



COUNSELOR'S NOTES
by
Kelly Frank

Upcoming Dates:

January 9 th	ACT Registration Deadline
-------------------------	---------------------------

Seniors:

Many seniors are beginning to finalize their college plans. 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. *Please check the website often for scholarship updates!* Also, preparations should be made to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. The FAFSA will generate your SAR (Student Air Report), which determines federal loan eligibility. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to complete this process. Also, each student and parent must apply for a pin at pin.ed.gov. Your PIN can be used each year to electronically apply for federal student aid and to access your Federal Student Aid records online.

If you have questions on this process, please check out the EducationQuest website at www.educationquest.org.

Juniors:

Juniors interested in taking the ACT should sign up to take the February 7th test. Please note the deadline is January 9th. Go to www.actstudent.org to register. If you qualify for Free & Reduced meals, you may be able to use a Fee Waiver (please see Mrs. Frank for details.). Juniors will also be completing the John Baylor ACT Test Prep this spring, which will help them with the ACT or COMPASS test. The COMPASS test is similar to the ACT but used more as a college placement test for many two-year schools.



Junior students will also begin the job shadow process and begin to explore different college options. Many juniors will be taking online dual-credit college classes this semester as well. 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 get their application in. If parents have questions on any of these new adventures, please contact my office.

Freshmen & Sophomores

These students will be taking a college visit this spring to a two-year and four-year public college or university. When details have been planned, I will let parents know.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Kelly Frank
PreK-12 Guidance
kfrank@meridianmustangs.org
402-446-7265 ext 1253

MERIDIAN ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Enrichment Coordinator:
Mrs. Marilyn Bachle

Purpose:

The Meridian Enrichment Program is designed to identify gifted students in grades K-12, provide educational experiences that meet their needs, and help these students develop their capabilities. Students are identified in the following areas: academic/intellectual, specific academic (such as math, or science), leadership, creativity, and visual and performing arts.

Program Goals:

1. The Meridian Enrichment Program will identify high-ability learners, K-12.
2. The Enrichment Program will identify and address the needs of qualified high-ability learners.
3. The Enrichment Program will provide special facilities and/or educational services to assist high-ability learners to progress towards their potential, both within and outside the classroom.
4. The Enrichment Program will provide high-ability learners opportunities to develop as a well-rounded citizen.

Identification Process:

The identification process uses multiple criteria to determine which students meet the qualifications for placement in the Enrichment Program. This criteria includes but is not limited to: achievement tests; teacher referrals; student nominations; parent nominations; Renzulli-Hartman Scale for Rating Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students in the areas of learning, motivational, creativity, leadership, artistic, musical, and dramatics; the Torrance Test for Creativity; and various inventories to measure characteristics of gifted students. Data is collected on all K-12 students and reviewed by the Identification Committee. The data is transferred to an Identification Matrix to see if students qualify for placement in the program. Some students automatically qualify for the program because their achievement test scores are 98% or higher. Every student in the District is monitored and reviewed twice during the school year for placement in the Enrichment Program.

Appeal Process:

At any time during the school year, any district parent/guardian may appeal the identification process and/or request that the district re-evaluate his/her child for placement in the high-ability learner or Enrichment Program. At such time, all available data will be collected for review. The purpose of reviewing the compiled data will be to see if said student has met the qualifications for placement in the program. Parents/guardians have the right to view this data and meet with the Enrichment Coordinator to discuss possible qualification. If the parents/guardians remain dissatisfied with the decision of the Coordinator, they may appeal the decision to the school Principal. Should the Principal sustain the Coordinator's determination, an appeal may be filed with the Superintendent. The final step of the appeal process will be to file with the Board of Education.

National Honors Society

The National Honors Society would like to thank the 30 families who donated around 100 gifts to the "Mustang Merriment Movement." The joy and excitement our Meridian students had when receiving their gifts were priceless!! We hope to continue this movement next year and reach out to more Meridian families in need. In the meantime, if you find those bargain buys of toys or clothing and would like to donate them to the Movement for next year, we'll make sure they get matched up with a student in need. **Thank you for your support!**



POWER LUNCH

Meridian Public Schools has updated our Power Lunch program to include the daily milk count. We now have the program set to let parents know when (a.m. or p.m.) and how many milks an Elementary child takes a day. These changes will allow the parents to include their milk payments with the lunch payments. However, we would still like to have parents write the amount for each child on the Memo line of their check to make sure our records for each child are accurate.

