



# 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](http://www.meridianmustangs.org)

December, 2019

Newsletter - December, 2019  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

It is hard to believe, but as I write this, we are preparing for Thanksgiving and have only 4 weeks left of the 1 semester. It has been a fast year, and the students have a lot of projects going on. The One Act play competed at conference last week. The elementary and secondary are preparing for their concerts within the next two weeks. Jr High. wrestling has started along with practice for the other winter sports. Tuesday, the 26th, is the jamboree basketball game against Superior which will be held at Meridian. **Reminder:** there are no passes for that game. We had a Jr. High group who designed and built an adaptable computer stand to help a student at a neighboring district. The entire elementary has been working on a Maker Space project. There have just been a lot of projects and programs happening for our students.

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/ or boys basketball and this will affect the start times.

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  
**Our all call system.**

**Board of Education**  
**Meridian Public Schools**  
**District 48-0303**  
**Daykin, Nebraska 68338**  
**Wednesday, November 13,**  
**2019**

### Regular November 13, 2019 Meeting 7:00P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 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. Roll call was taken: all members were present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Echoe Davis, Chris Placek, and Peg Tilgner.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

All members were present.

Comments were heard from the public. Positive comments were shared regarding the Veteran's Day Program held at Meridian.

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

1. Minutes of the Monday, October 14, 2019 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Fund Report
5. Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Niederklein-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten- aye. Motion carried 6-0.

The Curriculum Report was heard. Mr. Placek gave an update on the Enrichment Program. Currently 26 students are enrolled in the program and 20 more are on the "watch" list.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the Annual Audit Report. Vate taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Niederklein-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the Multicultural Report. Vate taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Niederklein-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Policy 9000's was reviewed. The Board will take a vote to approve these at the December meeting.

Principal Scott gave the Principal's Report.

1. Current Student Count is 229
2. Meridian Ranked #4437 in *Nesweek's* Top 5000 Stem Schools in the Nation - There Are Over 37,000 Schools in the USA
3. Both 4th & 5th and 5th & 6th Grade Quiz Bowl teams finished 3rd at Thayer Central. Congrats to all participates.
4. FFA Members Chase Bartels, Erin Kujath, Nylah Moody, Hector Nunez, Erika Schwisow, and Pat Williams along with Ms. Wollenburg attended National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.
5. Approximately 30 FFA Students attended Livestock Judging in York on November 6th.
6. Meridian hosted a Veterans Day program on November 11th. The Jr/ Sr HS Band and Choir performed.
7. Freshman class visited Peru State College on November 13th.
8. HS Basketball begins on November 26th, with Jamboree Games vs Superior
9. JH Wrestling has Started



- 10. Play production begins November 20th, with CRC at Shickley. The One Act cast and crew will be performing in Pawnee City Saturday, November 23,d, at Meridian on Monday, December 2nd, at 7:00, and at Districts in Humphrey on December 4th.
- 11. JH Basketball Begins December 4th
- 12. HS Wrestling Starts December 7th at Harvard; Bob Oliver Invite Saturday, December 14th, at Meridian
- 13. Halle Pribyl and Josiee Sobotka Received 1st Team CRC All Conference
- 14. Facebook Followers = 972; Twitter = 237

Superintendent Kort gave the Superintendent's Report.

- 1. Update on NASE Conference
- 2. Bus Update
- 3. Football for Next Two Years will be 6 Man; Expecting 22 Boys in HS Grades Next Year
- 4. NSAA Updates

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to go into closed session at 7:45 p.m. for Teacher Negotiations. President VanWesten stated it has been moved and seconded to go into closed session for the purpose of Teacher Negotiations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse -aye, Niederklein-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

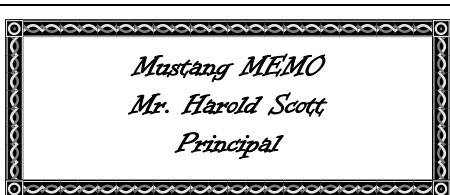
The Board returned to open session at 8:15 p.m.

Next regular meeting will be Monday, December 16th, at 7:00 P.M.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 8:18 P.M. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Niederklein-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

*Jason Bartels,*

Secretary Meridian District# 48-0303



Student count for 2019-2020  
As of 11-9-19

PreK	12	7th	17
Kindergarten	12	8th	13
1st	20 +1	9th	19
2nd	17	10th	19 +1
3rd	14 +1	11th	13
4th	19	12th	21 +1
5th	13 -1		
6th	20		
	127		102
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>+3</b>	

Meridian High School is ranked in the Newsweek top 5,000 STEM High Schools. We are ranked #4437 nationwide! "Congratulations Meridian High School on your truly prestigious honor!"-Newsweek

The 4th and 5th Grade Quiz Bowl team placed 3rd at the Thayer Central Elementary Quiz Bowl competition on Monday, November 4th. The competition consisted of 10 teams from various local schools. The quiz bowl team consisted of 5th Graders: Kendal Filipi, Alex Bartolome, Isaac Thomas, and 4th Graders: Grady Schwisow. and Kenzie Kumpf.

