



What's Happening in Your Schools

Meridian Reporter

A Publication of the Meridian Public Schools

August 2018

First day of School: 09/04/18

The start of school is exciting for everyone each year. We wish the best for all students, parents, and school employees as we work together to educate our young people this new school year.

| School | Start Time | Dismissal Time |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| HIGH SCHOOL | 8:05 a.m. | 3:00 p.m. |
| JUNIOR HIGH | 8:00 a.m. | 2:55 p.m. |
| ELEMENTARY | 8:00 a.m. | 3:05 p.m. |

WELCOME BACK



Schools of Choice applications for 2018-2019 school year

Under the Schools of Choice legislation (Section 105 and Section 105(c) of the School Aid Act), kindergarten through twelfth grade students residing within Midland County Education Service Agency (MCESA) and contiguous intermediate school districts, may apply to Meridian Public Schools for enrollment for the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year. Application may be made for all grades (K-12) with unlimited openings.

Transportation for these students is the responsibility of the parents or guardians. Application must be made to the school district no later than the end of the first week of school, Friday, September 7, 2018.

Please contact us at (989) 687-3200 ext. #3207 for more information.

Meridian Public Schools Mission Statement

The mission of Meridian Public Schools is to create and support a responsive learning environment, educating all students for the workplace and life-long learning.

Please check out our new website by downloading the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app on any mobile device

District Telephone Numbers

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| <u>Meridian Early College High School</u> | 989-687-3300 |
| Mr. Patrick Malley, Principal | 989-687-3300 ext. 3305 |
| Mrs. Amy Boxey, Dean of Students | 989-687-3300 ext. 3306 |
| Ms. Hayley Stepaniak, Counselor | 989-687-3300 ext. 3307 |
| Mr. Mitch Bohn, Athletic Director | 989-687-3300 ext. 3310 |
| Mrs. Peggy LaVier, Secretary | 989-687-3300 ext. 3301 |
| Mrs. Bridget VanDongen, Secretary | 989-687-3300 ext. 3302 |
| <u>Meridian Junior High School</u> | 989-687-3360 |
| Mr. Kent Boxey, Principal | 989-687-3360 ext. 3362 |
| Mr. Clark Plichta, Dean of Students | 989-687-3360 ext.3503 |
| Mrs. Sherry Numbers, Secretary | 989-687-3360 |
| Mrs. Diana Shinn, part-time Secretary | 989-687-3360 ext. 3382 |
| <u>Meridian Elementary School</u> | 989-687-3500 |
| Mr. Joshua Hook, Principal | 989-687-3500 ext. 3496 |
| Mr. Jared Goff, Assistant Principal | 989-687-3500 ext.3267 |
| Mrs. Sandy Hall, Secretary | 989-687-3500 ext.3506 |
| Mrs. Diane Lanphierd, part-time Secretary | 989-687-3500 ext.3504 |
| <u>Meridian Early Childhood Center</u> | 989-687-3455 |
| Mustang Hill Day Care/Universal Preschool | 989-687-3455 |
| Mrs. Julie Sheets, Director | 989-687-3455 ext. 3460 |
| Mrs. Candice Schoenherr, Secretary | 989-687-3455 |
| <u>Food Service Department</u> | |
| Ms. Krystal Hoernlein | 989-687-3212 |
| <u>Maintenance Department</u> | |
| Mr. Gordon Melchi, Director of Operations | 989-687-3250 |
| <u>Transportation Department</u> | |
| Transportation Department | 989-687-3249 |
| <u>Technology Department</u> | |
| Technology Department | 989-687-3300 ext. 3388 |
| Mr. J. Cole, Technology Director | 989-687-3300 ext.3323 |
| <u>Instructional Services/Special Education</u> | |
| Mrs. Christine Tanzini, Special Ed Secretary | 989-687-3200 ext. 3204 |
| <u>Administration Building</u> | 989-687-3200 |
| Mr. Craig Carmoney, Superintendent | 989-687-3200 ext. 3206 |
| Mrs. Sarah Glann, Director of Business Services | 989-687-3200 ext. 3255 |
| Mrs. Dana Weisenberger, District Secretary | 989-687-3200 ext. 3207 |
| Information Line | 989-687-3260 |