MUSICAL NOTES

Our music students are preparing for their music trip to Chicago May 26th-29th. To help raise money, students will be selling Deli International and Sugar Shack Candles starting the week of January 6th. Please contact any high school choir or band student or Mrs. VanderSchaaf if you'd like to order.

Congratulations to students who have been accepted into honor choirs and bands! UNO Honor Choir-Kaylen Stewart-Dietz, Kylee Stewart-Dietz, alternate; UNO Honor Band-Liam Noel, UNK Honor Band-Ann Endorf; UNK Honor Choirs: Tabitha Jacobs, Brooke Massa, Kaylen Stewart-Dietz, Michael Groves, and Liam Noel; Doane Honor Choir: Kaylen Stewart-Dietz; Hastings Honor Choir-Kaylen Stewart-Dietz.





BLOOD DRIVE

The National Honor Society is hosting its first ever Red Cross Blood Drive! The drive will be held Thursday, January 8th, 2015, from 9 am - 3 pm and will be held in the school gym.

We are already starting to sign up donors. If you would like to donate, please contact Mrs. Frank or go online to www.redcrossblood.org and search sponsor code MeridianMustangs. You can sign up online :) Please take advantage of this opportunity and support our blood drive!!

FBLA NEWS

This month in FBLA, our members worked hard selling fruit, butterbraids, pans, and cookie dough. Thanks to everyone in our community, it was a huge success! We thank you for all of your support! Also this month, our president, Ricky Nuñez, completed the Nonstop November project. This includes raising money for The March of Dimes, Feed Nebraska, and Prematurity awareness month. These projects are a part of the National FBLA Goals. The FBLA chapter will continue to work on the rest of the National FBLA Goals after the first of the year. Once again, we thank all our community members for supporting our FBLA organization!

FBLA Reporter,
Ann Endorf



STUCO NEWS

As Christmas time rolls around, many people think about family, food and, of course, semester finals. Being able to juggle semester finals, studying, and fulfilling a student council role is a tough job. As tough as it is, we do our best to find a way to get those tests done and make sure every student leaves for break on a great note. Meridian Student Council had a lot to cross off of the agenda before school was let out for the Holidays.

To start off with, in order to get the school in the Christmas spirit, the Council decorated the Commons with decorations, including festive lights and vibrant, green trees. Emphasizing the spirit that the holiday season entails, the school building was also decorated outside with lights and many other decorations.

If you attend a home basketball game, make sure you stick around for half time. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is the main organization Student Councils across Nebraska donate to. Part of Meridian's fundraising for Make-A-Wish is the half time shot. At every home varsity game you will have the opportunity to shoot a free-throw shot for one dollar. If you make the shot, you win a 2-liter bottle of pop. All proceeds will go to Make-A-Wish. Please feel free to shoot as many times as you want to help us raise money for a great cause. This year's donations will help NASC (Nebraska Association of Student Councils) reach the million-dollar mark in collected donations. No other student organization has done this.

One of the stated goals of our council is to create and maintain good school spirit. Being in charge of the End of Semester Holiday Party helps us to meet this goal. We make sure there are multiple options by hosting different sessions of games that all students can participate in. The games range from anything as wild as a tennis tournament to basic board games.

The council wanted to make sure not only the students left on a great note, but also the teachers. In order to show student appreciation, the teachers were provided with a Christmas Tea. Every member of the council brings in a treat for the teachers. The teachers were able to snack on these treats and drinks throughout the day.

If you have any suggestions for the Student Council, please talk to a member. We are sad to see one of our members leave after this semester. Ida Leitgeb, one of our foreign exchange students, is heading back to Germany as planned. We wish her a safe trip, and

we hope her time at Meridian will be a good memory.

The Student Council would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! See you next year!

Crystal Nuñez
Public Relations



Box Tops News

Let's get you up to date on what has been going on in Box Tops! September and October brought our first two winners of the Box Tops battle amongst the grades. September's winners were the 3rd grade class with Mrs. Henk and the October winners, who also won the Halloween Cookie party, were the 4th grade class with Miss Bower. The winner of the BIG Pumpkin was Hayden Frank, also a member of the winning 4th grade class. Total for September and October turn in was at close to \$260.00 so over half way to our total goal of \$500.00. Since it was late when "Dollar" got to visit the 4th grade class and December is a short month, we let them host "Dollar" both months. We will be collecting tops at the end of December, and a new winner will be announced when we come back from the Holiday Break in January.

