



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

March, 2021

Newsletter - March, 2021
Superintendent
Randy Kort

Meridian's winter sports events are starting to wind down. We want to congratulate Jackson Huls, Edward Haverluck, Wyatt Sheets, and Lane Barton who qualified for districts. At district, there was some very tough competition and we want to commend each wrestler for fighting hard. Special recognition to Lane Barton who qualified for state and finished 1 - 2 at state, nearly pinning the 2nd ranked wrestler. Great career Lane, here at Meridian.

The girls' basketball team qualified for district play where the winners will qualify for state. Meridian will face Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family on Friday, February 26, at Shelby - Rising City with a start time of 6:30.

The boys' basketball team began their sub-district play this week at Diller-Odell with a first round match against Dorchester on Monday, February 22. The boys have continued to work hard and never give up.

As spring arrives, we have numerous activities the students will be involved in like Track, FBLA, FFA, Show Choir, district music, and many more. Please stay updated of your child's grades and how they are proceeding as the 3rd quarter will conclude on March 11.

OPTION ENROLLMENT

If you are aware of families who are considering Option Enrollment, please inform them to contact the school and schedule a walk through to discuss the steps that need to be taken. The date to submit the option enrollment is March 15.

TRACK

Track practice will begin on March 1, 2021.

BUSING INFORMATION

Within this newsletter is a Bus Information Update page for the 2021 -

2022 school year. Please have this completed and return to the School by April 1, 2021. We will be sending this same Bus Information Update flyer home with the students to ensure all families have an opportunity to complete the information. We will be reviewing our bus routes in preparation for next school year. Thank you for completing and returning the information promptly. If you have any questions, please call. Please feel free to write notes, comments, and/or requests on the survey.

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District - 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

Regular February 10, 2021 Meeting 6:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on February 10, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse-Present, Niederklein-present, Sobotka-present, Rut-present, Scheer-present, and Bartels-present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott-virtually, Kaylee Pribyl and Bailey Holtmeier.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

No comments were made by the public.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A: Minutes of Monday, January 18, 2021 Regular Meeting
- B: District Financial Report
- C: Activity Fund Report
- D: Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E: Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye,

Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Curriculum report:

- CPR Classes for seniors will be held in March or April.
- Greenhouse work continues and related curriculum is being established.
- Discussion was held on finding a location for fine arts to practice and store equipment.

Three drafts of the 2021-2022 school calendar were reviewed. The final draft will be approved in March.

After discussion, Scheer moved and Sobotka seconded to approve committee assignments as follows.

- Americanism: Scheer, Bartels, Rut
- Building & Grounds: Niederklein, Vorderstrasse, Sobotka
- Transportation: Niederklein, Vorderstrasse, Scheer
- Curriculum & Instruction: Bartels, Rut, Vorderstrasse
- Negotiations: Niederklein, Bartels, Sobotka

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

Principal's Report:

- Student Count as of February 3, 2021: 107 Elementary Students; 96 Junior High and High School Students
- Girls basketball repeated as conference runner-up at the CRC basketball tournament. Congratulations team and coaches!
- Congratulations to Ally Kort for setting several 3-point records at the CRC tournament.
- JH girls basketball was conference runner-up at the CRC tournament. Congratulations team and Coach Sobotka!
- Sub-district wrestling was at Pleasanton on Saturday, February 6.



District wrestling will be February 12 & 13. State wrestling will be Wednesday through Saturday, February 17 - 20. Good luck wrestlers!

- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, February 15, from 4 -8 pm and Wednesday, February 17 from 2-6 pm. Time change on Wednesday is to allow families and staff to attend Ash Wednesday services.
- There will be no school on Friday, February 19.
- Girls sub-district basketball begins Tuesday, February 16.
- Boys sub-district basketball begins Monday, February 22.
- Congratulations to Brynn Holtmeier for earning runner-up in persuasive at the Mudecas speech meet.
- Meridian will not be hosting the CRC speech contest this year due to the number of schools that would be in attendance. This year only, CRC speech will be split for north (Hampton) and south (McCool Junction) divisions. This will allow for in-person competition, helping prepare for district and state meets which will be in person.
- Freshmen will be traveling to Peru State College for a visit on Tuesday, February 16. This is the first in person visit this year.
- Quiz bowl begins competition on Wednesday, February 17.
- State dance and cheer competition will be February 17 - 20.
- Teachers will be working on curriculum updates this semester. We are focusing on math and reading but will also be looking at curriculum alignment in all areas.

