



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, 2018

Newsletter–November, 2018

Superintendent

Randy Kort

It is hard to believe, but here we are, entering into November already. However, a snow in the middle of October has made the past week of 60 degree weather even more enjoyable. Please remember that Nebraska weather can change in a hurry and 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 fall seasons are drawing to a close. The volleyball team will have sub-districts in Geneva on Monday, October 29th, and will be playing at 6:00 PM. If they win, they will play on Tuesday, October 30th, at 7:00 PM, once again at Geneva. This year the district pairings have been changed. NSAA has all sub-district winners and the next 4 wild card teams playing district finals. The sub-district winner along with the 4 at large teams will be seeded 1 through 16. The number 1 seed will play number 16, 2 will play 15, etc. Those games are played at a neutral site on Saturday, November 3rd. The winners qualify for the state tournament, which is being held November 8th through the 10th. We wish the ladies luck as they have an opportunity to qualify for the state tournament for three straight years. The football team is finishing a great season and will be playing in the playoffs for the

second straight year. Those brackets will be posted on Saturday, October 20th. Pending the division between East and West, we have a chance to host the first round. The second round game will be on October 31st, quarterfinals is November 6th, semifinals November 12th, and finals November 19th.

With the fall sports in the final stages, please be aware that winter sports practices start on November 12th. Meridian will play a jamboree game at Superior on November 20th.

We would like to say "Thank You" to the patrons for their patience as we have continued to modify our bus routes to the north. We have been able to add Wendy McKenzie as a route driver which has helped to shorten two of our routes and help get students home more efficiently.

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 these listings, we will also be using SchoolMessenger, our all call system.

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska 68338
Sunday, October 14, 2018
Regular October 14, 2018 Meeting
11:00 A.M.**

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Sunday, October 14, 2018, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were

Sobotka, Bartels, Vorderstrasse, Scheer, and VanWesten. Also present were Minette Tomasch of the Fairbury Journal-News and Superintendent Kort.

No new items were added to the agenda.

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

No comments were made by the public.

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

1. Minutes of the Special Budget Hearing-September 16, 2018
2. Minutes of the Special Tax Hearing-September 16, 2018
3. Minutes of the Sunday, September 16, 2018 Regular Meeting
4. District Financial Report
5. Activity Fund Report
6. Hot Lunch Report
7. Bills

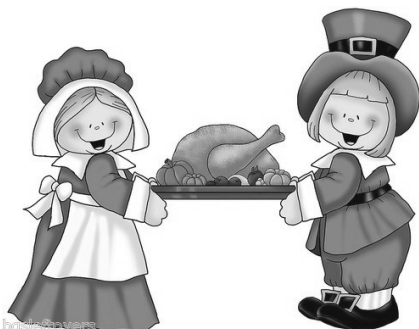
Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Kort gave the Curriculum Report. The FFA program is doing great and has 30+ kids involved. Kim Becker qualified for State Land Judging. The FFA will be going to a workshop in McCool Junction on October 13, 2018. The reading and Math curriculums in the Elementary are going well.

Discussion was held on the ALICAP Report from their Insurance walk-through. They complimented Mike on the facility.

Discussion was held on the next steps the Technology Committee will be taking. They will be meeting to evaluate the elementary technology and discuss updating the Chromebooks used by the elementary and junior high.

Discussion was held on the Verbal Audit Report. Several members of Dana Cole's firm conducted the audit and the

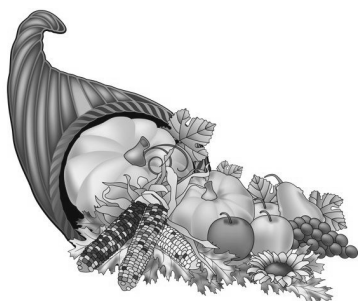




bookkeeping is concise and accurate. Discussion was held on Board Policy found in the 1000 Category. The Board may update the Tobacco Policy per the lawyers' suggestion due to vaping technology.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve MEA as negotiators for the 2020-2021 School year. Vote was taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the increase of substitute pay. As of January, 2019, pay for a half day will be \$65 and \$120 for a full day. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.



