



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

September, 2024

Newsletter - September, 2024
Superintendent
Randy Kort

WELCOME BACK:

What a change in 3 months. I am thinking of the corn and beans that had just been planted and starting to come up, the wheat that was short and green, and the students were leaving for the summer. Now, approximately 3 months later, the corn is in the final stages, the beans are about ready to turn and the wheat has been harvested. Next, I get the opportunity to see our students coming back. The stories of summer and what adventures they have had, some of the bumps and bruises, a few breaks, yet I am able to see and appreciate so much growth and maturity as these students walk in the building. This year's seniors were in 2nd grade when I first came to Meridian and the juniors were in 1st grade, sophomores in Kindergarten and freshman in PreK. It is so amazing seeing these students entering high school. Parents please take a moment to reflect on their journey as we help to prepare them to be life long learners and productive, responsible citizens.

Thanks to MPIE for arranging the food and drinks at the Open House. Thanks also go to Mrs. Peters and Ms. Ruiz for sponsoring the back to school dance for the secondary students.

Athletics begin this week at Meridian with the volleyball team playing a jamboree game on Monday the 26th at Hebron and a triangular at Blue Hill on Thursday the 29th. Also, on Thursday the 29th the football team will open the season at Pawnee City with a 7:00 PM kickoff.

The band will be marching at the State Fair on Thursday, August 26th, at approximately 12:30 PM.

BUS ROUTES:

Our bus routes are continuing to change and adapt to best serve our students. Please be flexible over the next two weeks as those changes are made.

Throughout the school year, please notify your bus driver by 6:30 a.m. if your child will not be riding the bus. When you have advanced knowledge, your child will NOT be riding the bus, contact the school and leave a message for the driver.

Alexandria Area Route

Janelle Heiserman
402-300-1704

Fairbury

Tonya Griffin
402-300-1722

Ohioa/Tobias/Daykin

Elizabeth Noel
402-300-1708

Western/Daykin Area Route

Charles Houser
402-446-7407 or 402-300-1707

Tobias/Western Area Route

Emily Corter
402-520-2898

ACTIVITY PASSES:

Activity passes are available this year at the following prices: Adults = \$40; K-12 = \$30; Golden Passes (over 65) = Free. Please contact Trish Endorf at the school for your pass, 402-446-7265.

** Gate prices will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District - 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, August 12, 2024

Regular August 12, 2024 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on August 12, 2024, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

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

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

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

No comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, July 8, 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, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 4-0.

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

Sobotka moved and Niederklein seconded to approve ALICAP as the insurer for the 2024-2025 school year. Vote taken: Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the Area Membership Meeting information and dates to the Board. Meridian School Board members attending will go to York on August 28, 2024. The Nebraska Association of School Board State Convention will be held on November 20 - 22, 2024.





Rut moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the transfer of the 2023-2024 budget funds into the Activity Account. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Davis joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the transfer of the 2023-2024 budget funds into the Depreciation Account. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – abstain, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Rut moved and Davis seconded to approve the 2024-2025 Handbook based off of the recommendations by Mr. Asche and Mr. Hull at the July Board Meeting. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the following new policies to the Board:

- Policy 2006 – Complaint Procedure
- Policy 2008 – Open Meeting
- Policy 2009 – Public Participation at Board Meeting
- Policy 3003.1 – Bidding for Construction
- Policy 3004.1 – Fiscal Management for Purchasing & Procurement Using Federal Funds
- Policy 3011 – Old Transportation (Now Blank)
- Policy 3017 – Official Communication with Public
- Policy 3032 – Fees for District Records
- Policy 3033 – Old Lending Book (Now Blank)
- Policy 3053 – Non-Discrimination
- Policy 3057 – Title IX
- Policy 3059 – Audio & Video Recording
- Policy 3060 – Firearms & Weapons for Non-Students
- Policy 4011 – Employee Leave FMLA
- Policy 4053 – Conflict of Interest
- Policy 5001 – Compulsory Attendance & Excessive Absenteeism
- Policy 5004 – Option Enrollment
- Policy 5005 – Option Transportation
- Policy 5008 – Pregnant or Parenting Students
- Policy 5035 – Old Firearms (Now Blank)
- Policy 5052 – School Wellness
- Policy 6025 – Student Cell Phones or Other Electronic Devices
- Policy 6031 – Emergency Exclusion
- Policy 6036 – Reading Instruction and Intervention Service
- Policy 6039 – Repeat of Grade at

Parent-Guardian Request
• Policy 6040 – Prekindergarten Program
• Policy 6041 – Malcolm X Day Education
• Policy 6042 – Projection Maps
Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the new policies as written. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – 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 Monday, September 9, 2024. The Budget Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by the Tax Request Hearing, immediately followed by the Regular Board Meeting.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Vote taken: Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Davis – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein.

