



# 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](http://www.meridianmustangs.org)

January, 2023

Newsletter - January, 2023  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

Welcome 2023!

The year 2022 has finished strong, our school year is half over, and everything is moving right along. The start of 2023 will be a little different as Mr. Scott is retiring. We wish him nothing but the best and thank him for his help over the years at Meridian Public School. Ms. Drees, Ms. Hermsmeier, myself, and the entire staff will work hard to not miss a beat as we finish the second semester and begin searching for his replacement.

I hope everyone has taken some time to share with family and friends over the holidays. The middle of last week was one of those snows where it is almost perfect, the light fluffy snow and minimal wind (for one day) and I hope everyone was able to enjoy and has one of those Holiday moments to cherish.

The instrumental and vocal concerts for the elementary and high school were held in early December. What a SUPERB job on all performances. Thank you, students, Ms. Drees, and Mrs. Halama.

### WINTER SPORTS

We are entering our 6<sup>th</sup> week of winter sports. Even though it seems like we are just starting, we have about 7 weeks until state wrestling and district basketball. Please come out and support our student athletes as they work hard to represent Meridian. During break the basketball teams will host the first round of the Holiday basketball tournament, December 29, and will face Dresher with JV games beginning at 4:00. December 30<sup>th</sup> will be the finals at Dresher. Game times are pending the results of Thursday's games. The wrestlers will be traveling to Geneva on the 30<sup>th</sup> as the meet will begin at 9:00 AM.

### 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 SchoolMessenger 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 SchoolMessenger, 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 19, 2022**

### Regular December 19, 2022 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on December 19, 2022, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 were Superintendent Kort and Principal Scott.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Sobotka moved and Niederklein 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.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, November 21, 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.

Principal Scott reviewed the results of the annual report that is being released following the state assessments.

Superintendent Kort discussed the Multicultural Report and had lesson plan information available for review.

Superintendent Kort gave an update on the ESSER funds the District has received.

The 5000's policies were presented to the Board and reviewed. Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the 5000's policies. 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.

Sobotka moved and Niederklein seconded to accept, with regrets, the





resignation of Principal Harold Scott from Meridian Public Schools effective December 31, 2022. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Evaluation forms for Superintendent Kort were reviewed. The Board felt that Superintendent Kort meets or exceeds expectations in all four performance objectives that include budget, communication, positive school culture, and instructional leadership.

Next Meeting was set for Monday, January 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to go into closed session to discuss the negotiations of duties following the resignation of Principal Scott.

Bartels stated that it was moved and seconded to go in to closed session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss the negotiations of duties following the resignation of Principal Scott. 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 7:13 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Rut seconded to adjourn at 7:14 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 12-19-22)

PreK	11	7th	18
Kindergarten	11	8th	12
1st	21	9th	20
2nd	16	10th	19
3rd	12 -1	11th	12
4th	18	12th	20
5th	16 -1		101
6th	16		
	121 -2		
Grand Total	222 - 2		

Congratulations to the one act cast, crew, and director Rene’ Scheer for being named District Champion and qualifying for the state contest in Norfolk. Meridian finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place at state, only one point out of 5<sup>th</sup> place.

The holiday concerts were well attended. The students and directors, Mrs. Halama and Ms. Drees did a wonderful job getting us in the holiday mood.

The Reindeer Run was held Saturday, December 17. Thank you to all who donated and participated, we couldn’t have been successful without you. Thanks to Mrs. Davis and the Elementary StuCo who put in many hours to make this event a realization.

I wanted to share the NSCAS / ACT results from last year- now that the embargo has been lifted by NDE. In ALL grade levels & all curricular areas, Meridian EXCEEDED state proficiency scores. That has been part of our past measurement goals.

Congratulations to ALL of our teachers, staff, and students! This was a concerted effort beginning in PreK all the way through high school.

Percent Proficiency Spring 2022			
	State	Elem	JH/HS
ELA	47%	53%	60%
Math	46%	48%	50%
Science	66%	83%	76%

	State	Juniors
ACT		
ELA	46%	53%
Math	44%	53%
Science	48%	58%

Overall Ranking:  
Elementary - Good  
Junior High - Great  
High School - Good

Elementary students and staff were supposed to travel to Fairbury on Wednesday, December 21, to see a movie at the Bonham Theater to celebrate the end of the semester. Due to the freezing temperatures and icy conditions, the movie was postponed until Friday, January 6.

First semester teacher observations have been completed. There are nine teachers who have been at Meridian 3 years or less who will have a second observation during the third quarter.

Teachers continue to document close reading practice for grades K-12 and number sense strategies for grades PreK -6. These are part of the strategies that are in place that have and continue to help improve student achievement.

At the end of November, I submitted my resignation as Meridian principal to Mr. Kort and the Board of Education effective at the end of December. Due to some personal family issues, it is necessary for me to be closer to home. The 1 1/2-hour commute makes it difficult for me to be close to home for emergencies. Also, my grandkids are starting to be of school age and having activities that I am missing due to commitments here at school. I have been in some form of education for the past 40 years: in the classroom teaching music and drama for 14 years, teaching in group homes and shelters for 8 years, and as an administrator for the past 18 years. I’m planning on working from home, or at least close to home. This was a difficult decision, but one I needed to make for myself and my family. Thanks to the Board of Education, Mr. Kort, teachers and staff, and members of the Meridian community for your support. I wish Meridian nothing but the best for the future, and thank you all for the past 8 1/2 years. #GoMustangs!!!



