



# 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)

September, 2021

Newsletter - September, 2021  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

The Meridian staff is excited to start the 2021-2022 school year. Meridian welcomes Mr. Nore, our new Social Studies teacher, and Mr. Becker, our new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Mrs. Thomas, who has subbed for us over the past few years, will be working as an elementary Special Education teacher.

What a great time of year. Seeing all the students coming back to school, meeting the new students and welcoming them to our Meridian family.

As the fields are being prepared for harvest, please drive safely and be cautious of combines and trucks.

Thanks to MPIE for arranging the food and drinks at the Open House. Thanks also go to Mrs. Peters and Ms. Drees for sponsoring the back to school dance for the secondary students.

Students began classes on August 18<sup>th</sup>, and we opened our doors to a total of 207 students.

Athletics begin this week at Meridian with the volleyball team playing a jamboree game on Tuesday, August the 24<sup>th</sup>, at Thayer Central. Thursday, August the 26<sup>th</sup>, is our season opener against Blue Hill in Volleyball and Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, the football team opens its season at Dorchester.

The band will be marching at the State Fair on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 10:30 a.m.

### Bus Routes:

Our bus routes are continuing to change and adapt to best serve 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 advanced knowledge your child will NOT be riding the bus, contact the school and leave a message with Kelly.

### Alexandria Area Route

Janelle Heiserman  
402-300-1704

### Fairbury / Daykin (Methodist Church stop) Route

Tonya Griffin  
402-300-1722

### Ohiova/Tobias Area Route

Elizabeth Noel  
402-300-1708

### Western/Daykin Area Route

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

### Tobias/Western Area Route

Wendy McKenzie  
308-627-7091

### 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.

\*\* 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 16, 2021

### Regular August 16, 2021 Meeting

7:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on August 16, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 was Superintendent Kort and Principal Scott.

The meeting was recessed at 7:01 to allow members to attend volleyball and football parents meeting. The meeting came back into session at 7:30.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

No comments were heard from the public.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

A: Minutes of Monday, July 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

B: District Financial Report

C: Activity Fund Report

D: Hot Lunch Fund Report

G: Bills

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

### Curriculum report:

- Still working on quotes for the lights, sound system, headsets, etc.

Scheer moved and Sobotka seconded to approve ALICAP as the insurer for the 2021-2022 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

The District Area Workshop for school boards will be held on September 15, 2021 in York. The State School Board Convention will be held November 17 - 19, 2021 in Omaha.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the transfer of the 2020-2021 budget funds into the Activity Account. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Rut moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the transfer 2020-2021 budget funds into the Depreciation Account.



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

Niederklein moved and Scheer seconded to approve the 2021-2022 Student Handbook. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the fleet purchase of a Ford Excursion through Beatrice Ford. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Principal’s Report:

- Current student count – Elementary – 108 and High School – 96.
• Reminder that on Fridays, school dismisses at 3:12.
• Welcome new faculty members: Bryan Becker – 5th Grade, Jacob Nore – JH/HS Social Studies, Sarah Thomas – Elementary Special Education and Wade Vernon – Technology.
• Staff began with in-service meetings on Friday, August 13 and continued them on Monday, August 16 and Tuesday, August 17.
• First day of school is Wednesday, August 18, 2021 with a 1:30 dismissal.
• The Back to School Bash is planned for Friday, August 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
• School pictures are scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, 2021.
• Volleyball jamboree game will be at Thayer Central on Tuesday, August 24, 2021.
• JV & Varsity volleyball plays at Meridian against Blue Hill on Thursday, August 26, 2021.
• The first football game will be on Friday, August 27, 2021 at Dorchester.
• The marching band will perform at the State Fair on Friday, August 27, 2021.

Superintendent’s Report:

- Update on Summer Projects
◦ Ceiling Painting Project Complete
◦ Hauled Away a Load of Iron
◦ Hauled Away the Old Gray Van
• Students Involved in Fall Sports
◦ 16 of 28 Boys Involved (57%)
◦ 26 of 38 Girls Involved (68%)

- Projection of 2021-2022 Budget
◦ Current Valuation has not been Received
◦ Option Money Increase
◦ Plan to Increase Special Building from 1 – 1 1/2 Cent
◦ Increase to General Fund will be Minimal

Next Meeting was set for Sunday, September 12, 2021. Budget Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by the Tax Request Hearing, immediately followed by the Regular Board Meeting.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 8:20 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



Table with 4 columns: Grade, Student Count, Exchange, Total. Rows include PreK through 6th, and Grand Total 204.

NSAA 9th-11th count – (Current 49)(Last year 49)(2 years 51)(3 years 58)(4 years 60)(5 years 67)(6 years 59)(7 years 46)

A reminder that on Fridays we dismiss at 3:12pm. (30 minutes early) We ask that parents be aware that students will be dropped off 30 minutes earlier on Fridays!