The 5th and 6th Grade Quiz Bowl team placed 3rd at the Thayer Central Elementary Quiz Bowl competition. The competition consisted of 10 teams from various local schools. The quiz bowl team consisted of 6th Graders: Luke Seeman, Kyan Sones, Jenna Woitalewicz, Landon Griggs, and 5th Grader: Maddox Haake.

FFA members Chase Bartels, Erin Kujath, Nylah Moody, Hector Nunez Erika Schwisow. and Patrick Williams attended the National FFA convention the first weekend of November.

Approximately 30 FFA members completed in Livestock Judging on Wednesday, November 6th at York.

Meridian hosted a Veteran's Day program on Monday, November 11, at 10:00am. The JH/SH choir and JH/SH band were scheduled to perform.

The freshman class visited Peru State College on Wednesday, November 13, as part of our support of college and career readiness.

HS basketball season kicked off Tuesday, November 26, with jamboree games at home vs Superior. Girls played at 6pm, and boys at 7:30pm.

JH wrestling season is in full swing.

Play production season began Wednesday, November 20, with CRC at Shickley. Meridian performed at 9:45am. One Act attended an invitational meet on Saturday, November 23, at Pawnee City and performed at 10:00am. We will present a home performance on Monday, December 2, at 7:00pm. Districts will be held at Humphrey St. Francis on Wednesday, December 4. Meridian will perform 6th out of 8 schools at 1:45pm.

JH basketball also begins on Wednesday, December 4.

HS wrestling starts on December 7, with a meet at Harvard. The Bob Oliver invite is Saturday, December 14, at Meridian. The parents of the Meridian wrestling team were honored at the tournament.



**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 Mrs. Kruse at school.

**Freshman to Seniors... College Timeline will keep you on track to college**

EducationQuest has a **College Timeline** (<https://www.educationquest.org/myeducationquest/college-timelin!IL>) for students in grades 9-12 that spells out steps you should take during fall, winter, spring, and summer of each year 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](http://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 [.actstudent.org](http://.actstudent.org). From here, you will fill in specific information and also select your testing date and site. Each ACT costs \$52.00, but if you qualify for free or reduced lunches, you may request a fee waiver from Mrs. Kruse. Our school code is 282-345. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Kruse 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 reappear by January 10th, for the February 8th ACT, by February 28th, for the April 4th ACT, and/or by May 8th, for the June 13th ACT. Keep in mind that all juniors will be taking the ACT at school in April.

**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 periodically! 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](http://FAFSA.gov). Before you start, create an

FSA ID for you and one for a parent at [fsaid.ed.gov](http://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](http://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.

**STUCO**

With the holidays approaching, Meridian Student Council is thinking of ways to help the community. One way StuCo would like to give back is by "**Christmas Babysitting.**" At Meridian Public Schools, on Sunday, December 8, from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM the Student Council will provide free babysitting for parents so they can go Christmas shopping. This would be for students from PreK - 4th grade. All students must be pre-registered prior to Tuesday, December 3. StuCo will provide snacks and a light supper (a hot dog and chips). There is a limit to the number of students who can come so please register early. To register please call the school or fill out the form on the school Facebook page.

StuCo is preparing for basketball season as well. During halftime of every home game, the Student Council has a free throw contest. For every dollar, you get one shot and each made shot will earn a coupon for a pop or candy at the concessions stand. All proceeds go to Make-A-Wish Nebraska.

We're gearing up for the end of the semester. This means that Secret Santa will be going on around the school for a week. This also includes the end of the semester party. The end of the semester party is full of games, movies, other fun activities, and hot chocolate.

Wishing you a Happy Winter! Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier



**FBLA**

Fundraising season is here! Meridian FBLA is currently doing its annual fundraising. Items that are being sold are Rada, Butter Braids, Cookie Dough, and pans. All of these are perfect items for the holidays! Everything will be in before Christmas break. The money that is raised will fund members attending the state conference in spring and other chapter expenses.



If an FBLA member does not sell to you, and you are interested in buying, please contact the school. Mrs. Soukup will ensure that you are able to purchase. Everything is due December 4th.

