



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

December, 2022

Newsletter - December, 2022
Superintendent
Randy Kort

What a great experience!! Congratulations to the Volleyball team and their state appearance. It was such an honor to have the opportunity to share in this event and be able to represent Meridian Public Schools and the communities that make us special. During the state volleyball experience we were ranked 3rd in the sportsmanship ranking, and I feel if we had the chance for a couple more games our ranking would have moved even higher.

We are now entering into the winter activities and have our elementary and high school concerts coming up. The elementary winter concert will be December 5 and the Junior High and High School concert on December 6. Sports begin December 2, with the wrestling team traveling to Sandy Creek and the basketball teams traveling to Dorchester. Please come out and support our students. Please be aware there will be changes to schedules and times as the teams will have various quarters they are able to play. We will work to keep these updates on the webpage, shared through Twitter, Facebook, and all calls as needed.

Please be aware that students have three weeks of class left before the 1st semester is over. Please check with your child on PowersSchool and see how they are performing academically.

As holidays are approaching, please spend quality time with your family and be safe with your travels.



Here are some reminders as we enter the cold weather season in Nebraska:

1. If possible have a cell phone fully charged and with you.
2. Use the cell phone – call when you leave and expect to arrive home.
3. Have a blanket or extra clothing in your vehicle.
4. Keep your vehicle in working condition.
5. Be careful and leave yourself extra time to arrive at your destination.

The media outlets Meridian Public Schools will use for late starts and school closings:

KLKN – TV: Lincoln

KHAS – TV: Hastings

KOLN/KGIN TV:

Lincoln/Grand Island

KUTT/KGMT

99.5 FM / 1310 AM Radio: Fairbury

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, November 21, 2022**

Regular November 21, 2022 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on November 21, 2022, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse – present, Niederklein – present, Sobotka – present, Rut – present, and Bartels – present. Also present was Superintendent Kort and Principal Scott.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

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

No comments were heard from the public.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Minutes of the Wednesday, October 16, 2022 Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

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

Principal Scott presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Superintendent Kort notified the Board that Meridian will host the Mudecas Music Contest on Thursday, March 23, 2023. Due to this, teachers will report to school on March 23, 2023, but students will not.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to approve the change to the school calendar. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort summarized the 2021-2022 audit completed by Dana Cole.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the Annual Audit Report. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Principal Scott presented the Principal's Report to the Board.

Superintendent Kort presented the Superintendent's Report to the Board.

Next Meeting was set for Monday, December 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.



Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to go into closed session to discuss teacher negotiations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Bartels stated that it was moved and seconded to go in to closed session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss teacher negotiations for the 2023-2024 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board came out of closed session at 7:23 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the teachers' negotiations for the 2023-2024 school year pending the approval by the Meridian Education Association (MEA). The total negotiated package is approximately a 3.27% increase from 2022-2023. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



Student Count for 2022-2023 (as of 11-21-22)

PreK	11 +1	7th	18
Kindergarten	11	8th	12
1st	21	9th	20
2nd	16	10th	19 -1
3rd	13	11th	12
4th	18	12th	20
5th	17 +1		101
6th	16		
	123 +2		

Grand Total 224 +1

Congratulations to the volleyball players and coaches for winning districts and qualifying for the state tournament. The whole community is proud of all you accomplished this season.

We are excited to have Mary Ruiz back in the district. She is currently working on getting her Nebraska teacher certificate reactivated. Welcome back!

Meridian One Act placed 3rd at the Fairbury invite on November 12, with several students receiving acting awards. CRC was held on Wednesday, November 16. Congratulations on the second place finish to the cast, crew and director. District Play Production contest will be held Tuesday, November 29 at Wilcox-Hildreth.

Junior High girls and boys basketball games start November 30, with a game at Dorchester.

High school basketball and wrestling will start on Friday, December 2. The basketball teams will travel to Dorchester and the wrestlers will travel to Hebron for the Thayer Central Quad.

