

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, 2025

Newsletter – April, 2025 Superintendent Randy Kort

·>>>>>>>>>

A special congratulation to Isaac Thomas as he qualified for state speech that is being held March 21st, at Kearney. Good Luck!!!!

Spring is here – well most days, as I am writing this article I see we have snow forecasted for this upcoming weekend and possibly Monday. Since we can't change it we might as well enjoy the variety offered with the Nebraska weather. We will take the moisture though.

Last year when I wrote my April newsletter I talked about the forecasted snow – this year I am writing about last week's snow. On Tuesday night, before donkey basketball, it was 79 degrees outside and I had made the all call to cancel school because of a forecasted blizzard. They assured us the storm was going to hit and hit hard. It was hard to believe, but I have to say the forecasters did predict that one. It has been many years since there had been that many poles snapped and people without power for such long stretches. In our area I want to send a Thank You to everyone associated with Norris Power Company as they did an amazing job to restore so many homes without power in a timely manner.

We are a few weeks into the 4th quarter and it is hard to believe but our seniors will be graduating in approximately 6 weeks. Parents please be aware of all the events going on and help remind your students to stay focused on their academics.

Meridian will be hosting our annual track meet at Friend Public School on April 7th, with a start time of 10:00 a.m. Mr. Asche will be contacting people to help. If you are able and willing to help please feel free to reach out to Mr. Asche.

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.

MAP testing will begin during the month of April for the students in grades 3-8. The juniors have taken the ACT test on March 25th, in Beatrice at the ESU.









Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District – 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, March 10, 2025

Regular March 10, 2025 Meeting
Meridian Public School Board of
Education met on March 10, 2025, as
per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Rut 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, Bartels – present, and Rut – present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Asche, and Principal Hull.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

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

No comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, February 10, 2025, 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, Bartels – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Principal Hull presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

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

Sobotka moved and Barton seconded to approve the hire of Grace Ellis as the high school English teacher. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Bartels – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Cody Turner requested to be approved for early graduation next school year. Cody explained to the Board his reasons for wanting to graduate early. presented three letters recommendation from staff members who were all in support of Cody graduating early. Cody has satisfied all of the criteria for the Early Completion Sobotka moved and Bartels seconded to approve Cody's request for early graduation. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Bartels – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Bartels moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the transfer of the State Apportionment of the District's share of the Temporary School Fund to the Lunch Fund. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Bartels – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Principal Ashce presented the Elementary Principal's Report and Principal Hull



Page 2

Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

presented the Junior High/High School Principal's Report to the Board.

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

Bartels moved and Barton seconded to approve the 2025-2026 contract for Principal Matthew Asche and Principal Alex Hull with a 3.3% increase to \$98,325. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Bartels – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Bartels moved and Barton seconded to approve the 2025-2026 contract for Superintendent Randy Kort with a 3.3% increase to \$152,400. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Bartels – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The Americanism Committee will meet on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. The next regular meeting was set for Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Niederklein moved and Bartels seconded to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Bartels – aye, and Rut – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



To ensure road safety when encountering farm equipment, drivers should slow down, maintain a safe distance, be aware of wide turns, and avoid passing in unsafe areas, while farmers should use proper signaling and be mindful of traffic conditions.

Here's a more detailed breakdown: **FOR DRIVERS:**

- •Be Patient and Aware: Farm equipment travels at slower speeds (5-15 mph) and makes wide turns, so be patient and avoid rushing or attempting unsafe passes.
- •Slow Down and Maintain Distance: Reduce speed and increase following distance to allow for maneuvering and potential stops.
- •Don't Assume: Don't assume the farmer will pull over or that it's safe to pass, especially if the shoulder is unsafe or if the farmer is making a wide turn.
- Check for Intensions: Before passing,

be sure of the farmer's intentions and that it's safe to do so.

- •No Passing Zones: Be aware of and obey "No Passing" zones, especially near intersections, bridges and railroad crossings.
- Yield: Give way to large farm vehicles, especially if they are traveling in the opposite direction and cannot safely pull over.
- •Share the Road: Be mindful of the farmer's right to use the road and allow them space to operate their equipment.
- •Be Mindful of Height: Be aware of overhead obstacles like power lines and low bridges, especially when encountering tall equipment.

FOR FARMERS:

- •Use Proper Signaling: Ensure all warning lights, flags, and slow-moving vehicle emblems are visible and operational.
- •Be Mindful of Traffic: Pay attention to traffic conditions and be prepared to pull over or yield when necessary.
- •Plan Routes Strategically: Choose routes that minimize traffic and potential hazards.
- •Drive Safely: Follow all traffic laws and drive defensively, anticipating potential hazards.
- •Be Aware of Wide Turns: Be aware your farm equipment may need to make wide turns and be prepared to signal and yield accordingly.
- •Be Aware of Height: Be mindful of the height of your equipment and avoid power lines, low bridges, and other overhead obstacles.