Superintendent's Report:

- Heartland Communications will be used for the fobs used for entrance into district facilities.
- Discussion was held about whether there is a need for a SPED vehicle.
- Discussion was held about the possibility of a replacement van or suburban.
- Mr. Kort will meet with Diode concerning the installation of vape alarms.
- Mr. Kort will visit with Deputy Schoenrock about having the drug dog/breathalyzer at prom and post

prom. Prom will be held at the VFW in Fairbury and post prom will be held at Meridian.

- Even though Meridian isn't hosting the CRC speech meet on February 24, teachers will have in-service work. This will be our Mask day.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to go into executive session to discuss the administrators contracts.

Bartels stated that it was moved and seconded to go into executive session at 6:41 p.m. to discuss the administrators contracts. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

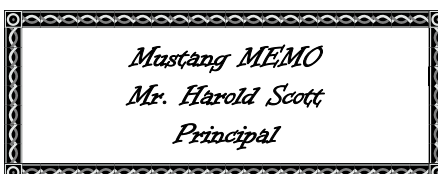
The Board came out of executive session at 6:57 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, March 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6 -0.

Jamie Niederklein.

Secretary Meridian District #48-030



Student count for 2020-2021

As of 2-3-21

PreK	13 +1	7th	19
Kindergarten	14	8th	19
1st	9	9th	12
2nd	17	10th	18
3rd	15	11th	16
4th	12	12th	12
5th	15		
6th	12		
	107		96

Grand Total 203 +1

Girls basketball repeated as conference runner-up at the CRC basketball tournament. Congratulations team and coaches! Congratulations to Ally Kort for setting several 3-point records for the CRC tournament.



Junior High girls basketball was conference runner-up at the CRC tournament. Congratulations team and Coach Sobotka!

Sub-District wrestling was at Pleasanton on Saturday, February 6. District wrestling was February 12-13. Lane Barton qualified for state wrestling which was Wednesday through Saturday, February 17-20. Congratulations, Lane!

Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Monday, February 15 (via Zoom or telephone) from 4-8pm and Wednesday, February 17, from 2-6pm.



There was no school on Friday, February 19.

Girls subdistrict basketball began on Wednesday, February 17. The girls won against McCool Junction, but fell to BDS. However, due wild card points, the team is still going to the District Finals Tournament.

Boys subdistrict basketball began on Monday, February 22.

Congratulations to Brynn Holtmeier for earning runner-up in persuasive at MUDECAS speech meet! Brynn also finished 5th at Beatrice. She was competing against A, B, C, and D schools. Good job, Brynn!!

Meridian did not be host the CRC speech contest this year, due to the number of schools and students that would be in attendance. This year only, CRC speech was split for north (Hampton) and south (McCool Junction) divisions. This allowed for in-person competition, helping prepare for district and state meets which will also be in-person.

Quiz bowl began competition on Wednesday, February 17, at Dorchester. The Junior High team finish 2nd, and the High School team placed 9th. Congratulations to both teams.

State dance and cheer competition was February 17-20. The girls brought home the runner-up trophy for the hip-



hop division in dance. Congratulations to the coaches and team.

Teachers will be working on curriculum updates this semester. We are focusing on math and reading, but will also be looking at curriculum alignment in all areas.

**PARA EDUCATOR
NEEDED**
 Beginning
 March 4th, 2021,
 Through the End of
 Spring Semester
 Please Contact Mr. Kort
 or Mr. Scott
 At 402-446-7265
 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION
 by
 Lisa Hermsmeier

SENIORS:

Stay on track for college by completing these second-semester tasks:

- **Watch your grades.** If you slack off and get poor grades, your college admission could be revoked.
- **Complete the financial aid process.** By now, you should have filed your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). If you haven't, apply at fafsa.gov. If your college requests verification of your FAFSA information, you must submit required documents before the school will award financial aid.
- **Watch your student portal and email closely.** Once you're accepted for admission, the colleges you listed on your FAFSA will notify you of the financial aid they're offering.
- **Apply for scholarships.** Local scholarships as well as state/regional scholarships are available on the counselor's website. You can also see ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org to find Nebraska-based scholarships. You'll also find

links to national scholarship sites that are EducationQuest-approved.

- **Make your final college selection.** Notify the other colleges so they can take you off their mailing list.
- **Be aware of deadlines** to accept financial aid and college admission offers, submit your housing deposit, and register for new-student orientation.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Local scholarships have been updated and are available on the school website under the administration-counselor tab. Many of the scholarships are due April 15th, but students have been encouraged to start on them now. If you have questions about a scholarship, please ask! Remember, additional scholarships can be found on the counselor website, and students are encouraged to check it often! Seniors and Parents...Please make sure you inform the counseling office of any scholarships you receive.

JUNIORS...it's time to narrow your college choices.