School Calendar

MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2018-2019
STUDENT SCHOOL CALENDAR

| JULY 2018 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|-----|----|-------|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | H | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| AUGUST 2018 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |
| SEPTEMBER 2018 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | H | SFD | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | S | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| OCTOBER 2018 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | S | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| NOVEMBER 2018 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | S | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | S | H | V | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| | | | | | | |
| DECEMBER 2018 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | S | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | V | 22 |
| 23 | V | H | V | V | V | 29 |
| 30 | V | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Pupil Instructional Days (Semester 1) | | | | 82.00 | | |
| Student 1/2 Day "S" | | | | 6.00 | | |
| Students First Day "SFD" 09/04/2018 | | | | 1.00 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL DAYS: | | | | 89.00 | | |
| Holiday "H" - No School | | | | 4.00 | | |
| Break "V" - No School | | | | 7.00 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

| JANUARY 2019 | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|-------|----|--------|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | H | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | S | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| FEBRUARY 2019 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | | | S | 2 |
| 3 | V | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | S | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| MARCH 2019 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | S | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | V | V | V | V | V | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| APRIL 2019 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | H | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| MAY 2019 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | H | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |
| JUNE 2019 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | SLD | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |
| Pupil Instructional Days (Semester 2) | | | | 87.00 | | 169.00 |
| Student 1/2 Day "S" | | | | 3.00 | | 9.00 |
| Students Last Day 1/2 Day "SLD" 06/06/2019 | | | | 1.00 | | 2.00 |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL DAYS: | | | | 91.00 | | 180.00 |
| Holiday "H" - No School | | | | 2.00 | | 6.00 |
| Break "V" - No School | | | | 6.00 | | 13.00 |
| First Day of 2nd Semester 1/21/2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

CHECKLIST FOR OUR FINAL YEAR SENIORS:

Your final year of high school is the most important time in the college planning process because you'll need to decide which colleges and universities to apply to, send in your applications and explore financial aid and scholarship options for the colleges you seek to attend. Use this checklist as a guide to a successful senior year.

FALL (SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER)

- Attend Midland County College Night on **September 25th from 6:00 – 7:30 at the Hach Center** on the campus of Northwood University.
- Finalize your college list: Narrow your list to 5-8 schools. Get an application and financial aid information for each. **Note all application deadlines!**
- Visit prospective colleges if you haven't already. —**If you wish to take the ACT, register by September 28th for the October 27th test date. If you wish to retake the SAT, register by September 7th for the October 6th test date.**
- Determine who you would like to write letters of recommendation for you and **ask early**.
- Start working on your college application essay. It's a crucial part of your application.
- Complete your applications before the deadlines arrive. —Check with Mrs. Boxey, or Ms. Kasper (juniors & seniors) or Mrs. Wenzlick (5th year) if you have any questions.
- Complete your FAFSA beginning October 1st so you can get the most financial aid possible for college (Deadline for completing the FASFA is March 1st, 2019). **Meridian will hold a Financial Aid Night in November. Watch announcements for the specific date.**
- Explore your prospective schools' financial aid requirements to plan your college budget.

WINTER (DECEMBER-FEBRUARY)

- Hunt for scholarships and apply! **Midland Foundation Scholarships open for application December 1st.**

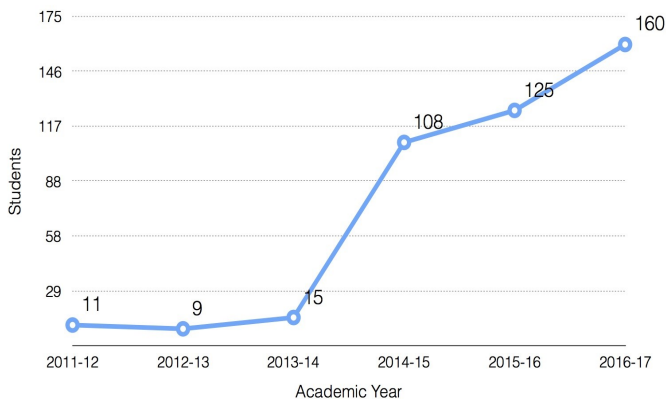
SPRING (MARCH-MAY)

- Verify your financial aid packages.
- Make your final decision! May 1st, 2019 is the state deadline for deciding!
- Avoid Senioritis! Yes, Colleges DO care about your final semester of high school and can/will rescind your acceptance.
- Early Bird gets the good housing and schedule: Sign up for the earliest orientation and return all housing forms ASAP.
- Sign up for classes and get ready for the next step in your life! Congratulations!

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 30th, 2019.

Mark your calendars now!