From the Horse's Mouth by Matt Asche

And then there was one...three quarters are behind us. As a reminder to students and parents, we still have one quarter in front of us. That remaining 4th quarter is an important one with essential academic student measurements (NSCAS, MAP, etc.), field trips, and other year-end projects for our elementary students. During our state testing window, routines and

consistency are important for students to be able to give their best efforts

Parents are reminded that even though Parent-Teacher Conferences were a few short weeks ago, you are encouraged to follow up with your child's teachers. We get to stay vigilant in meeting the needs of our students.

I want to recognize JD Adam on his third place finish at 175lbs at State Wrestling this year. He should be proud of his accomplishments throughout his storied career.

Isaac Thomas placed third in Extemporaneous Speaking at District Speech. Isaac has qualified to compete at State Speech on March 28 at Kearney.

Meridian is proud to host several upcoming events. On April 4, Meridian will be the site of a JH Honor Clinic (both vocal and instrumental). There is no school for students that day. April 7, Meridian hosts our HS track meet at Friend. Also on April 7, Meridian is the site of a Family Science Fair in coordination with Edgerton Explorit Center at 6:00PM. Finally, April 8, Meridian hosts a JH track meet at McCool Junction.

Matt Asche

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING WITH MR. HULL

April means Junior High and High School track meets, state conventions, and band and choir contests. We are excited for our students to compete, learn, and grow in all of these events. I want to congratulate Isaac Thomas on qualifying for State Speech in Extemp. We are also proud of Taelyn Filipi and Jaylee Sobotka who represented Meridian in the MUDECAS All-Star game. I also want to congratulate JD Adam on his 3rd pace finish at state wrestling. We also want to congratulate our Quiz Bowl team on qualifying for the state competition to be held later this month.

A year ago we celebrated the hard work of our School Improvement Team as we completed our five-year review. This team is hard at work this year reviewing perceptual data, student achievement data, and our previous exit report in order to set goals and priorities

Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

April, 2025

for the coming years. I am proud of the work that is taking place in this committee and we are excited to firm up our goals and begin the next phases of our process!

Finally, I want to thank the community for their support of our school and our activities. Student Council's Donkey Basketball was a great reminder of the strong partnership between our school and the communities we serve. It was a tremendous success for our Student Council who was raising funds for Make a Wish! Thank you to our great community members who are active in supporting our school!

COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION by Lisa Hermsmeier

Spring is officially here, which means it's time to start thinking about schedules for next year! I have met 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 vear, 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. 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 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 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. All seniors are required to submit the FAFSA or fill out an opt-out form before they graduate.

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 14th ACT is May 9th. 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 lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org 402-446-7265 ext. 1253

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN PARENTS' MEETINGS

If your child has turned four by July 31, 2025, they are eligible for Pre-K and if they have turned 5 by that date, they need to be registered for Kindergarten. Please contact Kelli Schoenbeck at Meridian (402-446-7265 extension 4) to let us know if you are interested in registering your child for the 2025-2026



Page 4

school year. The parents' meeting will

begin in the Commons of Meridian on

April 14th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.. The Pre-

K and Kindergarten will separate and go

to their perspective rooms to meet with

the teacher immediately following the

group meeting. 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.

Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

April, 2025

2025 AWARDS BANQUET

The 2025 Meridian Public Schools' Awards Banquet will be held on May 9th, 2025. Ricky's will cater the meal and start serving at 5:30 p.m. The awards ceremony will start at 6:00 p.m. We will need to get an accurate head count. Please contract Trish at 402-446-7265 extension 2 or tendorf@meridianmustangs.org by May 1st, and let her know how many in your family will be attending.

PLANT SALES

Meridian students will not be selling plants and seeds through Janet's Jungle this year. If you are interested in plants, Meridian FFA will be selling a variety from Friday, April 24th, through Saturday, April 26th, 2025. Additional information is available on the flier on page 9 of this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Emilye Yowell.

ATH GRADE WAX MUSEUM

PRESENTS: FAMOUS NEBRASKANS

















April 11th 2:20-2:50

Meridian Gym

stroll around the gym and listen as each 4th grader plays the role of someone that helped to shape our great state!





Meridian Public School, District 48-0303 Page 5

April, 2025



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

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

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

Phone: 402-446-7265 Fax: 402-446-7246 www.meridianmustangs.org Alex Hull, Secondary Principal Randall L. Kort, Superintendent Matthew Asche, Elementary 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 2025-2026 school year (on a regular basis or not), please complete the information below and return the form to Meridian Public School by May 1st, 2025. 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 May 1st, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kort at 402-446-7265. Thank you. Family Name: Phone #(s): AND Physical Address:

PLEASE RETURN TO THE ADDRESS BELOW BY MAY 1ST, 2025:

Names of Child(ren) Riding:

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





It's time to order your 2025 yearbook!! The yearbook will go on sale beginning Monday, March 31st. If you order before April 7th, the cost will be \$50.

Starting April 8th the yearbook price jumps to \$55. Yearbooks will be sold until April 18th Students can get thier name stamped on the cover for an additional fee of \$5.

