



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

August, 2017

Newsletter-August, 2017
Superintendent
Randy Kort

New Year

It seems impossible, but as many of you read this we are preparing for the students to be back at school in a few weeks. The beginning of school is always such a great and exciting time. To see how much the students have grown and matured in three months is always fascinating.

Please take time these next two weeks to enjoy family time with your children and have a last minute get away if possible. If you have a student involved with Junior High or High School activities, the first games will be here at the end of August.

The first day of school will be Friday, August 18th, and we will be in session until 3:42 p.m.

Another event that Meridian students will be participating in is the Solar Eclipse. This is a once in a lifetime event for people in our area. Our students have the opportunity to attend presentations at the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice. The Homestead has planned activities which include presentations from astronauts and others from NASA. There have been reports that schools from as far away as Las Vegas will be here to participate as well. The projected attendance at Beatrice is over 15,000. Mr. Scott has sent out more information and the option to withhold your child from this event. Once again, this is a great once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students.



Please welcome our new staff here at Meridian. Ms. Hermsmeier will be the new counselor, Mrs. Davis will be our 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Williams will instruct secondary English, and Mrs. Shaner will be our elementary music teacher.

Current enrollment is estimated at 215 as we enter the 2017-2018 school year.

Jr High Sports

With our projected enrollment of 14 boys and 22 girls for Jr. High, we are encouraging all students to consider this opportunity to be a part of the Jr. High athletic program. We continue to work on scheduling of games and practice to help students have minimal conflicts with these events. This is a great time for your child to have the opportunity to try a sport and be a part of a team.

FALL ACTIVITIES PARENT MEETING (Students grades 9 -12)

The Fall Activities Parent meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17th, for 7:00 p.m. following Meridian's Open House. We are asking all parents of students who will be involved in Volleyball, Football, One Act, Cheerleading, Student Council, and FBLA to attend this meeting. A short presentation for all activities is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. with individual activity meetings and/or presentations to follow.

Along with the team meeting, I wanted to share some rules that were placed on Nebraska High Schools last year. The NSAA (Nebraska State Athletic Association), which governs high school athletics in Nebraska, has passed new requirements for our football and suggested guidelines for volleyball practices and conditioning. Some of these rules limit the number of contact days, practice times, and so

forth. Our coaches are aware of the changes and will be making any adjustments necessary to be compliant of these new rules. Please know our number one concern is the health and well being of our students.

Football

Conditioning will begin on August 1st; the times will be given to the players. Practice will begin on August 7th.

Volleyball

Volleyball Conditioning will begin on August 1st; the times will be given to the players. Practice will begin on August 7th.

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska 68338
Monday, July 17, 2017**

Regular July 17, 2017 Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Monday, July 17, 2017, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Sobotka, Bartels, Scheer, Vorderstrasse, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, and Mrs. Rickstrew.

No new business or comments from the public.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the June 19, 2017 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report



4. Hot Lunch Fund Report

5. Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Nothing to report on Curriculum.

President VanWesten opened the Hearing for Tech Bonds at 7:05 p.m. as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News. The bond will be used to replace smartboards and other electronic devices as needed. Superintendent Kort spoke in favor of the Tech Bond and no one spoke in opposition.

Miller arrived at 7:08 p.m.

President VanWesten opened the Annual Public Hearing on student fees, parent involvement, and bullying policies at 7:08 p.m. This is the mandated yearly review of policies. The wording was changed in the Student Bullying policy as requested by KSB Law.

Sobotka moved and Miller seconded to appoint Superintendent Kort as Administrator of the Federal and State Programs. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the milk price for the 2017-2018 school year at 30 cents per carton. This is the same price as the previous two years. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Bartels moved and Scheer seconded to approve the breakfast prices as follows: PK-6 grade = \$1.30; 7-12 grade = \$1.55; and Adult = \$2.00 for the 2017-2018 school year. This is the same price as 2016-2017 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the lunch prices for PK-6 grade at \$2.30, 7-12 grade at \$2.60, and Adult at \$3.50 for the 2017-2018 school year. This is the same price as

