

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

February, 2025

Newsletter – February, 2025 Superintendent Randy Kort

·>>>>>>>>>

We have completed the first month of 2025. We missed the big snow that was to hit the first part of January like last year but we still have hit some of the cold stretches.

As I am looking at the calendar we are only 15 weeks away from graduation. It will go fast for the seniors as they make final plans and complete all the forms and school activities. It is fun watching them mature and prepare for the next steps in their life.

Parent Teacher Conferences are February 13th, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm, the second day of PTC is February 19th starting at 3:00 and concluding at 6:00 pm. These dates are not back to back like normal because of activity conflicts.

We have recently had weather conditions that resulted in school starting late or canceled. Please stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when weather is in our area: KLKN – TV: Lincoln KHAS – TV: Hastings KOLN/KGIN TV: Lincoln/Grand Island. We also use School Messenger that does an all call to parents, students and staff. If you have not received any of the calls, please contact Trish to get that corrected.

Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District – 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, January 15, 2025

Regular January 15, 2025 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 15, 2025, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.



President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

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

Superintendent Kort was appointed to preside over the process to elect a president.

Barton nominated to elect Rut as president.

Nominations ceased. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – abstain, Davis – aye, and Bartels – abstain. Motion passed 4-0. Rut was elected president.

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to President Rut.

Sobotka nominated to elect Barton as vice president and Davis nominated to elect Sobotka as vice president. Barton declined her nomination as vice president.

Nominations ceased. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – abstain, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0. Sobotka was elected vice president.

Davis nominated to elect Niederklein as secretary.

Nominations ceased. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – abstain, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Sobotka nominated to elect Bartels as treasurer.

Nominations ceased. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – abstain. Motion passed 5-0. Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Sunday, December 8, 2024, 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, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Davis moved and Bartels seconded to retain the current committee assignments. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

- · Americanism: Bartels, Rut, Davis
- Building & Grounds: Niederklein, Sobotka, Barton
- Transportation: Niederklein, Davis, Barton
- Curriculum & Instruction: Bartels, Rut, Barton
- Negotiations: Bartels, Niederklein, Sobotka

Sobotka moved and Niederklein seconded to approve Heartland Bank as the Official District Depository. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Niederklein moved and Davis seconded to approve the Fairbury Journal-News as the District Newspaper. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the proposed 2025-2026 Calendar to the Board. Davis moved and Barton seconded to approve the 2025-2026 calendar. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut –

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aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Bartels moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the 2025-2026 Teacher Negotiations. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Bartels moved and Davis seconded to Approve Policy 2231 – Evaluation Instrument of Superintendent. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – nay, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-1.

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 Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Davis moved and Bartels seconded to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303

SCHOOL SAFETY

According to SafeSchools, the key to driving safely in winter conditions is to "Maintain S.P.A.C.E":

Speed – the #1 cause of winter driving incidents.

<u>Patience</u> and courtesy saves lives and property.

<u>Awareness</u> of other vehicles and your environment is essential.

Concentration is required for winter driving.

Exit – always leave yourself an out.

In order to be successful at Maintaining S.P.A.C.E you will need to give yourself some additional time for traveling. Remember to check the forecast the night before your morning commute.

You may need to start your day earlier, as to allot enough time for slower travels.

Beware of BLACK ICE! Black ice is a thin, transparent layer of ice on the roadway. It is deposited by extremely cold rain droplets, mist or fog. It may form even if the atmospheric

temperature is above freezing. That's because the temperature of the road surface or ground may be lower than the air. Especially be careful on bridges.

When visibility is an issue: Winter driving often results in reduced visibility. This may include one or a mix of the following: snow, fog, frost, and bright sun. Be sure to completely clear your vehicle prior to driving. It's important to reduce your speed when visibility is challenged and use your headlights to help others see you better.