Early College Participation
2011-12 through 2016-17



Please join us for our New Student

"Rookie Orientation" for New Students and Parents

August 27, 2018 from 5-7 p.m.

With a Welcome Back/Open House

For all Returning Students and Parents

August 27, 2018 from 7-9 p.m.

UPCOMING NATIONAL TEST DATES

- The next opportunity to take the ACT will be on Saturday, October 27, 2018. The deadline for registration is September 28th.** The website to register online is <http://www.actstudent.org/regist>. The ACT is an alternative test to the SAT that colleges look at for both admission and scholarship opportunities. Juniors may want to take it as a "first run" for a college standardized test and seniors and 5th year students may want to take it to see if they can earn a higher/alternative score than the SAT they took previously. Meridian is a National Testing Site for this particular date, so take advantage of this opportunity and register.
- The next opportunity to take the SAT will be on Saturday, October 6, 2018 with a registration deadline of September 7th.** Late registration continues through September 26th online, but for a higher fee. Register online at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>
- Do you need your high school transcript sent to a college or university, the NCAA, or The Common Application? Sign up for an account at **www.parchment.com**. Parchment is the safest and most efficient way to send a transcript, and you can track its progress and location along the way.

MIDLAND COUNTY COLLEGE NIGHT

Midland County College Night will be held **Tuesday, September 25th** from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Hach Center on the campus of Northwood University. College Night is a great opportunity for high school juniors, seniors and 5th year students, along with their parents, to visit with representatives from many different colleges and universities at one venue. Most Michigan colleges and many from surrounding states, along with the Armed Forces, will be represented at this informative event.

Mark you Calendars NOW and take advantage of this great opportunity!

IMPORTANT DATES and INFORMATION:

New Website

Download the Meridian app that connects to our new website by searching "Meridian Public Schools, MI" in the app store so you will be able to access the most up-to-date information on your mobile device.

5th Year Students and Juniors/Seniors attending Delta College

Laptop Pickup Times:

August 23rd from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 27th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

All Other Meridian Early College High School Students

Laptop Pickup Times:

August 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 9th Graders and New Students

August 27th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All Returning Students

Requirements to pick up student's laptop

- Must register their student for the 2018-2019 school year in Skyward.
- Laptop insurance must be paid, this can be done ahead of time on eFunds or can pay at time of laptop pickup.
- If student is younger than 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must be present to pickup the laptop.
- Laptop insurance for the first student in family is \$75, for the second it is \$50, and for every student after that it is \$25. The cost for families that qualify for free and reduced status is \$50 for the first student, \$25 for the second, and \$25 for every student after.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

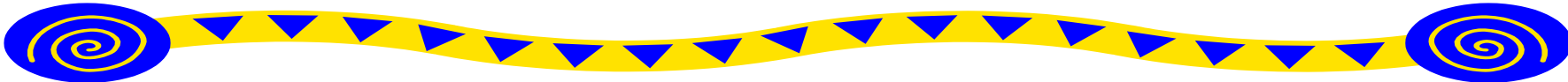
Welcome to the 2018/2019 school year at Meridian Junior High School. I am looking forward to once again seeing the halls filled with our 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The school staff has been busy this summer cleaning and painting the building, ordering supplies, creating class schedules, working on curriculum, attending training, and planning for the school year. I’m glad to say that things are just about ready for the first day of school on **September 4th**.

This will be the fifth year in which every student at MJHS will have access to a laptop during the school day to use as an instructional tool. Although textbooks, novels, and other resources will still be seen in students’ hands, we are continuing to make technology the main resource in the classroom. Laptops are a great tool to enhance Project Based Learning (PBL), which will continue to be the principal instructional strategy in core classes. PBL is used to teach the State standards, as well as, to develop 21st Century Skills in our students.

As a father of a tenth grader and as principal of MJHS, I am excited about the upcoming 2018/2019 school year. Being in the fifth year of implementation of PBL and one-to-one technology, Meridian Junior High School is still leading the county in the transition to 21st Century learning. The MJHS staff is ready to continue our move forward, and they are ready to help your students grow both academically and socially.

