



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

November, 2022

Newsletter – November, 2022

Superintendent

Randy Kort

Here we are entering into November already. Over this past weekend with temperatures close to 90, it is hard to believe we are in the last week of October. Please remember though that Nebraska weather can change in a hurry and to take time to prepare with an extra blanket and water in your car.

The sports teams would like to say thank you for your support as the seasons are drawing to a close. The volleyball team hosted sub-districts on Monday, October 24, and played at 7:30 PM. With a win, they played on Tuesday, October 25, at 7:00 PM, once again at Meridian.

In 2018 the district pairing was changed. NSAA has all sub-district winners (12) and the next four wild card teams play the district finals. They will take the sub-district winner along with the four at large teams with power points and seed all teams 1 through 16 with 1 playing 16, 2 playing 15, etc. Those games are played at the higher seed by power points. If the distance is over 180 miles, then it must be played at a neutral site. All district final games are on Saturday, October 29. Those winners are the qualifying teams at the state tournament which is being held November 3 - 5 at Lincoln. We wish the ladies luck as they have an opportunity to qualify for the state tournament.

The football team finished their season with a close contest on October 21. The Mustangs lost to Sterling (6-2) in a 43-38 contest.

We have several students heading to national FFA this week. This is located in Indianapolis and will be a great learning experience for the students.

With fall sports in the final stages, please be aware that winter sports practice starts on November 14. Meridian will play a

jamboree basketball game at Southern on November 29, times will be posted later.

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, along with our All Call system.



**Board of Education
 Meridian Public Schools
 District – 48-0303
 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
 Sunday, October 16, 2022**

**Regular October 16, 2022 Meeting
3:00 P.M.**

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on October 16, 2022, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 3:00 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.

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

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

- A. Minutes of the Special Budget Hearing, Monday, September 19, 2022
- B. Minutes of the Special Tax Hearing, Monday, September 19, 2022
- C. Minutes of the Monday, September 19, 2022 Regular Meeting
- D. District Financial Report
- E. Activity Fund Report
- F. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- G. Bills

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

Superintendent Kort presented information on the three water heaters for the kitchen that need to be replaced. Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the purchase of three water heaters. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – 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 reported that technology equipment continues to be purchased using ESSER funds. Replacement smartboards have been purchased to replace equipment that has quit working.

Superintendent Kort updated the Board on the verbal audit report received from Dana Cole.

Niederklein moved and Sobotka seconded to approve MEA (Meridian Education Association) as negotiators for the 2023-2024 school year. Negotiations Committee meeting dates and times were set for November and December.

Superintendent Kort requested that a Family and Consumer Science activity account be set up to allow for the tracking of expenses and profits from the coffee sales. Rut moved and Niederklein seconded to approve an FCS Account in



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

Principal’s Report:

- Current student count – Elementary – 121 and High School – 102.
• Kaylee Pribyl and Andon Sales were recognized as Elks teenagers of the month.
• The JH/HS music concert was held on Sunday, Oct 9. Great job by everyone.
• October 10-14 was National Hot Lunch Week. We appreciate all that Elaine, Kim, Shari, and others do to provide delicious meals to students and staff.
• October 17-21 is School Bus Safety Week. Thanks to Charles, Janelle, Tonya, Wendy, Elizabeth, and all of our substitute bus and van drivers for providing safe transportation every day all year long.
• Parent Teacher Conferences were held on September 21 and 22. Secondary reported 51% of families attended (slightly down from 57% the previous fall). Elementary had 94% parent participation, the same as last fall.
• Friday, October 14 was the end of the first quarter of the 2022-23 school year.
• CRC volleyball tournament began on Saturday, October 15. Mrs. Schropfer and the JH girls played for the conference championship. Varsity began the first round of the tournament.
• Sub district volleyball is scheduled for October 24 and 25. District finals will be Saturday, October 29.
• State volleyball will be November 3-5.
• Flu shot clinic is Thursday, October 20.
• There will be no school on Friday, October 21 for Fall Break.
• Red Ribbon Week is October 24-27. Guest speakers and other activities are planned.
• National FFA convention is the week of October 25-28.
• There will be no school on Friday, October 28 for the ESU5 in-service for teachers.
• November 11 is Veteran’s Day. The program is scheduled for 10am.

Superintendent’s Report:

- NASB Meeting Update
◦ Flu shot clinic will be held October 20th
◦ Bus Update
◦ Greenhouse Update
◦ Alicap Update

Next Meeting was set for Monday, November 21, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 3:47 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-030



Student Count for 2022-2023 (as of 10-16-22)

Table with 2 columns: Grade, Count. Rows: PreK (10), Kindergarten (11), 1st (21), 2nd (16), 3rd (13), 4th (18), 5th (16), 6th (16), Grand Total (223).

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The Junior High/High School music concert was held on Sunday, October 9. Great job by everyone.

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The CRC volleyball tournament began on Saturday, October 15. Mrs. Schropfer and the Junior High girls played for the conference

championship earning 2nd place. Congratulations to Coach Schropfer and the entire team for a successful season! Varsity began the first round of their CRC tournament in the afternoon of October 15. The team earned a third place plaque after facing tough competition. Congratulations!