From the Horse's Mouth by Matt Asche

We have passed the midway point of the school year. Much work remains in front of us before the end. Being just a couple weeks into the second semester, we expect students and staff have settled back into their normal classroom routines. I'm pleased to mention that our students and staff have been updating our PBIS videos to appropriately reflect "The Mustang Way". This is a great discussion topic for families. I look forward to seeing continued progress toward excellence in this area.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are set for February 13 and February 19. Elementary conferences will again be scheduled with parents and classroom teachers. Please do not wait until then if you have questions or concerns about your child's school performance. Parents and students are encouraged to check your student's grades regularly, especially at the early stages of the quarter when it is easier to address academic issues.

Meridian is excited to host two Crossroads Conference activities this month. The CRC JH Vocal Clinic & Concert is Monday, February 3. The concert that day is at 4:30PM. February 19, Meridian hosts CRC JH and HS Quiz Bowl. The JH competition will begin at 9:00AM. The HS competition will begin at 12:30PM. There will be no school on February 19 for PK-12 students.

Winter sports are set to be winding down over the next month. The Girls Basketball team finished 3rd in the "B" division of the MUDECAS Basketball Tournament. In Wrestling, Senior JD Adam has recently reached some significant milestones, including: 100 career pins; 150 career wins; and JD is now the school record holder for career wins. As a reminder, if weather interferes with winter activities, we will keep you up to date with changes through the daily bulletin online and utilizing the all-call system.

Some important upcoming events are as follows: CRC Basketball Tournament begins January 25 @ York; Parents Night for basketball is February 4; CRC Wrestling Tournament @ East Butler is February 6; Girls District Wrestling is February 7-8 @ Falls City; Boys District Wrestling is February 14-15 @ Central Valley; Meridian Speech Invite is February 15; Girls State Wrestling is February 18-19; Girls Basketball Subdistrict Tournament is February 18 & 20; Boys State Wrestling is February 20-22; and Boys Basketball Subdistrict Tournament is February 25 & 27.

Matt Asche

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING WITH MR. HULL

January has flown by and it's hard to believe we are turning our calendar to February already. February brings district and state wrestling, district basketball, and speech and quiz bowl contests. Good luck to those teams! We are certainly getting into a busy time of the year where our Winter sports wrap up and we begin to prepare for our Spring seasons. It is important that our students continue to put in the strong effort in the classroom that we have seen so far this year.

Ms. Hermsmeier invited Education Quest down last month to work with the families of our senior students to complete the FAFSA. FAFSA completion is now a state requirement, and they did a wonderful job of helping those families who attended in filling out that form. Thank you Ms. Hermsmeier!

Parent teacher conferences are spread out a little bit more this year due to some scheduling conflict. We will be



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having our first day of conferences on Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 4:00 -8:00pm. Our second day of Spring Conferences is Wednesday, February 19, 2025 from 3:00-7:00pm. We also have no school on Wednesday the 19th due to hosting the CRC Quiz Bowl. We look forward to welcoming parents and getting the chance to visit about everything going on in class.

We are still in the heart of Winter weather. We want to remind families of students who are driving to school to leave a little earlier and drive carefully for the conditions.

I also want to thank Gina Schafer and her staff in the kitchen for their work in preparing meals and their flexibility. This is a tough time of year due to students leaving early for activities, early outs, late-starts, and cancellations. They always have breakfast and lunches ready for our students. Thank you!

COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION

by Lisa Hermsmeier

Seniors & Parents...make sure you complete the FAFSA process

Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the process so that you don't miss out on money for college.

- 1. If you haven't already, complete your 2025-2026 FAFSA at FAFSA.gov using 2023 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov as you'll need them to access and sign your FAFSA.
- 2. Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.

 New this year, Meridian Public School will needs to show proof that all students have completed the FAFSA.
- 3. You might receive a verification notice from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not

- process your financial aid until you provide required documents.
- 4. Watch for financial aid award notifications. Once you're accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering.

Watch your email and student portal carefully for important details about admission and financial aid.