We would like to welcome our new faculty members:

- Bryan Becker – 5th grade
Jacob Nore – JH/HS Social Studies
Sarah Thomas – Elementary Sped

In-service meetings began on Friday, August 13, and continued on August 16 & 17. Trainings include PBiS, QPR,

close reading, fidelity documentation, Envisions math, van driving, committees, and technology.

Students’ first day of school was Wednesday, August 18 with a 1:30 dismissal.

The Back to School Bash was held on Friday, August 20 at 6:30pm. The students had a good time reconnecting with friends.

School pictures were scheduled for Wednesday, August 25.

Volleyball Jamboree game was at Thayer Central in Hebron on Tuesday, August 24.

Junior Varsity and Varsity volleyball played at home vs Blue Hill on Thursday, August 26.

The first football game was Friday, August 27 at Dorchester at 7pm.

The marching band performed at the State Fair on Friday, August 27 at 10:30 am.



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 29
ACCUPLACER for Juniors/Seniors for College Classes
Wednesday, October 13
PSAT for Interest Juniors
Wednesday, October 20
ASVAB for Juniors

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

- 1. Apply to your top college choices. Meridian participates in Nebraska’s Apply2College campaign in October, so 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](https://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](https://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 Webinar** at the school in October (Seniors will watch this as a class) to learn about types of financial aid and the FAFSA.
- 5. Find free FAFSA Tools** at [EducationQuest.org](https://EducationQuest.org) to help you prepare for and complete the FAFSA.

### Thank You

Meridian Public Schools would like to thank the Heartland Bank in Daykin and Meridian Partners In Education for the red pocket calendars. Every year these organizations show their support for our students, staff, and parents by purchasing these calendars. We truly appreciate all you do for us!

Calendars are still available at the Heartland Bank in Daykin or Meridian Public Schools. We have a limited supply and are giving them out on a "first come/first served" basis. Make sure you pick one up soon!

### FFA

The Meridian FFA Chapter is off to a great start! The officer team worked hard to plan for the upcoming year. Many



L to R: Brayden Rut, Chase Bartels, Kymber Schwisow, Kailyn Paul, Bailey Holtmeier, Erika Schwisow

FFA members achieved success at the Jefferson and Saline County Fair as well.

On August 14th, we held an FFA picnic at Lone Star. This was an



opportunity for new members and parents to learn more about what the Meridian FFA Chapter has to offer as well as meet the new officer team. Our chapter was also selected as a recipient of the AGCO Grant sponsored by Wells Implement in Plymouth. We used the funds to purchase a grow tower and plan to grow leafy greens, herbs and more vertically.



L to R: Ashauna Davis, Peyton Norine-deMonbrun

Upcoming events:

- Trash Pick-Up: August 30th at 6:15pm
- September FFA Meeting: September 1st at 6:30pm in the commons
- Husker Harvest Days: September 15th near Grand Island
- Farm Safety Norris Presentation: September 21st
- Launch Program Training: September 21st & 22nd in Lincoln
- Careers in Ag Day: September 29th in York

- Mock Land Judging Competition: October 2nd at 9am, location TBD
- Area Land Judging Contest: October 6th, location TBD

Sincerely,

Kymber Schwisow  
Meridian FFA Reporter

### STUCO

School is back in session! The Student Council is very excited about all of the events and activities it has planned. One event that happened the first Friday back was the Back-to-School Bash, which is a casual dance for all 7-12 grade students. Stu-Co also provided a \$1 meal deal for those who attended. Officers of Stu-Co also made tri-folds promoting different organizations in the school to inform the school about what they do.

Homecoming is just around the corner, which means even more fun activities. The Student Council is looking forward to the second Homecoming Parade. The Homecoming dance will be Saturday, September 11th. There will be more information about Homecoming Week in the September daily bulletins.

Wishing everyone a Super School Year!  
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier



# **2 PERSON SCRAMBLE**

## **September 12, 2021**

**Friend Country Club**

**\$50.00 PER PERSON: Golf Carts, 18 Holes**

**Please RSVP to Deanna Brakhage**  
**at 402-418-0120.**

**No rain date scheduled!!!!**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM**

**TEE TIME AT 9:00 AM**

**▶ Prizes**

**▶ Mulligan's Available**

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cheer Classic**

# **Meridian Cheerleaders & Dance**





**BUY THE YARD**

**You could win \$250!**

**Pick the yard line you think the ball will be on at the end of the 3rd quarter at the last home game on October 15. Cost per pick is \$25.**

**Enter to win at all home football games. Need not be present on October 15 to win.**

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