The Principal's Report was given by Superintendent Kort.

1. Student Numbers are 241 - 128 Elementary and 113 7-12th Grades
2. Parent Teachers' Conferences Held Wednesday, September 26, and Thursday, September 27th
93% Elementary Attendance;
67% 7-12 Attendance
3. Meridian hosted the Jefferson County Spelling Bee on Thursday, October 4th
Congratulations: (Elementary) Tucker Simms-2nd, Samuel Thomas-3rd, McKenzie Hofstetter-7th, (Junior High) Kailyn Paul-2nd, Anissa Gonzales-4th, Blayne Schelbitzki and Kaylee Pribyl-tied for 5th, Bailey Holtmeier-8th
4. Social media count - Facebook-818; Twitter-202

Superintendent Kort gave the Superintendent's Report.

1. NASB Information for November 14-16 Conference
2. Final Completion from Ayers & Ayers
3. Bus Update
4. Lunch Program - Walk in Cooler and Freezer Completed

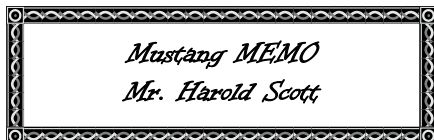
5. ALICAP Update - We are in the Top One-Third of Schools in Nebraska

Next regular meeting will be Monday, November 19th, 2018, at 7:00 P.M.

Vorderstrasse moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 11:35 A.M. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Bartels,

Secretary Meridian District # 48-0303



Student count for 2018-2019 (As of 10-11-18)

PreK	11	7 th	11
Kindergarten	23	8 th	19
1 st	17	9 th	21
2 nd	12	10 th	18
3 rd	18	11 th	19
4 th	13	12 th	25
5 th	18		
6 th	16		
	128	113	-1

Grand Total: Sep 244 -1

Parent-teacher conferences were held Wednesday, September 26, from 4-8pm and Thursday, September 27, from 2-6pm.

Percentage of parents who attended elementary conferences is as follows:

PreK - 90%	K - 95%
1 st - 94%	2 nd - 100%
3 rd - 100%	4 th - 100%
5 th - 83%	6 th - 87%

Total - 93%

There were 40 parents of secondary students who attended on Wednesday, September 26th, and 35 parents on Thursday, September 27th, bringing the total percentage to 67.

Meridian hosted the Jefferson County Spelling Bee on Thursday, October 4. Congratulations to the following students: Elementary Division - Tucker Simms earned 2nd, Samuel Thomas placed 3rd, and McKenzie Hofstetter came in 7th; Junior High students - Kailyn Paul was awarded 2nd place, Anissa Gonzales placed 4th, Blayne Schelbitski and Kaylee Pribyl tied for 5th, and Bailey Holtmeier brought home 8th.

Our social media count continues to grow with a total of 818 Facebook friends and 202 following us on Twitter.



Upcoming Dates:

November 12

Veteran's Day Program @ 10 a.m.

November 13

Central Community/Hastings College Visit - All Sophomores will be attending (lunch will be provided)

December 8

ACT Test (registration is due by Nov 2)

Red Ribbon Week:

The end of October was filled with fun and presentations for our Meridian students. The themes for these days were "Color Me Drug-Free, Color Me Kind, Color Me Helpful, Color Me Healthy." We had a great presentation from the HEAR program through the National Guard and other fun activities. 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. Students are encouraged to stop by Ms. 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 K State), 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 I can add you to the Applied to College Wall. As always, if you need help, stop by Ms. Hermsmeier's office.

3. Retake the ACT and/or SAT. Colleges use your best scores for college admission and scholarships. Register by November 2 for the December 8 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 on the school website.

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.