What you need to know about scholarships...Scholarship time is here! Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Here's where you can find scholarships:

- ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org features over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria. You'll also find links to national sites that EducationQuest recommends.
- Your school counselor's office website. Our list of local scholarships will be posted mid-February on the school website under the "Mustang Corner" tab and then click "Staff Director." Find Ms. Hermsmeier's name on the link that says "website." From there, find the Scholarship tab and they will all be listed. Make sure you 'download' the documents and save them to your computer so they stay formatted correctly. I have included a local checklist on my page to help you keep track of scholarship and requirements. This document is only for your benefit and does not need to be turned into me. Please notice due dates and requirements for each scholarship. Do not wait until the last minute to start these! Ιf you need letters recommendation, make sure you give your recommenders plenty of time to write a letter (a minimum two week notification is ideal)!
- The college you plan to attend.
 Contact the school or check the

- school's website for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- National search sites such as collegeboard.org, www.petersons.com/scholarshipsearch.aspx

Other resources could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

Juniors & Parents: All juniors will be taking the ACT test at school on March 25 as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by February 28 for the April 5 test or by May 9 for the June 14 test. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org. If you qualify and would like to request a fee waiver, contact Ms. Hermsmeier. All Meridian students have FREE access to the On To College (formerly John Baylor ACT Test Prep program). Contact Ms. Hermsmeier if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity for the spring tests! Note that all juniors will be preparing for the March 25 test using a form of ACT prep.

Juniors: it's time to find the right fit for college! Schedule a campus visit. All juniors may have two excused absences to take a college visit! Schedule your visit through the counseling office to ensure your absence is excused. In addition to your two excused days of school, your upcoming spring break is also a good time to visit schools that interest you.

PHONE NUMBERS

If you are a parent of a Meridian student and get a new phone number, please remember to contact the school and let us know. Our staff needs accurate information to be able to keep in contact with parents. You may contact Kelli, Kathy, or Trish with the information and they will make sure the number is correct in our system.

SFS BASEBALL COACHES

If you are interested in coaching any age group of SFS baseball, please contact Lonnie Schafer at 402-520-1916 by February 28th, 2025. Candidates will be voted on at a later date. A player form will be sent out around the third week of February.



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SFS BASEBALL BANNERS

This is the year most renewals will be going out for banner advertisement fees for the baseball field in Tobias. New banners will also be accepted. Each banner will be contracted for 3 years.

New Banner - \$400 Renewal - \$225

If you are interested, please contact Aaron Wolfe at 402-300-0450.

MERCY MEALS

On February 23, 2025, Zion Lutheran Church will need help bagging rice meals at the Daykin Community Building. Anyone is welcome to help. We will have 2 shifts - the first from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by a 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. shift. If you would like to help, please call Judy Bartels (402-300-0153) by February 16th. Thank you.



MERIDIAN STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESENTS DONKEY BASKETBALL
MERIDIAN COMPETITION GYM
MARCH 18TH. 2025 7:00 P.M.



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Meridian Public Schools 2025 ~ 2026

July				ý.	9					Ja	nua	ry	y		
S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa	* Friday disi	missal is 3:10	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12		Jan 6: Classes Resume	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		Jan 21: Inservice Early Out	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26			18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31					25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa		0	S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2	Aug 11: FB / VB Practice	Feb 12: PTC 4-8:00pm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Aug 11,12, 13: Inservice	Feb 18: PTC 3-7:00pm	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Aug 14: 1st day /half dy	Feb 18: CRC Quiz Bowl: NS	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		Feb 20: Comp Day: NS	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				a	N	larc	h		
31									S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa
		Se	pte	mbe	r			Mar 6: Spring Break: NS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa		Mar 12: end 3rd Quarter	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Sep 1: Labor Day: NS	Mar 13 Spring Break: NS	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Sep 17 & 18: PTC		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Sep 18: Early Out		29	30	31				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Sep 19: Comp Day: NS				1	Apri	1		
28	29	30							S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa
		()cto	ber					e.			1	2	3	4
S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa		April 3: Easter Break	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4			1	2	3	4		April 6: Easter Break	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Oct 17: end 1st Quarter	April 10: JH Honor Clinic	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Oct 24: Fall Break: NS		26	27	28	29	30		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Oct 31: Inservice : NS					May			
26	27	28	29	30	31				S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa
		No	ovei	nbe	r			May 13: District Track	8		s			1	2
S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa		May 14: Senior Trip	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				, .		1		May 16: Graduation	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Nov 26: Thanksgiving: NS	May 20: end 4th Quarter early out	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Nov 27: Thanksgiving: NS	May 21: Last Day Teachers	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Nov 28: Thanksgiving : NS		31						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29						June			
30									S	M	Т	W	TH	F	SA
		De	ecer	nbei	1		10			1	2	3	4	5	6
S	M	Т	W	Th	F	Sa			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	1	2	3	4	5	6			14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Dec 219 1:30 dismissal		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Dec 2428: NSAA Moritorium		28	29	30				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27									
20	20	30	21												



