



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

September, 2016

Newsletter-September, 2016
Superintendent
Randy Kort

Welcome Back

The Meridian staff is excited to start the 2016-2017 school year. Meridian welcomes Ms. Buck, our new music teacher, Mr. Trautman, our new English teacher, Mrs. Dittmer, assistant cook, and Mrs. Davis who is our long term sub in the elementary.

I always enjoy this time of year. It is exciting to see the students coming back to school, witnessing how much they have grown, and eager for the upcoming year. We are able to see all the smiling faces as students become reacquainted with old friends and making friends with the new students. Looking out across the road and seeing the crops doing well, it is just a great time of year.

Students began on the 17th, and we opened our doors to a total of 237 students. This is one of the largest enrollments at Meridian in several years.

Athletics begin this week at Meridian with the volleyball team playing a jamboree game on Friday the 26th, at 5:00 pm. against Blue Hill. Later that night, the football team will also host Blue Hill with game time at 7:00 pm.

School Board

The Board of Education has scheduled the Annual Budget Hearing on Sunday, September 18, 2016, in Conference Room 113 at 6:00 p.m. The Annual Tax Request Hearing will be held at 6:15 p.m., and the regular monthly meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions about the school or school budget, please feel free to contact Mr. Kort at the school 402-446-7265.

Bus Routes

Our bus routes are continuing to change and adapt to best serve our students. Please be flexible over the next two weeks as those changes are made.

Throughout the school year, please notify your bus driver by 6:30 a.m. if your child will not be riding the bus. When you have advanced knowledge your child will NOT be riding the bus, contact the school and leave a message for the driver. Your route drivers are as follows:

Alexandria Area Route

Janelle Heiserman
402-749-4450 or 402-300-1704

Fairbury Area Route

Tonya Griffin
402-300-0252 or 402-300-1722

Ohiowa/Tobias Area Route

Elizabeth Noel
402-243-2292 or 402-300-1705

Western/Daykin Area Route

Charles Houser
402-446-7407 or 402-300-1707
Substitute Driver: Allen Lintz

Activity Passes

Activity passes are available this year at the following prices: Adults = \$40; K-12 = \$30; Golden Passes (over 65) = Free. Please contact Trish Endorf at the school for your pass, 402-446-7265.

*** Gate prices will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.*



Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska 68338
Monday, August 15, 2016

Regular August 15, 2016 Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on August 15, 2016, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Sobotka, Bartels, Miller, Vorderstrasse, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Lorrie Hofstetter, Jason Trautman, and Patience Buck.

Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to excuse Scheer from the August 15, 2016 Board Meeting. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Patience Buck, the new K-12 Music teacher, and Jason Trautman, the new 8-12 English teacher, introduced themselves to the Board.

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

1. Minutes of the Monday, July 18, 2016 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

Vote taken: Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Principal Scott stated that the school has received the new Elementary math curriculum material.



Sobotka moved and Bartels seconded to approve ALICAP as the worker's compensation for the 2016-2017 school year. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve Policy 5006 and Appendix 1 that sets standards for the acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applicants. The appendix was updated to include specific grade and program maximum capacities. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Kort stated that the Nebraska Association of School Board's meeting is November 17th- 19th, in Omaha and the Regional meeting will be in York on September 14th.

Vorderstrasse moved and Miller seconded to transfer \$250,000 of the 2016 budget funds into the Depreciation Fund. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Miller moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to transfer \$70,000 of the 2016 budget funds into the Activity Fund. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Principal Scott reported:

- 1. First Day of School will be Wednesday, August 17th.
2. New teachers for the 2016 - 2017 school year are Patience Buck K-12 Music and Jason Trautman 8-12 English. Mrs. Davis will be the long term substitute for Mrs. Henk and the new assistant cook is Tami Dittmer.
3. 2016-2017 school year student enrollment:

Table with student enrollment data: Total Elementary (Girls 55, Boys 56, Total 111), Total 7-12 (Girls 66, Boys 58, Total 124), Grand Total (111, 124, 235).

4. Teachers will be involved in five days of in-service and training from

August 15th- 19th. Goals for the 2016-2017 school year include improving student math, reading and writing skills.

Superintendent Kort reported:

- 1. Update on summer projects: The emergency generator that replaces the backup batteries has been installed, and the 2016 bus is scheduled to be delivered August 27th.
2. Student involvement in fall sports and activities: Meridian will be D1 in volleyball with 19 students participating; will also be D1 in Play Production; Football will remain in D2 with 16 students participating.
3. Projection of 2016-2017 budget and the lowering of the Building Fund tax rate.

Hearings and next meeting set for Sunday, September 18, 2016 - Annual Budget Hearing-6:00 p.m.; Annual Tax Request Hearing-6:15 p.m.; Regular Meeting to follow.

