



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

November, 2024

Newsletter - November, 2024
Superintendent
Randy Kort

It is the time of year farmers are beginning to wind down with harvest, the weather is cooling down and before long, that word "snow" will be used. Please remember the weather can change quickly and now is a great time to prepare your vehicle. Pack an extra blanket, bottle of water, top off the gas and make sure your cell phone is charged. Please be aware of the farm equipment on the roads, both paved and gravel.

We have completed the first quarter and are now a couple weeks into the 2nd quarter. It just seems that time goes faster and faster. As the 2nd quarter occurs it also means it is Holiday Season. Nothing is better than catching up with friends and family during the holidays. Please make time for those relationships.

Fall sports are beginning to wrap up. It looks as the Volleyball team will be hosting sub-districts on Monday, October 28th and Tuesday the 29th. Please come out and cheer on your Mustangs. The football team has a game on Friday the 25th and are on the bubble of qualifying for state. Please stay updated on our webpage for more information.

With the fall sports in the final stages please be aware that winter sports practice starts on November 18th. Please come out and support all of our winter sports teams. One Act will be starting competitions soon along with Quiz Bowl events.

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; along with our All Call system.

Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District - 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, October 14, 2024

Regular October 14, 2024, Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on October 14, 2024, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Principal Hull.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

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

Comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, September 9, 2024, Special Budget Hearing
- B. Minutes of the Monday, September 9, 2024, Special Tax Hearing
- C. Minutes of the Monday, September 9, 2024, Regular Meeting
- D. District Financial Report
- E. Activity Fund Report
- F. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- G. Bills

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

Principal Hull presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to Approve Policy 5006 to set the class maximum numbers in regard to option enrollment. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Rut moved and Barton seconded to approve the training schedule for school employees as set by the August in-service schedule. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort gave an update on technology and an overview of the upcoming plans at Meridian for technology.

Superintendent Kort updated the Board on the verbal audit report received from Dana Cole. The final audit books will be available in November.

Barton moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the purchase of a 2020 Ford Expedition with a trade-in value of \$10,000.00 for the 2014 Chevy van in the current fleet. The cost, with trade in, is \$24,294.00. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Niederklein moved and Barton seconded to approve the Meridian Education Association (MEA) as negotiators for the 2026-2027 school year. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

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, November 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.



Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to adjourn at 6:50 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



A reminder that Meridian has just completed Red Ribbon week and the students heard from various speakers talking about drug awareness and making smart choices. The beginning of October we had an event where Jay Martin from the NDE spoke about internet safety and the concerns with our students and social media.

Please take an opportunity to visit with your child about their interests, what they are doing in their free time, and help support them with making good choices for themselves.



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

We just finished the 1st quarter and report cards have been sent home. If you have questions about your child's report card or other educational questions, please contact the appropriate classroom teacher. We look forward to our shared responsibility with parents for the education of our students.

Several of The Mustang Way videos have been shown in your child's classroom. We appreciate parents visiting about these videos and The Mustang Way with your student. This reinforces to your student the importance of doing the right thing at home and school.

Thank you to the representatives of the volunteer fire departments from Alexandria, Daykin, Tobias, and Western for presenting to our PK-6 students and providing them with hands-on opportunities with the fire fighting equipment during fire prevention week.

Thanks to Nate Van Anne who visited with K-6 students on the dangers of drug use and his role as the School Resource Officer (SRO) during Red Ribbon Week.

There is no school on Friday, November 1 for a school-wide inservice. There is also no school on November 27-29 (Wednesday-Friday) for Thanksgiving Vacation. I hope students and parents can look forward to this time as an opportunity to gather with friends and family or to simply recharge.

The Meridian Literacy Festival is scheduled for Friday, November 15. There are scheduled to be three Nebraska authors available that day in addition to a variety of hands-on activities.

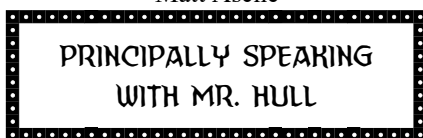
The regular season has come to an end for fall sports. Volleyball is beginning their postseason run with subdistricts. Football is hoping to get into the 6-man playoffs with a top 16 seed. I look forward to both teams playing their best at the end of their respective seasons.

With the fall sports seasons ending soon, I want to extend my appreciation and thanks to all helpers for both volleyball and football. Without the support of those individuals, we would not be able to offer our student-athletes the opportunities they have.