Mr. Kent Boxey,

Meridian Junior High Principal



Junior High Calendar

| | |
|--------------|--|
| August 27 | 5th Grade and New Student Orientation—10 a.m.-1 p.m. |
| August 27 | 5th-8th Grade Schedule Pick-up—1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. |
| August 28 | Welcome Back Open House—5 p.m.-7 p.m. |
| August 28 | Information Meeting for 5th Grade Parents—6 p.m. |
| September 4 | First Day of School—School starts at 8 a.m. |
| September 6 | 5th Grade Band Parent Night—7 p.m. |
| September 13 | Picture Day |
| September 28 | Student Half Day—MJHS Students dismissed at 11:15 a.m. |
| October 26 | Student Half Day—MJHS Students dismissed at 11:15 a.m. |
| November 2 | End of First Marking Period |
| November 8 | Student Half Day—MJHS Students dismissed at 11:15 a.m. |
| November 8 | Parent/Teacher Conferences—12 p.m.-3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.-8 p.m. |

Jr. High Orientation, Welcome Back Open House and Schedules

This year’s Meridian Junior High Orientation and Schedule Pick-Up for 5th graders and **new** 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to the district will be **Monday, August 27th**. Orientation will start in the Meridian Jr. High gym at 10:00 a.m. and will last until 1:00 p.m. Although, parents do not need to stay for orientation, staff will be on hand to answer any questions. Students will participate in several activities to become acquainted with the Junior High: students will meet their student mentor, practice their locker combination, receive and walk-through their schedule, learn lunch procedures, and play a few games. Hot dogs will be served for lunch.

Monday, August 27th

- **5th Grade and New Student Orientation—10 a.m.-1 p.m.** (*Schedules will NOT be distributed to returning 6th, 7th, and 8th graders during Orientation since staff will be busy with new students.*)
- **Schedule pick-up for ALL other students—1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.**

Tuesday, August 28th

- **Welcome Back Open House—5 p.m.-7 p.m.** where students and their parents can pick up their schedule, find their classrooms, practice their locker combination and meet their teachers.
- **Schedule pick-up for ALL other students—5 p.m.-7 p.m. during the Welcome Back Open House**

*Students who are **unable** to pick up their schedule on August 27th or 28th will receive their schedule the morning of September 4th, the first day of school.

5th Grade Parent Information Night

An informational meeting for parents of incoming 5th graders will be held on **Tuesday, August 28th starting at 6:00 p.m.** in the MJHS gym. Parents can get their questions answered about band, their student’s schedule, and a variety of other items that stress parents out. This meeting will be especially helpful to parents who have their first child entering fifth grade. Parents who have had a fifth grader at MJHS in recent years may not find as much benefit. This is just another option for parents of 5th grade students who would like additional information.

5th Grade Band Parent Meeting

Fifth graders joining band and their parents are invited to attend the 5th Grade Band Parent Meeting on **Thursday, September 6th at 7 p.m.** in the MJHS cafeteria. Mr. Shephard and Mrs. DeRees will present information about the band program and representatives from Marshall Music will be on hand to rent and sell instruments, as well as, to answer any questions.

Junior High 2018/2019 Schedule

7:40 a.m.—Breakfast
8:00 a.m.—Start of School Day
2:55 p.m.—End of School Day

Please do not drop your student off at school any earlier than 7:40 a.m. since there is no supervision in the building until this time and **please be aware that the school will NOT be unlocked until 7:30 a.m.
Your cooperation is appreciated.

Stay Up-to-Date

“Like” Meridian Junior High School on Facebook and download the Meridian app that connects to our new website by searching “Meridian Public Schools, MI” in the app store to access the most updated information on your mobile device.

Please Register in Skyward

Parents of MJHS students should have recently received a letter that explains what Echo and Skyward are and how to access both. Parents should access Skyward soon to complete the registration process for the 2018/2019 school year. The registration process allows parents to confirm or update their contact information and emergency contacts, among other things. Report cards will once again be available online, but the registration process will also allow parents to choose whether they want to receive a hard copy of report cards. Parents who do not have access to the internet can register at the Welcome Back Open House on August 28th between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Frequently Asked Questions

◆ *How can I stay informed on my student’s progress?*
Many parents frequently check grades on Echo, and when they have a question that their student can’t answer, they will email or call the teacher. Additionally, traditional Parent/Teacher Conferences will still be held for those parents who want to meet with teachers face-to-face.

Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 8th at 12–3 p.m. and 4:30–8 p.m.
February 20th at 4:00-7:30 p.m.

◆ *How do I receive report cards?*
Report cards are available online in Skyward. Please contact the office at 989.687.3360 if you have a MJHS student but did not receive a letter in the mail explaining how to access Skyward.

