



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, 2020

Newsletter - February, 2020
Superintendent
Randy Kort

It is hard to believe, but we are nearing the end of 4 weeks into the third quarter. I would like to remind parents to please log onto PowerSchool to check your child's grade. It is a very busy time of year, so please help your children continue to focus on their academic goals.

Parent Teacher Conferences are February 17 and 19, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm.

We have recently had weather conditions that resulted in school starting late. Please stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when inclement weather is in our area:

KLKN - TV: Lincoln
KHAS - TV: Hastings
KOLN/KGIN TV:

Lincoln/Grand Island.

We also use School Messenger that does an all call to parents, students, and staff. If you are not receiving these notifications, please contact Trish and make sure we have your current and/or correct information.

Just a reminder to parents and students - Meridian Public Schools will be hosting the CRC Speech meet on Wednesday February 26. There will be no school for the students that day.

Have a great Valentine's Day, and please come support our teams as the winter sports season will be ending towards the end of February and early March. Wrestling districts will be February 14 and 15 at Plainview, NE. Girls sub-district basketball is February 18 and 20 at Geneva, while the boys will be February 24 and 25 at Pawnee City.



Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District - 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, January 20, 2020

Regular January 20, 2020 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Sunday, January 20, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Vorderstrasse, Niederklein, Sobotka, Bartels, Scheer, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Allyson Kort, and Erika Schwisow.

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

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to nominate Bartels as Board President.

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

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to newly elected President Bartels.

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

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Scheer - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - abstain, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 5-0. Sobotka was elected Vice-President.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to nominate Niederklein as Board Secretary.

VanWesten moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Scheer - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - abstain, Sobotka - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 5-0. Niederklein was elected as Board Secretary.

VanWesten moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate Scheer as Board Treasurer.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Scheer - abstain, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 5-0. Scheer was elected as Board Treasurer.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Roll call was taken: Scheer - present, VanWesten - present, Vorderstrasse - present, Niederklein - present, Sobotka - present, and Bartels - present.

No comments were made by the public.

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

1. Minutes of the Sunday, December 16, 2019 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

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

Superintendent Kort presented the Curriculum Report. The school will continue to work with Mary Ruiz and plans to have her back for the 2020-2021 school year.

Discussion was held on the 2020-2021 Calendar which is still being finalized.



After discussion, Scheer moved and VanWesten seconded to approve standing committees as follows:

Americanism:

Bartels, Scheer, VanWesten

Building & Grounds:

Niederklein, Scheer, Vorderstrasse

Transportation:

Niederklein, Sobotka, Vorderstrasse

Curriculum & Instruction:

Bartels, VanWesten

Negotiations:

Bartels, Sobotka, Niederklein

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

Vorderstrasse moved and VanWesten seconded to approve Heartland Bank, formally the Jefferson County Bank, as the Official District Depository. Vote taken: Scheer - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to approve The Fairbury Journal-News as the District newspaper. Vote taken: Scheer - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion was held on the location of the greenhouse and the prospective location.

Principal Scott reported:

1. Student numbers are 226 Total: 123 in elementary; 103 in 7-12
2. Speech season was scheduled to begin, but due to multiple conflicts, the first speech meet will be at Thayer Central on Saturday, January 26, followed by MUDECAS on February 1.
3. CRC Tournament begins on January 25, with the boys playing at 4:00 p.m. The girls received a bye the first round and will play on January 28 at 6:00 p.m.
4. The next wrestling meet is scheduled at Thayer Central on Friday, January 24.
5. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, February 17, and Wednesday, February 19, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. both days.

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. Legislative Update, including the pros and cons of LB974.

2. CRC/NSAA discussions update
3. Foundation / Projects

Next Regular Meeting was set for Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Vote taken: Scheer - aye, VanWesten - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



Student count for 2019-2020
As of 1-20-20

PreK	12	7th	17
Kindergarten	11 -1	8th	13
1st	20	9th	21 +1
2nd	16 -1	10th	19
3rd	13 -1	11th	12 -1
4th	19	12th	21
5th	13		
6th	19 -1		
	123 -4		103
Grand Total		226	-4

Students' first day for second semester was on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

Speech season was scheduled to begin Saturday, January 11th, at Fairbury. Due to multiple conflicts, we were unable to compete. The speech meet at Deshler scheduled for January 18, was cancelled due to weather. Our next speech meet was at Thayer Central on Saturday, January 26, followed by MUDECAS on February 1.

