



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

Newsletter – November, 2021 Superintendent Randy Kort

First quarter is completed, fall season sports are about to an end and the fields around the area are almost harvested. The next steps in "Nebraska Life" are shorter days, cooler temperatures, and soon snow will be blowing around. We just want to remind everyone to pack your vehicle with the necessary items such as a blanket and water and make sure to top off your gas tank and have a cell phone with a charger readily available. Take some extra time getting to your destinations. When there is bad weather in our area, Meridian will use our All Call messaging service along with the following media outlets 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

As this newsletter is being mailed out our volleyball team will hopefully still be playing and working towards a chance to compete at state volleyball. Our football team will have its season come to an end. We want to thank both teams for working hard and giving their all to represent Meridian.

Winter sports practice for the high school will begin on November 15th. If your son or daughter have not done so and they are planning to play winter sports, they must have their physical and NSAA paperwork completed **BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE**.



www.meridianmustangs.org Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District – 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Wednesday, October 13, 2021

<u>Regular October 13, 2021 Meeting</u> Meridian Public School Board of Education met on October 13, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Niederklein – present, Sobotka – present, Rut – present, Scheer – present, and Bartels – present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Brynn Holtmeier, and Braxtyn Rut.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to excuse Vorderstrasse from the meeting. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Brynn Holtmeier notified the Board that for her civic engagement project, she has applied and been approved as a student FCA leader. Miss Drees and Mr. Nore will sponsor FCA at Meridian. Brynn has already begun holding meetings and will continue to do so.

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

- A. Minutes of the Special Budget Hearing, Wednesday, September 12, 2021
- B. Minutes of the Special Tax Hearing, Wednesday, September 12, 2021
- C. Minutes of the Wednesday, September 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

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- D. District Financial ReportE. Activity Fund Report
- F. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- G. Bills

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

Curriculum report:

- The teachers continue to have inservice days with the ESU. Two of three sessions have been completed.
- Mary Ruiz is continuing to work on getting her visa. She also continues working with the junior high Spanish classes at Meridian. She is hopeful to be back in the United States by early 2022.

Brynn Holtmeier reported that Student Council did seatbelt checks recently for students and staff. They also have Halloween activities planned for the elementary students later this month.

Superintendent Kort presented information on what it will take to get the gym floor sanded and the logo repainted. He asked for approval to move forward with this project. Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the refinishing of the gym floor. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort reported that the annual update with ALICAP has not been completed. A report will be provided at the next meeting.

Superintendent Kort reports that technology equipment continues to be purchased using ESSER funds. This includes laptops, desktop computers, smart boards, printers, etc.

Superintendent Kort updated the Board on the verbal audit report received from Dana Cole. Official audit reports will arrive in two weeks.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to approve MEA (Meridian Education Association) as negotiators for the 2022-

November, 2021

▶ Hail to the varsity... Cheer them along the way... Meridian Public School, District 48-0303 Page 2 2023 school Negotiations year. Wednesday, October 27. First round GreatSchools.org announced Committee meeting dates and times were of Covid vaccines will also be set for November and December. available. National FFA will be held October Principal's Report: 27-30. • Current student count - Elementary -JH/HS concert will be Monday, 111 and High School – 97, including November 1. 2 exchange students. There will be a 1:30 dismissal on • GreatSchools.org announced the Wednesday, November 10 for winners of their fourth-annual teacher in-service. This is the third College Success Award, which the part of close reading recognizes and celebrates public high presentation from ESU, as part of schools that excel at preparing district contest. our school improvement. students to enroll and succeed in November 11 is Veteran's Day. college. Meridian High School has More information will be provided been selected as a winner! as the date gets closer. · Congratulations to Kylee VanWesten for earning 2nd place in the 5th/6th Superintendent's Report: grade division of the Jefferson ° NASB Meetings County Spelling Bee! She qualifies · State Meeting in Omaha on for the district contest. November 17 - 19• Brynn Holtmeier and Ally Kort were Submitting Application for a New meals to students and staff. recognized as Elks teenagers of the Bus month. NSAA Numbers – Meridian will This week is National Hot Lunch remain 6-man football for two more Week. We appreciate all that Elaine, years ° Greenhouse Update - waiting for Kim, Shari, and others do daily to while elementary had 94%. provide delicious meals to students trenching to get water to the and staff. greenhouse • Parent Teacher Conferences were Next Meeting was set for Monday, held on September 22 & 23. November 15, 2021 beginning at 7:00 Secondary reported 57% of families academics and activities. p.m. in attendance, while elementary had 94%. Niederklein moved and Scheer • Friday, October 15 is the end of the seconded to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Vote first quarter. taken: Niederklein - aye, Sobotka -• CRC volleyball tournament begins on aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Saturday, October 16. Meridian will Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0. face Dorchester in the first round at Jamie Niederklein, 3pm at York High School (Main Gym). Secretary Meridian District #48-030 • October 18-22 is School Bus Safety