The elementary holiday concert will be Monday, December 5, starting at 7:00 p.m.. Meridian's Junior High/High School concert is Tuesday, December 6. Start time is also 7:00 p.m.

The Reindeer Run is Saturday, December 17. Registration will begin at 1:30, with the race starting at 2:00. There will be a silent auction and coffee truck for all who are interested.

Johnson County Central did a survey of 166 schools to see what their policy was regarding students wearing hats in school during the school day. The data shows that 93.4% do not allow students to wear hats.



2nd Semester Schedule Changes

All 7-12 students interested in making changes to their 2nd semester schedule should do so before the holiday break. Please plan to do this the week of December 12-16. Meridian offers different electives each semester, and dual-credit classes are available for juniors and seniors. Parents: If you have questions on your child's schedule, please call or email Mrs. Hermsmeier at school.

Freshman to Seniors... College Timeline will keep you on track to college.

EducationQuest has a College Timeline (https://www.educationquest.org/myeducationquest/college-timeline/) for students in grades 9-12 that spells out steps

you should take during fall, winter, spring, and summer of each year to plan for college.

The Timeline also allows you to add your own tasks, get reminders when it's time to complete tasks, and check off tasks when they're complete. You can access these features by creating and/or logging into your MyEducationQuest account at EducationQuest.org.

Check it out and give it a try. It will make the college planning process more manageable!

ACT Registration

This is a reminder that to register for the ACT, an account needs to be created at www.actstudent.org. From here, you will fill in specific information and also select your testing date and site. Each ACT costs \$63.00, but if you qualify for free or reduced lunches, you may request a fee waiver from Mrs. Hermsmeier. Our school code is 282-345. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Hermsmeier with any questions or concerns. Juniors, earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year. You must register by January 6th, for the February 11th ACT, by March 10th, for the April 15th ACT, and/or by May 5th, for the June 10th ACT. Keep in mind that all juniors will be taking the ACT at school in April.

Seniors...have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your college admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices for application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process. By now, you should have applied to your top three colleges, and you should also be working on upcoming scholarships. The counseling webpage and the senior google classroom is updated with scholarships periodically! Please make sure you know deadlines for scholarships offered by the college(s) of your choice.

Senior FAFSA Information (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Seniors, if you haven't done so already, it's time to file the FAFSA! You'll need to complete the form before your



college's priority date (typically March 1 or April 1) to apply for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. You and a parent can complete the form at FAFSA.gov. Before you start, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need them to access and sign the FAFSA.

What to expect after you submit your FAFSA

The FAFSA opened October 1 so many of you have already completed and submitted your form. Here's what happens next:

***Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR).** You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received, and if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.

***Make sure you applied for admission to colleges you listed on your FAFSA.** Colleges who receive your FAFSA results typically won't send you a financial aid package until you've applied and have been accepted to the school.

***Watch for verification requests.** The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office. *The college will not process your financial aid until they receive the documents.*

***Watch for financial aid award notifications.** The colleges you applied to – and listed on your FAFSA – will send you a financial aid award notification detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

Winning the scholarship Game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

***Don't ever pay for scholarship searches!** Use free resources such as ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. Free national sites include Peterson's, FindTuition, Cappex, and Chegg.

***Visit your school counselor often** for information about local scholarships.

***Focus on local and college-specific scholarships** because you're more likely to earn them.

***Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

***Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them at least two weeks advance notice and a specific deadline.

***Tailor your essay to the scholarship.** Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

Just a  From the Music Department

As the old saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun." We are having a great time in the music department and it is so hard to believe we are ready for the month of December and the last month in the first semester of school! In November, we had four junior high students: Abby Kerwood, Kaylee Lutke, Anne-Marie Markey, and Lainey Turner, representing Meridian at the Crete Junior High Vocal Clinic at Crete Middle School. Students sang with other junior high students from around Southeast Nebraska and performed a concert that evening. The clinician was Lacey Franzen who is the vocal music teacher at Sandy Creek Public Schools.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our Elementary Winter Concert on Monday, December 5 at 7pm and our Junior High & High School Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 6 at 7pm. Both performances will be in the high school gym.

