



# 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)

January, 2025

Newsletter - January, 2025  
 Superintendent  
 Randy Kort

As we prepare to start the year of 2025 at Meridian, it is a time to reflect on the first semester accomplishments. There have been so many wonderful things going on here with our students. The volleyball team appeared in their third straight state tournament – that is remarkable. The football team finished the year with a 4-4 record and just missed out on being in the playoffs by a tie breaker. The FFA program had students recognized nationally and are doing very well in the current year’s competitions. Several students qualified for music and band recognition. The One-Act play finished second at conference. The elementary was able to host their own reading festival, having authors present and visit with our students. It was a busy and great semester for our students.

As we move into the second semester, we look forward to many more opportunities for the students. With only 5 months until graduation, our seniors will be busy with things like college classes, projects, and scholarships on top of all the activities. All students will be able to participate in Quiz Bowl, music, basketball, wrestling, track, FFA, FBLA, speech and so many more activities. Please take this time to enjoy these events as well as spending time with your friends and family.

**MERIDIAN COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER**

The Meridian Community Fitness Center needs your continued assistance in keeping the facility organized and clean. Please continue to put weights, dumbbells and equipment away when your workout is complete. The facility is available to members 24-7, so please keep each other in mind when completing your workout.

**SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION**

If Meridian Public Schools should decide to delay or close school due to inclement weather, we will utilize our SchoolReach Instant Parent Contact program. This program will allow us to communicate directly to parents, students and staff via phone and/or email. If you are not receiving messages via SchoolReach, we will need to update your contact information. In the event of an early out due to inclement weather, we will also contact the news media as soon as possible. The media outlets we will contact are as follows:

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

**Board of Education**  
**Meridian Public Schools**  
**District – 48-0303**  
**Daykin, Nebraska, 68338**  
**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

**Regular December 8, 2024 Meeting**  
 Meridian Public School Board of Education met on December 8, 2024, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

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

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, November 11, 2024, Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

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

Barton joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

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

Superintendent Kort presented the district report that was received on the state assessments containing results from April 2024.

Principal Hull presented the Financial Literacy Report and gave examples of the lessons included for the report.

Superintendent Kort presented hard copies of the audit report to the Board. These reports match the verbal report that was discussed at the October 2024 meeting.

Rut moved and Barton seconded to transfer funds to the Depreciation account to cover the newly purchased bus and SUV. 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 Principals’ Reports to the Board.

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

President Bartels reported that he and Superintendent Kort met prior to the meeting to review the superintendent performance evaluation performed by the Board.

The next regular meeting was set for Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.



Davis moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 3:43 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

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.
- **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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As our holiday break winds down, I'm hoping you are finding your internal batteries recharging for the start of the second semester. School resumes for students on Tuesday, January 7. The beauty of starting over in a new semester is a blank canvas to make it into whatever successes you want.

I want to extend my appreciation for the elementary and secondary Christmas concerts in mid-December. Ms. Celesky, Ms. Homolka, students, supporting teachers and paraprofessionals deserve a shout out for these performances. It is enjoyable for parents and other family members, as well as teachers and other school staff to watch students of all ages show off their musical talents.

As a reminder, 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.

Winter sports are over a month into their respective seasons and will be returning to a regular schedule after the holiday break. Girls and boys basketball just completed their holiday tournament. Girls and boys wrestling have holiday invites at Fillmore Central on January 3 and January 4 respectively. 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: School resumes for students January 7; MUDECAS Basketball Tournament @ Beatrice begins January 13; CRC Basketball Tournament begins January 25 @ York; Parents Nights for basketball and dance is February 4; and CRC Wrestling Tournament @ York is February 6.

Matt Asche

### PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING WITH MR. HULL

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the first semester. Not only do our basketball and wrestling season continue, but we also begin our competitive speech season. Good luck to all of our students competing in athletics and activities this winter.

