



Thanks for 43 years of dedicated service to the Meridian School District.

Friday night could have been called Jim Durflinger night as Meridian's football team found the perfect way to dedicate the newly named Jim Durflinger Field" with a 14-6 season opener victory over the Lawrence-Nelson Raiders. Jim Durflinger who retired this past June (2013) after 43 years as head maintenance-custodial engineer, football field caretaker, and life-long supporter for the Meridian School District was honored before the game. A ceremonial unveiling of an archway over the field's north entrance declared it as the "Jim Durflinger Field."

Head Coach Jones was quoted as saying, "Jim Durflinger has been a tremendous asset to the Meridian athletic department and athletics for the past 43 years. He loved and took pride in the upkeep of this football field. His love of taking pride in the football field didn't just start at this field. After Meridian was consolidated in 1967-68, football games were held at the Alexandria football field until the fall of 1977 when the present school and field were built. His loving touch and dedication to the workmanship of the field "hit home" when they honored him at the 2013 Meridian alumni banquet in June. Paul Bachle, MC of the banquet, told the story of stopping for gas while in Kansas wearing a Meridian shirt. A gentleman came up to him and said, "Meridian. I know that place." Paul said, "I think you are mistaken, this school is in Nebraska." The gentlemen went on to say that he coached football for over 30 years. "We played at Meridian once and in all my years of coaching, that was the best field that my teams have every played on. Whoever takes care of that field does an excellent job!"

Jim started working for the Meridian School the May of 1970 replacing Ed Pletcher at the Meridian-Alexandria grades 4-6 site. He became head custodial engineer and caretaker of the newly built school, football field, and grounds west of Daykin in 1977 where has held the position until this past June upon his retirement.



