



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, 2017

Newsletter-December, 2017

Superintendent
Randy Kort

Congratulations to the Meridian Volleyball team. It was a remarkable year and the girls did an awesome job of representing our school with their 31-3 record. Numerous comments have been made to me on how well our girls played and how impressed people were with our effort. The term "scrappy" was always used to describe how we played.

Congratulations to the Meridian Football team. The team did a great job and was incredibly close to pulling off the first round upset over Randolph. The final game was a heartbreaker but also showed a lot of hard work and determination. The teams other 3 losses were to the state champion (BDS), state runner-up (Blue Hill) and semi-finalist (Falls City Sacred Heart). That is a great year!

Thanks to all the parents and fans for your continued support over the fall activities and please continue that same support as we move into the winter activities of basketball and wrestling.

We will continue to update and post the start times of the JV basketball games this year, as numerous opponents are not able to play all 4 quarters of JV girls and boys basketball and this will affect the start times.

With Thanksgiving over, and as we prepare for Christmas break, please be aware there are approximately 20 school days left until the end of the second quarter. With so many events going on, please help remind your children to stay aware of their grades and assignments that need to be completed.

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

Meridian will be looking at adding Agricultural Education to our curriculum for the 18-19 school year. With this addition it would allow Meridian to begin an FFA program as well. Of the 246 school districts across the state, currently over 180 districts have an FFA program.

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District 48-0303**

Daykin, Nebraska 68338

Monday, November 20, 2017

**Regular November 20, 2017 Meeting
7:00 P.M.**

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Monday, November 20, 2017, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Sobotka, Bartels, Vorderstrasse, Miller,

and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Mrs. Paul, Mr. Smith, Sarah Thomas, Matt Kreifels, Halle Pribyl, and Josiee Sobotka.

Bartels moved and Miller seconded to excuse Member Scheer. Vote was taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, Miller-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no comments from the public.

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

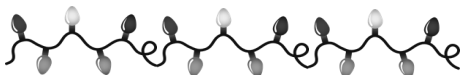
1. Minutes of the Sunday, October 15, 2017 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

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

Matt Kreifels, State Director of Ag Education with the Nebraska Department of Education, gave a presentation during the Curriculum Report about Agricultural Education/FFA. Questions were answered as the Board continues to look at adding an agricultural education curriculum at Meridian. The Board will continue discussion with possible action at the December Board Meeting.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the Annual Audit Report. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Sobotka moved and Miller seconded to approve the Annual Multicultural Report. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.





Vorderstrasse moved and Bartels seconded to approve Policy 2000's. Vote was taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

The Meridian Education Association did not submit a request to be approved as the bargaining agent for the 2019-2020 school year. There was no action taken on this item.

No action was taken on approval of teacher negotiations at this time.

Principal Scott gave the Principal's Report.

1. Student Numbers: 116 - PK-6th and 121 in 7-12th for total of 237
2. Congrats to the volleyball team on being State Runner-up and a great 31-3 record.
3. Congrats to the football team on making State Playoffs and a 5-4 record.
4. Play production has begun with contests completed. C2 districts will be November 28th.
5. Winter sports practices have begun. Basketball Jamboree on Nov 21st, and Wrestling on Nov 30th.
6. Social media numbers continue to increase.
7. Congrats to VB girls for post season Conference and State Tourney honors.

Superintendent Kort gave the Superintendent's Report.

1. Johnson Controls will be doing updates December 26-28th.
2. NASB Convention Summary
3. NSAA Proposals and Updates
4. CRC Information on Coops
5. KSB Law will be presenting a social media program to our students on December 18th.
6. Sports Numbers and 8 Man Football for Next Two Years

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to go into executive session at 8:28 p.m. for Teachers' Negotiations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

President VanWesten stated that it had been voted to go into executive session

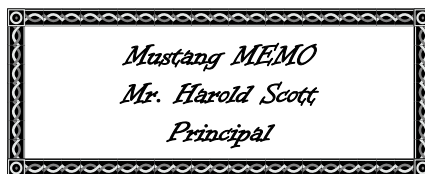
to discuss Teachers' Negotiations. The Board re-entered open session at 8:54 p.m. with no action taken.

