



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

October, 2024

Newsletter - October, 2024
Superintendent
Randy Kort

The school year of 2024-2025 is off and running. We are only a few weeks away from the finish of the first quarter. It has been a busy year already. We have had students involved with the fall sports of football and volleyball, One Act practice has started up, and FFA has been finding success in Range Judging. The Meridian band has marched at the state fair at the end of August. They will be marching again in the Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island on Saturday, October 5th. Please come support our students.

The Meridian Board of Education met on September 9, 2024; the Board approved the 2024-2025 annual budget as presented. The Budget Hearing was held at 6:00 P.M. and the 2024-2025 Tax Request Hearing immediately afterwards.

The District Assessed Valuation increased 11% to a total of \$525,769,830 from last year's \$470,599,413. Based upon this evaluation the Board of Education approved tax requests and levy requests of: \$2,893,364 (\$0.550310 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the General Fund; \$ (\$0.007685 per \$100 assessed valuation) for Special Building Fund; \$0 (\$.0 per \$100 assessed valuation) Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund; \$0 (\$.0 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the Technology Bond Fund. Each of the amounts includes the County Treasurer's one percent commission. The total tax request for the 2024-2025 budget is \$2,933,768 (\$.557995 per \$100 assessed valuation, last year was \$.609217).

MERIDIAN TAX LEVY



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 14 th through the 18 th is National School Bus Safety Week. Meridian would like to thank our great bus drivers: Elizabeth Noel, Janelle Heiserman, Charles Houser, Tonya Griffin, Emily Corter, Lisa Hermsmeier, Mark Houser and just starting John Adam. These individuals safely transport our students to and from school during daily routes, field trips and school activities. Safety is their number one priority. Please thank them when you have an opportunity. Please encourage your child/children to obey these School Bus Safety Rules:

1. Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early.
2. Always use bus handrails when entering or exiting the bus.
3. Take your seat promptly.
4. Keep aisles clear at all times.
5. Stay seated until the bus stops or as directed by the driver.
6. Be quiet to avoid accidents – there must be absolute QUIET at a railroad crossing stop.
7. Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
8. Cross street/roads only when it is safe.
9. Obey the bus driver.

If you are interested in learning more about being a substitute bus driver, please contact Mr. Kort for further information.

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, September 9, 2024**

Special Budget Hearing – 6:00 p.m.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 9, 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, Rut – present, and Bartels – present. Also present was Superintendent Kort.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to excuse Davis and Sobotka from the meeting. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Kort provided information regarding the proposed 2024 -2025 budget. The 2025 tax request is \$66,798 higher compared to the 2024 tax request.

No comments were heard from the public.

Rut moved and Barton seconded to close the Special Budget Hearing. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Special Tax Hearing

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 9, 2024, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Barton – present, Niederklein – present, Rut – present, and Bartels – present. Also present was Superintendent Kort.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Barton moved and Niederklein seconded to excuse Davis and Sobotka from the meeting. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Kort provided information regarding the 2024-2025 tax request and levy. The 2025 levy is 5 cents lower compared to the 2024 levy.

No comments were heard from the public.



Rut moved and Barton seconded to close the Special Tax Hearing. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular September 9, 2024, Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 9, 2024, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

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

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Niederklein moved and Barton seconded to excuse Davis and Sobotka from the meeting. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

No comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, August 12, 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, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Kort and Principal Hull presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to approve the 2024-2025 Tax Request Resolution #240919. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Barton moved and Rut seconded to approve the 2024-2025 Annual Budget. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Kort shared information regarding the upcoming negotiations with the Meridian Education Association (MEA).

Rut moved and Niederklein seconded to approve using the North Star Negotiation Software for the 2025-2026 teacher

negotiations with MEA. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Kort gave an update on ESSER/Safe Return. All ESSER funds have been spent.

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, October 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Barton moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



This month we would like to discuss School Bus Safety.

October 13th - 18th is school bus safety week. The one main concern and issue is making sure all drivers are aware that when you meet a bus and the yellow lights first come on, this is an indicator the red lights will come on and the arm will deploy. This means that all vehicles behind or driving towards the bus MUST stop.

If you are driving down the highway and you meet a bus, knowing the students lane and door are on the other side. You still MUST stop from both directions when the lights are red.

Officer Nate informed me that this violation could be Class 4 misdemeanor and include a fine up to \$500 and points taken off your license.

