



# 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, 2021

Newsletter - December, 2021  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

Normal - I hesitated to mention this, but it seems that the school year has begun to seem normal. Students are in class, with students competing in FFA events, One Act, Football and Volleyball have just finished their seasons, now we are preparing for winter sports. We are estimating 6 boys for wrestling, 13 boys for basketball, and 22 for girls' basketball. We are very close to having 65% of our students being involved in our activities. That is great news!

Thanks to all the parents and fans for your continued support during the fall activities. Please continue that same support as we move into the winter activities of basketball and wrestling.

**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 boys basketball. This will affect the start times of all games to be played that day.**

Now that Thanksgiving is over and we prepare for Christmas break, please be aware there are approximately 17 school days left until the end of the second quarter. With so many events happening please help remind your children be aware of their grades and assignments that need to be completed.

It has started to look like winter. We had the first few snowflakes a few weeks ago to let us know it is coming soon. With winter beginning, 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:

All Call-School Messenger  
KLKN - TV: Lincoln  
KHAS - TV: Hastings  
KOLN/KGIN TV:  
Lincoln/Grand Island  
KUTT/KGMT 99.5 FM / 1310 AM  
Radio: Fairbury

**CALENDAR CHANGES:** The Junior High Basketball game locations are NOT correct in the red pocket calendar AND on the Winter Sports Calendar. If the contest is listed as "HOME" it will be "AWAY" and if listed as "AWAY", it will "HOME".

**Board of Education  
Meridian Public Schools  
District - 48-0303  
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338  
Monday, November 15, 2021**

**Regular November 15, 2021 Meeting**  
Meridian Public School Board of Education met on November 15, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

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

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse - present, Niederklein - present, Sobotka - present, Rut - present, and Bartels - present. Also present was Superintendent Kort and Principal Scott.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

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

No comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Wednesday, October 13, 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, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Curriculum report:

- The teachers continue to work on reading techniques. One example is using critical thinking to help the students understand what they are reading.
- The seniors visited the WWI Museum in Kansas City on November 9, 2021, since they were unable to go last year due to Covid-19. The juniors will visit the museum in the spring of 2022.

The Hazard Mitigation Resolution was presented to the Board. Sobotka reminded the Board that participating entities are eligible for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funds for a wide variety of projects.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the Hazard Mitigation Resolution. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Niederklein moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the teachers negotiations for the 2022-2023 school year. The total negotiated package is approximately a 3% increase from 2021-2022. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort presented information on the remainder of the first semester calendar.



Vorderstrasse moved and Rut seconded to grant the administration the authority to shorten the 1<sup>st</sup> semester by one school day. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort summarized the 2020-2021 Audit completed by Dana Cole.

Niederklein moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the Annual Audit Report. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The Multicultural Report was reviewed.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the Multicultural Report. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Policy 6000s were reviewed. The policies will be presented for approval at the December meeting.

Policy 4047 – “Professional Boundaries and Appropriate Relationships between Employees and Students” was presented for approval.

Niederklein moved and Sobotka seconded to approve Policy 4047. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort gave an update on the new scorer’s table that is being designed and ordered. Hopefully it will be available for use after the first of the year.

Principal’s Report:

- Current student count – Elementary – 110 and High School – 97, including 2 exchange students.
- Teachers completed part 3 of the close reading professional development training presented by Joni Runge, ESU5. Courtney Schendt, school psychologist, presented training on the SAT (student assistance team) process and paperwork.
- November 8-12 was School Psychologist week. We want to thank Courtney Schendt and Cole Stark for all they do for our students and staff.
- November 15-19 is American Education Week. We want to thank all staff for their dedication to serving our students.

- JH wrestling had a great start on its season with all 6 wrestlers placing in the top 4.
- JH basketball has started practice. HS basketball and wrestling practice started today.
- One act presented a matinee performance of “Mmmbeth” for the elementary this afternoon. The home performance is Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm. Meridian performs first at the CRC play production contest in Shickley on Wednesday, November 17, at 8:30 am. They perform Saturday, November 20, at 2:30 pm at the Pawnee City invite. Districts will be held on Wednesday, December 1, at Harvard. Meridian performs first at 9:30 am.
- Girls’ and boys’ varsity basketball jamboree games will be played at Superior on Tuesday, November 23.
- We will have a 1:30 pm dismissal on Wednesday, November 24, for Thanksgiving break.
- The first home basketball games will be on Thursday, December 2, vs. Dorchester.
- Wrestling home quad will be Friday, December 3 starting at 5:30 pm.