Orders can be given to Mr. Pohlmann (Library)
or Trish Endorf (Main Office)
Make Checks Payable to Meridian Activity Fund

	Name:	
	Number of Yearbooks:	
	Name on Yearbook:	X I
	Total Amount Due:	
L		, J



K—12 Family

Science Night

Sponsored by M-PIE (Meridian Partners In Education)

Monday,

April 7th

Program 6:00 p.m.



Program starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by hands on science stations in the Competition Gym.

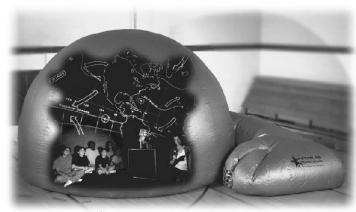
Science Stations



Families Sharing



Exploring



Star Lab



Hypothesis



Knowledge



Page 9 Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

April, 2025



THURSDAY

APRIL 2025

AT 3 - 6:30 PM

FRIDAY

APRIL 2025

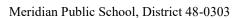
AT 3 - 6:30 PM

SATURDAY

26 APRIL 2025

AT 9 - 11 AM

Bedding Plants, Grasses, & Hanging Baskets
Custom Pot Planting Available
Contact Mrs. Yowell with any questions:
eyowell@meridianmustangs.org



2025 April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breakfast is also served with fruit, juice & milk. Cereal is a substitute for any breakfast entrée.		Funnel Cake Creamed Turkey Mashed Potatoes Peas/Roll	# Ham & Egg Bar Philly Sandwich Chips Pickle	3 Fruit & Yogurt Parfait Chicken Enchiladas Corn Pudding Cup	4 NO SCHOOL	S Menu is subject to change without notice.
Fresh fruit & Vegetable bar Offered each day.	7 Egg Bites Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes/gravy Peas/Roll	Blue Berry Muffin Breaded Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Mixed Vegetable	Donut Hamburger Chips Green Beans	Berry Patch Smoothie Pulled Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Cole Slaw	Omelet & Toast Fish Sticks Scalloped Potatoes Carrots	12
£3	Sausage Egg Tornado Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Corn Roll	Pancake On A Stick Taco Refried Beans Churro	Pop-Tart Potdog Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Cup	Breakfast Burrito Sloppy Joes Hash Brown Patty Mixed Vegetables	18 NO SCHOOL Easter Break	19
20 Easter Sunday	21 NO SCHOOL Easter Break	French Toast Sticks Freaded Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Roll Carrots	BRQ Rib Sandwich Hash Brown Mixed Vegetables	2.4 Breakfast Sandwich Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Roll	Fruit Yogurt Parfait Turkey Deli Sandwich Chips Pickle Spear	26
27 Choice of 1% white & chocolate milk is offered each day. PK get 1% white milk only.	28 Egg Tornado Cheese Quesadilla Green Beans Cookie	29 Biscuits & Gravy Corn Dog Baked Beans Chips	Apple Frudel Chicken Monte Carlo Sandwich corn			This institution is an equal opportunity em- ployer.

Go Mustangs!



Page 11 Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

April, 2025

Meridian Alumni Banquet June 7th, 2025

Activities are being planned for the Meridian Alumni Banquet to be held Saturday, June 7th, 2025, at the Tobias Auditorium. Social Hour starts at 6:00 and the meal will be served at 7:00. The honored the classes are 1970, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 2000, 2005, 10, 15, 20, and 25.

The Alumni Association is sponsoring a cornhole tournament and a sand volleyball tournament. You and your spouse/guest are welcome to participate in one or both events. The location and times will be announced at a later date. If you are interested in playing, please contact Matt VanWesten (402-300-1347), Mark Houser (402-300-0420), Dillon Wolfe (402-239-9702), or Brooke Wolfe (402-446-2107) BY TEXT ONLY.

sure you pre-order if you would like one. Merid registration). This registration form is also ava	ble to Meridian Alumni. T-shirts will be available to lian alum who would like to purchase a t-shirt may d ailable on the Meridian Alumni Association Facel tangs.org). <i>PLEASE HAVE YOUR REGISTRAT</i>	lo so for \$30.00 (include book Page and Meridian
The cost of the event is \$25.00 per person pa so make sure you pre-order if you would lil for \$30.00 (includes registration). This regi	et — June 7 th , 2025 — Deadline: May ayable to Meridian Alumni. T-shirts will be avaing the one. Meridian alum who would like to purch a stration form is also available on the Meridian ools website (www.meridianmustangs.org).	lable to alumni ONLY ase a t-shirt may do so
Mail registrations to: Meridian Alumni PO Box 172 Daykin, NE 68338		
Name	Phone#	
Meridian Class of T-shirt size	e Sand Volleyball Yes	No
Cornhole Tournament Yes	No Volleyball Tournament Yes	No
Name	Phone#	
Meridian Class of T-shirt size	Sand Volleyball Yes	No
Cornhole Tournament Yes	No Volleyball Tournament Yes	No

If you are interested in helping in any way with this Banquet, please call one of the following:

Dwayne Wolfe: 402-243-3586

Pat Johnson: 402-446-2018

Page 12

Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

April, 2025



DAYKIN, NE 68338

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