2016-2017 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the Student Fees Policy - 5416. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to approve the Parent Involvement Policy - 6400. This is the yearly review of policy for Title One funding. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the Bullying Policy - 5415. There was a wording change to this policy per request from KSB Law. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve Tech Bond for the 2017-2018 school year. The bond will be used to replace smart boards and other equipment and software. Tech Bonds have been used in four out of the last five years.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to approve the Student Handbook for the 2017-2018 school year. The only change deals with the non-discriminatory School Lunch requirement. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to approve Dating Violence Policy - 5420. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Bartels moved and Scheer seconded to approve Denying Access to Premises Policy - 3018. This is a new policy needed to be in compliance with the

new safety standards. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Scheer seconded to approve Threat Assessment and Responses Policy - 3039. This is a new policy needed to be in compliance with the new safety standards. This policy deals with how respond to threats. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Miller seconded to approve School Safety and Security Policy - 3038. This is a new policy to be in compliance with the new safety standards. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Vorderstrasse moved and Bartels seconded to approve Crisis Team Duties Policy - 3041. This is a new policy to be in compliance with the new safety standards. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve Workplace Injury Prevention and Safety Committee Policy - 4026. This is a new policy to be in compliance with the new safety standards. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to approve Suicide Prevention Training - 4059. Meridian has been training select staff in suicide prevention for three years and is now making it policy. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to approve Immunization Policy - 5410. This is a new policy per our lawyers, but procedures have been in place for years. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye,



Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve SAT Procedures Policy - 5067. This process has been followed for years, but will now be policy. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve Homeless Student Policy - 5418. Policy wording was changed per legal counsel. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Principal Scott gave the Principal's Report.

1. Solar Eclipse on August 21st. Entire school will be going to the Homestead Monument. A letter will be going out to explain.
2. Preliminary numbers for ACT and NESa tests look good.

Superintendent Kort gave the Superintendents Report.

1. Progress on ADA Restrooms
2. Summer Painting Projects Including the Gym
3. Students will be working on their community services projects. Adeline and Andi are moving items to digital design, and Brianna is doing a collage in hallway.
4. Volleyball camp and new dates for upcoming season. Conditioning will begin August 1, practice starts August 7th, Jamboree games with Thayer Central and Deshler on August 22nd, and first game August 25th, at Blue Hill before football game.
5. Shooting Machine for Basketball
6. Discuss changes for track for upcoming year. Classes C and D will be going to automatic timing and will have nine districts instead of eleven as previous year.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 8:03. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, August 21, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Jason Bartels, Secretary
Meridian District # 48-0303



The summer continues to fly by as we prepare for the 2017-2018 school year. I am excited for the students and staff to return this upcoming year. There are several new faces among the staff. Echoe Davis will be the 4th grade homeroom teacher, along with teaching 4th-6th grade math; Lisa Hermsmeier will be our PreK-12 counselor; and Brenda Williams will be our high school English teacher. We have also added an additional part-time teacher to our staff - Emma Shaner will be teaching PreK-8th general music. Please welcome them to MPS!

Enrollment at Meridian Public School continues to stay strong. We are currently planning to have 222 students Pre-K through 12th grade.

Teachers will be at school Monday-Thursday, August 14-17, for in-service meetings. We will be hosting an open house on Thursday, August 17, from 5-7pm. This is a chance to meet your teachers, check out your rooms and lockers, and prepare for the start of school.

The first student day is Friday, August 18, 2017. It is important to start the year off with excellent attendance practices. The school day starts at 8:00 a.m. The warning bell rings at 8:07 a.m., and the first class begins at 8:10 a.m. We will continue to set high expectations for students to be in class on time. If you have in your mind that school starts at 8:10 a.m., chances are you may run late. Remember, "To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late." Be ready to start class as soon as the tardy bell rings. If you are walking into class as the bell rings, we

lose valuable educational time. Friday will be a full day of school, with dismissal at 3:42pm.

On Monday, August 21, 2017, all students and staff will take a field trip to Homestead Education Center near Beatrice to participate in the total solar eclipse event! Representatives from NASA and Bill Nye the "science" guy are among the scheduled events. We will be serving breakfast at school then lunch at the event. We already have received viewing eyeglasses. Look for additional information included in this newsletter.

Have a great rest of your summer! See you soon!

Go Mustangs!

National Leadership Conference in Anaheim

The FBLA National Leadership Conference was held in Anaheim, California, from June 27 to July 3. FBLA celebrated their 75th anniversary with the theme of "Legacy of Leadership."