RED LIGHTS MEAN STOP!

Please pay attention to our school buses and vehicles.



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

We are past the halfway point of the 1st quarter. If you weren't able to meet with your child's teachers and/or need to meet with them further, please do so. The communication between home and school should be ongoing.

I want to thank Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Paul, Ms. Celesky, and the PK-K paraprofessionals for putting on an outstanding Grandparents Day Program. Thank you also to the grandparents and parents of our students who attended to support our students.

Congratulations to our PBIS winners throughout the school thus far. As a staff, we hope to reinforce The Mustang Way by recognizing students for doing the right things in the classroom, on the playground, in the hallway, etc.

School picture retakes are coming soon. Parents should look for more information from your child's classroom teacher. At this time, no firm date has been set.

Fire Prevention Week begins October 7. Elementary students will attend a presentation by the Daykin Fire & Rescue Squad to learn more about fire safety.

Students in grades 4-12 will be attending a presentation by Jay Martin on October 9 at Bruning. This is a joint presentation with Bruning-Davenport. Jay will be presenting on technology and social media safety. Parents will have the opportunity to attend an evening session from 6:00-7:00 PM to learn more about what they can do at home to keep their children safe.

Red Ribbon Week is the week of October 21. More information will be available in the school bulletin and from your child's classroom teacher as this event gets nearer.



There is no school on Friday, October 25 for Fall Break and Friday, November 1 for a school-wide inservice.

The Meridian FFA is sponsoring a Live On Nebraska Tailgate on October 18.

Parents' Night for volleyball is scheduled for Thursday, October 24. Football Parents' Night is set for Friday, October 25. We look forward to recognizing the commitment of our student-athletes and their parents.

Matt Asche

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING WITH MR. HULL

September seems to fly every year and this year is no exception. We are staring down the end of the first quarter, and on the second half of our fall sports season. At the end of the month, we will be preparing for and beginning postseason competitions. We are proud of our teams' efforts this year, as well as the academic efforts of our students.

I would like to highlight our October 9th speaker, Jay Martin, who is the Nebraska Department of Education Director of School Safety. He will be addressing the secondary students in his first session, grades 4-6 in another session, staff in an after school session, and parents from 6:00pm-7:00pm. All of these sessions will be at the Bruning -Davenport Bruning building. He will be discussing ways to keep schools and students safe in an age of social media, phones and devices, and AI. Mr. Kort and I have heard him speak and we look forward to his message for our students, staff, and parents.

This message fits right with our Mustang Way Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Process. The core principles are: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. This year our "Mustang Way" team will be presenting and creating videos with students that demonstrate our expected behaviors in our classrooms and showing them to our students. Along with those videos, our teachers are guiding students through discussions about these important behaviors that we expect to happen in our buildings. I appreciate teachers'

and students' efforts to make Meridian a school where students are safe, respectful, and responsible.

COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION by Lisa Hermsmeier

Testing:

The On To College Prep (formerly John Baylor ACT Prep) is an investment provided by our school to assist your student in preparing for the ACT. All students have access to this test prep. All seniors are more than welcome to take it this semester, and all juniors will take it next semester before the required state ACT test. For more information, talk to Ms. Hermsmeier.

Seniors:

It is time to start the admission process! College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will hit as early as December. Follow these steps to stay on track:

Contact your top colleges NOW and ask:

- About application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships, and financial aid.
If you need a separate application for scholarships.
If you should apply online or submit a hardcopy application.
About application fees.

Much of this information can be found by visiting their website and visiting the college rep when they come to Meridian.

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- Don't pay for scholarship services! Free resources include EducationQuest at EducationQuest.org, your school counselor's office, and EducationQuest offices in Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney.
Focus on college-based and local scholarships. You're more likely to earn them over large national awards.
Keep an updated list of activities, honors, and volunteer or paid jobs
Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again

in the fall of your senior year. Use the On To College Prep to help study. For a community college, you can also take the ACCUPLACER. Meridian offers this in the Fall and Spring of each year.

- Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Give them advance notice (at least 2 weeks), a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.
Ask at least two people to proofread your college or scholarship application.

Senior "To Do" List:

- Create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at studentaid.gov. You'll need them for FAFSA.
Complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov. FAFSA will not open until December 2024. - FAFSA is a graduation requirement by law for every senior this year.
Complete college applications.