"THE GIFT OF THE MAGI"

Meridian Play Production One Act this year will be the classic story of O'Henry's "The Gift of the Magi", dramatized by Anne Coulter Martens. It is the story of a young couple who understand the meaning of "it is better to give, than to receive". The cast of seven in order of appearance: Jackie Dimas as the Narrator, Micah Noel as James Dillingham Young, Brianna Barton as Della Dillingham Young, Sophia Ellis as Mrs. Boyd, Katja Riggelsen as Felice, Cally Ellis as Madame Sofronie, and Charly Lufkin as Mrs. Hartman. Crew members are Lindsey Brant, Breanna Boyce, Damian Cervantes, Steven Disney, Brynn Holtmeier, Ashley Hummer, Andi Kort, Sara Most, Adrian Nuñez, Halle Pribyl, Kim Schropfer, Erika Schwisow, and Josiee Sobotka. The director is Mr. Harold Scott. The season includes our dessert theatre on Tuesday, Nov 13 @ 7pm at Meridian, CRC contest at Shickley on Wednesday, Nov 14, Pawnee City Invitational on Saturday, Nov 17, Districts at Pawnee City on Monday, January 26, and hopefully State on Wednesday, Dec 5 @ Norfolk.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Meridian National Honor Society plans to participate in a toy and clothing drive for those in need for the Holiday Season. Please look for information in the December newsletter about donations we plan to collect for our annual Mustang Merriment.

Save the Date! NHS will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you currently donate, please consider donating to our drive. If you have never donated blood before, now would be a great time to start! NHS members will be getting more information out in February and will be setting up appointments closer to this date.

Thank you

Thank you to the Meridian Foundation for the donation of water and buns. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and would not be successful without your support.

The Concession Stand

STUCO NEWS

First quarter has flown by! During the last part of the quarter, Meridian's Student Council has continued to be busy. This past month has been full of setting goals, attending workshops, magazine sales, fundraising for Make-A-Wish, and decorating pumpkins.

Something new for many Student Councils is setting goals for the organization. Meridian's Student Council has set goals to reach this year. One goal is to collaborate with the elementary Student Council as well as other organizations within the school. Another one is to be Leaders for Change, which means we want to change and add new programs to how we do things within the school and community.

Stu-Co has also sent members to different workshops. The two junior high members, Kaylee Pribyl and Kymber Schwisow, attended a Digital Citizenship Symposium and shared what they learned with rest of the members. On Monday, the entire 7-12 student body went to Fillmore Central to hear a guest speaker. The Student Council officers (Jackie, Andi, Halle, Brynn, Brianna, Delaney, and Josiee) left early to listen to a motivational speaker before rest of the school attended his main presentation.



The officers also attended the State Stu-Co Convention and will share what they learned with the rest of the council.

The school was busy for a couple of weeks with magazine sales. This encourages students to go out and raise money for their class. It was a successful fundraiser this year. Thank you to anyone who made a purchase.

During the weekend before Halloween, Stu-Co members went Reverse Trick-or-Treating. That is where we go around asking for a donation to Make-A-Wish and hand out candy to those who donate. We enjoy being able to raise money for this incredible cause.

The Student Council wanted to do something with the elementary, so we are planning to decorate pumpkins with them on Halloween. We are excited to see their creativity and pumpkin decorating abilities.

While it's safe to say the first quarter was a success, the Student Council plans on continuing to be as busy as ever. This month was full of Halloween cheer and many activities.

Hoping you have a have a noteworthy November,
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier



FBLA

This month the Meridian FBLA chapter began activity at Meridian High School. Before they held their first meeting the seven officers went off to the Fall Leadership Conference in Kearney. This year's officer team consists of President Halle Pribyl, Vice President Sara Most, Secretary Breanna Boyce, Parliamentarian Brittany Boyce, Reporter Jacqueline Dimas, Treasurer Brynn Holtmeier, and Historian Delaney Homolka. Throughout the course of FLC each officer proceeded to learn more about the different positions they hold and how to better the Meridian FBLA. They also listened to a keynote speaker emphasis the value of having a positive attitude.