Superintendent’s Report:

- NASB Meetings
  - State Meeting in Omaha on November 17 – 19
- 2021 Holiday Basketball Tournament
- Boys and Girls State Basketball will be held in the same week
- Possible changes with the Nebraska Department of Education

Next Meeting was set for Monday, December 20, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

*Jamie Niederklein.*

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



Student Count for 2021-2022

As of 11-15-21

PreK	5	7th	13 +1
Kindergarten	21	8th	18
1st	15 -1	9th	19
2nd	10	10th	11
3rd	17	11th	19
4th	15	12th	15
5th	12		95
6th	15	Exchange	+2
	110		97

Grand Total 207  
 NSAA 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> count –  
 (Current 49)(Last year 49)(2 years 51)(3 years 58)(4 years 60)(5 years 67)(6 years 59)(7 years 46)

On October 10th, the teachers completed part 3 of the close reading professional development training presented by Joni Runge from ESU5. Courtney Schendt, school psychologist, presented training on the SAT (student assistance team) process and paperwork.

November 8-12 was School Psychologist Week. We want to thank Courtney Schendt and Cole Stark for all they do for our students and staff.

November 15-19 was American Education Week. Meridian Public Schools would like to thank all staff members for their dedication to serving our students. On Monday, November 15th, MPIE purchased doughnuts for the entire staff to show their appreciation. Thank you MPIE members for the thoughtful treat.

Junior High wrestling started on November 8th, at Friend. The team had a great start on its season with all 6 wrestlers placing in the top 4.

Junior High basketball has started practice. High School basketball and wrestling practice started on November 15th. Good luck to all players and coaches for a successful season.

One act presented a matinee performance of “Mmmbeth” for the elementary on November 15. The home performance was Tuesday, November 16, at 7pm. Meridian performed at 8:30am at the CRC Play



Production Contest in Shickley on Wednesday, November 17. Meridian received 4th Place with 3 superior ratings. The cast and crew traveled to Pawnee City to perform on Saturday, November 20. Once again, the play received 4th place with 3 superior ratings. Districts will be held on Wednesday, December 1, at Harvard. Meridian performs first at 9:30am. The students love to perform to a live audience, so please plan on attending to support their hard work.

Girls and boys varsity basketball jamboree games were played at Superior on Tuesday, November 23.

Meridian Public Schools had a 1:30pm dismissal on Wednesday, November 24, for Thanksgiving break.

The first basketball games will be at home - Meridian versus Dorchester - on Thursday, December 2. The girls junior varsity game will begin the evening at 4:00pm with the other games following.

A wrestling quad will start at 5:30pm at Meridian on Friday, December 3, to kick off the high school wrestling season.



2nd Semester Schedule Changes

All 7-12 students interested in making changes to their 2nd semester schedule should do so before the holiday break. Please plan to do this the week December 13-17. 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. Hermsmeier 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-timeline/) 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. 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 www.actstudent.org. From here, you will fill in specific information and also select your testing date and site. Each ACT costs \$60.00, but if you qualify for free or reduced lunches, you may request a fee waiver from Mrs. Hermsmeier. Our school code is 282-345. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Hermsmeier 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 register by January 7, for the February 12 ACT, by February 25, for the April 2 ACT, and/or by May 6, for the June 11 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 and the senior google classroom 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. Before you start, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at 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. The college will not process your financial aid until they receive the documents.
\* 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 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.



**CRC VOLLEYBALL**

Crossroads Conference ended their 2021 volleyball season on November 9, with the selection of the All-Conference players. Congratulations to Jaala Stewart, Kim Schropfer, and Kaylee Pribyl for being selected to the First Team and to Ally Kort who received Honorable Mention.

Meridian earned the Regular Season Runner-Up ending their season with an 11-1 record. Congratulations to Coach Mary Schropfer, assistant coaches Leslie Drees and Brooke Wolfe, and the entire team.

**2021 ALL DISTRICT FOOTBALL**

The following Meridian football players were selected to the 2021 All-District teams:

**First Team Offense**

Jacob Dennis - End

**Second Team Offense**

Dylan Peterson - Running Back

Kolton Kumpf - Center

Angelo Herrera - Kicker

**Honorable Mention Offense**

Brayden Rut

**First Team Defense**

Keagan Sones - Defensive Lineman

**Second Team Defense**

Drew Niederklein - Defensive Back

J.D. Adam - Defensive Back

**Honorable Mention Defense**

Mario Escobar

Congratulations to Coach John Adam, assistant coaches Chris Placek and Jacob Baber, and the athletes who worked hard to earn this recognition.