EducationQuest Website a Useful Tool

EducationQuest provides a FREE service to students, parents, and schools in Nebraska for:

- Nebraska-based scholarship search
Nebraska college search and links to Nebraska college websites
College Funding Estimator (estimates students' eligibility for financial aid)
Countdown to College - students may sign up for monthly college planning tips by email (grades 9-12)
College preparation and financial aid information
Student loan calculations

The website for EducationQuest is: www.educationquest.org or you can contact them for free personal help and make an appointment: Omaha - 888.357.6300, Lincoln - 800.303.3745, Kearney - 800.666.3721.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require accommodations in college, ask Ms. Hermsmeier for a copy of College Planning for Students with Disabilities. In addition, visit Educational Opportunities Beyond High School at: http://www.unl.edu/ssd/content/accommodations.



9TH
OCT.

PRESENTER ON
DIGITAL
CULTURE

6-7
PM

Nebraska Department of Education, School Safety & Security Director, Jay Martin will be presenting on the foundational issues digital platforms, Apps, and social media bring into schools and homes. He has presented nationally on this topic, written in books & journals, taught in schools, and had firsthand experience in school shootings prior to his retirement from law enforcement. Digital wisdom is needed for students and parents to improve behavioral, mental, and emotional well-being. Together we can improve the digital culture and climate in our school community!



340 CARROL
STREET
BRUNING, NE
**Bruning-
Davenport
Meridian
Schools**

DIGITAL WISDOM is DIGITAL PARENTING



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Breakfast is also served with fruit, juice & milk. Cereal is a substitute for any breakfast entree.	1 French Toast Mac & Cheese Little Smokies Corn	2 Egg Bites Pork Fritter Scalloped Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Roll	3 Fruit Yogurt Parfait Pizza Peas Pudding Cup	4 Breakfast Pizza Chicken Alfredo Green Beans Garlic Toast	5 Menu is subject to change without notice.	
6 Fresh fruit & Vegetable bar Offered each day.	7 French Toast Sticks Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Green Beans Roll	8 Omelet/Hash Brown Taco Refried Beans Churro	9 Pop-tart Sack Lunch Sandwich Chips/Carrots Fruit Cup Cookie NO SALAD BAR	10 Biscuits & Gravy Philly Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Corn	11 Breakfast Sandwich Tater Tot Casserole Mixed Vegetables Roll	12
13	14 Sausage Egg Tornado Hotdog Sauerkraut Baked Beans	15 Breakfast Pizza Cheese Quesadilla Mixed Vegetables Fruit cup	16 Pancake on a Stick Meatloaf Slice Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Corn	17 Cinnamon Rolls Goulash Breadstick Green Beans	18 Donut Breaded Chicken Sandwich Scalloped Potatoes Carrots	19
20	21 Pancakes Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Fruit Cup	22 Breakfast Burrito Chicken Fajitas Spanish Rice Corn	23 Apple Frudel Breaded Pork Sandwich Has Brown Mixed Vegetables	24 Ham & Egg Bar Chili Cinnamon Roll String Cheese	25 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Fall Break</i>	26
27 Choice of 1% white & chocolate milk is offered each day. Pre-K get 1% white milk only.	28 Nutri Grain Bar Corndog Baked Beans Chips	29 Sausage Egg Sandwich Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Corn	30 Omelet/Toast Warm Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tomato Bisque	31 <i>Halloween</i> Cooks Choice		This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



2-PERSON SCRAMBLE

Saturday, October 12th, 2024

Hidden Acres Country Club, Beatrice

\$55.00 PER PERSON

includes Golf Carts and Lunch

Please RSVP to Deanna Brakhage

at 402-418-0120.

No rain date scheduled!!!!

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30 AM

10:00 AM Shotgun Start

Prizes

Mulligan's Available

Meridian Dance

MPIE

(Meridian Partners in Education)

School Spirit Apparel for Sale!

Ordering and payment will be done online only.



DAWGS HUT



<https://meridian-mustangs-2024.spiritsale.com/>

***Click "CATALOG" to see ALL apparel options!**

Deadline: October 5th

All orders will be delivered and available for pick up at the School
Contact Jamie Niederklein with any questions 402-446-2080



Go Mustangs!



DESIGN OPTIONS

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ATHLETES AND THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS**

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