Sub district volleyball is scheduled for October 24 and 25. District finals will be Saturday, October 29, with State volleyball to be November 3-5.

Flu shot clinic was Thursday, October 20.

School was not in session on Friday, October 21 for Fall Break - giving our staff and students a well deserved rest.

Red Ribbon Week was October 24-27. Guest speakers and other activities were enjoyed by the students and staff.

Mrs. Yowell and 13 students traveled to Indianapolis the week of October 25-29 for the National FFA.

Students were not in school on Friday, October 28 as the teachers attended an in-service given by ESU5 in Fairbury.

November 11 is Veteran’s Day. The annual program is scheduled for 10am. We are grateful to all who chose to defend the freedom of this great nation. Thank you!

ACT Spring 2022:

Table with 2 columns: Mean scores, % of Students Who Took Test. Rows: MERIDIAN, STATE, NATIONAL for Composite, Math, Science, and English.



	Reading
MERIDIAN	19.7
STATE	19.8
NATIONAL	21.1
	Writing
MERIDIAN	6.6
	ELA
MERIDIAN	18.6
(Nationally – states with highest scores have <10% of students take ACT – college bound)	



Upcoming Dates:

November 11

Veteran's Day Program @ 10 a.m.

December 10

ACT Test (registration is due by Nov. 4)

Red Ribbon Week:

The end of October was filled with fun and presentations for our Meridian students. Our overall theme was "Celebrate Life-Live On." The daily themes were "Be Happy-Dream Big," "Be Drug Free," "Be Healthy," and "Live on by Leading." Monday we wore Smiley face attire and heard a presentation by the County Extension Program – Darci Pesek. On Tuesday, we wore red to remind us to be drug free and had a speaker from the DEA-Omaha Division – Emily Murray. Wednesday, students signed pledges and wore chef or work out attire. Thursday, we had our Halloween parties, and Grades 7-12 did an activity called "Pages of a Teen Diary" presented by Hope Crisis Center. 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 next 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 at half cost tuition price. 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.

EducationQuest – A Useful Tool
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. 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 4 for the December 10 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 information about colleges 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 Timeline*, *Reality Check*, and *ScholarshipQuest*. There's also a calendar that will guide you through college-planning steps - and you can personalize it with your own tasks.

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.



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.

Just a  From the Music Department

What an eventful school year so far! Between marching & pep band performances, our fall concert, and gearing up for Veterans Day, our music students have made us proud! It was wonderful to have such a nice crowd at our Sunday Fall Concert in October. It was a new adventure for all of us holding a concert on Sunday, and we were so pleased with the support and attendance at this performance!

We are still on the lookout for several musical instruments for beginning band students. If you or someone you know

has an instrument that could be sold to or donated to a beginning band student or to the school, please reach out to Ms. Drees.

As we look forward to upcoming performances, 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 for all you do to support music in our school!

FFA

The Meridian FFA Chapter has been very busy since the start of school! From chapter meetings and community service, to practices and competitions. Meridian FFA had 13 members compete in District Land Judging, Kailyn Paul and Landon Griggs both ribboned at the contest, receiving white ribbons. The top

scoring team from Meridian included: Kailyn Paul, Landon Griggs, McKenzie Hofstetter, and Olivia Schafer placing 26th out of 70 teams! Schyler Schwisow was awarded September Member of the Month and Irving Alonso was awarded with the October Member of the Month. Member of the Month is awarded to an FFA member who has gone above and beyond for the good of the Meridian FFA chapter, congratulations Schyler and Irving! There will be 12 members attending the 95th National FFA Convention, October 25-October 29, members will attend sessions, workshops and participate in agricultural tours. The FFA chapter will also be selling poinsettias this winter to raise funds for our school greenhouse, look for a flyer on social media soon! As always, thank you for supporting the Meridian FFA Chapter!

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.

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.



Mustang Merriment

In the spirit of the season, the Meridian National Honor Society is sponsoring the 8th 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

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 _____ Email _____

Address _____ (_____) _____
Street City Phone

Child's name age/gender description of gift size(s) if needed

Child's name age/gender description of gift size(s) if needed

Child's name age/gender description of gift size(s) if needed

Child's name age/gender description of gift size(s) if needed

Child's name age/gender description of gift size(s) if needed



Gift Donations

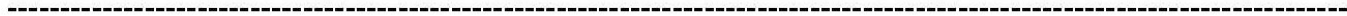
If your family would like to provide a gift, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by November 16th, and a gift request will be assigned to you by November 22nd. The request will detail the age/gender of the child, and in most cases, a suggested gift idea. If you would like to provide 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 9th with the gift request form taped to the gift.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hermsmeier at (402)446-7265 or email lhermsmeier@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, our family would like to donate _____ gift(s) in support of the **Mustang Merriment Movement.**



Creative Christmas Attire Encouraged

Reindeer Run

Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Santa Visits and more

Saturday Decemeber 17

Daykin Ne.

5k **Registration 1:00** **1mile**

Race 2:00

Pre-Register by	Late and Race Day
Dec. 12	Registration
5K-\$15 1M-\$10	5K-\$20 1M-\$15

All proceeds will be donated to Live On Nebraska in memory of Peyton Vanwesten and Garrett Klipp








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