



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

September, 2020

Newsletter - September, 2020
Superintendent
Randy Kort

The Meridian staff is excited to start the 2020-2021 school year. Meridian welcomes Mrs. Jane Zabokrtsky our new 3rd grade teacher, Mr. Matthew Asche is our new English teacher, Mr. John Adam is our new Business teacher, Mrs. Holly Adam is our new 1st grade teacher, and Mrs. Kelli Schoenbeck will be a para in the PK and elementary.

What a great time of year - seeing all the students coming back to school after their long break, meeting the new students and welcoming them to our Meridian family.

Thanks to the teachers for arranging a virtual open house. Thanks also go to Mrs. Hebda, Mr. VanderSchaaf, and Ms. Drees for sponsoring the Back to School Bash on Friday August 21, 2020.

Student began on August 19th, and we opened our doors to a total of 214 students.

Athletics begin this week at Meridian with the volleyball team playing a jamboree game on Tuesday the 25th, with a start time of 5:00 pm. against Thayer Central and Deshler at 6:00. The games will be played at Hebron with limited attendance. Thursday, August 27, 2020 the volleyball team will travel to Blue Hill to begin the season with a dual. The JV game will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the varsity game to follow. Friday, August 28th, the football team will open their season with a home game against Dorchester.

Patrons, please check our school webpage to see what restrictions might be imposed at various activities throughout the year. Inside events are limited to 50% capacity and outdoor events to 75% capacity. Masks are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

The Board of Education has scheduled the Annual Budget Hearing on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 113.. The Annual Tax Request Hearing is 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, in Conference Room 113 with the Regular Monthly Meeting to follow. If you have any questions about the school or school budget, please feel free to contact Mr. Kort at the school (402-446-7265 extension 1112).

BUS ROUTES:

Our bus routes are continuing to change and adapt to best serve all our students. Please be flexible over the next two weeks as those changes are made.

Throughout the school year, please notify your bus driver by 6:30 a.m. if your child will not be riding the bus. When you have advance knowledge your child will NOT be riding the bus, contact the school and leave a message for the driver.

Driver's contact information is as follows:

Alexandria Area Route

Janelle Heiserman
402-300-1704

Fairbury Route

Tonya Griffin
402-300-1722

Ohiowa/Tobias Area Route

Elizabeth Noel
402-300-1708

Western/Rural Daykin Area Route

Charles Houser
402-446-7407 or 402-300-1707

Tobias/Western/Daykin (In Town) Area Route

Wendy McKenzie
402-300-1705

Meridian Public Schools is in need of back up bus drivers. The pay is approximately \$40 per route.

ACTIVITY PASSES:

Activity passes are available this year at the following prices: Adults = \$40; K-12 = \$30; Golden Passes (over 65) = Free. Please contact Trish Endorf at the school for your pass, 402-446-7265 extension 1107.

*** Gate prices will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.*

BOARD OF EDUCATION MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**DISTRICT 48-0303
DAYKIN, NEBRASKA 68338
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020**

REGULAR AUGUST MEETING

7:00 P.M.:

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Monday, August 17, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The open meetings law was presented.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse-present, Sobotka-present, VanWesten-present, Scheer-present, and Bartels-present. Also present were Superintendent Kort and Principal Scott.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to excuse Niederklein from the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, VanWesten-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

No comments were heard from the public.

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

1. Minutes of the Monday, July 20, 2020 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of the Wednesday, August 12, 2020 Special Meeting
3. District Financial Report



- 4. Activity Fund Report
- 5. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- 6. Bills

It was suggested that a committee be formed to meet with the class of 2020 to discuss how funds remaining in their account due to the pandemic could be utilized. The class initiated discussion with the class sponsor several months ago but due to the pandemic no discussion with the class of 2020 has occurred. It was further recommended that the administration meet with the class sponsor and class representatives and report back to the Board in the next few months. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, VanWesten-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

There was no Curriculum Report.

Scheer moved and VanWesten seconded to approve ALICAP as insurer for the 2020-2021 school year. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, VanWesten-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion was held on dates for area workshops and state meetings and if they would be virtual or in person meetings.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the transfer of 2019-2020 budget funds into the Activity Account. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, VanWesten-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the transfer of 2019-2020 budget funds into the Depreciation Account. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, VanWesten-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion on if admission should be charged and if rosters should be printed at school activities was held. The board felt that admission could be collected and rosters distributed in a safe manner. The roster will also be made available electronically.

Principal Scott gave the Principal's Report.