Thank you to the many generous donors who have supplied instruments for beginning band students! We are so grateful for your support and generosity!

We are so proud of all that our students have accomplished this semester! Thank you for all you do to support music in our school!



Mini Christmas Tree Display

The Struckman-Baatz Public Library in Western is holding its annual Open House and Mini Christmas tree display on Saturday, December 17th, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Patrons are welcome to decorate trees no larger than 3' tall to be displayed. If you would like to participate, you may bring your decorated mini tree to the library December 1st through the 16th. Library hours are Tuesday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Happy Holidays!



From Our House to Yours



Reindeer Run Registration Form 2022 5k or 1 mile December 17th 2:00

All proceeds will be
donated to Live On
Nebraska



Run/Walk in your best Creative Christmas Attire Registration at 1:00

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Male _____ Female _____ Age on Race Day _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Event: 5K _____ 1 mile _____

Entry Fee- Make Checks Payable to Meridian Activity Fund

Early Registration Date December 12, 2022	Late and Race Day Registration
_____ \$15 5k _____ \$10 1mile	_____ \$20 5k _____ \$15 1mile

Each race will start in front of The Image Hair Salon in Daykin NE.

Return signed form with registration fee:

Echoe Davis
Meridian School
P.O. Box 190
Daykin NE 68338

Release and Waiver (Please read and sign)


I know that running is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also assume any risks associated with running this event including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, and the effects of weather and conditions of the road. I understand that I am solely responsible for my own safety while participating in this event.

Signature _____ Date _____



MPIE's Annual Basket Raffle

- **Basket donations are now being accepted for our annual basket raffle! Cash donations for larger raffle items are also accepted and appreciated. A great way to advertise your business!**
- **Donations are requested by December 22, 2022. You may drop them off at the school or call Megan Haake (402-446-2028) or Anne Simms (785-275-1933).**
- **Prizes will be raffled at home basketball games during boys' half time on January 5th, 7th, 19th, and 31st**
- **Each year, M-PIE helps to support the student body, teachers, and staff in various ways. Last year, we provided scholarships, playground equipment, assisted in funding the Awards banquet meal, gave staff small tokens of appreciation during special events, and purchased a new concessions popcorn machine.**



We would appreciate
your support!



RAFFLE 4529725



RAFFLE 4529725



Meridian Partners In Education's Soup Supper



January 5, 2023

Serving from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

During the Meridian v. McCool BBall Games

\$6.00 Meal Deal:

**Choice of chicken noodle, chili or potato soup
ham & cheese sandwich, dessert, drink**

Items also sold seperately:

Soup \$3.00, Sandwhich \$1.50, Dessert \$1.50



Meridian Public Schools | 72380 560th Ave, Daykin, NE 68338 | 402-446-7265

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN MERIDIAN STUDENTS

Thanks to our generous patrons, the Meridian Foundation has been able to benefit the present and future students at Meridian. Projects that the Foundation has been able to support include the Green House, Community Fitness Center, Fitness Center upgrades, and most recently an updated lighting and sound system for the stage and gym. The new state of the art lighting and sound system will benefit the music, drama, and athletic departments. The Foundation also awards scholarships to Seniors to help facilitate their college education. We are asking for your help to invest in our Mustang community and students. Please consider donating to the Meridian Foundation.

Thank You for your continued support!

Jason Bartels
Meridian Foundation President



Meridian Foundation
P.O. Box 190
Daykin, NE 68338

Monetary or Grain Donations Accepted!


I would like to donate: _____

Please Email bartels.jason@meridianmustangs.org or call 402-446-2005 with questions.




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