Left to Right: Breanna Miller, Halle Pribyl, Hailey Schafer, and Erin Johnson

Our week was filled with many fun-filled events, including competitive events, state delegation meetings, inspiring workshops, high-energy general sessions and many of the tourist attractions that Anaheim has to offer. The Nebraska delegates spend their first afternoon at the sandy beach after arriving in Anaheim in the morning. Upon returning from the beach, a Nebraska delegation meeting was held. The second day of the trip took our group to the Knots Berry Farm for some amusement rides. The evening was spent at the Majestic Times for a dinner meal while watching a



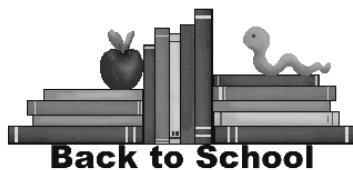
jousting match. An enjoyable meal was held, and in keeping with Medieval customs, no utensils were used. The third day of the trip was spent at Disneyland. The next day began with the opening general session which showed over 12,000 members, guests, and advisers at the conference. Other events for the rest of the trip included attending Anaheim Angels ballgame, eating at the cheesecake factory, and going to Huntington Beach.

Halle Pribyl competed in the Intro to Business Communication event and Erin Johnson, Breanna Miller, and Hailey Schafer competed in the Business Financial Plan event. Neither one made the finals. Others making the trip with the girls were Adviser Kathy Soukup, Ashli Soukup, John Alfs, and Regan Alfs.

Whether we were on the move or enjoying the perfect California weather and sun, the week made an impression that will most definitely impact all of our lives. We were proud to represent Nebraska FBLA and most importantly Meridian in this prestigious competition.

Meridian Alumni in the Armed Forces

As Meridian celebrates 50 years, we would like to honor all Meridian alumni who have served in the military by placing their pictures on our website. Please email Kathy Houser a picture of you in military dress, the branch of military, and time you served. If you were active in war, sent overseas, or would like to add a bit about your time served, please include that in your email. The faster you send your information, the earlier your material will appear on the school website at www.meridianmustangs.org. Please send your picture and other information you wish to share to khouser@meridianmustangs.org.



MPIE Mustang Apparel

It's that time of year again and MPIE will once again be selling various Meridian Mustang apparel. New designs and styles will be available. Please watch next month's newsletter, Meridian's website (www.meridianmustangs.org), and your child's backpack for order forms!

Kindergarten Back-to-School List

- * Book Bag
 - * PE Shoes (elastic or Velcro closures, **NO TIE SHOES**)
 - * Bath Towel (**NOT** beach towel) for rest mat
 - * Washable Markers
 - * 1 Box of Tissue
 - * 2 Large Boxes Disinfectant Wipes
- A change of clothing (underwear and pants) should be kept in book bag in case of emergency.**

Our classroom will have crayons, pencils, scissors, and glue. It would be helpful if you have a supply of these items at home so students can use them if they are assigned home projects.



1st Grade Back-to-School List

1. 20 pencils
2. Crayons (24 count)
3. 2 large erasers
4. Scissors
5. Pencil Box
6. Colored Pencils (optional)
7. Crayola Markers (optional)
8. Kleenex - 2 boxes
9. Clorox Wipes - 2 Containers
10. Germ-X - 1 bottle

2nd Grade School Supply List:

- * Pencils (**No Mechanical "Punchy" Pencils**)
- * Eraser
- * Crayons (24-48 count)
- * 1 box of Kleenex
- * Scissors
- * Book Bag
- * P.E. Shoes (no dark soles)
- * Notebook (1)
- * Pocket Folder (1)
- * Paint Shirt
- * Clorox Wipes-2 containers
- * Pencil Box or Container (**make sure it will fit in your desk**)
- ***Please no pencil sharpeners**

Optional Items:

- * Colored Pencils
- * Markers
- * Ruler
- * Glue Sticks



3rd Grade Back-to-School List

1. Pencils and erasers
2. Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
3. Scissors
4. One bottle of glue
5. Two glue sticks
6. Pencil case or box: To hold all of the above
7. Spiral notebooks- 1 or 2
8. Pocket folders- 4
9. Loose-Leaf Paper
10. A ruler: One with both inches and centimeters.
11. Boxes of tissues
12. One box Clorox Wipes
13. One bottle hand sanitizer
14. Paint shirt for art
15. PE Shoes