**STRIV Opportunity**



Meridian Public School is looking for 1-2 people in the community interested in commentating home varsity basketball contests. Knowledge of the game and the rules is a must! Please contact Mrs. Schropfer at the school at 402.446.7265 if interested.

**FBLA**

This month the Meridian FBLA chapter was planning on doing roadside trash pickup however it was canceled due to weather circumstances. Members plan to have it sometime during the spring. Fundraisers are in full swing with Butter Braids, Rada, and the cooking sheets. If interested, please contact any FBLA member to order. Also with the end of the semester coming up, the chapter is still working on ribbon

projects for SLC. The chapter is looking forward to preparing for the State Leadership Conference.

Wishing everyone a Wonderful Winter!

Reporter, Jaala Stewart and President, Brynn Holtmeier

**STUCO**

It's beginning to look a lot like winter! The Meridian Student Council is excited for preparing student and staff activities for the end of the semester. These activities include Secret Santa, games, movies, and class competitions. The Council is also planning to host the Hat and Mitten Tree to donate winter clothing items to those in need.

During this past month, the Student Council has been at work planning a school improvement project and recognizing staff members. Stu-Co is still discussing the school improvement project. The Student Council has introduced a Weekly Feature on Facebook, so the community can get to know the staff at Meridian. Members of the Student Council have enjoyed interviewing staff members and are looking forward to continuing this "Feature" for the rest of the year.

Happy Holidays!

Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

**FFA Report**

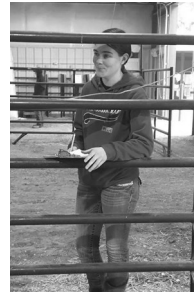
November is off to a great start for the Meridian FFA Chapter. We ended October in Indianapolis, IN at the National FFA Convention. Over



L to R: Kymber Schwisow, Chase Bartels, Erika Schwisow, Brayden Rut, Peyton Norine, Tucker Simms

55,000 FFA members attended sessions, workshops, went on educational tours, and networked with other chapters from across the country. We also held our annual fruit sales fundraiser. Thank you to all who purchased products and helped support our FFA chapter so that we

can attend contests, conventions and workshops. On November 10th, 12 FFA members competed at the District Livestock Judging contest held at the York Fairgrounds. While there the members evaluated breeding and market animals,

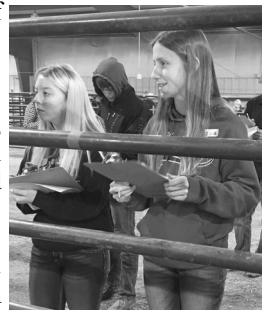


Kailyn Paul

placed them based on looks and overall finish, and gave reasons on why they placed them how they did. Out of 16 teams, the senior division placed 9th, the junior division placed 7th. Individually in the senior division out of 92 contestants, Erika

Schwisow placed 23rd and Kailyn Paul placed 38th. Individually in the junior

division out of 149 contestants, Kymber Schwisow placed 14th, Taelyn Filipi placed 20th and McKenzie Hofstetter placed 23rd.



McKenzie Hofstetter

Individually in the junior high division out of 85 contestants, Olivia Schafer placed 20th and Kyan Sones placed 24th. On November 13th, Peyton Norine, Lana Santacroe, Cooper Wolfe, Tucker Simms, and JD



L to R: Cooper Wolfe, Lana Santacroe, Tucker Simms, J.D. Adam, Peyton Norine

Adam traveled to Kearney for their first Launch quick pitch for their business. They were granted \$1,250 to buy two more grow towers for the greenhouse. Peyton and Lana also attended the Pathways to Careers conference where they got to explore different career pathways in agriculture.

Sincerely,  
Kymber Schwisow,  
FFA Reporter



# Reindeer Run Registration Form 2021

## 5k or 1 mile

## December 18th 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 1:00

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 December 13th, 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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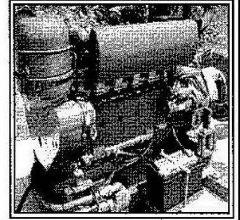
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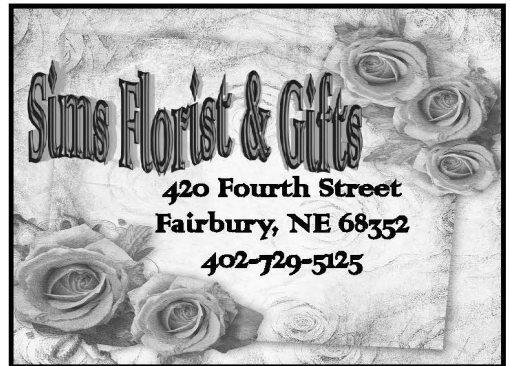
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