Seniors:

- \* Many seniors are beginning to finalize their college plans. Seniors should be done at this point with applying to their top college choices. If they have not done so, they need to complete their college applications as soon as possible! 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.
- \* Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships. Make an account at ScholarshipQuest to find Nebraska-



based awards, and also check out the counselor website for the ones that Ms. Hermsmeier has received.

- \* Please check my counselor website and senior classroom often for scholarship updates! Seniors, see additional information regarding the FAFSA below!

**Juniors:**

- \* Juniors interested in taking the ACT should sign up to take the February 11<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, or June 10<sup>th</sup> test. When making ACT plans, juniors should know that they will also be taking the ACT free of charge at school in March as a part of state testing. For all ACT tests other than the school test, go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register. If you qualify for Free & Reduced meals, you may be able to use a Fee Waiver (please see Ms. Hermsmeier for details).
- \* Juniors will also have the option to take the ACCUPLACER test at the beginning of this semester (previously known as the COMPASS test). The ACCUPLACER test is similar to the ACT but is used more as a college placement test for many two-year schools. Please sign up with Ms. Hermsmeier if you are interested.
- \* 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 submit their applications.

**Campus Visits:**

- \* Seniors and parents: You are encouraged to make any remaining campus visits in January if possible to schools you are seriously considering attending in the fall of 2023.
- \* Juniors and parents: Don't forget that you are allowed two excused absences during your junior year to go on a campus visit! Arrangements should be made through Ms. Hermsmeier for campus visits and student sign out sheets.
- \* Forms with sample questions are available in the counselors office.

**Seniors, complete your FAFSA:**

Seniors... if you haven't done so already, it's time to complete the FAFSA! The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. Contact Ms. Hermsmeier for more information if you

haven't already filed the FAFSA. Priority filing dates will soon be approaching! For those of you how have already completed the FAFSA, expect financial aid award notifications soon from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. The notifications will detail the financial aid assistance the colleges are offering (could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you!  
Lisa Hermsmeier; PreK-12 Guidance;  
[lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org](mailto:lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org)  
402-446-7265 ext 1253

**HEAD COOK**  
 MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS is searching for applicants to fill the head cook position. This position offers .75 health insurance and retirement benefits. Duties include ordering and planning school meals to meet state and federal requirements, daily cooking and delivery. The head position will begin in late summer 2023. This person would have a training opportunity starting this spring. Please visit the District Office to pick up an application or email Mr. Kort at [rkort@meridianmustangs.org](mailto:rkort@meridianmustangs.org) Meridian Public Schools is accepting applications until the position is filled. This position is subject to a veteran's preference/ EOE .





## **Adam Schoenbeck Benefit**

Sunday, January 15, 2023

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Western Fire Hall

Western, NE

*Free will donation soups, sandwiches, & dessert bar*

Raffles

(Do not need to be present to win)

### **\$20 tickets or 3/\$50**

1. John Deere picture
2. Whole hog- you pay processing
3. Leather recliner
4. Rossi Rio Bravo 22 LR rifle
5. Winchester 12 gauge
6. Pit Boss portable pellet grill
7. Honda weedeater
8. AltraPro Blower package
9. Marlin Model 1895

### **\$5 tickets or 3/\$10**

1. \$150 cash
2. Handcrafted 3 foot bench
3. Purse and drink tumbler
4. Pair of Husker football tickets Oct. 14 against Michigan
5. DeWalt Drill/Impact driver
6. Free oil change/t-shirts Twin River
7. Children's craft basket
8. Children's movie/candy basket
9. (2nd) \$150 cash
10. Ninja Foodi XL Pro Air Fry Oven

If you'd like to donate or have questions, please contact Barb Schwisow 402-243-3079

Thank you for all of your support!!





# MPIE's Annual Basket Raffle

- Prizes will be raffled at home basketball games during boys' half time on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>
- 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.





# Meridian Partners in Education

## *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 Separately:*

*Soup-\$3.00, Sandwich-\$1.50, Dessert-\$1.50*

Sponsored by MPIE



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](mailto:bartels.jason@meridianmustangs.org) or call 402-446-2005 with questions.




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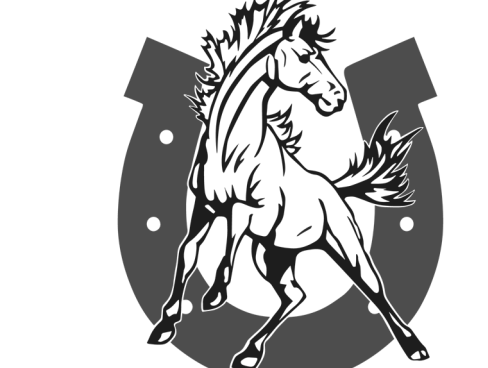
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