◆ *Who do I contact if my student is struggling academically?*
Your child’s teachers are the best place to start. Sending an email to a teacher is a great way to start this conversation, but calling the office to get a teacher’s voicemail extension works too. Another great resource to contact is our counselor, Mrs. Barriger at 989.687.3360 ext. 3381 or by email at carrie.barriger@merps.org. Always start by contacting your child’s teacher(s), but contact Mrs. Barriger if the problem continues.

Parent Loop / Parking Lot Safety

To avoid bus traffic, MJHS parents have an area to drop off students before school starts and pick up students at the end of the school day. The Parent Loop is located on the east side of the building.

- Students can be dropped off at the south/east doors between **7:40 a.m. and 7:55 a.m.** Students dropped off after 7:55 a.m. will need to enter MJHS at the main entrance.
- Parents picking up students at the end of the school day can line up around the loop to wait for their child to be dismissed at 2:55 p.m.
- Parents picking up students **prior** to the end of the school day will have to sign their child out in the main office. Please note that visitor cars need to be removed from the parking lot in front of the main entrance before 2:50 p.m. due to the lining up of buses.
- Parents picking up both elementary **and** middle school students are still welcome to park in the administration or elementary parking lots. While the buses are lined up for dismissal, middle school students getting picked up in either of these parking lots will be allowed to walk in the cross-walk behind the last bus to reach their parents as safely as possible.
- If you remember one thing, parents, please **DO NOT** drive by the buses when they are lined up in front of MJHS.
- At the end of the school day, students are expected to get on the bus at MJHS unless being picked up by a parent. Students should **NOT** walk from MJHS to the elementary to catch their bus.
- Finally, please be patient and drive slowly whenever you are on campus. Let’s have a safe year for our children.

Visit Our New Web Site at www.merps.org or download the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME

School Hours
8:00 a.m. – 3:05 p.m. Full Day
8:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Half Day

The earliest students may be dropped off at Meridian Elementary is 7:30 a.m. The instructional day begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. at the elementary with breakfast being offered to all students beginning at 7:45 a.m. The instructional day ends at 3:05 p.m. Parents are requested to pick up their student at that time. Early dismissal from the classroom disrupts the educational process and we ask that students leave early for doctor appointments and emergencies only.

Principal: Mr. Joshua Hook
Assistant Principal: Mr. Jared Goff
Building Secretary: Mrs. Sandy Hall

Meridian Elementary School
Welcome Back Picnic and Meet the Teacher Night!
AUGUST 29th 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Meridian Elementary School will host its annual Welcome Back to School Picnic on **Wednesday, August 29th**. The hotdog picnic will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a free meal outside near the elementary pavilion and playground. The picnic will be followed by a “Meet the Teacher” opportunity during which the teachers will be available in their classrooms until 6:30 p.m.
ALL parents and students are encouraged to attend!

Menu: Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies and Beverage

| Meridian Elementary School | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Principal | Mr. Josh Hook |
| Assistant Principal | Mr. Jared Goff |
| Building Lead Secretary | Mrs. Sandy Hall |
| Part-Time Secretary | Mrs. Diane Lanphierd |
| Behavioral Interventionist | Mr. Fred Townsend |
| Young 5’s | Ms. Skocelas |
| Kindergarten | Mrs. Coggins Mrs. Donovan Mrs. Florey Ms. Konechne |
| First Grade | Mrs. Church Mrs. Clark Mrs. Douglas Mrs. Olmsted |
| Second Grade | Mr. Blades Mrs. Bowen Mrs. LaFave Ms. Shelton |
| Third Grade | Mrs. Anderson Mrs. Daly Mrs. Lex |
| Fourth Grade | Mrs. Dvorak Mrs. Leigeb Mrs. O’Rourke Miss Wittbrodt |
| Specials: | |
| Art | Miss Brady and Mrs. Landskroener |
| Music | Mrs. DeRees |
| Spanish | Mrs. Fitzgibbon |
| Physical Education | Mr. Long |
| Speech Therapy | Mrs. Simon and Mrs. Trippeer |
| Special Education | Mrs. Goff Miss Ludy Miss Trumble |
| Title 1 | Miss Maurer and Mrs. Wilkin |

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Meridian Elementary School! We are eager to welcome your child into our building this fall. Collectively, our teachers have spent several hundred hours this summer getting ready for the school year. Many of those hours have been spent taking continuing education classes and attending various trainings. Of course, a great deal of time has been spent preparing the classroom for a great welcome back experience this fall. We are proud of their efforts and are looking forward to a great year!