Girls basketball earned a bye for the first round of CRC. They play Tuesday, January 28, at 6pm at the York City Auditorium. Boys basketball plays Saturday, January 25, at 4pm at York City Auditorium. There was a three-way tie for JH girls basketball. Unfortunately, Meridian did not win the coin toss, so will not be playing for CRC championship this year.

The wrestlers continue to battle weather trying to get a meet in.

In response to requests from teachers for additional correspondence and

leadership, Mr. Scott has begun e-mailing a weekly Monday Mustang Motivation. Each week, a meme with a quote along with a reflection question are sent to staff Monday mornings to give a focus for that week.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, February 17, and Wednesday, February 19, both days from 4pm-8pm.



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 2020-21 FAFSA** at FAFSA.gov using 2018 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:

1. **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.
2. **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)!
3. **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
4. **National search sites such as collegeboard.org, www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx, chegg.com/scholarships**
5. **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 us 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** – 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 April 7 as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by February 28 for the April 4 test or by May 8 for the June 13 test. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org. If you would like to request a fee waiver, contact Mrs. Kruse. All Meridian students have FREE access to the On To College (formerly John Baylor ACT Test Prep program). Contact Mrs. Kruse if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity for the spring tests! Note that all juniors will be preparing for the April 7 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 Redcross 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 \$1709!!! For the elementary, just like last year, we are giving away prizes for the following:

- *Register Online to receive a Squad Shield Tattoo
- *Bring \$5 in change to school to receive a Glow in the Dark Power Ring
- *Raise \$10 online to receive a Super Sidekick keychain
- *Bring \$15 in change to school to receive a Glow in the Dark Hero Band
- *Raise \$25 online to receive a Mystery Mini Keychain
- *Raise \$50 online to receive a Hero Squad Tee
- *Raise \$100 online to receive a Mini

Champ Squishy Keychain

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. 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 Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 3 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 lkruse@meridianmustangs.org to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome!

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

If your child has turned four by July 31, 2020, they are eligible for Pre-K. Please contact Kelly Kanost or Mrs. Paul at Meridian School (402-446-7265 extension 4) to let us know you are interested in registering your child. If your child is 5 by July 31, 2020, please contact Kelly Kanost or Mrs. Meyer (telephone number above) to register your child for Kindergarten. Parents' meetings for each class will be set at a later date.

STUCO

Second semester started off "cool"! Thank you to everyone who donated to Student Council's Hat, Mitten, and Scarf Tree. All items are being given to Blue Valley in Fairbury.

This month will be kicked off with the Winter Dance on February 1st. The dance is for all 7th-12th graders. Students are welcomed to invite an out-of-school date. This is also the kick-off for Student Council's Annual Canned Food Drive. Canned food, other non-perishable food, and bottled water will be accepted through February.

Valentine's Day is just a couple of weeks away! Make sure to buy a carnation for your friends and family! Student Council will be sending forms home with elementary students and have forms available for junior high and high school students to pick up. All orders are due Monday, February 3.

Wishing you a lovely February!
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier



FFA

FFA members have been very busy kicking off the new year. On January 9th, we held our monthly FFA meeting and the Community LDE Practice Night. David Endorf, representing the NE Farm Bureau, presented a book and



Left to Right: David Endorf, Erika Schwisow

some resources to the chapter to be used in the Connecting Chapters Program. Brayden Rut was also awarded the FFA Member of the Month. Members also had the chance to present their demonstrations and speeches to prepare for contest. A special thanks to Deb Schwisow, Jimmy Simms, and David Endorf for serving as our judges and providing feedback to the members. On January 15, members competed in Leadership Development Events (LDE's) which focuses on strengthening public speaking and professional skills.