Miller moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

J. Scott Sobotka.

Secretary Meridian District # 48-0303



The school year has already started! Our first day with students was Wednesday, August 17th. Wednesday through Friday of that week, we had 1:30pm dismissals. We would like to welcome our new teachers Patience Buck - K-12 music, and Jason Trautman - 8-12 English. We also welcome our new kitchen help Tami Dittmer.

Our current student count as of AUGUST 23, 2016, is as follows:



ELEMENTARY

Table with 3 columns: Girls, Boys, Total. Rows include Pre-Kind, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade, and Total (55, 58, 113).

SECONDARY

Table with 3 columns: Girls, Boys, Total. Rows include 7th Grade, 8th Grade, Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, Total (66, 59, 125), and Grand Total (121, 117, 238).

NSAA 9th-11th count - 69 (last year 59) (previous year 46)

Teachers will be involved in five days of in-service August 15-19th. We have full days of training on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday through Friday are early release days for students and the remaining two hours each day are available for additional teacher training. Lots of various trainings will be provided including suicide prevention, CPR/first aid training, writing portfolio workshop, tech training, and school improvement discussion. Goals for this year include improving student math, reading, and writing skills, with an emphasis on writing across the curriculum.



Thank you to everyone who attended the Open House on August 16th! We had a wonderful turnout! New and returning students had the opportunity to stop by the school and visit with teachers before the first day of school. A special thanks goes out to M-PIE and the Meridian Foundation for sponsoring and serving the hot dog meal.



Important dates:

September 7 – Financial Aid Presentation for Seniors @ 10am (parents are welcome!) – *an expert from EducationQuest will be conducting the presentation*

September 10 – ACT test date

September 14 – ASVAB test for juniors

September 16 – ACT registration deadline for October 22nd test

September 27 – SCC College Fair for sophomores and juniors

Month of September – NWEA MAP testing grades 3-11

Seniors...it's time to prepare for the early FAFSA!

Beginning **October 1**, you can apply for federal, state and college-based financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). **This is a change from previous years when students had to wait until after January 1 to apply.**

Here's how you can prepare:

- **Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID** for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You and a parent will each need an FSA ID to access and sign the FAFSA.
- **Be aware of your college's FAFSA priority date.** Complete your FAFSA before that date as some financial aid is awarded first come, first served. Contact your college's financial aid office to learn their priority date.
- **Attend an EducationQuest Financial Aid Program (FAP)** to learn about the FAFSA and the financial aid process. If you attend, *you'll be eligible to register for a \$500 scholarship!* We will be hosting a meeting at Meridian on September 7th at 10am!
- **See FAFSA Tools at EducationQuest.org** for free tools that will help you prepare. For free personal help, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to make an appointment: Omaha – 888.357.6300, Lincoln – 800.303.3745, Kearney – 800.666.3721, and Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

Senior students and parents... it's also time to start preparing for college admission!

Admission deadlines will start hitting later this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

1. **Contact your top colleges NOW** and ask about application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.
2. **Visit with college representatives** at college fairs, educational planning programs, during campus visits, and when they visit your high school.
3. **Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline.** Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay, and an interview.

INTRODUCING...

Hello Meridian Families! My name is Patience Buck, and I'm the new music teacher here in the district. Knowing that I haven't met all of you yet, I wanted to make sure to introduce myself to everyone.

I graduated from the University of Nebraska - Kearney in December of 2014, after student teaching in Crete. Then, I was the assistant director of junior bands at Omaha Gross. At the same time, I was substitute teaching in Lincoln and Crete. Last year, I was teaching K-12 music in Maxwell, Nebraska. I have traveled all over the United States and performed at regional, national, and international conferences with various groups. My primary instrument is trombone.

I am originally from Grand Island. I have two little brothers. One is in junior high and the other is a sophomore at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln studying psychology. Both my parents still live in Grand Island, so I travel there often to visit them. I have an almost two-year-old Italian Greyhound named Maddox who is very rambunctious. I love reading, traveling, and anything that has to do with music.

If you should have any questions or concerns throughout this year, please feel free to contact me. You can email me at pbuck@meridianmustangs.org or call me at (402) 446-7265 ext. 1145. I look forward to having fun, learning, and teaching students this year. This is truly my dream job!

Have a great beginning of the year, and I look forward to seeing you at events and performances!

Musically yours,
Patience Buck

Hello, I am Jason Trautman. I am teaching English to grades 8-12. I am a recent graduate of Wayne State College. I am actually from that area as well. I grew up in Northeast Nebraska and graduated high school from Wayne, America. Wayne is known for two things, that phrase written on the water tower, and Chicken Days, a weekend dedicated to celebrating chickens. Meridian is my first job out of college, and I really look forward to this coming year and helping the students' Language Arts abilities grow.