Next Regular Meeting is set for Monday, December 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Bartels,

Secretary Meridian District # 48-0303



Our current student count (as of 11-16-17):

Pre-Kind	13	7 th Grade	16
Kindergarten	16	8 th Grade	18
1 st Grade	9	9 th Grade	20
2 nd Grade	18	10 th Grade	20
3 rd Grade	14	11 th Grade	23
4 th Grade	17	12 th Grade	24
5 th Grade	15		
6 th Grade	14		
Total	116	Total	121
Grand Total		237	

Facebook followers have jumped from 716 to 740. Twitter is up from 142 to 165. It's great to see so many patrons keeping up on school activities via positive social media.

The volleyball team finished as repeat D1 state runner-up! Meridian won sub districts, then lost to Johnson-Brock in district finals. The Mustangs won the first two matches at state, then faced Johnson-Brock in the state finals. Meridian's only losses this year were to JB. Congratulations team and coaches for another outstanding year! They finished the year with a record of 31-3. Congratulations to Erin Johnson, Rylee Pieper, and Halle Pribyl for making CRC First Team All-Conference, and to Jaicee Sobotka who made Honorable Mention! Congratulations to State Volleyball Class D-1 Team

Winners: middle hitter - Halle Pribyl, Meridian, 5-10, sophomore; setter - Erin Johnson, Meridian, 5-5, senior; and outside hitter-Rylee Pieper, Meridian, 5-9, senior.

Meridian football qualified for the state playoffs with a regular season record of 5-3. They lost to Randolph on the opening round (20-16) in a very close match in freezing conditions. The team finished the season with a winning record of 5-4! Congratulations team and coaches for a great year!

Play production competition has begun. Meridian One Act placed 5th out of 11 schools at the Osceola Invite. One judge placed us 4th. We received two Superior ratings! Acting recognition went to Jackie Dimas, Micah Noel, and Seth Noel! The home performance - Dessert Theatre - was Tuesday, November 14. We had a full house with a great response from the audience. Crossroads Conference contest (south division) was held at Shickley on November 15th. Meridian placed 4th out of 7 schools. One judge placed us 3rd. We received three Superior ratings! Acting recognition went to Jackie Dimas, Micah Noel, and Sophia Ellis! C2 Districts will be held at Nebraska City Lourdes Tuesday, November 28th, at 9 am. The winner of the district advances to state competition on Thursday, December 7th, in Norfolk.

Winter sports have begun. Basketball jamboree games were played at Meridian on Tuesday, November 21. The first high school wrestling competition of the season was held Thursday, November 30, at Clarks.





2nd Semester Schedule Changes

All 7-12 students interested in making changes to their 2nd semester schedule should do so before the holiday break. 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 Ms. Hermsmeier at school.

Freshman to Seniors... New College Timeline will keep you on track to college! EducationQuest has launched a new *College Timeline* for students in grades 9-12 that spells out steps you should take during fall, winter, spring, and summer 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 \$46.00, but if you qualify for free or reduced lunches, you may request a fee waiver from Ms. Hermsmeier. Our school code is 282-345. Please feel free to contact Ms. 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 12th, for the February 10th ACT, by March 9th, for the April 14th ACT, and/or by May 4th, for the June 9th ACT. Keep in mind that all juniors will be taking the ACT at school on April 3rd.

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 is updated with scholarships weekly! 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.

***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.

Bob Oliver Wrestling Tournament December 9, 2017

Attention: Enrichment students and parents - the Enrichment Program is working the concession stand for this tournament. The tournament is scheduled to start at 10 am, but the concession stand will open earlier. I would appreciate it if Enrichment students and parents could sign up for shifts to work in the concession stand or the t-shirt stand. If you are willing to help out during the tournament, feel free to contact Mr. Placek at school [\(402\) 446-7265](tel:4024467265) ext. 1274 or email cplacek@meridianmustangs.org to sign up for a time.. Thank you for all the help and support.

Changes to the Calendar...