Narrow your college choices soon to prepare for these upcoming activities:

- **ACT Test.** When you take the ACT this spring, you'll be asked to provide a list of colleges that should receive your score. Note: All juniors will take the state ACT free of charge on March 23.
- **Completion of the FAFSA** early next fall. You and your parents can complete the FAFSA beginning October 1 of your senior year. The colleges you list on the form will receive the results.
- **College applications.** Early next fall, it will be time to apply to your top college choices. Meridian will hold an Apply2College even early next fall.

IT'S COLLEGE VISIT TIME!

Spring is a great time for juniors to take an individual tour of a college of interest! Many schools offer "Junior Visit Days," or an individual tour can be arranged. Please see Ms. Hermsmeier if you need help in setting up a visit. Remember, every junior and senior is allowed two excused absences to visit colleges. Questions to ask during your visit are also available from the counselor's office.

17 & 18 YEAR OLD MALES:

The law requires that all males must register with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. It is now possible to submit registration information early, as long as the person is at least 17 years and 3 months old. Selective Service will keep your information on file and process it automatically within 30 days of your 18th birthday. To find out more information go to <https://www.sss.gov>. You can also register online.

2021-2022 CLASS REGISTRATION:

Over the next month, I will be meeting with each student in grades 8-11 to register for classes for next year. For next year's juniors and seniors, taking dual credit college classes may be an option. These students may also take college classes as part of SENCAP (Southeast Community College's Career Academy). These are great opportunities for students to obtain college credit while still in high school! As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Lisa Hermsmeier
lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org
402-446-7265 ext. 1253

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

If your child has turned four by July 31, 2021, they are eligible for Pre-K and if they have turned 5 by that date, they need to be registered for Kindergarten. Please contact Kelly Kanost at Meridian School (402-446-7265 extension 4) to let us know if you are interested in registering your child for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents' meetings for each class are tentatively scheduled for April 12th, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Meridian Public Schools will be sending packets to those who have shown an interest in registering their child. Included in these packets will be information as to what materials we will need to enroll your student.

FBLA

This past month, the Meridian FBLA Chapter began preparing for SLC by registering for competitions. It may be cold outside, but members are still staying busy through this bitter winter! The chapter was able to do a Baked Goods Drawing on February 19th, during the boys' basketball game, and the proceeds went to March of Dimes. Thank you, Mr. Kort, for making it possible for the chapter to hold this fundraiser. Due to the pandemic, FBLA



was unable to have more fundraisers. And though the chapter wanted SLC to be in person instead of virtual, members are working to make the best of the situation. The chapter is hopeful for amazing SLC results this year as there are many committed members competing this year.

Hope everyone stays safe and continues to have a happy and safe winter!
Reporter, Tyleiah Gooding and President, Brynn Holtmeier



FFA

February has been rewarding for our chapter. At our monthly meeting we discussed a variety of opportunities. The Jefferson County Farm Bureau Student Project Grant application is now available for members to apply for grant money to grow their SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) projects. Mrs. Hebda has the application and it must be postmarked by March 15th. We also discussed the opportunity to purchase Boer show goats. Two yearling does and one three-year old buck is available. Contact Jan Stokebrand at 402-239-1175 if interested. A State FFA Convention update was also given. This year, all aspects of convention will be held virtually, but members will still be able to participate in competitions, workshops and other leadership opportunities. Samuel Thomas was awarded the January FFA Member of the Month. He participated in LDE contests including Ag Literacy Speaking and the Conduct of Chapter Meeting, attends and participates in nearly every FFA activity, and always lends a helping hand. On February 3rd, three of our members submitted an application for a proficiency award for district review. A proficiency highlights the growth and success of a student's SAE project. Kailyn Paul in Small Animal Production & Care, Bailey Holtmeier in Poultry Production

Entrepreneurship, and Brynn Holtmeier in Agricultural Education Placement all received gold rankings and will be sent on to the state level. Thank you for your support and hard work in our chapter throughout the last month.

Upcoming Events:

- March 2: CDEs (Career Development Events) at Centennial HS
- March 9: March Chapter FFA Meeting at 7:30am

Sincerely,
Chase Bartels
Meridian FFA Reporter

STUCO

February was full of firsts for the Meridian Student Council. Instead of carnations, the council sold Eileen's frosted sugar cookies for Valentine's Day. Just like the carnations, red, pink, and white options were available. It's safe to say that the cookies were a hit. Stu-Co was estimating a sale of about 100 cookies. The group was certainly not expecting to sell 800 cookies! Thank you to everyone who purchased cookies! Also, a big thank you to the Student Council sponsors and members who helped the fundraiser run smoothly.