As we wrapped up the first semester, all of our students took the MAP test in reading and math. We had several students who saw significant improvement in their scores, and we are very proud of the efforts of our students and teachers. In particular, we saw significant gains in our math scores which is a great thing to celebrate. The information gained from these tests will continue to guide our processes in school improvement and curriculum development. This test data will be valuable as we select new reading materials for the 2025-2026 school year.

Upon our return from the Winter break, our staff will be reviewing materials from our School Improvement



Committee. Included in this review are the results from our school perceptual surveys as well as our school mission statement. Having completed the five-year school improvement cycle last year, these reviews will be important as we begin this new five-year cycle. This work will guide our school's initiatives moving forward. We look forward to developing school improvement goals using this data, and using this process to help our students grow and succeed.

**COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION**  
by  
*Lisa Hermsmeier*

**Seniors:**

\*Many seniors are beginning to finalize their college plans. Seniors should be done at this point with applying to their top college choices. If they have not done so, they need to complete their college applications as soon as possible! The deadlines for certain scholarship applications are coming due.

\*Local scholarship applications will be available at the end of the month. Please note that one of the biggest state scholarships is the Susan Buffett Scholarship (due February 1st). A link to this scholarship and all others are found on the "Counselor" link of the school website.

\*Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships. Make an account at ScholarshipQuest to find Nebraska-based awards, and also check out the counselor website for the ones that Ms. Hermsmeier has received.

\*Please check my counselor website often for scholarship updates! Seniors, see additional information regarding the FAFSA below!

**Juniors:**

\*Juniors interested in taking the ACT should sign up to take the February 8<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup> test. When making ACT plans, juniors should know that they will also be taking the ACT free of charge at school in March as a part of state testing. For all ACT tests other than the school test, go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register. If you qualify for Free & Reduced meals, you may be able to use a Fee Waiver (please see Ms. Hermsmeier for details). Registration deadlines are usually about a month to a month and

a half before the test date.

\*Seniors and Juniors will also have the option to take the ACCUPLACER test on Tuesday, March 4. The ACCUPLACER test is similar to the ACT but is used more as a college placement test for many two-year schools. Please sign up with Ms. Hermsmeier if you are interested.

\*Parents... please note that Girls and Boys State applications will be out next month. If your child is interested in attending this weeklong event next summer, make sure they submit their applications.

**Campus Visits:**

\*Seniors and parents: You are encouraged to make any remaining campus visits in January if possible to schools you are seriously considering attending in the fall of 2024.

\*Juniors and parents: Don't forget that you are allowed two excused absences during your junior year to go on a campus visit! Arrangements should be made through Ms. Hermsmeier for campus visits and student sign out sheets.

\*Forms with sample questions are available in the counselors office.

**Information on Collegebound Nebraska (for the University of Nebraska):**

You will pay no tuition as an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska if you: ·Are a Nebraska Resident; ·Meet the university's admission requirements; and ·Qualify for the Federal Pell Grant Program. If you file the FAFSA and are told you are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, the university will automatically review your FAFSA to determine whether you qualify for Collegebound Nebraska. If your expected family contribution is \$5,000 or less, you will qualify. (Note: students with expected family contributions above \$5,300 may qualify for grant assistance but for amounts less than full tuition.)

**Seniors, complete your FAFSA:**

Seniors... it's time to complete the FAFSA! It is now active! We will be having a FAFSA night on January 15<sup>th</sup> for all senior families to complete the FAFSA. Dinner will be provided to all those attend. The FAFSA (Free

Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you!  
Lisa Hermsmeier; PreK-12 Guidance;  
[lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org](mailto:lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org)  
402-446-7265 ext 1253