Participants in LDE's

Front Row (L to R): Ashley Hummer, Brynn Holtmeier, Erin Kujath, Erika Schwisow, Nylah Moody, Kim Schropfer, Kailyn Paul

Back Row (L to R): Zach Kerwood, Tyler Lopez, Hector Nuñez, Chase Bartels, Brayden Rut

Here are the results:

- * Brynn Holtmeier - Cooperative Speaking - District Champion and Qualified for State
- * Erika Schwisow - Junior Public Speaking, Topic: Spider Goats - District Runner-Up and Qualified for State
- * Kim Schropfer - Junior Public Speaking, Topic: Wind Energy and

- Agriculture - 4th place, receiving a purple ribbon and alternate for state
- * Kailyn Paul - FFA Creed Speaking - 4th place, receiving a purple ribbon
- * Chase Bartels - FFA Creed Speaking - Red Ribbon
- * Hector Nuñez - Employment Skills - Blue Ribbon
- * Senior Parliamentary Procedure team consisting of Nylah Moody, Erika Schwisow, Erin Kujath, Brynn Holtmeier, Kim Schropfer and Hector Nuñez - Blue Ribbon
- * Senior Parliamentary Procedure team consisting of Ashley Hummer, Kailyn Paul, Zach Kerwood, Chase Bartels, Jesus Nuñez, and Brayden Rut - Blue Ribbon.



Left to Right: Brayden Rut, Nylah Moody

In addition to the contest, congratulations goes to Kala Most, Erika Schwisow and Kailyn Paul on being selected into the State FFA Choir! They will be performing during sessions at the State FFA Convention in April.

Upcoming Events & Deadlines:

- * February 5th - Proficiency Applications Due
- * February 13th - FFA Concessions
- * February 24-28th - National FFA Week
- * February 26th - Welding Contest in Lincoln
- * February 28th - FFA Appreciation Breakfast
- * March 3rd - CDEs in Beatrice

REINDEER RUN

On December 21st, the Mini Mustangs Student Council hosted the 2nd Annual Reindeer Run in downtown Daykin. This year the run was in memory of Peyton VanWesten and Garrett Klipp, with all proceeds being donated to Live On Nebraska: Organ and Tissue Donations. We were blessed with beautiful weather to host 351 runners and many, many spectators. Between the registration fee for the run, the silent auction, monetary donations and the bake sale, we were able to raise \$7,652.00. We will be presenting the CEO of Live On Nebraska with a check for that amount at a later date due to weather. I can not thank everyone enough for the outpouring of support and kindness they displayed towards the Reindeer Run. We will be looking forward to next year!

-Echloe Davis

SFS BASEBALL

If anyone is interested in coaching SFS Baseball this summer, please contact Toby Sones at 402-300-0681 by March 9th. A meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Commons of Meridian Public School on March 11th, so players who are interested can sign up.

THANK YOU

M-PIE would like to thank everyone who supported us at the Soup Supper on January 21st. Whether you donated items or showed up to eat, we could not enjoy the success we have without you. Your patronage is truly appreciated - THANK YOU!





