



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

April, 2023

Newsletter - April, 2023
Superintendent
Randy Kort

It is hard to believe, but here comes April. The school year has been flying by, and knowing how many events are coming in April and May, the school year will be wrapping up before we know it. Many events such as quiz bowl, track, vocal music and band are going to be happening. Please keep an eye on your child and assist them with staying ahead of homework and assignments.

Seniors are down to six weeks until graduation.

Meridian will be hosting our annual track meet at Friend Public School on April 3 with a start time of 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in helping with our meet, please contact Jason Bartels. With 25 students participating please take time to come support your school and our athletes.

If your child is driving to or from school please remind them that we are in the season when the farmers are going to be moving equipment as they are preparing the fields for planting. It is so important to be prepared when driving over a hill. There might be a tractor just out of sight so please slow down.

State testing will begin during the month of April for students. Please make sure your student is getting plenty of rest and eating healthy. Juniors were able to complete their testing last week in Beatrice.

If you have not registered for the bus route for next year please do so.



Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District - 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, March 20, 2023

Regular March 20, 2023 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on March 20, 2023, 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: Barton - present, Niederklein - present, Sobotka - present, Rut - present, and Bartels - present. Also present were Superintendent Kort and Ms. Drees.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Niederklein moved and Barton seconded to excuse Scheer from the meeting. Vote taken: Barton - 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 Sunday, February 19, 2023 Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort and Ms. Drees presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Superintendent Kort presented Policy 5206 Early Graduation to the Board and proposed amending Policy 5206 by

changing the deadline for requesting to walk for the graduation ceremony from February 1 to March 10. Following discussion, Sobotka moved and Barton seconded to amend Policy 5206, changing the request date to walk at graduation from February 1 to March 10. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.



Superintendent Kort presented the 2023 - 2024 calendar to the Board. Following discussion, Rut moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the 2023 - 2024 calendar. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the board with the Nebraska Association of School Board (NASB) calendar and events for the year. He also reported on ALICAP.

Rut moved and Barton seconded to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Mr. Jacob Nore. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Drees presented the Principal's Report to the Board.

Superintendent Kort presented the Superintendent's Report to the Board.

Sobotka moved and Barton seconded to approve the 2023 - 2024 contract for Superintendent Kort with a 3.5% increase. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.



The Americanism Committee will meet on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting was set for Monday, April 17, 2023, beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303

**“The Dish”
with Drees**

Greetings from the band room and interim principal’s office. It is hard to believe we have made it to April and are in the 4th Quarter of the school year. I always feel rejuvenated this time of year. Maybe it is the time change, although I don’t like to admit that. Or maybe it is the glimpses of warmer weather and the anticipation of all the new life we will start to see.

Whatever brings this feeling of renewal, I am thankful for it because it’s an exciting time of the year, especially in our school. Track season is underway, academic testing has started, and students are preparing for contests and state conventions. Music students will also have their final concerts, and the 4th graders will present their wax museum. It is wonderful to see the students’ hard work culminate at this time of year, and we love sharing it.

As we head through this month, keep an eye on the calendar and all the events taking place. With track meets and field trips, we want to make sure our students are prepared and at the right places at the right time. Please remind them to keep checking in with teachers for assignments when they are absent. We don’t want grades to slip. Let’s finish this last quarter strong!



COUNSELOR’S CONNECTION
by
Lisa Hermsmeier

Spring is officially here, which means it’s time to start thinking about schedules for next year! I will be meeting with students in grades 6-11 to get an idea of the classes they would like to take. Once a schedule is set for next year, students will have a chance to finalize their selections. As a reminder, all Meridian high school students need 4 years of English and Social Studies, 3 years of Math and Science, 2 years of Fine Arts, 1 year each of Technology, Physical Education, and Vocational or Foreign Language. Also, starting the next school year, students will be required to take and pass their Personal Finance class as a state requirement for graduation. Thankfully, we are ahead of the game, and students are already required to take this class per board policy. Parents, please be sure to discuss your student’s plan for the upcoming year.

Once again, next year’s Junior and Senior students will have an opportunity to take dual-credit online college classes. Certain requirements to participate in these classes do apply. Right now, we utilize college resources through Peru State College, Southeast Community College, and Doane University. Students also have an opportunity to participate in SENCAP’s Career Academy, which is a great way to earn college credits free of charge! Students have been informed of these offerings. Parents, if you have questions regarding these opportunities, please talk to your child or feel free to contact me.