We would like to extend an invitation to our families and community members to connect with our staff during the year. We look forward to learning from your perspective, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us. For the sake of smooth and timely communication, we urge every family to ensure that our office always has the most up-to-date email addresses and cell phone numbers. We will use this contact information for routine communication and for sending out school news.

Lastly, like us on Facebook and don’t forget to download the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app to receive our school news updates and to stay connected. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,
Joshua Hook, Meridian Elementary School Principal

Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is a program sponsored by the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan that provides food every Friday for eligible children.

Children are eligible if they are:

- Participating in the free or reduced school lunch program
- Living in a household with a Food Stamp FIP case number
- Living in a household qualifying for WIC assistance

Watch for a form in your child’s backpack the first week of school!

Donations Appreciated!

Donations of the following items are welcomed and appreciated by the Meridian Elementary School staff:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ✦ Hand Sanitizer | Wet wipes |
| ✦ Dry Erase Markers | Tissues |
| ✦ Crayola™ crayons | Washable markers |
| ✦ Glue sticks | Fiskars™ Scissors |
| ✦ #2 Pencils | Headphones |

Parents and community members may donate items by sending them with their children or by dropping donations off at the Elementary school office. Thank you very much!

Dear Parents and Guardians: August 2018

In accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 1111 (h) (6) Parents Right to Know, this is a notification from Meridian Public School District to every parent of a student in a Title I school, that you have the right to request and receive information in a timely manner regarding the professional qualifications of your student’s classroom teachers. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your student’s classroom teachers shall include the following:

*If the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught.

*If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which Michigan qualifications and licensing criteria are waived.

*The teacher’s baccalaureate degree, major, graduate certification, and field of discipline.

*Whether the student is provided services by a paraprofessional, and if so, their qualifications.

*If at any time your student has been taught for 4 consecutive weeks by a teacher that is not highly qualified, you will be notified of this information by the school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your student’s building administration.

Sincerely,
Mr. Craig Carmoney, Meridian Public Schools Superintendent

MERIDIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Great Start Readiness Program

The Great Start Readiness Program is still accepting children for the coming school year. This free or low cost preschool program for four year olds runs four days per week. Children attend preschool for a full day session. Meals, snacks and transportation (within Meridian Public School lines) are provided. Children must be 4 by September 1, 2018 to attend. The program focuses on early literacy skills, social skills, and skills needed for kindergarten. There are only a few more spaces available so please call 1-844-492-7707 for information on how to sign up!

Mustang Hill Daycare Center

Mustang Hill Daycare Center is a licensed childcare facility, accepting children ages 2 weeks through 12 years. Children are divided into appropriate age groups. All children are provided excellent care, as well as, educational activities on a daily basis. Please call Mustang Hill Daycare Center, located inside Meridian Early Childhood Center, at 687-3455, extension 0 for more information.

Three Year-Old Program

Meridian Public School’s tuition based three year-old preschool program is accepting children for this fall. Children attend the three year-old preschool program Monday through Thursday. The morning session is from 8:30-11:30 am and the afternoon session is from 12:30-3:30 pm. The three year-old program focuses on social skills and learning to become independent. The cost is \$225.00 per month for the four days-a-week session. Please call 687-3455, extension 0 for more information.

*All programs housed at Meridian Early Childhood Center can be viewed by downloading the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app and selecting Early Childhood Center under the “Schools” tab on our website.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN Available for Review by Parents, Teachers, and Employees

Our school district has conducted an extensive asbestos survey of all our buildings, and based on the findings of this inspection, a comprehensive management plan was drafted. This plan details the response actions that the district will take regarding asbestos containing materials found in our buildings. This plan is available for inspection at our offices without cost or restriction during normal business hours. If you desire to have a personal copy, please notify the Meridian Public Schools Administration Office and it will be supplied to you within five (5) working days at a cost of \$.30 per page. The Administration Office is located at 3361 N M-30, Sanford, Michigan. We have endeavored to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our procedures for dealing with this problem reflect that concern. Please contact us if you have any questions.

ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a part of the Meridian Public School District’s pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. The first method will be by posting at the main entrance to the school / day-care center, or second method by posting information on the school web site. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school may review the school’s Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request.