- Week. Our bus and van drivers make every week safety week. Thanks to Charles, Janelle, Tonya, Wendy, Elizabeth. Lisa, Mike, Shawn. Stephanie and all other drivers for keeping our students safe on the roads.
- There will be no school on Friday, October 22 for fall break.
- Sunday, October 24, the cheerleaders will host the MHS Little Monster Bash from 5-7pm.
- October 25-29 is Red Ribbon Week. It is also the start of subdistrict volleyball.
- There will be no school on Friday, October 29 for the ESU5 in-service for teachers. (This is a change from the red book calendar). There will be school on Friday, November 5.
- Flu shot clinic will be held on

Mustang MEMO Mr. Harold Scott

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Student Count for 2021-2022				
As of 10-7-21				
PreK	5	7th	12	
Kindergarten	21	8th	18	
1st	15 -1	9th	19	
2nd	10	10th	11	
3rd	17	11th	19	
4th	15	12th	15	
5th	12		94	
6th	<u>15</u> +1 Exchange <u>+2</u>			
	110	-	97	
Grand Total 207				
NSAA 9 th -11 th count –				
(Current 49)(Last year 49)(2 years				
51)(3 years 58)(4 years 60)(5 years				
67)(6 years 59)(7 years 46)				

the winners of their fourth-annual College Success Award, which recognizes and celebrates public high schools that excel at preparing students to enroll and succeed in college. Meridian High School has been selected as a winner!

Congratulations to Kylee VanWesten for earning 2nd place in the 5th/6th grade division of the Jefferson County Spelling Bee! She qualifies for the

Brynn Holtmeier and Ally Kort were recognized as Elks teenagers of the month. Congratulations to both of you!

The week of October 11-15, was National Hot Lunch Week. We appreciate all that Elaine, Kim, Shari, and others do daily to provide delicious

Parent Teacher Conferences were held on September 22 and 23. Secondary reported 57% of families in attendance,

Friday, October 15 was the end of the first quarter. Another year is flying by as staff and students try to keep up with

CRC volleyball tournament began on Saturday, October 16. Meridian faced Dorchester in the first round at 3pm at York High School in the Main Gym. At 5:00 p.m. our team defeated High Plains and advanced to meet BDS at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 18th. Unfortunately, Meridian lost to BDS in 3 sets. Meridian played Cross County in the consolation round on October 19th. Once again, Meridian came up short, thus placing 4th in the tournament.

October 18-22 was School Bus Safety Week. Our bus and van drivers make every week safety week. Thanks to Charles, Janelle, Tonya, Wendy, Elizabeth, Lisa, Mike, Shawn, Stephanie and all other drivers for keeping our students safe on the roads.

Friday, October 22, was Fall Break. All students and staff enjoyed a day off!

Sunday, October 24, the cheerleaders hosted the MHS Little Monster Bash from 5-7pm.

October 25-29 was Red Ribbon Week and the start of subdistrict volleyball.

Onward to victory... May they win again today...

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There was no school on Friday, October 29 for the ESU5 in-service for teachers. There will be school on Friday, November 5.

Flu shot clinic was held on Wednesday, October 27. First round of Covid vaccines were also available.

The National FFA was held October 27-30.

The Junior High/High School concert will be Monday, November 1.

There will be a 1:30 dismissal on Wednesday, November 10 for teacher inservice. This is the third part of the close reading presentation from ESU, as part of our school improvement.