*Happy  
New  
Year*

**2025!**



# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breakfast is also served with fruit, juice & milk. Cereal is a substitute for any breakfast entrée.			<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Menu is subject to change without notice.
<b>5</b> Fresh fruit & Vegetable bar Offered each day.	<b>6</b> <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Teacher In Service	<b>7</b> <b>Ham &amp; Egg Bar</b> Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit/Chips <b>NO SALAD BAR</b>	<b>8</b> <b>French Toast Sticks</b> Cheese Quesadilla Green Beans Cookie	<i>NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break</i>		<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Pancakes</b> Chicken Strips Fries Peas/Roll	<b>14</b> <b>Donut</b> Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Carrots/Roll	<b>15</b> <b>Nutri Grain Bar</b> Chicken Sandwich Scalloped Potatoes Green Beans	<b>16</b> <b>Blue Berry Muffin</b> Pulled Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Cote Slaw	<b>17</b> <b>Breakfast Burrito</b> Chili Soup Crackers Cinnamon Roll String Cheese	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Cinnamon Rolls</b> Pizza Green Beans Fruit Cup	<b>21</b> <b>Egg Bites</b> Taco Refried Beans Churro	<b>22</b> <b>1:30 DISMISSAL</b> <b>Pop Tart</b> Hot Dog Sauerkraut Baked Beans Cookie	<b>23</b> <b>Berry Banana Smoothie</b> Sloppy Joes Hash Brown Patty Broccoli & Cheese	<b>24</b> <b>Pancake on a Stick</b> Creamed Turkey Mashed Potatoes Peas Roll	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Choice of 1% white & chocolate milk is offered each day. PK get 4% white milk only.	<b>27</b> <b>Sausage Egg Tomado</b> Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Corn Roll	<b>28</b> <b>Breakfast Sandwich</b> BBQ Rib Sandwich French Fries Carrots	<b>29</b> <b>Apple Frudel</b> Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Fruit Cup	<b>30</b> <b>French Toast Sticks</b> Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Roll	<b>31</b> <b>Breakfast Pizza</b> Breaded Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Mixed Vegetables	This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



# Caleb & Haylee Jarchow Family Benefit



Location:  
**Daykin Community Center**  
**202 Mary Ave**  
**Daykin, NE**

When:  
**January 12, 2025**  
**10:30 am-2:00pm**

**Free Will Offering**

The Jarchow family has experienced unexpected medical emergencies. Their infant son, Westin, was life-flighted to Children's Hospital in Omaha for the second time in a couple months. This great family could use some financial support to help offset some medical expenses.

Serving choice of Soup:  
Chili, Potato, Chicken & Noodle  
Along with Sandwich, variety of  
desserts, water, tea and coffee.

There will be a Silent Auction and  
two Gun Raffle:

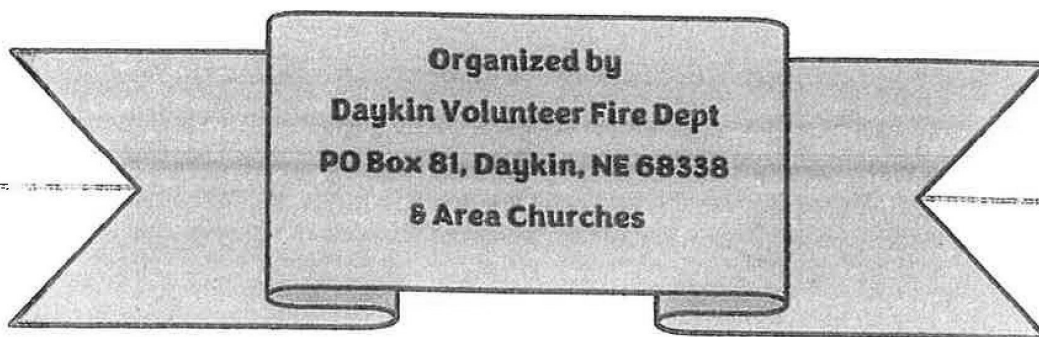
Henry Big Boy Classic .44  
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&

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\*Tickets sold in advance and day  
of benefit.

All Proceeds go directly to the  
Jarchow Family.



*Thank you for your generosity as we rally around  
this beautiful family in their time of need.*




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