Quiz Bowl and Play Production competitions are underway shortly. Junior high sports are transitioning soon to their winter season.

Winter sports practice for high school wrestling and girls and boys basketball are set to begin formally on November 18. If your student-athlete hasn't competed in a fall sport, be reminded that they will need a current sports physical to participate. Please contact your sport's coach for more details or questions.

Matt Asche



As we wrap up the first quarter I want to take this opportunity to thank our parents and community members for their support of our students. We had a busy fall with all of our activities, and

it's always great to see so many people at our games and events supporting our students.

Last month we welcomed Jay Martin to Bruning to present to both Meridian and Bruning-Davenport. His presentation touched on the ways that social media is manipulating teenagers to keep using their products. It served as a great reminder that our students need to be aware of staying safe on social media, and that it is important to put the devices down and talk to each other.

Our fine arts students put their efforts on display this past month with a great fall concert. The band also did a great job at the Harvest of Harmony parade. I also appreciate the band and the students who have performed the national anthem at our contests. Our One Act team is getting going this month as well with competitions. Good luck to them!

Finally, I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the break and time with family!



Red Ribbon Week:
The end of October was filled with fun and presentations for our Meridian students. Our overall week theme was "Life is a Movie. Film Drug Free." The daily themes were the following: "Monday (Wear Red) :: "Roll out the Red Carpet to be Drug Free"; Tuesday (Western) :: "Gitty Up to Good Decisions"; Wednesday (Super Hero) :: "With Great Power, Comes Great Responsibility"; Thursday (Disney/Animated) :: "Drug Free, to Infinity and Beyond." Monday the students and staff were invited to wear Red to pose for a picture with the DEA presenter, Amanda Frazier. She spoke to students in grades K-12 about the dangers of drugs. Many other speakers came during the week. Our SRO, Nate, visited with students; Dr. Brandon Mowinkle presented "Write Your Own Story"; and Meridian Alumni, Breanna Miller presented to build awareness for mental health/substance abuse use in small communities. Thursday, we enjoyed dancing to the cupid shuffle



during PE and Study Hall. If you have not done so, please take a few moments to talk to your child about the activities they participated in this week.

Career Academy/Dual Credit Classes:

High school students who want to explore a career field and are interested in getting a first-hand look at what college classes will be like by taking a dual-credit college class for second semester, should check out SENCAP's Career Academy. Besides the experience gained, the other big benefit is the cost. Southeast Community College-Beatrice and Meridian will cover the full cost of tuition, which means the only cost to the student is the textbook. This option is for juniors and seniors, but sophomores can be considering the option for next year. Please check out <https://www.southeast.edu/sencap> or talk to Ms. Hermsmeier for more information.

Junior and Senior students also have the option of taking dual-credit college classes from Peru State College at half-cost tuition price. They can also take courses through Doane University or other options that they have found. Students are encouraged to stop by Mrs. Hermsmeier's office in the next few weeks if they are interested in taking a college class second semester. Class sizes are limited, so early registration is encouraged.

EducationQuest – A Useful Tool:

Seniors...a reminder of what to do this fall...

There's A LOT going on right now with the financial aid and college admission processes, but don't get overwhelmed! Here's a recap of tasks you should complete this fall to stay on track to college.

1) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – opens in December

- First, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need it to access and sign the FAFSA.
- Review our FAFSA Checklist for a list of items to gather before you start the form.
- Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. You may also complete it via the new myStudentAid app for iOS and Android.

- For free personal help, you can call EducationQuest to make an appointment: Omaha – 888.357.6300, Lincoln – 800.303.3745, Kearney – 800.666.3721, or Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.
- 2) **Apply to your top college choices.** Hopefully by now, you have some top choices for colleges. Now is a good time to apply to them! Most colleges have a free application process (exceptions are the University of Nebraska and KState), so you won't be out of anything if you apply and change your mind later on. Once you apply, let Ms. Hermsmeier know and you can be added to the Applied to College Wall. J As always, if you need help, stop by Mrs. Hermsmeier's office.
- 3) **Retake the ACT and/or SAT. Colleges use your best scores for college admission and scholarships.** Register by November 8 for the December 14 ACT.
- 4) **Get serious about applying for scholarships.** See ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships and a list of national search sites. You can also visit the counselor's website off of the school website at https://sites.google.com/meridianmustangs.org/school_counselor.