Supplies for 4th Grade

- 12 Pencils (Get some that stay at home for homework, too!)
- Pens (no black or unreadable neon colors)
- Big Eraser or Eraser Tops for Pencils
- Dry Erase Markers (Eraser is optional)
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, **OR** Markers
- 3 Pocket Folders with 3 Hole Fasteners
- 2 Notebooks
- 1 Composition Notebook (not spiral)
- 3 **JUMBO** Sized Book Covers
- 1 Roll Paper Towels
- 2 Containers Disinfectant Wipes
- 1 Small Bottle Hand Sanitizer
- Two (2) Boxes of Kleenex
- Book Bag
- PE Shoes - **NO DARK SOLES**

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Ear Buds
- Shelf for Locker
- Highlighters (yellow, green, pink, orange, blue)

PLEASE DO NOT BRING

- Glue Bottles
- Glue Sticks
- **Trapper Keepers**



Supplies for 5th Grade

- Spiral Notebooks (at least three to start year)
- Pencils (10-12 to start the year)
- **NO MECHANICAL (PUNCHY) PENCILS**
- Eraser
- Two (2) rolls of paper towels
- 2 containers of disinfectant wipes (Clorox or other brand)
- Book Bag
- PE Shoes (tennis shoes with no dark soles)
- No Calculators
- Highlighters (pink, yellow, green, blue)
- Glue Stick
- Two (2) boxes of kleenex
- **JUMBO** size Book Covers (5-6 needed for textbooks) **THEY NEED TO BE JUMBO** Approximate book measure 10 ¾ x 12

NO TRAPPER KEEPERS AND NO PENCIL SHARPENERS

Supplies for 6th Grade

- 10-12 Pencils - **NOT PUNCHY**
- Eraser
- Colored Pencils
- Crayola Markers
- 2 Rolls Paper Towels
- 2 Containers Disinfectant Wipes
- Scissors
- Book Bag
- PE Shoes - **NO DARK SOLES**
- 2 Composition Notebooks
- Standard Writing Notebook
- Pocket Folders
- Ruler
- Dry Erase Markers
- 3 Boxes of Kleenex
- Plastic Storage or Pencil Box





Randall L. Kort
Superintendent

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www.meridianmustangs.org

Harold L. Scott
Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On August 21, 2017, parts of Nebraska will be in the path of a total solar eclipse. This is the first time since 1918 a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States, and the event presents an exciting learning opportunity for our students. We plan to incorporate the eclipse into our curriculum, activities, and events of your child's day. We will be taking all PreK-12 students and staff to Homestead Heritage Center near Beatrice.

While this is an excellent opportunity for our students, we want to notify you of some risks associated with viewing a solar eclipse. It is only safe to view the eclipse with the naked eye when the moon completely covers the disk of the sun. At any other time it is not safe to view the eclipse without the proper precautionary measures. Failure adhere to proper precautionary measures can result in permanent ocular damage and vision loss. For more information on these measures, here is a link to information released by NASA:

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEhelp/safety2.html>.

As always, your child's safety is a top priority to our school. In order to reduce the risk associated with viewing the eclipse, we have taken some precautionary measures. We received eclipse-safe viewing glasses from the National Park Service, and students will be encouraged to use these to view the eclipse safely. For more information regarding the safety certification of the special viewing glasses, please visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/home/upload/EclipseGear-Final1-31-17.pdf>

Students will be discouraged from looking at the eclipse during its partial stages when risk of ocular damage is at its greatest. However, we cannot eliminate all risks associated with viewing a solar eclipse of this magnitude.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the specific manner the eclipse will be incorporated into your child's school day, please contact your child's teacher or a school administrator for more details.

Parents and guardians who do not feel comfortable allowing their children to take part in viewing the eclipse will be permitted to withhold their child from all or part of school that day, and we will excuse those absences on your child's record. We will also provide a means to allow your child to make up any missed instructional time and classwork if they are absent for some or all of that day. If your child attends school that day, he or she will be included in the eclipse viewing activities we have planned.

Sincerely,
Randy Kort, Superintendent

Harold Scott, Principal



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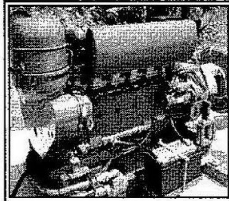
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