If you need prior notification, please complete the information below and submit to:

Mr. Craig Carmoney, Superintendent
Meridian Public Schools
3361 N M-30
Sanford, MI 48657
(989) 687-3200

PESTICIDE PRIOR NOTIFICATION REQUEST

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Student’s (Child’s) Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Child’s School: _____
Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Chartwells Food Service Management for Meridian Public Schools

Dear Meridian Public School District Students, Parents, and School Community:

Welcome back to you and your student. We hope you are well rested and ready to begin another year at Meridian Public Schools. As a district, we are excited that you are here and hope you and your student will let us serve you breakfast and lunch daily so you can get the best nutrition and choices. For the upcoming school year, there are some items that will need your attention. Some of them are:

- **E-funds** is the online payment system that is available for food service and child care payments. Access can be found at www.merps.org or by downloading the Meridian app that connects to our new website by searching “Meridian Public Schools, MI” in the app store. Click Menu at the top and select the Food and Nutrition page under the Departments dropdown list.
- **Free and reduced applications need to be filled out each school year. Status from the previous year extends until October 15, 2018**, at which time if a current application is not received, student status will go back to full pay, and you will be responsible for those charges.
- **On-line applications** are also available on our new website at www.merps.org or after you have downloaded the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app and can be found under the Free and Reduced Meals section on the Food and Nutrition page. Look for LunchApp.com to submit. Paper applications are available in all buildings if your family has not received one in the mail already.
- **Breakfast is still free to all students in all buildings. Please encourage students to take advantage of this.**
- High School scheduling remains the same with one lunch period. Don’t forget we have a 2nd chance breakfast opportunity also, and that will be available after 1st period for about 10 minutes.
- **Nutrislice** is a new program that is available to you and your student that analyzes the nutritional information of each item we serve, including allergies, and carb information and is also available on the Food and Nutrition department page.

2018-2019 School Year Full Meal Prices

There will be no increase in meal prices for this school year.

We have seen a dramatic rise in food prices and will continue to do so over the next few years due to increasing transportation costs and continuing new meal legislative requirements but prices, as determined by **Meridian Public Schools** leadership, will remain the same once again.

Breakfast is free at Meridian Early Childhood Center, Meridian Elementary School, Meridian Junior High School, and Meridian Early College High School *****(with new requirements met)*****

Elementary and Early Childhood Center lunch prices: All \$2.75
Junior High and High School lunch prices:
\$3.00 for Type A-the bowl meals and sandwich meals
\$3.15 for Type B-the pizza and sub/wrap meals

Reduced status meals will remain at \$.40
All Adult meals are \$3.75
Milk is available with all meals. All 8 oz. cartons are \$.50.

Our menus will be posted online also, weekly for the secondary buildings and monthly for the elementary. Our new charge policy, implemented a couple of years ago is also posted. All of this information can be found on our new website by downloading the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app. Click Menu at the top and select the Food and Nutrition page under the Departments dropdown.

New Junior High Students

Incoming 5th graders will see many more choices at the Junior High. On any given day, they will have as many as 5-6 lunch choices, and many options for the free breakfast. Any of the meals may be purchased by any student, as well as, ala carte items that are not included in the regular meal pricing but have their own prices. There will be bottled water, flavored water, and other beverages, as well as, healthy snacks. Please discuss some of these options with your child before school begins.

Both Meridian Schools and Chartwells are dedicated to providing quality nutritious meals that students will enjoy and choose to eat. We hope you will encourage your children to try new fruits and vegetables and you will join us for a meal at school to see the options for yourself. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at **989-687-3212** or via email at krystal.hoernlein@merps.org

Krystal Hoernlein
Meridian Public Schools, Director of Chartwells Dining Services

Visit Our New Web Site at www.merps.org or download the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app

LET’S GO MUSTANGS!!

All Fall Sports Schedules are available at www.merps.org by selecting Menu and clicking Athletics under Departments or by downloading the “Meridian Public Schools, MI” app on your mobile device

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT | SITE |
|--------|------|---------------|--------------|
| 24-Aug | 7:00 | BULLOCK CREEK | HOME |
| 30-Aug | 7:00 | FARWELL | HOME |
| 7-Sep | 7:00 | ROSCOMMON | AWAY |
| 14-Sep | 7:00 | HOUGHTON LAKE | AWAY |
| 21-Sep | 7:00 | CLARE | HOME |
| 28-Sep | 7:00 | BEAVERTON | *HOMECOMING* |
| 5-Oct | 7:00 | GLADWIN | AWAY |
| 12-Oct | 7:00 | HARRISON | HOME |
| 19-Oct | 7:00 | LAKE CITY | AWAY |

HELP WANTED

Do you have some spare time during your day and like spending time with children? Please contact EDUStaff at www.EDUStaff.org or call 877-974-6338 to apply to be a substitute support staff worker for Meridian Public Schools. We are always looking for substitute workers in the following areas:

Custodians, Food Service, Paraprofessionals, and Secretaries

If you are interested in being a substitute *Bus Driver* or *Bus Attendant* please call the transportation office at 989-687-3249 for more information about Auxilio Services, our third party contractor.