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

- 1) **Review College Profiles at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country and/or the College Prep Handbook in the Counselors Office.** If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program to learn about tuition discounts.
- 2) **Meet with college representatives** who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.

- 3) Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits.** Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session. Remember to get a sign-out sheet from the office BEFORE you go on your college visit.

Thank You!

Meridian Public Schools would like to thank Alan and Sue Niederklein and Eric and Jamie Niederklein for donating beef to the Hot Lunch Program. We truly appreciate their generosity and could not be successful without the support of our communities. Thank you!





Honoring All Those
Who Have Served

Veterans Day

Monday, NOVEMBER 11

Program – 10:00 a.m.

Meridian High School

Please join us in honoring all the men and women who have served our country.

Program will also be online via Hudl.

Veterans and their spouses or spouses of a deceased veteran are invited to eat at school after the program.

Please notify the school by November 7 at 402-446-7265 ext. 3 if you are planning to eat so enough food is prepared.

The meal is courtesy of Kathy Houser.

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.

-President Harry S. Truman



Mustang Merriment

In the spirit of the season, the Meridian National Honor Society is sponsoring the annual **Mustang Merriment Movement**. This community service project provides gifts for families of children attending Meridian Public School who are in need of assistance. We hope this year we can help relieve a little of the worry and stress of the season for some families and help bring joy to as many Mustangs as we can.

Gift Request

If your family would like to receive gifts, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by November 15. All gift requests will be assigned a number by Mrs. Homolka, then distributed. Please note: all gift requests will remain anonymous. If your family is in need of multiple gifts, please list your students' names individually below.

Family Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email address _____

_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's Name	age/gender	description of gift	size (if needed)

_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's Name	age/gender	description of gift	size (if needed)

_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's Name	age/gender	description of gift	size (if needed)

_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's Name	age/gender	description of gift	size (if needed)

_____	____/____	_____	_____
Child's Name	age/gender	description of gift	size (if needed)



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Gift Donations

If your family would like to provide a gift, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by November 15. A gift request will be assigned to you the following week. The request will detail the age/gender of the child, and in most cases, a suggested gift idea. Please indicate the number of gifts your family would like to donate.

All gifts should be new and delivered to the school office before December 9. They should not be wrapped.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Homolka-
jhomolka@meridianmustangs.org.

Thank you for your participation in this community service project!

Family/Student Name: _____

Family Phone Number: _____

Family Email: _____

Our family would like to donate (#) _____ gift(s) in support of the **Mustang Merriment Movement**.



November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breakfast is also served with fruit, juice & milk. Cereal is a substitute for any breakfast entrée.					1 NO SCHOOL	2 Menu is subject to change without notice.
3 Fresh fruit & Vegetable bar Offered each day.	4 Breakfast Burrito Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Fruit Cup	5 Donut Breaded Pork Sandwich Chips Green Beans	6 Ham & Egg Bar Hot Dog Baked Beans Chips	7 Apple Frudel Chicken Strips Fries Corn	8 Omelet/Toast Sloppy Joe Broccoli & Cheese Cookie	9
10	11 Sausage Egg Tornado Chicken Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Roll Corn	12 Pancakes Taco Refried Beans Churro	13 Blueberry Muffin Pulled Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Cde Slaw	14 Pop-Tart Turkey Slice Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Gravy/Roll Pumpkin Dessert	15 Breakfast Casserole Chicken Noodle Soup Cheese Bread Crackers	16 Pop-Tart
17	18 Funnel Cake Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Chips	19 Breakfast Pizza BBQ Rib Sandwich Hashbrowns Broccoli and Cheese	20 French Toast Sticks Chicken Fajitas Spanish Rice Corn	21 Fruit & Granola Parfait Cheese Quesadilla Mixed Vegetables Fruit cup	22 Ham and Egg Bar Hamburger/Bun French Fries Carrots	23
24 Choice of 1% white & chocolate milk is offered each day. Pre-K get 1% white milk only.	25 Donut Pizza Corn Pudding	26 Pop-Tart Ham Sandwich Chips cookie Fruit/Pickle Spear NO SALAD BAR	27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	28 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Day	29 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	30 This institution is an equal opportunity employer.




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PROUD OF OUR AREA ATHLETES AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

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