Seniors ... it’s decision time! If you haven’t done so already, it’s time to choose the college that’s the right fit for you. Compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications, and campus visit notes. List the pros and cons of each school using the following criteria:

•**Location** – Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won’t experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If so, you may not make it home as often as you’d like.

- Cost** – Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond your freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships? How much in student and parent loans will you need to cover expenses?
- Academic program** – Which college offers the degree program that best fits your career interests? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other degree programs that interest you?
- Student life** – Does the school offer activities you will enjoy? Do you like the living arrangements provided by the school? Will you have an opportunity to work on or near campus?
- Make your final decision by May 1** and then notify the colleges you’re rejecting so they can offer your spot, and any financial aid, to another student.

REMINDER: Local scholarships are due APRIL 15th! The application forms for all scholarships are found on the school website under the administration -counselor tab. Be sure to follow directions and complete all steps of each application. Also, you need to let me know of any scholarships you receive, as those scholarships will be announced at graduation.

If you haven’t completed the FAFSA yet, now is the time to do so! Remember, the FAFSA will provide you with a Student Aid Report, which will determine your financial aid eligibility for next year.

Juniors: Many of you have taken the opportunity this spring to visit a college of interest. I would encourage more of you to do this if you can find time around spring events. If you need help scheduling a visit, let me know! When you visit, remember to take a “Campus Visit Form” with you so the office can mark it as an excused absence.

Juniors... these questions will help you narrow your college choices
By picking your top colleges now, you’ll be better prepared to apply for financial aid and college admission early next fall. Start by answering these questions:

What do you want to study?
Explore your career interest and then research colleges that offer programs in areas you may want to pursue.



What kind of school do you want to attend?

Do you prefer a large university or a small college? Are you interested in a community college? What kind of student/teacher ratio do you want?

Where do you want to go to college?

Do you want to live close to home or far away? Do you want to be in a major city or a small town? How big of a factor is out-of-state or private school tuition? If you want to go out of state, investigate programs like the Midwest Student Exchange Program which may provide discounted tuition.

What can you afford?

Consider overall costs: tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and personal expenses. Determine what you and your parents can afford to pay out-of-pocket and plan to apply for financial aid to help make up the difference. Calculate the loan debt you and your parents may need to incur to pay for your college education.

Reminder: The registration deadline for the June 10th ACT is May 5th. Go to www.actstudent.org to register. Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch – visit with Ms. Hermsmeier if you would like a waiver. If you have questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to contact me! Lisa Hermsmeier, School Counselor
lhhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org
402-446-7265 ext. 1253

Grades 3-8 Will Soon Be Taking State Assessments

Testing dates are April 3 – May 12, 2023. Meridian will have a testing schedule for students, so the students should be aware when they will be testing. Don't forget to make sure your child(ren) get a good night's rest, eat breakfast on the day of the assessment, and stay positive!

The NSCAS (pronounced, "en-skass") Summative assessment adapts dynamically based on each student's ability and includes innovative, interactive question formats that engage students and enable them to demonstrate higher order thinking. As a result, it will take less time for students to complete and will provide deeper information about what they know.

At the high school level, the ACT college entrance exam, provided to all juniors, will continue to serve as the summative assessment in English language arts, math, and science. The juniors took this test on March 21.

If you would like to learn more about the NSCAS assessment, check out the NSCAS website at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/>

Just a 🎵 From the Music Department

March was such a busy month for our musicians! On March 23, we had the privilege of hosting the MUDECAS music contest here at Meridian. Congratulations to our Band, Show Choir, and Evelyn Woitalewicz on receiving Superior Ratings and to our Choir, Kailyn Paul, and Amber Vinsonhaler on receiving Excellent Ratings.

This is the time of year when things get very busy, so we wanted to remind everyone to mark their calendars for some of our upcoming spring concerts:

- Monday, April 17, 2023: Elementary Spring Concert @ 7pm
- Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Junior High & High School Spring Concert

Thank you for all you do to support music at Meridian!

2023 Driver's Education Class

This Driver's Education Class is certified through the State of Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles. To qualify for this class you will need to be 14 before October 14, 2022 and registered with Mr. Filipi by May 15, 2023. . The class will consist of 30-36 hours of online instruction, 5 hours of supervised practice driving, and a 10-15 minute driving test. The lecture part of the class will be the AAA How To Drive Online Course. You will need to email me at dean.filipi@emwolves.net to sign up for the class. The fee for the class is \$305. Payment will be needed before you receive your pass code for the online class. Once you have completed the practice driving part of the course we will meet in Exeter to take the driving test. Once you have completed the online class and email me the Certificate of Completion I will enter you into the DMV system. We will do the driving part

of the class this summer. The student will need to pass both the driving and the written part of the class with a minimum grade of 80%. Please make checks payable to Dean Filipi. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Filipi at 402 -853-1968.

