

Mustang Summer Updates - August 1, 2022



Happy New School Year Mustang Families!

I hope that you have had a restful and relaxing summer doing all the things you love to do! I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to be entering into my 4th year at Meridian and 2nd as principal. Although last year was still impacted by the pandemic along with other serious events across our nation and the world, I am so pleased by the way our Mustangs came through it all. Despite all that was happening outside the school doors, we kept focus on our academic studies, grew closer as a community, and maintained a high level of pride in our school together! Last year we made a concerted effort to reflect, reconnect, and reimagine and we continue to take those lessons with us. Having learned the lessons of the past few years, and as we move to the 2022-2023 school year, we are excited to enter this year with "***Open Hearts and Open Minds.***"

Over the last 2 years, I have watched our Mustang students, staff, and parents persevere and navigate challenges together. Through all of this, we have stayed close-knit as a community and learned to appreciate each other even more. With that said, "***Open Hearts and Open Minds***" is about being open to new possibilities and fostering a growth mindset among our students, teachers, and families. Meridian is a school that belongs to all of us, and all of us together partner to make it a safe, comfortable, and joyful place so our kids can learn to the best of each one of their abilities. It is a place where everyone who walks through the doors has the opportunity to grow into the best version of themselves and a place that we can all be proud of together.

I get excited everytime I think about everyone coming back and can't wait to see and talk to each of you in the coming weeks! As always, your grace, understanding, and willingness to come together as a community and as partners for our kids is always appreciated as we all work to reimagine what is possible for our kids and our school! Ultimately, I want you all to know that, together, this is "our school" and we all have a common interest in making it the very best we can for our kids! Even though we start the year on a Tuesday, I am definitely looking forward to that first Monday when we're all together again and can give you all a huge, "YAY MONDAY!"

Please see the rest of the message below for some important upcoming dates and news from our staff about what has transpired over the course of the summer at Meridian. This is an overview of some of the things to be mindful of as we kick-off the year. Future communication will contain more detail as each event comes up.

Until I see you....take careGO MUSTANGS!

Jason Gooding
Principal

Meridian Staffing Changes

In our spring communication, we mentioned staff who made changes at the end of the year. However, over the summer, there are few additional staffing changes that transpired. Please join us in saying a heartfelt goodbye to the following Mustangs who left us since our last communication.

- Becky Bicha - has accepted a new position in DPS
- Madonna Irwin - has accepted a health aid position with the preschool program

Please welcome the following new staff members or returning staff members who are taking on new positions this fall.

- Jessica Bishop - Assistant Principal (see attached [letter from Mrs. Bishop](#))
- Aimee Ramsey - 1st Grade Teacher
- Lauren Conley - 1st Grade Teacher
- Joe Ryan - 5th Grade Teacher
- Brittney Stark - 5th Grade Teacher
- Jaime Rothring - Learning Specialist
- Darryl Plummer - Digital Literacy Teacher & GT Coordinator
- Pat Hagara - Kindergarten Classroom Assistant

Important Reminders & Dates

- **Online Check-In**
 - All returning families are required to complete the district's [online check-in](#) by **August 14** through your [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#).
 - **If you do not complete this process by Aug. 5, you will not be able to view your student's teacher assignment in Infinite Campus when it is released.**
- **School Supply Lists & Technology Devices**
 - Available on the [Meridian website](#) under Resources.
 - We are excited that we will continue to be a 1 to 1 technology device school in which every student will have their own device checked out to them.
 - Students who ended last year in grades 3-5 will continue to use their district issued device that they had over the summer.
 - Students in grades K-2 will have a device issued to them.
 - It is preferable that students use a district-provided device to ensure they are managed with the most recent updates and all relevant software they need. It is **not** required for families to purchase a device for school use.
- **Teacher Assignments**
 - Teacher assignments can be **viewed in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal beginning August 5** for families that have completed the online check-in process.
 - Our staff has put a lot of thought and consideration into the class lists for the upcoming school year to ensure balanced class make-up and size. **Meridian does not accept teacher change requests.**
- **Office Opens August 1**
 - Our main office staff is available from 7:30AM-3:15PM daily beginning August 1st. Please call 720-972-7880 if you need any assistance.
- **School Hours for All Grade Levels**

- Breakfast will begin at 7:45 AM each day. Students eating breakfast may arrive at 7:45 AM. All students may be dropped off or arrive at school between 7:50-8:05 AM.
- Normal School Hours
 - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:05 AM - 3:00PM
 - Wednesday: 8:05 AM - 1:45 PM
- First Week of School Hours - Due to district calendar changes, **our early release day has changed for this week only**
 - Tuesday Aug 16 - Early Release 8:05 AM-1:45 PM
 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (Aug 16-18) - 8:05 AM-3:00 PM

- **Important Upcoming Dates**

- **PTO Popsicles in the Park** - Aug. 5 (3:00PM-5:00PM) - Come see your friends and meet new ones while enjoying popsicles at the Meridian playground.
- **Back to School Night** - August 11 (4:00PM - 6:00PM) - You will receive communication from your child's teacher to sign up for a time and with further instructions. If you have a SHINE sign from last spring, *please return your **SHINE Yard Sign***. You can drop them off outside of your child's classroom door during Back to School Night. Thank you!
- **First Day of School** - August 16 (school day ends at 1:45 PM due to Early Release)
- **Wednesday, August 17** - Full Day - **not** early release. School ends at 3:00PM
- **Mustang Mile Sept. 23** - Be sure to save the date for our biggest event of the year!
- Please visit the [Meridian Website](#) to view our upcoming events and school calendar throughout the school year.

- **Please see the attached [School Meal Guide for 22-23](#) from Nutrition Services for information on school lunch/breakfast costs as well as account set up.**

- Breakfast will be offered but is no longer free.
- Hot lunches are available, but are no longer free this year.
- We encourage families to [apply for Free & Reduced Lunch](#)

Building Improvements

As part of the most recent Adams 12 Bond initiative, Meridian was part of several upgrade projects being completed over the summer.

- **Changes to SLS & Office Space** - We had a building project over the summer that cut an office space in half in order to make room for additional space in our SLS room.