Again, we want to continue to encourage our kids to show their school pride in collecting box tops. Remember if we are able to reach the \$500 goal, we will use the money THEY earned to put up a permanent net on the elementary playground. This will allow students the ability to play volleyball, badminton and other activities that used to only be accessible to them in the gym!

Thank you for supporting Box Tops here at Meridian. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and blessings for a wonderful and prosperous New Year!

MINI MUSTANGS BASKETBALL

Male and female students in Grades 1-4 are invited to attend three Saturday morning sessions that will work on basketball skills and fundamentals in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. There is no cost to attend the sessions, and students can attend as many as they can. Parents



are encouraged to stay and help at these sessions, but it is not required. It is tentatively planned for these students to play at the half-times of the January 23rd home varsity basketball games.

The upper elementary grades are also participating in the Geneva Basketball League again this year, and games are scheduled to start January 4th. Games are rotated between schools and Meridian is scheduled to have home games January 18th, and February 1st, 15th, and 22nd. Please come and support your Mini-Mustang participants!

GAME ON!

M-PIE will be hosting a "Kids Night Activity"



Friday, January 9th

Halftime of the Girls Basketball Game
Game starts at 6:15 - halftime will be after 6:30

Hoop it up!




All PreK-8 Students are Welcome
Students must still pay admission to the game or use their Student Activity Pass.
Participation in the M-PIE activity is FREE!

GO MUSTANGS!!

Mark your calendar for the 1st annual Red Cross Blood Drive at Meridian School

Thursday, January 8th, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. High school gym



For an appointment visit with an NHS Member or call the school office at 402-446-7265 OR go online at www.redcrossblood.org and search for sponsor code

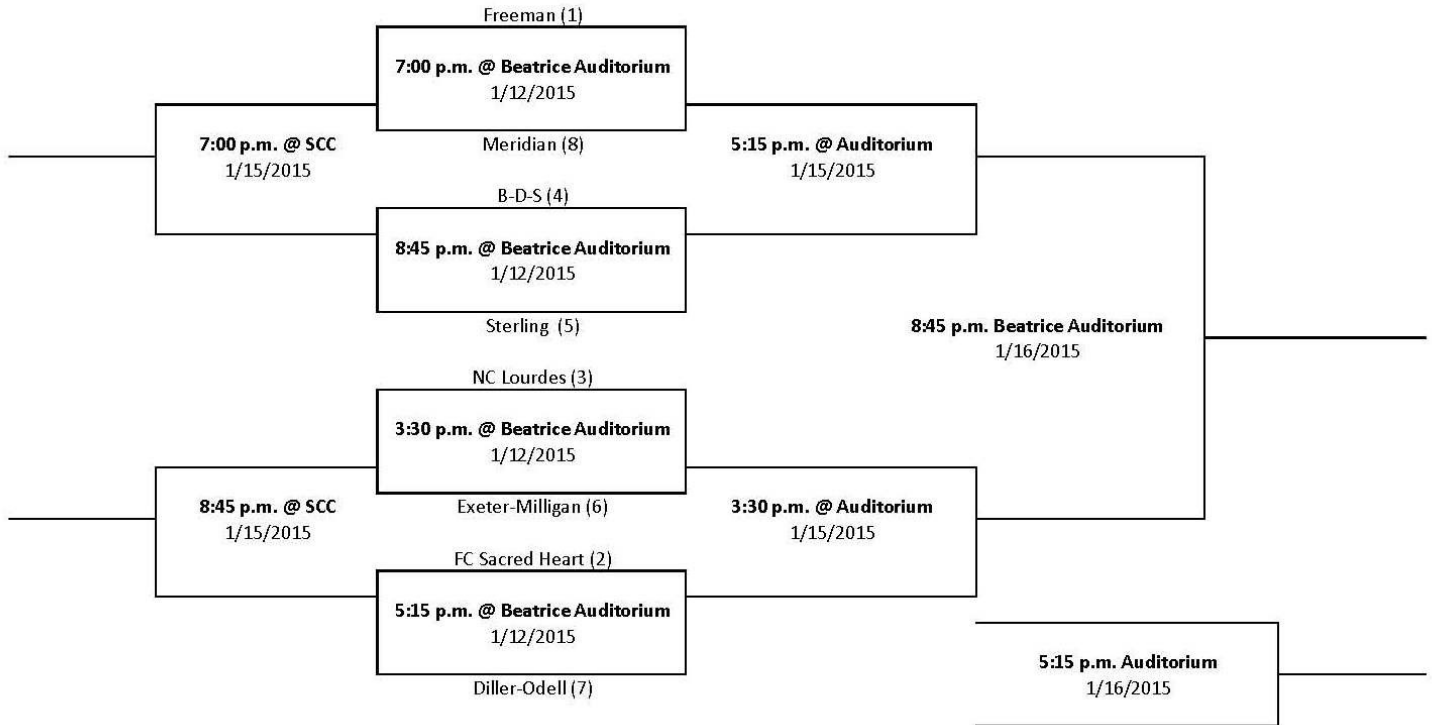
MeridianMustangs. Walk ins are welcome.

