



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

December, 2024

Newsletter - December, 2024
Superintendent
Randy Kort

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District - 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, November 11, 2024**

Regular November 11, 2024, Meeting
Meridian Public School Board of Education met on November 11, 2024, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Barton - present, Niederklein - present, Rut - present, Davis - present, and Bartels - present. Also present was Superintendent Kort, Principal Asche and Principal Hull.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

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

No comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, October 14, 2024, Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

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

Principal Asche and Principal Hull presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Rut moved and Davis seconded to Approve Policy 6043 - Grant for Mapping of School. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut -

aye, Davis - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort discussed the Multicultural Report and provided lesson plan information for review.

Barton moved and Rut seconded to approve the purchase of a new 71-passenger school bus. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Davis - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Niederklein moved and Davis seconded to approve the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Suburban with three bench seats. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Davis - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Principal Asche and Principal Hull presented the Principals' Reports to the Board.

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

The next regular meeting was set for Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Rut moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Davis - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303

SCHOOL SAFETY

Ice and snow could be forecast any day now. Driving and/or walking can be dangerous in winter conditions. The following are tips for walking and driving on ice or snow.

If you are walking:

- **Wear proper footwear:** Choose flat shoes with rubber soles for better traction. Avoid high-heeled or leather-soled shoes.

Congratulations to our volleyball team and giving the number one seeded team a run into the 5th set. What a great job!!!!!!

Thanksgiving is upon us and it is nice to take time to reflect on what there is to be thankful for. Myself, I am thankful for my family, close friends and the opportunity to be a small part of the Meridian family. Please take time over the holiday to share time with those you are thankful for and let them know that.

We will be engaged with One Act, Basketball, Wrestling and the elementary and secondary concerts. We will be finishing with the first semester as we have approximately 20 days left. Please check with your child on PowerSchool and see how they are performing academically.

As Holidays are approaching, please spend quality time with your family and be safe with your travels.

Here are some reminders as we enter the cold weather season in Nebraska:

1. If possible, have a cell phone fully charged 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:

KLKN - TV: Lincoln

KHAS - TV: Hastings

KOLN/KGIN TV: Lincoln/Grand Island

KUTT/KGMT 99.5 FM /

1310 AM Radio: Fairbury



- **Walk like a penguin:** Take small steps, point your toes out slightly, and keep your center of gravity over your front leg.
- **Keep your hands out of your pockets:** This helps you keep your balance and protect yourself if you start to fall.
- **Go slowly:** Walk at a slower pace and lean forward slightly.
- **Use handrails:** Hold onto handrails when using stairs.
- **Avoid carrying heavy bags:** Avoid carrying heavy shopping bags, especially on steps.
- **Sidestep down steps or curbs:** When exiting a vehicle, use your vehicle for support.
- **Be aware of the temperature:** Ice is easier to walk on at 0°F or -20°F, but it's much slipperier when it's melting.
- **Find a path around ice:** When you can, try to find a path around snow or ice.

If you are driving:

- **Drive slowly:** Reduce your speed to increase tire contact and control.
- **Accelerate gradually:** Allow your tires time to gain traction on the road.
- **Avoid cruise control:** Cruise control can increase the chance of losing control of your vehicle.
- **Fit winter tires:** Winter tires provide more traction on ice, slush, and snow than regular tires.
- **Know your brakes:** Brake gently using slow, even motions. Antilock brakes (ABS) may not work well on ice and snow.
- **Prepare your vehicle:** Check your brakes, tires, battery, and heating system. Switch to winter-grade oil for better engine performance.
- **Maintain a safe following distance:** Keep a distance of at least 6-8 seconds from the car in front.
- **Use higher gears:** Driving in a higher gear can reduce wheel spin.
- **Avoid sudden movements:** Accelerate, brake, and steer gradually to maintain control.
- **Don't attempt to stop suddenly or turn sharply:** Braking harshly or accelerating too quickly can cause your wheels to spin and you could skid.



**From the Horse's Mouth
by Matt Asche**

What tremendous opportunities we have to be thankful for - so many blessings. I hope you were able to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with those close to you and doing what you enjoy. We are in the final stretch of the first semester. I'm looking forward to our many festivities toward the end of the semester as the holiday season begins.

I want to begin with a note of congratulations and appreciation to Mrs. Schramm for leading our 1st Meridian Literacy Festival. The students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with local Nebraska authors, including a 7th grade author from Lincoln. Thanks also to the rest of the 1st-6th grade teachers and staff for helping to carry out this undertaking.

As fall fades and winter begins to descend, please be sure to take the necessary safety precautions when dealing with dangerous winter weather. This includes leaving early to allow for slower travel, slowing down and driving carefully on slippery roads, keeping blankets and other needed safety equipment in your vehicle throughout the winter, and calling ahead to notify friends and family of your departure. Young and inexperienced drivers need to be especially cautious on snow and ice. We would rather students arrive late to school than take unnecessary chances on treacherous roads.

For school closing information during severe weather, Meridian will utilize the all-call system in addition to the following media outlets:

- KLKN – TV:** Lincoln
- KHAS – TV:** Hastings
- KOLN/KGIN TV:** Lincoln/Grand Island
- KUTT/KGMT 99.5 FM / 1310 AM Radio:** Fairbury

Congratulations to the Meridian volleyball team on their postseason run that ended in the State Volleyball Tournament for the 3rd year in a row. The football team finished this season

with a 4-4 record, just missing out on the D6 playoffs due to a tiebreaker.