NOTICE

There have been changes made to the Red Book/Planner September calendar: **pictures** have been moved from the 8th to the **12th**, the **EducationQuest Financial Aid Presentation** has been moved to **September 7th, at 10:00 a.m.**, and the **School Board Meeting** will be on **Sunday, September 18th**, with the first hearing starting at **6:00 p.m.**

ADULT CERAMIC CLASSES

Evening adult ceramics class will start Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 7 pm until 9 pm in the Art room. The cost of the class is \$3 a night. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Placek at [\(402\) 446-7265 ext. 1274](tel:(402)446-7265).

WREATH SALES

Once again the Junior class will be selling wreaths to raise money for prom. To ensure delivery in time for the Christmas season, sales will begin in September. Please support these students in their efforts.



FBLA AT NATIONALS

More than 336 Nebraska students and advisers recently attended the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA. Nebraska FBLA members competed June 29, through July 2 in 65 competitive events. More than 12,000 FBLA members from 46 states, as well as U.S. territories and international chapters attended the conference. Nebraska members brought home 18 Top Ten awards.

Meridian had four students compete in the National Leadership Conference in two events and were sponsored by the FBLA adviser, Mrs. Soukup. McKehna Bartels, Bridgette Jackson, and Jakub VanWesten competed in the business plan; and Shelby Homolka competed in Database Applications. Over one hundred competitors were in each event with no one from Meridian making the top ten finalists.

Our week was filled with many fun-filled events, including competitive events, state delegation meetings, inspiring workshops, high-energy general sessions, and of course some of the tourist attractions that Atlanta had to offer. An afternoon was spent at the Martin Luther King Museum as well as a morning tour of CNN. One evening was spent at the Braves baseball game which ended with the Braves winning after 12 innings. The evening was topped off with a beautiful fireworks display. Other events included a tour of The World of Coke and an afternoon spent at the College Football Hall of Fame.

We would like to give the School Board a big thank you for supporting us on the trip. We were proud to represent Nebraska FBLA, and most importantly, Meridian in this prestigious competition.

STUCO NEWS

Swimming in the heat. Laughing with your friends. Staying out really late. All of these amazingly fun summer activities are sadly coming to a close. School is back in session and it's time to dust off the cobwebs in your brains. Time to get those brain cogs into motion. School is here and Student Council is prepared to

make this school year great. This summer was a productive and successful one to say the least. The benefit for Jasmine Daniels' was a complete success, the Back-to-School Bash is coming up really soon, our magazine kickoff will be starting, and we had a little fun on our summer getaway.

Jasmine Daniels' benefit went very smoothly. As most of you know, Jasmine was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma cancer earlier this summer. It is something that is very sad, but Jasmine has been handling it very bravely. On August 7th, a benefit was held in her honor at the school. The turnout was incredible. So many people came to support Jasmine and her family. The sophomore class was also a big help. Many of them attended the benefit and helped serve food for the duration of the supper. The Student Council also helped Kathy set up the gym and the Family Consumer Science Room for this event. Along with the supper, a live and silent auctions were held. So many great donation were given by outstanding citizens. Thank you so much to everyone who took time out of their day to come support Jasmine. I'm sure that she appreciates all of your help.

Now for something that almost everyone has been waiting for, the Back-to-School Bash! A wonderful way to reconnect with your friends and to make some new friends. The dance is open to all 7-12 students. As always the dance will be held Friday, August 19. The Student Council always organizes the dance, and I'm sure this year will be just as amazing as every other year - if not more fun. I know I always love the Back-to-School Bash. It's a fun way to say goodbye to summer and ring in the new school year. It's really great experience for all students, especially the 7th graders and new students. The dance is a way for us as Meridian students to welcome and celebrate the new students to our school. Our amazing dance skills will show them how fun Meridian students really are. Let's show our Mustang spirit to all of our new classmates.

Every year Student Council has a magazine sale. Everyone in junior high and high school gets packets with magazines in them to sell in their communities. All of the sales are part of each class' funds. So everything that is sold helps pay for homecoming catering, prom, and each class' senior trip. The date of the magazine kickoff will be determined on a later date.

Student Council also went on a very fun summer getaway. This year we decided we would do something a little more physical. We went to a park in Fairbury and played a round of frisbee golf. It was an experience like no other. Let's just say I don't think any of us are going to go professional any time soon. It was a very bonding experience that we all enjoyed. We had a great summer getaway and will continue to enjoy helping our school.

As you can obviously see, we've been really busy this summer. With Jasmine's Benefit, planning the Back-to-School Bash, magazine kickoff, and having a little fun on the side, our summer calendar has been full. This is school year is going to be full of amazing experiences and people. So as our summer comes to a close and our school year begins, just know Student Council will continue to work hard to make this year great.