Two other firsts occurred this month. During the last week in February, there were two days during which the girls couldn't talk to the guys and two days during which the guys couldn't talk to the girls. The students had hearts with their names on them and had to give it up whenever they talked to a person of the opposite gender. This was to crown a Mr. and Miss Irresistible before the Sweetheart Dance. What is usually the Winter Dance turned into a Sweetheart Dance after it was postponed from January to February. This was also the **kickoff to the Student Council's Annual Canned Food Drive**. The food drive will continue through the month of March with donations of canned or non perishable food being accepted.

This month the Student Council is excited to once again be hosting a dodgeball tournament on Friday, March 19th, at 6:30 PM. This will be

the 8th year for our Dodgeball Tournament. You will be able to register online at bit.ly/meridiandodgeball or with a packet at school. Masks will be required for everyone when they are not playing. We are looking forward to another great tournament with all proceeds going to Nebraska Make-A-Wish. Concessions, run by Elementary Student Council, will be available during the tournament.

Hoping everyone has a
Marvelous March!
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

BUNNY RUN

The Meridian Elementary Student Council is hosting a 5K or 1 mile fun run/walk. The race will start at 2:00 p.m. (registration begins at 1:00 p.m.) in front of the Image Hair Salon in Daykin. Every participant is welcome to dress in their best Easter attire! All proceeds will be donated to Live On Nebraska in memory of Peyton VanWesten and Garrett Klipp.

A registration form can be found at the back of this newsletter. Please complete the form and return it to Echoe Davis at Meridian Public School using the address listed at the bottom of the form.

SFS Parents' Meeting

There will be an SFS Parents' Meeting on March 16th, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commons of Meridian Public Schools. If your child is interested in playing baseball this summer, please plan to attend.

Coaches will be voted on at the meeting. If you are interested in coaching any of the three divisions, please contact Lonnie Schafer (402-520-1916) or Toby Sones (402-300-0681).





Randall L. Kort
Superintendent

Phone: 402-446-7265
Fax: 402-446-7246
www.meridianmustangs.org

Harold L. Scott
Principal

Busing Information Update

Meridian Public School is reviewing its bus routes and needs your assistance. If your family is planning to ride the Meridian Public School bus during the 2021-2022 school year (*on a regular basis or not*), please complete the information below and return the form to Meridian Public School by **Thursday, April 1st, 2021**. We will publish bus routes with specific pick-up/drop-off points in our July newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kort at 402-446-7265. Thank you.

Family Name: _____ Phone #(s): _____

AND

Physical Address: _____

Names of Child(ren) Riding: _____

Preferred Pick-up/Drop-off Location(s): _____ / _____

(This will usually be at the end of the lane or a specified location.)

Early (1:30 p.m.) Dismissal Information Request

Meridian Public School has nine (9) scheduled 1:30 p.m. dismissals this coming school year. The early dismissals are for in-services, parent-teacher conferences, and vacation breaks. We understand these early dismissals create a disruption in the regular school day family supervision plans. Since the disruption is our making, Meridian would like to assist in minimizing the hassles created by our scheduling.

Meridian Public School will create "Early Dismissal (1:30 p.m.) Bus Routes". The routes will be similar to the regular daily routes – same number of routes, various drop-off locations, and an estimated time schedule. Because these routes may be different than the regular daily routes with additional or different drop-off locations and times, we need your assistance.

All families who plan to utilize Meridian's bus service on *early dismissal days* need to complete and return the information below by **Thursday, April 1st, 2021**.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kort at 402-446-7265. Thank you.

Family Name: _____ Phone #(s): _____

AND

Physical Address: _____

Names of Child(ren) Riding: _____

Preferred Pick-up/Drop-off Location(s): _____ / _____

(This will usually be at the end of the lane or a specified location.)

BY APRIL 1st, 2021, please return to:

Bus Route Data
Meridian Public School
PO Box 190
Daykin, NE 68338



8th Annual Meridian Student Council Dodgeball Tournament



Who: Anyone (student / staff / community members)
7th grade and up

What: 6 person co-ed dodgeball tournament, no more
than 3 guys per team

When: Friday, March 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Where: Both Gyms

Why: Meridian Student Council Make-A-Wish Fundraiser

Cost: \$30 per team

**Registration packets and money will be due to
Mr. VanderSchaaf or Ms. Drees by
Monday, March 15th, 2021**

To Sign-Up:

1. Get a packet from Mr. VanderSchaaf's Room
or
2. Fill out this online form...
bit.ly/meridiandodgeball

****Concessions Available During the Tournament
Hosted by Elementary StuCo**



Bunny Run Registration Form 2021

5k or 1 mile

April 3rd 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 Easter Attire Registration at 1:00

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 March 26, 2021	Late and Race Day Registration
_____ \$15 5k _____ \$10 1mile	_____ \$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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dschwisow3@gmail.com

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