November 11 is Veteran's Day. Once again, Meridian will host a program and all area veterans and their spouses are invited to attend.

COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION by Lisa Hermsmeier

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Upcoming Dates:

November 2 – Central Community College Visit for Juniors

November 11 – Veteran's Day Program @ 10 a.m.

December 11 – ACT Test (registration is due by Nov. 5)

Red Ribbon Week:

The end of October was filled with fun and presentations for our Meridian students. Our overall week theme was "Drug Free Looks Like Me." The daily themes were "We're RED-dy to make a Difference," "Give Drugs the Boot," "Keep Palm & Carry On Drug Free," and "Team Up Against Drugs." Monday we took a red out picture and talked about making a difference. On Tuesday, we practiced line dancing by giving drugs the boot. Wednesday, high school received leis and beach music was played in the commons. Thursday, we had our Halloween parties, and talked to athletes about being drug free. If you have not done so, please take a few moments to talk to your child about the activities they participated in this 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 the 2022-2023 school 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. 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.

<u>EducationQuest – A Useful Tool</u> 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)

- 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. J 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 5 for the December 11 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 colleges information about 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 Reality Check, Timeline, and ScholarshipQuest. There's also а calendar that will guide you through college-planning steps - and you can personalize it with your own tasks.

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

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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.

SPELLING BEE



Maddox Haake Middle Row (1 to r): Luke Seeman, Dawson Specht, Kyan Sones Back Row (1 to r): Landon Griggs, Olivia Schafer, Coby Huls

The Jefferson County Spelling Bee was held on October 5, 2021. The 5th-6th grade competition began at 9:30 a.m. with the 7th-8th grade division starting at 1:30 p.m. Meridian was well represented with 11 students in the elementary division and 9 junior high students in the afternoon competition. Fifth graders were Paiten Barnell, Braxton Davis, Savannah Turner, Tiffany Vinsonhaler, and Sophie Weise. Jayton Jones, Lani Lutjemeyer, Grady Schwisow, Aubrie Snell, Jetta Stewart, and Kylee VanWesten were the sixth grade competitors. Participants in the junior high division were Alex Bartolome, Landon Griggs, Maddox

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Haake, Coby Huls, Olivia Schafer, Luke Seeman, Kyan Sones, Dawson Specht, and Isaac Thomas.



Front Row (1 to r): Lani Lutjerneyer, Jetta Stewart, Kylee VanWesten, Paiten Barnell, Sophie Weise Back Row (1 to r): Aubrie Snell, Grady Schwisow, Braxton Davis, Jayton Jones, Tiffany Vinsonhaler, Savannah Turner

Kylee VanWesten earned second place in the 5th-6th grade division and is eligible to compete at the district level. Congratulations to Kylee and to all students who represented Meridian at this event.

STUCO

The first quarter has ended, and Student Council cannot be more excited about what the members have planned! This past month involved promoting safe driving with the seatbelt check, going "Reverse Trickor-Treating" asking for Make-a-Wish donations, and painting pumpkins with the elementary. Students and staff were given a piece of candy for wearing their seatbelts. Keep up the The Stu-Co raises safe driving! the Make-a-Wish money for Foundation with donations from "Reverse Trick-or-Treating." Members went to all of the elementary classrooms to paint pumpkins with the students on October 27th. The pumpkins were then sent home with the students on the 28th after drying. A huge thank you to goes to the Kumpf family for donating the pumpkins and gourds!

Stu-Co looks forward to this next quarter. Current plans include working on a school improvement project and planning the End of the Semester Party. The Council is also working on recognizing students' birthdays and continuing the recycling program.

Wishing everyone a November full of Thanksgiving!

Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier



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.

Thank you for all who donated to the fall blood drive for the Nebraska Community Blood Bank. We were just short of our goal of 24 units by getting 21 units total.

Save the Date! NHS will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, March 15, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the Nebraska Blood Bank. If you currently donate, please consider donating to our drive. If you have never donated blood before, now would be a great time to start! NHS members will be getting more information out in February and will be setting up appointments closer to this date.