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



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

And we’re off... With the brand new school year still fresh, our classroom routines are getting finalized.

School pictures are right around the corner on September 4. Ordering information will be sent home the week of August 26.

Homecoming week festivities begin September 9 with the parade September 11 @ Daykin and the royalty crowning September 13. Elementary students are encouraged to participate in dress-up days for spirit week.

Grandparents Day is September 20. More information and an invitation will be coming from your child’s classroom teacher.

Parent-Teacher conferences start September 25 from 4:00pm - 8:00pm and conclude September 26 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm. There is a 1:30pm dismissal on September 26. An invitation to sign up for your appointment slot via SignUpGenius will be emailed to you from the school in the near future. We look forward to cultivating the important relationship between home and school.

There is no school on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day and Friday, September 27.

The band marched at the Nebraska State Fair and the varsity volleyball participated in pre-season jamboree games at Thayer Central on August 26. Regular season high school competitions begin on August 29 for both volleyball and football. Junior high competitions begin the week of September 3.

We look forward to continuing our exciting start to the school year.

**PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING
WITH MR. HULL**

We are off to a great start this year! Thank you to MPIE for helping us kickoff the year with our open house. Our junior high and high school students also enjoyed the back to school bash. We are also excited to get started with athletic competitions for our high school and junior high athletes.

Here are a few notes and reminders for our Jr/Sr. High School students.

Once again this year, we are asking our students to send their current grades to their parents/guardians each Thursday afternoon, so please be looking for that. All parents have access to PowerSchool, but we hope that this will help keep students and parents aware of students’ grades and progress. Our cell phone policy from last year will continue as well. Most of our classroom teachers are asking students to keep their cell phones put away during their class periods. If you need to get a hold of your student during the day, please contact the school so that we can contact your student.



One new addition this year is that we have provided locks for every locker in our locker rooms. We have instructed our students to utilize these locks to help ensure that their PE clothes, practice clothes, and valuables remain safe during the day. We have checked out gym lockers to those students in PE classes or participating in fall sports.

I'm proud of the hard work of our students and teachers and am looking forward to a great year! If you have any questions or concerns about things going on at our school, please don't hesitate to contact me!



This year has been off to an excellent start! I have really enjoyed seeing the students again as school starts to get underway. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 402-446-7265 x1253 or lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org.

Students have been MAP testing in Grades K-11. Students in grades K-2 take both math and science MAP tests, while the rest of the school also include science and language. We will get these scores home to parent in the near future once all students are finished.

Important Upcoming Dates:
September 24 @ 8:30 AM – ACCUPLACER for Juniors/Seniors --- Any junior or senior thinking about going to a 2 year school will want to take this. Ms. Hermsmeier will have a signup sheet for it.
Thursday, October 17 – ASVAB for all Juniors

Seniors...5 must-do tasks for this fall!

- 1. Apply to your top college choices.** Meridian participates in Nebraska's *Apply2College* campaign in October, so you'll get help with your college applications during a school-day event.
- 2. Create an FSA ID.** You and a parent must each create a username and password at fsaid.ed.gov that will serve as your Federal Student

Aid (FSA) IDs for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You will each need your own email address to create an FSA ID.

- 3. Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov on or after October 1.** The FAFSA is your application for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. The colleges you list on the application will use that information to determine the types and amounts of financial aid they will award you.
- 4. Attend the EducationQuest Financial Aid Webinar** at the school in October (Seniors will watch this as a class) to learn about types of financial aid and the FAFSA.
- 5. Find free FAFSA Tools** at EducationQuest.org to help you prepare for and complete the FAFSA.

TITLE I MEETING

Starting this year Meridian Public Schools is a K-6 Schoolwide Title 1 school. Schoolwide Title 1 programming allows our school to use Title 1 funds and programs to meet the needs of **all** students in reading and math throughout the year.

To find out more about our Title 1 program we will be having an informational meeting Wednesday, September 25, 2024 in the Cafeteria at 5:00 p.m.