- Student count for 2020-2021 (as of 8/13/20): Elementary = 118; Secondary = 99; Total = 217
- No Foreign Exchange Program Due

- to COVID-19
- NSAA Count - 9 - 11th Grades is 49
- Reminder: Friday Dismissal is at 3:12 p.m.
- Welcome New Faculty
 - Holly Adam - First Grade
 - John Adam - Business
 - Matthew Asche - High School English
 - Jane Zabokrtsky - Third Grade
- In-Service Meetings on Friday, August 14, 17, and 18
- Students' First Day – Wednesday, August 19; 1:30 p.m. dismissal
 - Masks Highly Recommended
- Start of Volleyball Season:
 - Jamboree Game at Thayer Central, August 25, at 5:00 p.m.
 - JV and Varsity at Blue Hill, August 27, Start at 6:00 p.m.
- First 6-Man Football Game - Friday, August 28, vs Dorchester at 7:00 p.m.

Superintendent Kort gave the Superintendent's Report.

- Update on summer projects
 - Green house coming together
 - Concrete will be next step
- Students involved in fall sports
 - 13 of the 21 boys involved (62%)
 - 18 of the 40 girls involved (45%)
- Losing just over \$100,000 in state aid, which is equivalent to 3 cents on the levy
- Valuations are decreasing approximately 4%
- Did not receive grant for bus replacement

Next Regular Meeting was set for Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Budget Hearing at 6:30 p.m., Tax Hearing at 6:45 p.m., with Regular Meeting to follow.

Vorderstrasse moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, VanWesten-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

J. Scott Sobotka, Vice-President
Meridian District #48-0303



Student count for 2020-2021
As of 8-13-20

PreK	12	7th	20
Kindergarten	15	8th	18
1st	10	9th	12
2nd	20	10th	20
3rd	17	11th	17
4th	14	12th	12
5th	17		
6th	13		
	118		99
Grand Total		217	

The Foreign Exchange program is not sending students this year due to COVID-19.

NSAA Count –

The current NSAA count of 9th through 11th graders is 49. Last year the count was 51; 2 years ago equaled 58; 3 years before this school year was 60; 4 years added up to 67; 5 years ago it was 59; and 6 years ago the tally was 46.

I would like to remind all parents and guardians that on Fridays we dismiss at 3:12pm. We ask that parents be aware students will be dropped off 30 minutes earlier on Fridays!

We would like to welcome our new faculty members:

- Holly Adam – 1st grade
- John Adam – Business
- Matthew Asche – HS English
- Jane Zabokrtsky – 3rd grade

In-service meetings began on Friday, August 14, and continued on August 17 and 18. Protocols and procedures were being discussed.

Students' first day of school was Wednesday, August 19, with a 1:30 dismissal. We emphasized that masks are being highly recommended.

The volleyball jamboree game was at Thayer Central in Hebron on Tuesday, August 25, at 5pm. The JV and Varsity volleyball teams played at Blue Hill on Thursday, August 27, starting at 6pm.

The first 6-man football game of the season was played Friday, August 28, at home vs Dorchester with a starting time of 7pm.



COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION
by
Lisa Hermsmeier

This year has been off to an excellent start! I have really enjoyed seeing the students again as school starts to get underway. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 402-446-7265 x1253 or lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Month of September – NWEA MAP testing in grades 3-11

Wednesday, September 9 – ASVAB for Juniors

Tuesday, September 22 – Make Up ACT for Seniors

Seniors...5 must-do tasks for this fall!

1. **Apply to your top college choices.** If your school participates in Nebraska's *Apply2College* campaign in October, you'll get help with your college applications during a school-day event.
2. **Create an FSA ID.** You and a parent must each create a username and password at fsaid.ed.gov that will serve as your Federal Student Aid (FSA) IDs for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You will each need your own email address to create an FSA ID.
3. **Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov on or after October 1.** The FAFSA is your application for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. The colleges you list on the application will use that information to determine the types and amounts of financial aid they will award you.
4. Attend the EducationQuest Financial Aid Program at the school in October to learn about types of financial aid and the FAFSA. By attending, you can register to win a \$500 scholarship!

5. Find free FAFSA Tools at EducationQuest.org to help you prepare for and complete the FAFSA.

STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

At the back of this newsletter, we have included the "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP) poster. The SRP is based on an all-hazards approach and utilizes a clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

Meridian has adopted this system in case of an emergency, so please do not discard this information. The terms used on the poster are the language Meridian will use in case of any hazard or threat to the school. As parents and guardians, you need to be aware of SRP's 5 actions and the appropriate protocol to be followed.

2020-2021 CHEERLEADING

Due to COVID-19, you may notice a difference in the attendance and style of our cheer and dance squad. One big difference you will notice is the cheerleaders will not be attending away games. We are trying to be socially responsible in our support of our athletes.

YEARBOOKS

Due to the abrupt end to our school year last spring, the yearbooks were not completed within the normal timeframe. Because of this delay, the 2019-2020 annuals will NOT be available until later this fall.