October 2021 FFA Report

October has been off to a great start for FFA. On October 6th, 6 members including Drew Niederklein, Keagan Sones, Erika Schwisow, Sam Thomas, Tucker Simms, and Hadden Woods participated in the area land judging



Front Row (I to r): Tucker Simms, Hadden Woods Erika Schwisow, Drew Niederklein *Back Row (I to r):* Samuel Thomas, Keagan Sones

contest near Beatrice. The members evaluated soil texture, permeability, slope, and erosion of the soil. Congratulations to Hadden Woods, Erika Schwisow and Sam Thomas for receiving a white ribbon. On October 13, the Meridian FFA Chapter held its second meeting and here we discussed upcoming events as well as the fruit sales. Fruit sales will take place October 13 - November 10. On October 15, Meridian FFA held a tailgate to raise



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money for Live On Nebraska. A huge thank you to everyone who came out and purchased a shirt and also a thank you to Live On who donated prizes and koozies for the tailgate. 339 shirts were sold and nearly \$2,000 was raised!



FFA Members (*L to R*) Kymber Schwisow, Grady Schwisow, Olivia Schafer, and Erika Schwisow serve Mrs. Holly Adam her hamburger meal.

Upcoming events include:

- •October 27-30: National FFA Convention In Indianapolis
- November 10: District Livestock Judging Contest
- November 12-13: Pathways to Careers (P2C)

Sincerely, Kymber Schwisow Meridian FFA Reporter

FBLA

This month Meridian FBLA is starting to work on ribbon projects for the State Leadership Conference in April. These ribbon projects include: March of Dimes, Go Green, StepUp2Tech, iGive, Connect with Businesses, and Feed Nebraska. The chapter will be doing roadside trash pickup this upcoming month. Prematurity Awareness Day is on Wednesday, November 17th, and the chapter would like to ask students and staff members to wear purple.

Wishing everyone a Happy November and Thanksgiving!

Reporter, Jaala Stewart and President, Brynn Holtmeier

MERIDIAN FOUNDATION

If you would like to take a more "hands on" approach to supporting the students of Meridian Public School, join us in making a difference! The MERIDIAN

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FOUNDATION has done more than award scholarships - it is responsible for the construction of the Meridian Community Fitness Center and the greenhouse. These projects were made possible by generous donations from people who truly want to show their support and encourage our students to continue their education beyond these walls.





If you don't want to join the Foundation but would still like to contribute, we accept donations and encourage input on ideas for future projects. If you would like to contribute in this way or join our organization, please contact one of the members or call Meridian Public Schools at 402-446-7265 extension 2. Thank you!!

PRESIDENT Jason Bartels VICE PRESIDENT Megan Haake TREASURER Patty Johnson SECRETARY Trish Endorf

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app to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online. From playground equipment to technology to library books, your school can use this money to help teachers and students get the supplies they need.

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If you see this label on a product, you can use the Box Tops app to scan your receipt. The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online. Please note that some Box Tops products are not labeled.

DON'T HAVE THE APP YET?

GET IT NOW! Once you download the Box Tops app, you'll be able to scan your store receipts and earn cash for your school. The app automatically finds participating products on your receipts and instantly adds cash to your school's earnings online. Plus, you can invite friends to earn, get reminders to scan, give credit for your earnings and more!

Our Boxtop for Education Coordinator has set a Box Tops goal of: \$1,000 -We are only at \$14.30. Don't forget to take time to scan your receipts.



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Mustang Merriment



In the spirit of the season, the Meridian National Honor Society is sponsoring the 7th 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

Child's name

If your family would like to receive gifts, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by November 16th. 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			-
Address		()	
Street	City	City Pl	
Child's name	/ age/gender	description of gift	
 Child's name	/ age/gender	description of gift	
Child's name	/ age/gender	description of gift	size(s) if needed
Child's name	/ age/gender	description of gift	
	/		

description of gift

size(s) if needed

age/gender

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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 16th, and a gift request will be assigned to you by November 22nd. 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 10th with the gift request form taped to the gift.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hermsmeier at (402)446-7265 or email Ihermsmeier@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 16th, and a gift request will be assigned to you by November 22nd.

Family/Student Name _____

Family Phone number (_____)_____

Family Email _____

Yes, Please send our family ______ gift request(s) in support of the Mustang Merriment Movement.