This event is sponsored by the National Honor Society.

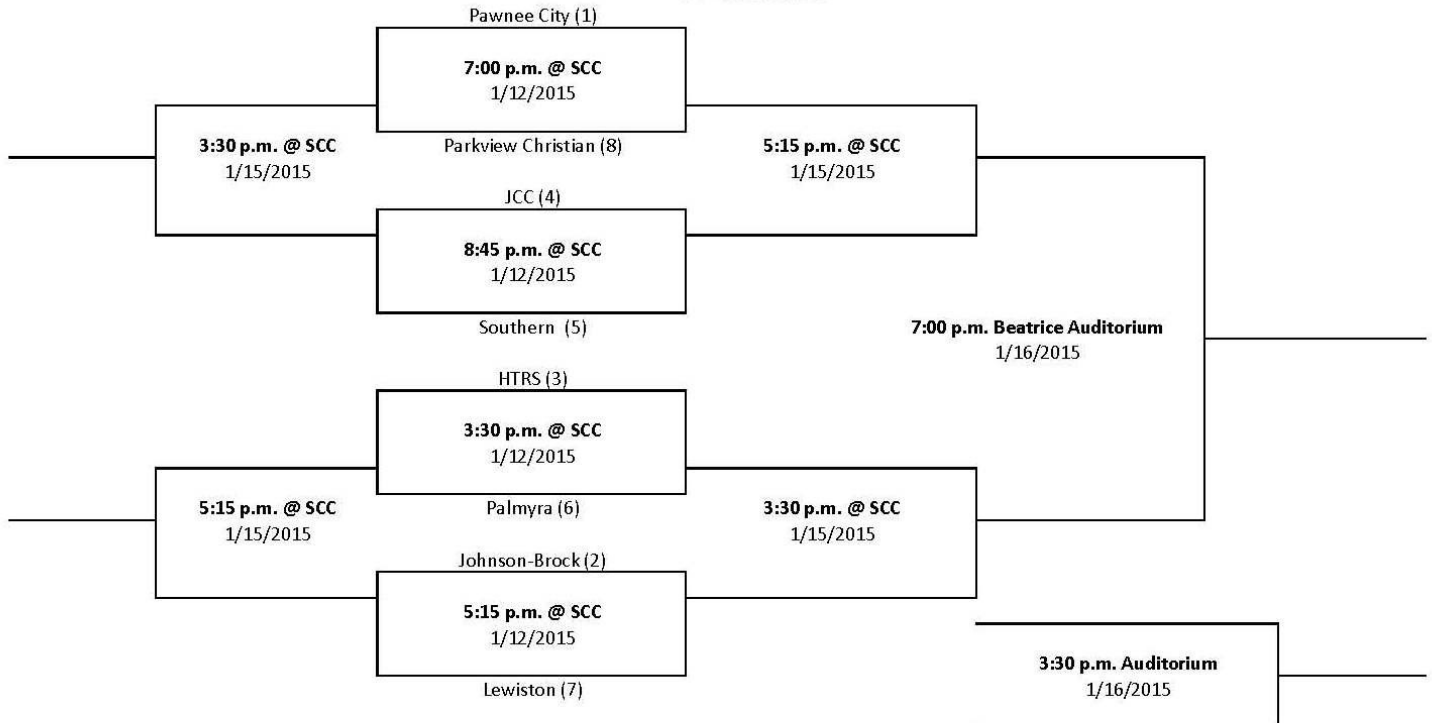


MUDECAS GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

A Division



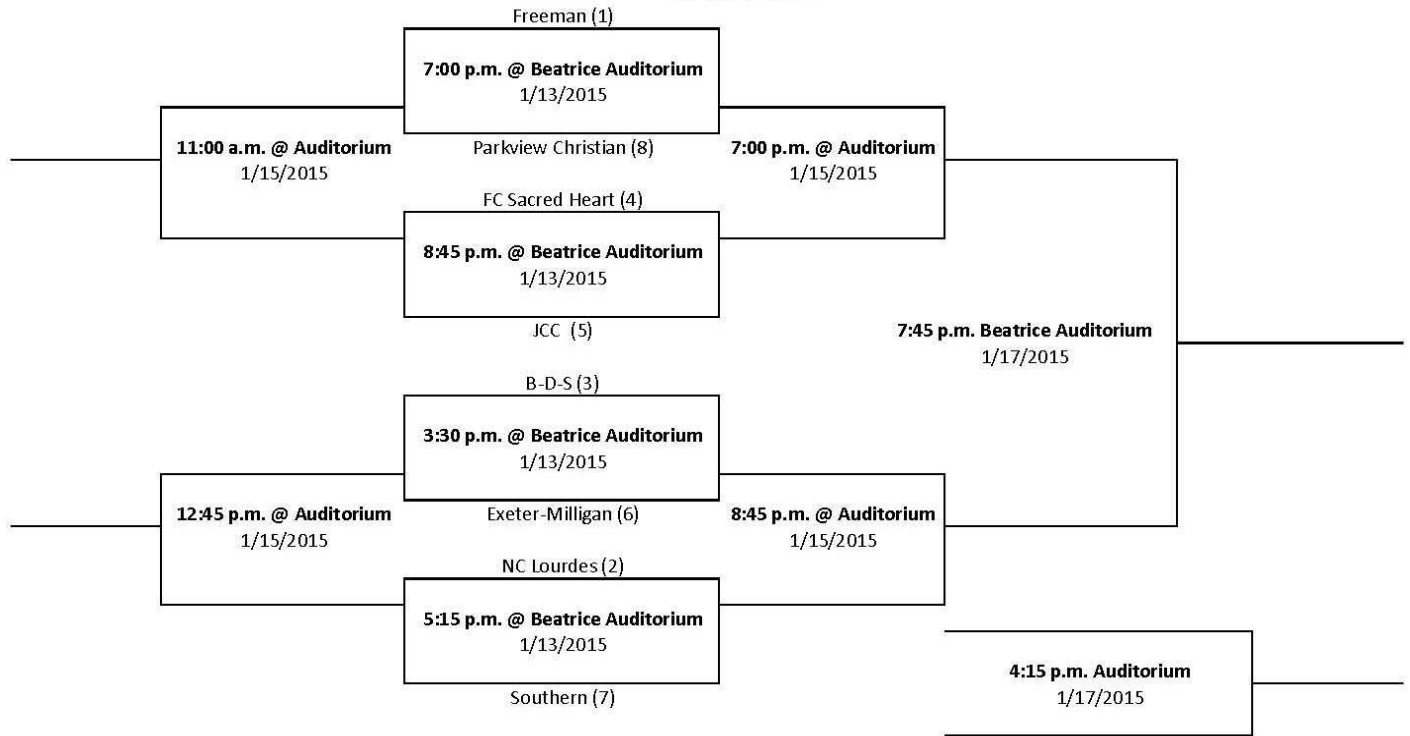
B Division



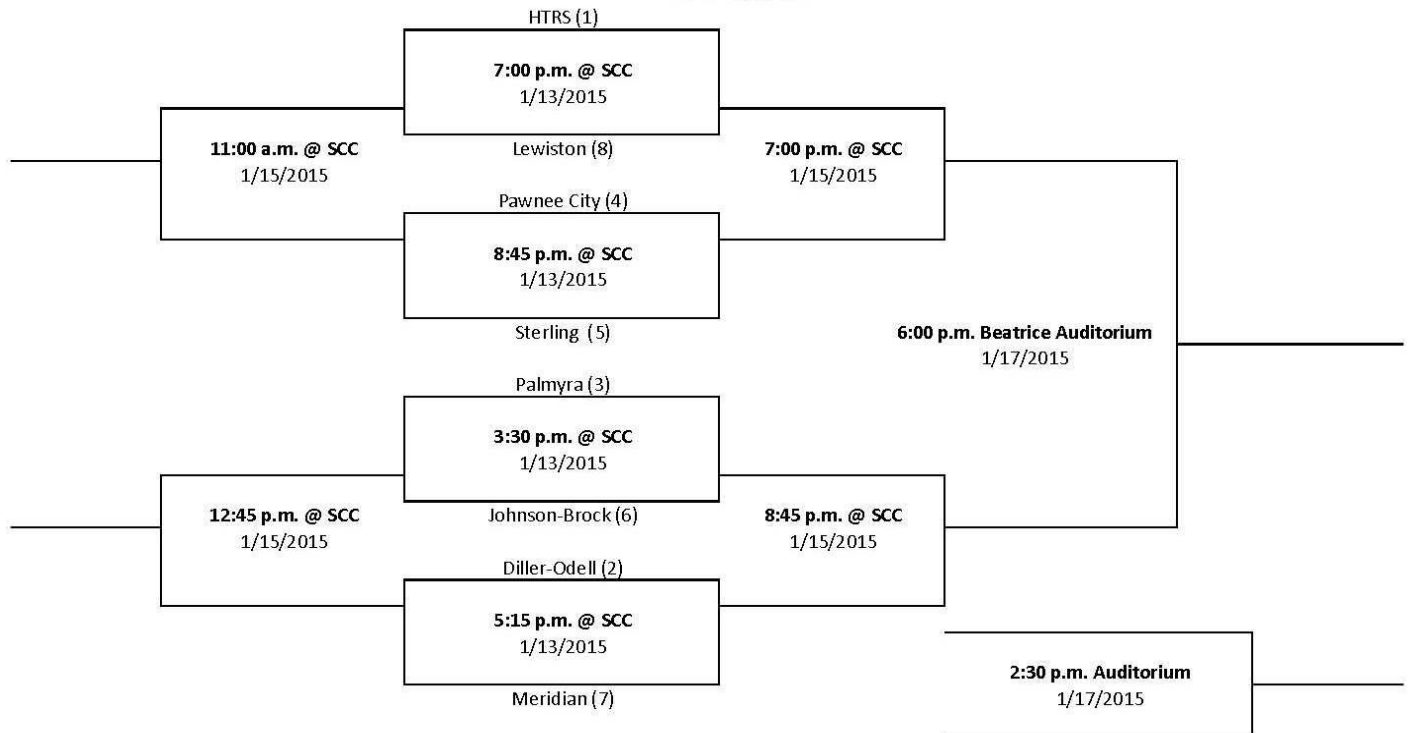


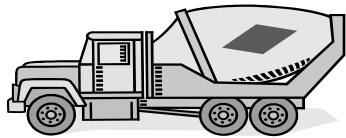
MUDECAS BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

A Division



B Division





Daykin Lumber Co.

DAYKIN, NE 68338

READY MIXED CONCRETE · BUILDING MATERIALS
ASTRO BUILDINGS · MARTIN SENOUR PAINTS
CONCRETE FEED BUNKS

PH. 402-446-7305