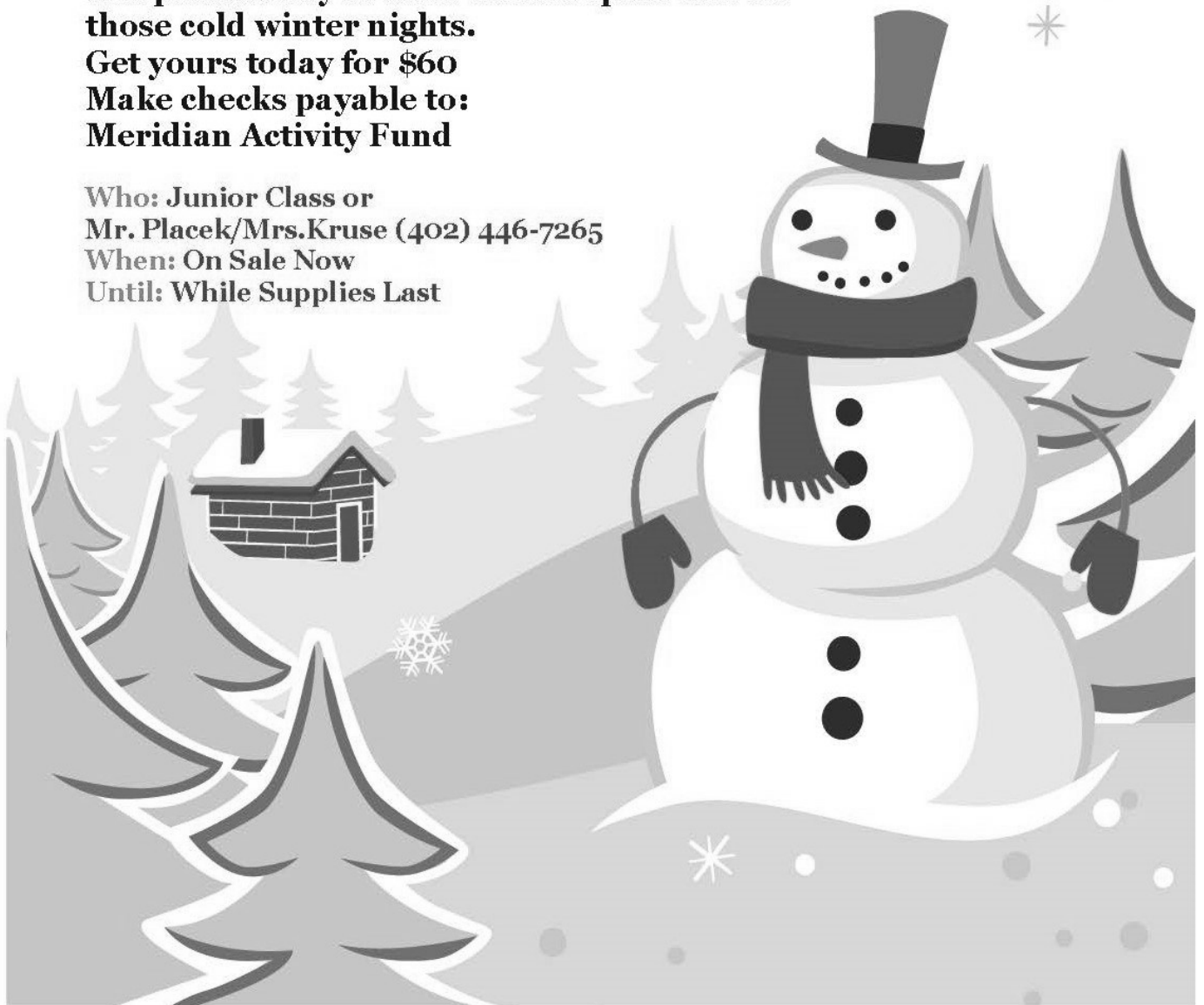
Help Support the Meridian Junior Class

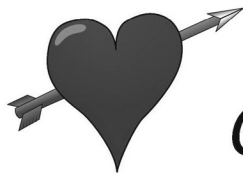
Purchase a
Meridian Mustang Blanket
and show your school spirit
this winter.



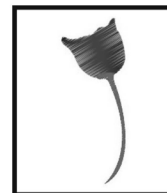
**Blankets are 60" X 80",
very soft, heavy & plush
The perfect way to show school spirit and for
those cold winter nights.
Get yours today for \$60
Make checks payable to:
Meridian Activity Fund**

**Who: Junior Class or
Mr. Placek/Mrs. Kruse (402) 446-7265
When: On Sale Now
Until: While Supplies Last**





Carnation Sales



Valentine's Day is on its way and Student Council will be selling carnations again this year. Purchase Red for love, pink for friend, and white for secret admirer for \$2.00 a flower.

Please return form and money to Kelly by **Monday, February 3rd.**

Carnations will be delivered on **Friday, February 14.**

Valentine's Carnation Order

Your Name _____

RED (love) How many? _____ at \$2.00 per flower = \$ _____

for whom _____

PINK (friend) How many? _____ at \$2.00 per flower = \$ _____

for whom _____

WHITE (secret admirer) How many? _____ at \$2.00 per flower = \$ _____

for whom _____

Total number of carnations _____ **Total Owed \$** _____

Orders and money are due to Kelly Kanost in the elementary or Mr. V in the high school by Monday, **February 3rd.**

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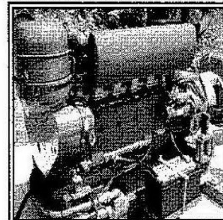
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