Thank you,
Conner Cogswell

BEEF PROGRAM

Meridian Public Schools appreciates the generosity of our patrons. Meridian Hot Lunch program is getting low on beef and we need information on procuring some for our Farm to Table Program. Meridian would be willing to purchase the beef, but we do not know who has livestock ready at this time. Please contact either Jason Bartels 402-446-2005 or Ryan Holtmeier at 402-446-2020 with any information you may have.

STRUCKMAN BAATZ LIBRARY WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

The Struckman Baatz Library will be holding its annual White Elephant Sale. Anyone interested in donating items, may drop off their contributions at the Western gym on Tuesday, October 1, and Thursday, October 3, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please do not bring large appliances or furniture.



September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breakfast is also served with fruit, juice & milk. Cereal is a substitute for any breakfast entrée.	2 NO SCHOOL <i>Labor Day</i>	3 Ham & Egg Bar Corn Dog Baked Beans Chips	4 Donut Chicken Patty/Bun Scalloped Potatoes Carrots	5 Sausage Pancake On a Stick Beef Encinitada Green Beans Roll	6 Breakfast Pizza Chicken Alfredo Mixed Vegetables Breadstick	7 Menu is subject to change without notice.
8 Fresh fruit & Vegetable bar Offered each day.	9 Pop-Tart Pizza Peas Pudding Cup	10 Breakfast Bar Chicken Fajitas Spanish Rice Corn	11 French Toast Sausage Tornado Hotdog Sauerkraut Baked Beans	12 Apple Frudel Turkey Deli Sandwich Chips Fruit Ckup	13 Omelet/Toast Sloppy Joe Broccoli & Cheese Cookie	14
15	16 Strawberry Croissant Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Green Beans/Roll	17 Ham and Egg Bar Hamburger/Bun French Fries Mixed Vegetables	18 Breakfast Burrito Chicken Monte Carlo Sandwich Fries/Corn	19 Fruit & Yogurt Parfait Spaghetti Corn Garlic Toast	20 Blueberry Muffin Pulled Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Cole Slaw	21
22	23 Sausage Pancake on a Stick Chicken Nuggets Scalloped Potatoes Peas/Roll	24 Pop-Tart BBQ Rib Sandwich Hashbrowns Broccoli and Cheese	25 Apple Frudel Walking Taco Corn Cookie	26 1:30 DISMISSAL Ham and Egg Bar Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Fruit Cup	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29 Choice of 1% white & chocolate milk is offered each day. Pre-K get 1% white milk only.	30 Omelet/Toast Creamed Turkey Mashed Potatoes Green Beans					This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



2-PERSON SCRAMBLE

September 22, 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 8:30 AM

9:00 AM Shotgun Start

Prizes

Mulligan's Available

Meridian Dance



MERIDIAN SPIRIT WEAR DRIVE

Do you have clean, gently used
Meridian apparel?
Then consider donating to the spirit wear drive.
All sizes are needed.

**Bring donated items to the office
now through September 24.**

**Items will be available for selection during
parent-teacher conferences Sept. 25-26.**



DAYKIN COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES

SEPT. 6TH & 7TH
8:00AM to 6:00PM both days

If interested in having your name & location on a public map,
please contact Sydney Niederklein at sydney.wells@doane.edu
by **August 31st** with the following information:

- **Name**
- **Phone Number**
- **Location, Address**
- **Description of items at your sale.**

Contact Nancy Bartek 402-446-2043 for rental of the
Daykin Community Building or free use of the South Park Shelter.






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Deb Schwisow, SALESPERSON
402-243-3012
dschwisow3@gmail.com

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PROUD OF OUR AREA ATHLETES AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

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The Meridian Foundation is proud to sponsor



Tailgate Night

Friday, September 13th, 2024

Homecoming Night

Lewiston Football Game

At Jim Durlinger Field

South of the Concessions Stand

Serving from 6:00 p.m. thru Halftime

\$6.00 Hamburger Meal Deal

\$5.00 Hotdog Meal Deal

Includes Hamburger or Hotdog, Chips, Dessert, and Drink

Individual Hamburgers are \$4.00 Individual Hotdogs are \$3.00

All Community Members are Welcome!!

*****Raffle for Blackstone Grill "Kick-Off"**

Drawing will be held Parents' Night,

October 25th, 2024***



Proceeds will go towards Meridian Foundation projects