800-637-9711

FAX: 402-446-7341

The Daykin Pub



705 Francis
Daykin, NE
68338

402-446-7477



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Insurance • Investments

Doug Francis: 402.243.2233 www.agentdougfrancis.com

Damara Woitalewicz: 402.433.5300 Toll Free: 800.239.5823

Scott Woitalewicz: 402.433.5256 Fax: 402.243.2369

201 State Hwy. 74 AND 113 West Third
Tobias, NE 68453 Wilber, NE 68465



Jefferson County Bank

P.O. Box 220, Daykin, Nebraska 68338-0220



PHONE
402-446-7233



FAX
402-446-7234

Blue Skies PHOTOGRAPHY

Daykin, NE 402-446-7211
skies@diodecom.net
www.blueskiesphoto.com

First State

BANK NEBRASKA

Beatrice-Cortland-DeWitt-Dorchester-Filley-Firth-Hallam-Hickman
Lincoln-Pickrell-Valley-Waverly-Western-Wilber-Yutan

www.1fsb.com Member FDIC 877.303.9737

bigtease

104 NW Avenue Western, NE 68464

(402) 433.2120

Haircuts | Styles | Barber | Wax | Color



NAU COUNTRY

Paul Bachle
Claims Supervisor

NAU Country Insurance Company
305 Tullis Ave
Daykin, NE 68338

Phone: 402.446.7243
Mobile: 402.223.7742
Fax: 402.446.7312

paul.bachle@naucountry.com
www.naucountry.com