Please note the time changes to the basketball games on December 1st, 2nd, and 22nd. The schedule and locations remain as they were originally listed, only the time has changed.

Diller-Odell Basketball Games December 28, 2017

Attention: Junior Class parents - The Junior Class is running the concession stand for this contest. I am looking for Junior Class parents who can help out and work a shift in the concession stand. The girl's JV game is slated to start at 4 pm with three games to follow. If you are willing to help out feel free to contact Mr. Placek at school [\(402\) 446-7265 ext. 1274](tel:4024467265) or email cplacek@meridianmustangs.org to sign up for a time. Thank you for all the help and support.

STUCO NEWS

As the chill starts to set in and as the nights seem to become longer, the Meridian Student Council continues to work hard to create a safe and fun learning environment for all of the students at Meridian. This month is no different as we have a lot planned for this month.

Monday, November 20th, the StuCo officers traveled to Kearney for the State StuCo convention. During this convention, we learned more about what

kind of leaders we want to be. We also gained some insight as to how we, as leaders, can create a more efficient way to provide the leadership that Meridian needs. We left Meridian at 5:45 in the morning and returned at 5:00 in the afternoon, it was a long day! It was certainly worth it, because we came back more knowledgeable about ways to improve our Student Council and ways to improve within our own offices. As public relations officer, I learned new ways to communicate with the student body, the administration, and the community. This convention was definitely beneficial to everyone within the mustang community, not just those attending.

Another, slightly more fun activity the Student Council is excited to announce, is the Winter Formal! This year, as you all remember, we had a casual Homecoming, due to the timing of the event. So, instead of using our Homecoming as our formal event, StuCo decided to host a Winter Formal to accommodate the underclassmen who aren't going to Prom to have an occasion to show off their best looks. The entire high school is invited to this dance and I'm certain it will be an absolute blast!

The merry time of giving is quickly creeping up on us and StuCo has once again decided to set up a Hat and

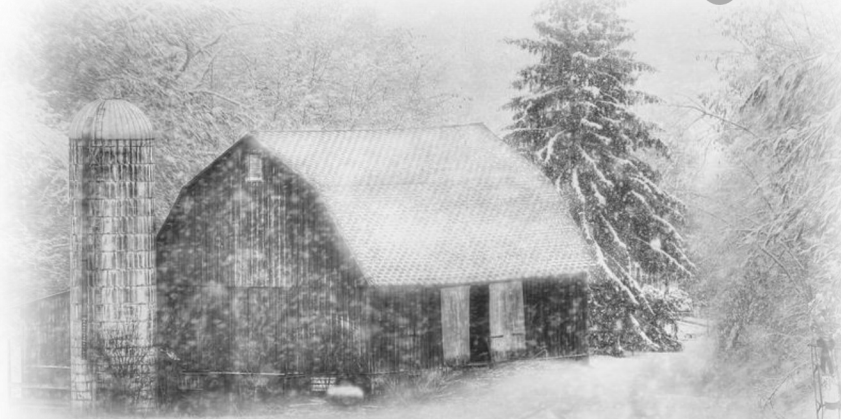
Mitten Tree at the school. The Hat and Mitten Tree is a generous way for the entire community to give to the less fortunate. For those of you who don't know, the Hat and Mitten Tree is a Christmas tree that we have set up in outside of Trish's office. We ask that anyone and everyone donate some sort of hat or gloves to this tree. The objects donated will hang on the tree until December 22, when they will be taken to Blue Valley in Fairbury. From there they will be distributed to those less fortunate all over. Please take this opportunity to help someone that might not be as well off as you. By donating a hat or some gloves you will be making a big difference in someone's life. Remember the wise words of Kathy Calvin, "Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference."

Wishing you a Dandy December,
Public Relations, Jacqueline Dimas

THANK YOU

Meridian Student Council would like to thank everyone who helped make our sales campaign a success by ordering magazines and other items offered by Great American. The ordered items (other than magazines) will be delivered to Meridian Public Schools on December 6th, 2017. If the items you purchased have not been delivered to you by December 10th, 2017, please contact the school and we will notify the appropriate sponsor.

From Our House to Yours -



Happy Holidays!




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