Meridian FBLA held its first meeting to discuss membership, dues, and the general aspect of what exactly it means to be a part of FBLA. Just recently Meridian FBLA held its second meeting. Throughout this meeting there was a more thorough discussion as to what different commitments members must make and how to achieve the goals of our chapter. Our chapter also broke off into ribbon project groups. Ribbon projects are different activities or projects that we must complete to receive a ribbon to wear on our name tags at the State Leadership Conference in April. Don't you worry, the Meridian FBLA chapter has a lot planned for this school year. We can't wait to show the community more the fun atmosphere that comprises the Meridian FBLA!

Signing off,

Reporter,
Jacqueline Dimas



Front Row (l to r): Ashley Durlinger, Sara Most, Brianna Barton, Erika Schwisow, Kim Becker, Kim Schropfer Back Row (l to r): Zach Kerwood, Sonny Scheets, Fred Kujath, Damian Cervantes, Wyatt Haverluck, Garrett Klipp, Peyton VanWesten, Josiee Sobotka, Kolby Schafer, Hector Nunez, Keagan Sones, Drew Niederklein, Cally Ellis, Brayden Rut

MERIDIAN FFA

Over 300 students across Nebraska applied for a free FFA jacket through the Blue Jackets, Bright Futures program. 10 Meridian FFA students were selected to receive a jacket. Students included Brianna Barton, Damian Cervantes, Erika Schwisow, Fred Kujath, Hector Nunez, Keagan Sones, Patrick Williams, Sara Most,



L to R: Sonny Scheets, Garrett Klipp, Kim Becker, Erika Schwisow, Kim Schropfer

Wyatt Haverluck, and Zach Kerwood. Meridian FFA members attend their 1st land judging competition on Wednesday, October 3, 2018. When judging, they had to evaluate the soil and decide how to best use the land. The Meridian FFA Chapter ended up having 5 people ribbon in land judging. These individuals include;



Kim Becker with State Ribbon

Garrett Klipp, Sonny Scheets, and Kim Schropfer who all received a white, Erika Schwisow received a red, and Kim Becker who placed 9th receiving a purple ribbon, qualifying for state which was held on October 17. At state she placed 44 out of 151 participants receiving a white ribbon.

Upcoming Events:

- The next FFA meeting will be on November 5th.
- FFA members will be selling fruit, meat, and cheese November 5-20
- Livestock Judging will be November 7th at York County Fairgrounds

Mini Mustangs StuCo News

Mini Mustangs Student Council has been busy working on many different activities. Two students, Taelyn Filipi and Olivia Schafer went to the ESU5 to talk about digital citizenship, promoting kindness and internet safety. Both students came back with many ideas to help spread the kindness around the school.

One activity that all the Student Council members got to participate in was helping at the parent teachers conferences. The MMSC members helped by opening doors and greeting parents. They also made sure people got to the correct room and made sure there was cookies, tea, and coffee for our guest.

Mini Mustangs Student Council also sold candy grams in the month of October. Students could purchase the candy grams and they will be delivered on Halloween day!



The last activity that the MMSC is doing is a coat drive. There will be a box right outside of Trish's and Judy's offices. We are going to donate the coats that we earned to the Blue Valley Community Action. We will be collecting donations until October 31st. These coats will help people to stay warm all winter long!

Have a safe and HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
By MMSC members
Jaylee Sobotka and Braxtyn Rut

Jefferson County Spelling Bee

Meridian hosted the Jefferson County Spelling Bee on Thursday, October 4, 2018. Congratulations to the following students who earned a spot in the top ten spellers in their division: Elementary: Tucker Simms - 2nd, Samuel Thomas - 3rd, and McKenzie Hofstetter - 7th; Junior High: Kailyn Paul - 2nd, Anissa Gonzales - 4th, Blayne Schelbitzki and Kaylee Pribyl - tied for 5th, and Bailey Holtmeier - 8th.