Winter sports are underway. JH and HS basketball and wrestling seasons get started with competitions the first week of December. JH wrestling will be wrapping up their season in early December. With weather sometimes interfering with winter activities, we will keep you up to date with changes through the daily bulletin online and utilizing the all-call system.

District Play Production is December 3. The Meridian thespians took 2nd place in the CRC competition. Break a leg!

Some important upcoming events are as follows: Elementary Winter Concert is December 10; JH/HS Winter Concert is December 12; Elementary Movie Trip to Fairbury is December 20; and End of the 2nd Quarter is December 20.

**PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING
WITH MR. HULL**

With three weeks remaining in the first semester, we have a lot to be proud of. Our students have had a very successful first semester. Our football team finished .500 and just short of the playoffs. The volleyball team had a very successful season including taking the #1 seed to five sets. Our activities have had a great year as well. FFA continues their success including the Senior Division team finishing as champion and the Junior Division team finishing as runners-up in Livestock Judging! Academically, our high school students finished with 95% of our students passing all of their classes in the first quarter. We appreciate all of the hard work our coaches, sponsors, and teachers do to help our students be successful!

I want to wish our winter sports teams good luck as they begin their seasons! We also look forward to our wonderful Winter Concerts and wish our musicians good luck as well! Finally, I hope everyone has a great holiday season and enjoys time with their families. I hope that Winter Break gives everyone an opportunity to rest and get set for a great second semester!





COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION
by
Lisa Hermsmeier

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 of December 16-20. 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 \$68.00, 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 3rd, for the January 20th ACT, by February 28th, for the April 5th ACT, and/or by May 9th, for the June 14th 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, December you will be able to file for 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 opens in December so many of you will soon complete and submit 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.
- * **Tailor your essay to the scholarship.** Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

PLANT SALES

Meridian junior high and high school students will not be selling plants and seeds this year. As they have in the past, the Meridian FFA will be selling plants from the greenhouse. We will make more information available as it becomes available.



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Ham & Egg Bar Breaded Steak Fingers Hashbrown Patty Peas	3 French Toast Sticks Chicken Sandwich Scalloped Potatoes Mixed Vegetables	4 Apple Frudel Lasagna Roll Up Corn Breadstick	5 Sausage Egg Tornado Hot Ham & Cheese Tomato Soup Cookie	6 Omelet & Toast Pork Fritter Chips Green Beans	7
8	9 Breakfast Pizza Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy/ Carrots Roll	10 Donut Chicken Strips Fries Corn/Roll	11 Pop Tart Hot Dog Sauerkraut Baked Beans Fruit Cup	12 Pancake on a Stick Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Green Beans Pudding Cup	13 Breakfast Burrito Creamed Turkey Mashed Potatoes Peas Roll	14
15	16 Egg Bites Little Smokies Scalloped Potatoes Green Beans	17 Breakfast Sandwich Hamburger Fries Mixed Vegetables Apple Crisp	18 Nutri Grain Bar Sloppy Joes Hashbrown Broccoli & Cheese	19 Fruit Yogurt Parfait Chicken Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Carrots	20 1:30 DISMISSAL Cinnamon Rolls Pizza Corn/Green Beans Fruit Cup Ice Cream NO SALAD BAR	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve NSAA Moratorium	25 Christmas Day NSAA Moratorium	26 NSAA Moratorium	27 HS BB @ Tri-County 4:00 p.m.	28
NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break						
29	30 HS BB @ Meridian Varsity Only TBD	31 New Year's Eve	NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break			
		NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break				



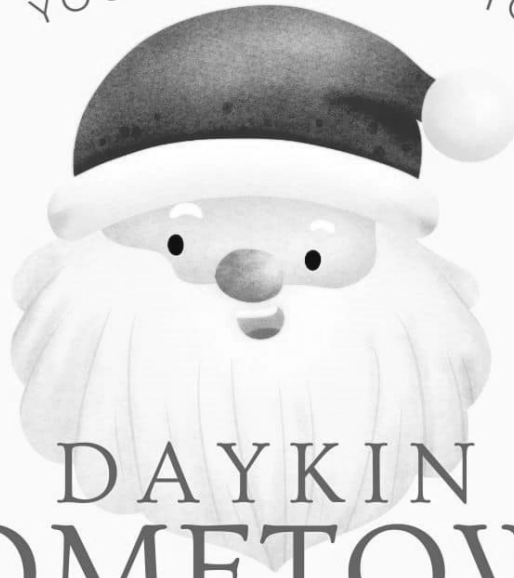
MPIE's Annual Basket Raffle

- **Basket donations are now being accepted for our annual basket raffle! Cash donations for larger raffle items are also accepted and appreciated. A great way to advertise your business!**
- **Donations are requested by December 18th. You may drop them off at the school or call Megan Haake (402-446-2028) or Anne Simms (785-275-1933) to make arrangements.**
- **Prizes will be raffled at home basketball games during boys' half time on December 20th, January 3rd, 9th, and 23rd.**
- **Each year, M-PIE helps to support the student body, teachers, and staff in various ways. In the past, we have provided scholarships, playground equipment, assisted in funding the Awards banquet meal, and gave staff small tokens of appreciation during special events. This year we will help fund a Science Family Fun Night.**





YOU ARE INVITED TO



DAYKIN HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS

SANTA | SOUP SUPPER | FREE WILL DONATION

Daykin Community Building

DECEMBER


SUNDAY

8

5PM - 7PM

**Santa is from 5:15pm &
festive attire is encouraged!**

Hosted by: Daykin Community Club

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