HEAD COOK
Meridian Public Schools is searching for applicants to fill the head cook position. This position offers .75 health insurance and retirement benefits. Duties include ordering and planning school meals to meet state and federal requirements, daily cooking and delivery. The head position will begin in late summer 2023. This person would have a training opportunity starting this spring. Please visit the District Office to pick up an application or email Mr. Kort at rkort@meridianmustangs.org. Meridian Public Schools is accepting applications until the position is filled. This position is subject to a veteran's preference/ EOE .





Meridian Public Schools

72380 560th Avenue
P.O. Box 190
Daykin, NE 68338

Phone: 402-446-7265

www.meridianmustangs.org

Fax: 402-446-7246

Randall L. Kort, Superintendent

Leslie Drees, Interim 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 2023-2024 school year (*on a regular basis or not*), please complete the information below and return the form to Meridian Public School by **April 28th, 2023**. 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

If Meridian Public School has a 1:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. dismissal this coming school year we will need to know where students will need to be dropped off.

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 **April 28th, 2023**.

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.)

PLEASE RETURN TO THE ADDRESS BELOW BY APRIL 28TH, 2023:

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



Meridian Public Schools

2023 - 2024

July

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

*** Friday dismissal is 3:10**

Jan 3: Inservice: NS
Jan 4: Classes Resume
Jan 24: Inservice Early Out

January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

1st: S-87 T-92

2nd: S-88 T-93

Students Total 175

Teachers Total 185



*Coming to Meridian - May 8th
Before Coffee House Concert from 5-7 pm*

\$8 per plate

All you can eat 9" malted Belgium waffles

Waffleman™ Sausage

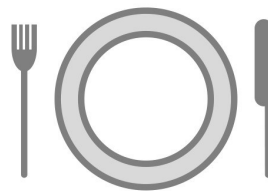
(pre-cooked pork links with no spices)

Fresh Whipped Cream

Butter

Six Syrups

**Maple, Pecan, Strawberry, Boysenberry,
Blueberry, and Sugar-free Maple**



Tag me! ● @WafflemanBill
#WafflemanBill



Meridian Alumni Banquet June 3rd, 2023

Activities are being planned for the Meridian Alumni Banquet to be held Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, at the Tobias Auditorium. Social Hour starting at 6:00 and meal served at 7:00.

The Alumni Association is sponsoring a sand volleyball tournament and a cornhole tournament. Both events will be held in Tobias. You and your spouse/guest are welcome to participate in one or both events. The honored the classes are 1973, 78, 83, 88, 93, 98, 2003, 08, 13, 18, and 23.

The Alumni Committee is still finalizing plans for the evening's entertainment. More information will be made public as it becomes available.

Cost of the event is \$25.00 per person payable to Meridian Alumni. T-shirts will be available to alumni ONLY, so make sure you pre-order if you would like one. Meridian alum who would like to purchase a t-shirt may do so for \$30.00 (includes registration). **This registration form is also available on the Meridian Alumni Association Facebook Page and Meridian Public Schools website (www.meridianmustangs.org).** *PLEASE HAVE YOUR REGISTRATION IN BY MAY 24th, 2023.*

Mail registrations to:
Meridian Alumni
PO Box 172
Daykin, NE 68338

Meridian Alumni Banquet – June 3rd, 2023 – Deadline: May 24th, 2023

Cost of the event is \$25.00 per person payable to Meridian Alumni. T-shirts will be available to alumni ONLY, so make sure you pre-order if you would like one. Meridian alum who would like to purchase a t-shirt may do so for \$30.00 (includes registration). **This registration form is also available on the Meridian Alumni Association Facebook Page and Meridian Public Schools website (www.meridianmustangs.org).**

Mail registrations to:
Meridian Alumni
PO Box 172
Daykin, NE 68338

Name _____ Phone# _____

Meridian Class of _____ T-shirt size _____ Sand Volleyball Yes _____ No _____
Cornhole Tournament Yes _____ No _____

Name _____ Phone# _____

Meridian Class of _____ T-shirt size _____ Sand Volleyball Yes _____ No _____
Cornhole Tournament Yes _____ No _____


If you are interested in helping in any way with this Banquet, please call one of the following:
Dwayne Wolfe: 402-520-2688 Pat Johnson: 402-446-2018




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Amy Rains
Crop Insurance Agent
CNCS
305 Tullis Ave
Daykin, NE 68338
Mobile: 402.228.6255



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