Hoping Your School Year Starts Off Wonderfully,
Public Relations, Jacqueline Dimas

THANK YOU

Jasmine Daniels and her family would like to THANK everyone who generously donated money, time, food, and items for the auctions for the Benefit. A big thank you to the Student Council, Jenny Seibolt, and Kathy Houser for all of their hard work before and during the benefit, Meridian School for allowing us to use the commons and gym, and Meridian staff who helped in any way. There are not enough words to say how much we appreciate everyone's generosity and concern. It means a lot to us during this difficult time with Jasmine and her battle with Ewing Sarcoma. The gratitude and compassion everyone has shown us is overwhelming and



appreciated. It is amazing to live in a community with so much compassion during difficult times.

Thank you again for your compassion and generosity!

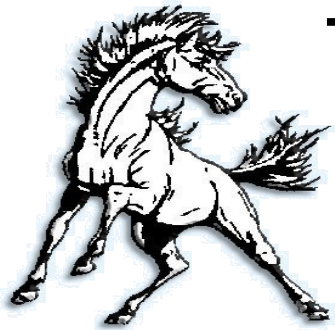
Jasmine Daniels,
Tabitha & Casey Hansen,
Jordan Daniels,
Jason Daniels & Kendra King and family

GED CLASSES

Starting August 30th, GED classes will be held in Hebron on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hebron Secret Library. These classes are offered free of charge. Topics include: Basic Skills, GED Prep, English as a 2nd Language, Skills for Employment, and Career Pathways. A call in advance is appreciated, but not necessary. Please plan to attend the first meeting. If you have any questions, please call Gaylen Cox at [402-461-1793](tel:402-461-1793).



The Meridian Foundation is proud to sponsor a



Tailgate Night



Friday, September 9th
Night of the Homecoming Football Game

At Jim Durlinger Field
Behind the Bleachers on the Home Side

Serving from 6:00 p.m. thru Halftime



\$5.50 Hamburger Meal Deal

\$4.00 Hotdog Meal Deal

Includes Hamburger or Hotdog, Chips,
Bar/Cookie, and Drink

Individual Hamburgers are \$3.50

Individual Hotdogs are \$1.50



All Community Members are Welcome!!

Proceeds will go towards Meridian Foundation projects



2 PERSON SCRAMBLE

September 11, 2016

Hidden Hills Country Club, Geneva, Nebraska

\$30.00 per person; 18 holes-continental breakfast and lunch included.

Golf carts are limited-\$15.00 additional fee for golf cart

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M. WITH TEE TIME AT 9:00A.M.

RSVP is required to ensure cart and encouraged for ALL participants.

RSVP to Deanna Brakhage (402-418-0120)

✓ Pay out and pin prizes

** Mulligans available*

7th Annual Cheer Classic Meridian Cheerleaders

**Brianna Barton, Brittany Boyce, Shelby Homolka, Shianne Mattson,
Breanna Miller, Crystal Nuñez, Cherokee Oxford**



Meridian Mustangs Fanwear

Order Form and Payment due to Jamie Niederklein by September 8

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Short Sleeve Tshirt in Red, White and Dark Heather Gray.....\$15
(Youth XS through L; Adult SM through 5XL)

Long Sleeve Tshirt in Red, White and Dark Heather Gray.....\$20
(Youth XS through XL; Adult SM through 2XL)

Basic Crewneck Sweatshirt in Black or Red.....\$22
(Youth XS through XL; Adult SM through 5XL)

Basic Hooded Sweatshirt in Black or Red.....\$25
(Youth XS through XL; Adult SM through 5XL)

Performance Hooded Sweatshirt - Black with Red Accents.....\$30
(Youth XS through XL; Adult SM through 4XL)

Ballcap with mesh back with adjustable closure.....\$15

Stocking Cap.....\$15

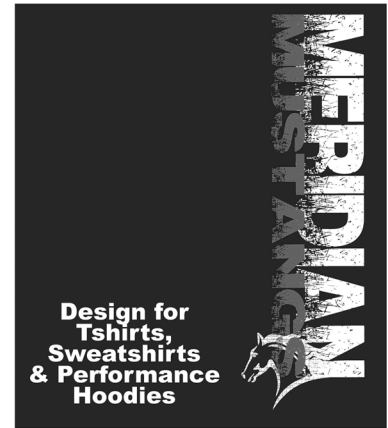
Graphite Short Sleeve Polo - Available in Ladies or Unisex Cut..\$25
(Adult SM through 4XL)

Black/Red Full Zip Performance Jacket Ladies or Unisex Cut.....\$40
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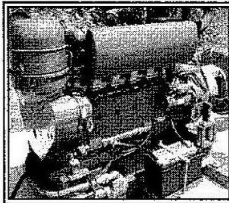
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