Request for Transportation Form

Any student that is not picked up and dropped off at home must have a properly completed transportation form turned into transportation BEFORE AUGUST 28th to be considered. Request forms can be obtained at any of our school buildings and have also been sent home to current families along with the Transportation Handbook. You can also find all transportation documents on our website www.merps.org by clicking Menu and selecting Transportation from the Departments dropdown list. You can also contact the transportation department at their email address: transportation@merps.org

Transportation Handbook Highlights

See below for a list of highlights from our handbook that we are focusing on to enhance the transportation operations beginning September 2018. Each household or family should have received the complete handbook in the mail already but if you haven’t, they are available in every school office or on the website at www.merps.org by clicking Menu and selecting Transportation from the Departments dropdown list.

- Buses shall be visible in all traffic directions when stopped, and stops shall be at least 200 feet apart.
- Students should arrive at the bus stop five minutes prior to the scheduled arrival of the bus.
- If a student is the only one assigned to a particular bus stop and the student will be absent for ten (10) consecutive days, the bus will **not** stop again until the parent/guardian calls to resume transportation.
- Parents/Guardians are requested to identify one (1) pick up and one (1) drop off location for the school year. Exceptions are joint custody and Sanford Elementary Latch key program before and after school. The bus stop may or may not be located at the students’ home address. Parents are responsible to ensure the student is met at the designated stop by a responsible person if required.
- **Changes** to the scheduled transportation for a student also may be made upon **written request at least 72 hours in advance** from the parent/guardian. Direct your changes to Meridian Transportation Office. All forms are available on-line or at the school office. The Transportation request must include your student’s name and destination and be signed by a parent/guardian. School personnel, upon receipt of your written request, will authorize your request and/or complete a bus pass that will be given to the driver.

Meridian Public School will no longer accept notes handed to the driver or phone calls from parents/guardians, only properly completed forms turned into the Transportation office 72 hours in advance of the change in transportation.

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

| DATE | TIME | OPPONENT | SITE |
|--------|------|----------------------|---------------|
| 18-Aug | 8:30 | TOURNEY | CARROLLTON |
| 22-Aug | 5:00 | BULLOCK CREEK TRI | BULLOCK CREEK |
| 5-Sep | 6:00 | HOUGHTON LAKE | HOME |
| 8-Sep | 9:00 | TOURNEY | MONTABELLA |
| 12-Sep | 6:00 | CLARE | AWAY |
| 15-Sep | 9:00 | TOURNEY | BEAL CITY |
| 17-Sep | 6:00 | HARRISON | HOME |
| 19-Sep | 6:00 | GLADWIN | AWAY |
| 26-Sep | 5:00 | BEAVERTON QUAD | BEAVERTON |
| 3-Oct | 6:00 | HOUGHTON LAKE | AWAY |
| 10-Oct | 6:00 | CLARE | HOME |
| 15-Oct | 6:00 | HARRISON | AWAY |
| 18-Oct | 6:00 | GLADWIN | HOME |
| 24-Oct | 5:00 | HOME QUAD MEET | HOME |
| 29-Oct | TBA | VOLLEYBALL DISTRICTS | |

School Closing Procedures for Inclement Weather

If, due to inclement weather, such as fog, ice, snow, etc., schools are closed, an announcement of such action will be made over local broadcasting stations between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Meridian Public Schools' closing information will be announced on the following TV/Radio stations and also on our website at www.merps.org

DAYCARE WILL REMAIN OPEN!!

TV STATIONS:

WNEM TV 5
WJRT 12
WWTV 9/10
WEYI 25
WSMH FOX 66

RADIO STATIONS:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| WSGW 790 AM | WKCQ 98.1 |
| WSAM 1400 AM | WHNN 96.1 |
| WCEN 94.5 | WIOG 102.5 |
| WTCF 100.5 | WKQZ 93.3 |
| WGER 106.3 | WILZ 101 |
| WEEG 97.35 | WYLZ 104.5 |

INFORMATION LINE: (989) 687-3260

NOTE: When the K-12 schools close due to inclement weather, all Community Building Use activities will be cancelled or postponed for that day.