2025 February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breakfast is also served with fruit, juice & milk. Cereal is a substitute for any breakfast entrée.						I Menu is subject to change without notice.
2 Fresh fruit & Vegetable bar Offered each day.	3 Ham & Egg Bar Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy/ Carrots Roll	Sausage Pancake On a Stick Chicken Monte Carlo Sandwich Peas	Pop-Tart Lasagna Roll Up Corn Breadstick	Biscuits & Gravy Hot Ham and Cheese Tomato Soup Cookie	7 Breakfast Burrito Chicken Sandwich Scalloped Potatoes Carrots	&
6	Breakfast Pizza Chicken Nuggets Scalloped Potatoes Carrots Roll	Pancakes BBQ Rib Sandwich Hashbrown Peas	Apple Frudel Chicken Enchiladas Refried Beans Corn	Funnel Cake Tater Tot Casserde Green Beans Roll	Berry Patch Smoothie Turkey Deli Sandwich Fruit Cup/Chips Pickle Spear	15
16	Omelet & Toast Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes Gravy / Corn	French Toast Sticks Pizza Green Beans Fruit/Cookie NO SALAD BAR	19 NO SCHOOL	Blueberry Muffin Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit/Chips NO SALAD BAR	21 NO SCHOOL	22
23 Choice of 1% white & chocolate milk is offered each day. PK get 1% white milk only.	Sausage Egg Tomado Breaded Steak Fingers Hash Brown Patty Peas	Donut Little Smokies Mac & Cheese Green Beans	Egg Bites Walking Taco Leftuce/Salsa Corn Pudding Cup	27 Breakfast Burrito Breaded Pork Sandwich Chips Green Beans	Apple Frudel Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Fruit Cup	This institution is an equal opportunity em- ployer.

Meridian Public School, District 48-0303



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Valentine's Cookies

\$2.00 per cookie

To:	Grade	From:	#
To:	Grade	From:	#
To:	Grade	From:	#
To:	Grade	From:	#
To:	Grade	From:	#
To:	Grade	From:	#
To:	Grade	From:	#
To:	Grade	From:	#

Total number of cookies

Total amount due___

Due January 31st

Cookie Design #1



Cookie Design #2



Cookie Design #3





Meridian Public School, District 48-0303



M-PIE SOUP SUPPER

(Meridian Partners In Education)

Tuesday, February 4

Meridian School Commons During the Meridian vs. High Plains Basketball Games

Serving from 5:00-8:00 p.m.



<u>\$6.00 Meal Deal</u>

Choice of Chili, Chicken Noodle or Potato Soup Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Dessert, Drink <u>Items Also Sold Separately</u>

Soup-\$3.00, Sandwich-\$1.50, Dessert-\$1.50, Drink-\$.50

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Daykin Lumber Co.

DAYKIN, NE 68338

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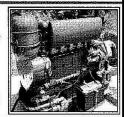


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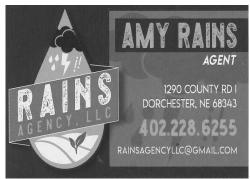


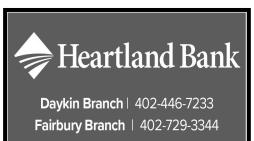
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