Happy winter!  
Reporter, Brynn Holtmeier

### FFA

Meridian FFA members continue into the school year with new experiences and chapter successes. Six FFA members traveled to Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention. They joined over 65,000 other FFA members from across the country to learn about career opportunities in agriculture, attend leadership workshops, speak with agricultural

businesses and professionals, and tour agricultural industries. On November 6, 26 members competed in District Livestock Judging at the York County Fairgrounds. They judged 8 different classes of livestock and gave oral reasons on their placings. Ribbon placings TBD. During the November FFA meeting we awarded Chase Bartels the FFA Member of the Month. We also welcomed the State FFA Advisor into the classroom to talk about record keeping and developing Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). We are collecting donations for the Organ Transplant Care Packages through December 13th - thank you to those who have generously donated so far! Members are now preparing for the District

Leadership Development Events (LDEs) which include public speaking, parliamentary procedure, quiz bowl, and employment skills. We invite all parents and community members to school on January 9th at 6pm to see what members have been working on.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Organ Transplant Care Package Donations through December 13th.
- Care Package Delivery - December 20th
- January FFA Meeting & LDE Practice Night - January 9th
- LDE's - January 15th

Sincerely,  
Nylah Moody  
Meridian FFA Reporter

# NATIONALS... Are A Grand Slam!



L to R: Patrick Williams, Hector Nuñez, Erika Schwisow, Erin Kujath, Nylah Moody, Chase Bartels



Front Row (l to r): Erin Kujath, Nylah Moody, Erika Schwisow  
Back Row (l to r): Patrick Williams, Chase Bartels, Hector Nuñez

# MEMBER OF THE MONTH

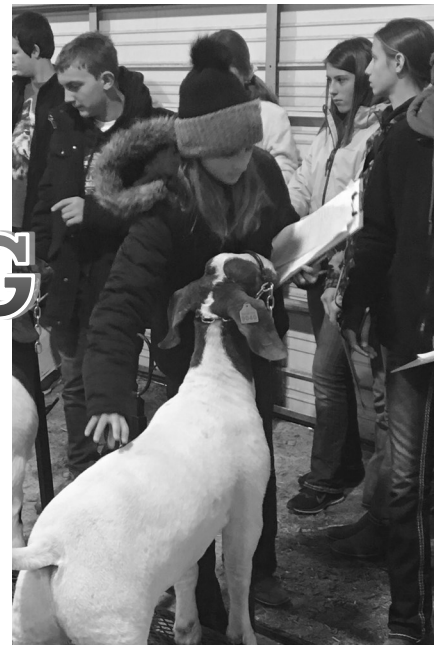


L to R: Chase Bartels, Hector Nuñez

# LIVESTOCK JUDGING



L to R: Kim Schropfer, Bailey Holtmeier, Schyler Schwisow



L to R: RJ Paul, Taelyn Filipi, Braxtyn Rut, McKenzie Hofstetter



# **STUDENT COUNCIL CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS BABYSITTING SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**At MERIDIAN SCHOOL**

**Provided for PRE-K -**

**FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS**

**Snacks & A Light Supper**

**(Hotdog & Chips) Provided**

**ALL STUDENTS MUST BE  
PREREGISTERED**

**BY TUESDAY, December 3, 2019**

**Please call MERIDIAN**

**(402-446-7265 extension 2) OR**

**Complete the Form on**

**MERIDIAN'S FACEBOOK PAGE**





# Reindeer Run Registration Form 2019 5K or 1 mile December 21st 2:00

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



**LIVE ON**  
nebraska

Organ and tissue donation and advocacy

Run/Walk in your best Creative Christmas Attire Registration at 1:30

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Age on Race Day \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Event: 5K \_\_\_\_\_ 1 mile \_\_\_\_\_

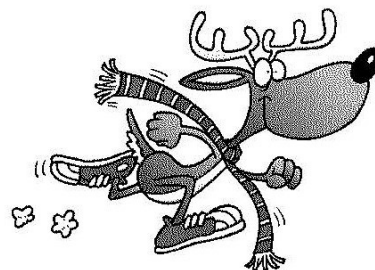
Entry Fee- Make Checks Payable to Meridian Activity Fund

Early Registration Date December 6th, 2019 _____ \$15 5k _____ \$10 1mile	Late and Race Day Registration _____ \$20 5k _____ \$15 1mile
--	--

Each race will start in front of The Image Hair Salon in Daykin NE.

Return signed form with registration fee:

Echoe Davis  
Meridian School  
P.O. Box 190  
Daykin NE 68338



Release and Waiver (Please read and sign)

I know that running is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also assume any risks associated with running this event including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, and the effects of weather and conditions of the road. I understand that I am solely responsible for my own safety while participating in this event.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_




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