Meridian Elementary Spelling Bee Contestants Who Placed in the Top Ten
L to R: McKenzie Hofstetter, Samuel Thomas, Tucker Simms



Meridian Junior High Spelling Bee Contestants Who Placed in the Top Ten
L to R: Kailyn Paul, Anissa Gonzales, Blayne Schelbitzki, Kaylee Pribyl, Bailey Holtmeier



Basket Donations for M-PIE raffle due

November 16th!

Business as well as families and individuals are welcome to donate!

Call Anne Simms: 785-275-1933 or Megan Haake: 402-446-2028 with questions.

M-PIE appreciates your support!

Reminder



Return Order Forms to: Jamie Niederklein or Meridian Schools / 402-446-2080

PHONE NUMBER: _____ by: NOVEMBER 2ND, 2018

NAME: _____



Gildan G800 / 6800B 50/50 T-Shirt

circle one (c/K, Red)	QTY	TOTAL
KR	Yth S	@ \$12
KR	Yth M	@ \$12
KR	Yth L	@ \$12
KR	Yth XL	@ \$12
KR	Small	@ \$12
KR	Med	@ \$12
KR	Large	@ \$12
KR	XL	@ \$12
KR	2XL	@ \$15
KR	3XL	@ \$15
KR	4XL	@ \$15
KR	5XL	@ \$15
		TOTAL \$ _____



Next Level #6051 3/4 Sleeve Raglan

ONLY (Win Red / Vin Black)	QTY	TOTAL
XS	@ \$16	
Small	@ \$16	
Med	@ \$16	
Large	@ \$16	
XL	@ \$16	
2XL	@ \$19	
3XL	@ \$19	
		TOTAL \$ _____



Gildan G840 50/50 Long-Sleeve T-Shirt

circle one (c/K, Red)	QTY	TOTAL
KR	Small	@ \$17
KR	Med	@ \$17
KR	Large	@ \$17
KR	XL	@ \$17
KR	2XL	@ \$20
KR	3XL	@ \$20
		TOTAL \$ _____



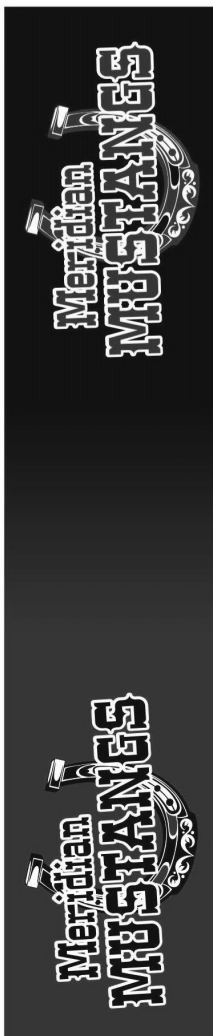
Gildan G540B Youth Long-Sleeve T-Shirt

circle one (c/K, Red)	QTY	TOTAL
KR	Yth S	@ \$17
KR	Yth M	@ \$17
KR	Yth L	@ \$17
KR	Yth XL	@ \$17
		TOTAL \$ _____



Gildan G185 / G185B Heavy 50/50 Hood

circle one (c/K, Red)	QTY	TOTAL
KR	Yth S	@ \$22
KR	Yth M	@ \$22
KR	Yth L	@ \$22
KR	Yth XL	@ \$22
KR	Small	@ \$22
KR	Med	@ \$22
KR	Large	@ \$22
KR	XL	@ \$22
KR	2XL	@ \$25
KR	3XL	@ \$25
KR	4XL	@ \$25
KR	5XL	@ \$25
		TOTAL \$ _____



NAME on BACK of Shirt

NAME for the back 1: _____ NAME for the back 2: _____ NAME for the back 3: _____

shirt style _____ shirt style _____ shirt style _____

shirt color _____ shirt color _____ shirt color _____



Qty _____ NAMES @ \$5

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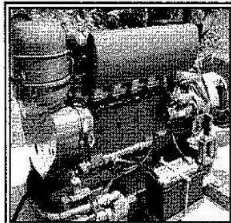
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