FFA

The Meridian FFA Chapter is excited for the start of a new school year! First off, congratulations to all who placed at the county fairs. Prior to school starting the officer team met for a 2-day training to prepare for the upcoming

year. Some of the activities included a virtual workshop with a state FFA officer, learning their roles and responsibilities, and planning how to safely hold activities. A parent/new member meeting was held at the beginning of the year to cover important details about FFA. Dues are \$30 and it covers state, national and local dues and includes a chapter t shirt - the deadline to pay dues is September 24th. FFA jackets are \$55, but there is a Blue Jackets. Bright Futures scholarship available. There is also a student and parent information sheet so we can add you to our communication platforms. Follow Meridian Ag Ed on Facebook and Snapchat! Please reach out to Mrs. Hebda or any of the officers with any questions.

Upcoming Dates:

- FFA Meeting: September 8 at 7:15am
- Blue Jackets. Bright Futures. Scholarship Deadline: September 11
- Trash Pick-Up: September 27 at 2pm



2020-2021 Meridian FFA Officer Team: (l to r) Erika Schwisow - President, Nylah Moody - Secretary, Jasly Ward - Treasurer, Brayden Rut - Sentinel, Chase Bartels - Reporter, Erin Kujath - Vice President, Bailey Holtmeier - Parliamentarian

ADULT CERAMICS

Chris Placek is once again offering an adult ceramics class on Wednesday nights. The classes will begin on September 9th, 2020, with a start time of 7:00 p.m. The cost to each participant is \$5.00 per class.



2 PERSON SCRAMBLE

September 20, 2020

Hidden Hills Country Club, Geneva, Nebraska

\$35.00 per person; 18 holes, continental breakfast and lunch included.

Golf carts are limited, \$15.00 additional fee for a 2 person golf cart. Please RSVP for a golf cart!!!!

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM

TEE TIME AT 9:00 AM

RSVP is required to ensure cart. RSVP is encouraged for all interested, please RSVP to Deanna Brakhage at 402-418-0120. No rain date scheduled.

Pay out and pin prizes

Mulligan's available.

12th Annual Cheer Classic

Meridian Cheerleaders



STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

HOLD

"In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



SECURE

"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"

Students are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE

"To a Location"

Students are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



SHELTER

"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Hazards might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Safety Strategies might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

Students are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.





STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

PARENT GUIDANCE

In the event of a live incident, parents may have questions about their role.

SECURE

“Get Inside. Lock outside doors”



Secure is called when there is something dangerous outside of the building. Students and staff are brought into the building and the outside doors will be locked. The school might display the Building is Secured poster on entry doors or nearby windows. Inside, it will be business as usual.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A SECURE EVENT?

Probably not. Every effort is made to conduct classes as normal during a secure event. Additionally, parents may be asked to stay outside during a Secure event.

WHAT IF PARENTS NEED TO PICK UP THEIR STUDENT?

Depending on the situation, it may not be safe to release the student. As the situation evolves, Secure might change to a Monitored Entry and/or Controlled Release.

WILL PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN A SCHOOL GOES INTO SECURE?

When a secure event is brief or the hazard is non-violent, like a wild animal on the playground, there may not be a need to notify parents while the Secure is in place.

With longer or more dangerous events, the school should notify parents that the school has increased their security.

LOCKDOWN

“Locks, Lights, Out of Sight”



A Lockdown is called when there is something dangerous inside of the building. Students and staff are trained to enter or remain in a room that can be locked, and maintain silence.

A Lockdown is only initiated when there is an active threat inside or very close to the building.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A LOCKDOWN?

The natural inclination for parents is to go to the school during a Lockdown. Understandable, but perhaps problematic. If there is a threat inside the building, law enforcement will be responding. It is unlikely that parents will be granted access to the building or even the campus. If parents are already in the school, they will be instructed to Lockdown as well.

SHOULD PARENTS TEXT THEIR STUDENTS?

The school recognizes the importance of communication between parents and students during a Lockdown event. Parents should be aware though, during the initial period of a Lockdown, it may not be safe for students to text their parents. As the situation resolves, students may be asked to update their parents on a regular basis.

In some cases, students may be evacuated and transported off-site for a student-parent reunification.

WHAT ABOUT UNANNOUNCED DRILLS?

The school may conduct unscheduled drills, however it is highly discouraged to conduct one without announcing that it as a drill. That’s called an unannounced drill and can cause undue concern and stress.

Parents should recognize that the school will always inform students that it is a drill during the initial announcement.

It’s important to differentiate between a **drill** and an exercise. A drill is used to create the “Muscle Memory” associated with a practiced action. There is no simulation of an event; this is simply performing the action. An exercise simulates an actual event to test the capacity of personnel and equipment.

CAN PARENTS OBSERVE OR PARTICIPATE IN THE DRILLS?

The school welcomes parents who wish to observe or participate in drills.





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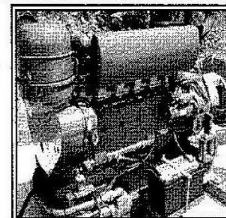
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