



8/19/22

Dear Meridian Families,

What an awesome first week back with students! It was so great to see all our old friends as well as some new faces. Please join us in welcoming all our new families to the Meridian community! We have no doubt that our students will be tired this weekend as the first few days are a lot to take in and we saw them already hard at work learning new and challenging material. We just want to thank everyone for having students ready to learn every day and helping us to live this year's theme, "*Open Hearts and Open Minds*" together with your student(s). We certainly saw students welcome each other back with open hearts this week and come ready to learn new things with an open mind. This is a tribute to our families and the way you prepare your students for school each day!

Please see the notes below for some important information. Take care everyone and have a restful weekend....MONDAY IS COMING....YES!!!!

Your Meridian Staff

**Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

Aug. 25 - Picture Day (check Friday Folder or website for order information)  
Sept. 2 - Mustang Mile Kickoff Presentations to students  
Sept. 5 - **NO SCHOOL** - Labor Day  
Sept. 6 - Assessment Day (more info to come from your teacher)  
Sept. 8 - PTO Community Meeting (6-7pm)  
Sept. 15 - Hearing and Vision Screening Day  
Sept. 23 - Mustang Mile (5-8pm)  
Oct. 12 - Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences (7am - 7pm)  
Oct. 13 - **NO SCHOOL** - In-Common Release day (K-8)  
Oct. 14 - **NO SCHOOL** - Fall Break Day

**Arrival/dismissal Reminders:**

- We understand that during the first week it can be a challenge to learn new systems and routines, especially when it comes to getting all our kids in and out of school safely. Thank you for your patience and cooperation this week and in the future!

- Students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:45 (if eating breakfast) or 7:50 (if not eating breakfast). Unfortunately, we are not able to provide outside supervision before 7:45.
- **Walkers/Bikes:** During the first week, we understand the need for parents to help guide students to the right spot. Now that students have the routines and locations down, we ask that parents allow students to walk up to the doors independently. If ever a student needs help, please send them to someone in a yellow vest outside to help them get to the right place. Walking students should be dropped off at the exit/entrance to the lot on the sidewalk near the signs that say, "*Walkers, please drop off students here.*"
- **Driving:** In the hug & go lane, please remember to pull forward as far as you can before letting students out, have students exit the passenger side, and all others should remain in the vehicle. Also remember that it is a right turn only exiting the lot. This helps ensure safety as well as efficiency in getting everyone through the line quickly. Remember, if you want to drive, but don't want to use the hug & go, you are welcome to park on the street in the drop off areas and allow students to walk up to their door.
- **Parking:** Please be mindful of the location of no parking signs in the neighborhood and adhere to all posted signs. It can be especially difficult around McKay Park Cr. on the school side of the street near the bus lane. When cars park here, the buses cannot get through or make a turn. Thanks for your attention to this!

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

- Remember that breakfast and lunch are not free this year as we have become accustomed to the past 2 years. For hot lunch menus, pricing for breakfast & lunch, and other nutrition information, please visit the [Nutrition Services webpage](#).
- Please be sure to check your account through [payforit.net](#). In the event there is no money in an account, students will still be able to eat lunch, but the account will show a negative balance.
- For information or to apply for Free and Reduced benefits, click [here](#).

### **Volunteers:**

- We are happy to be able to welcome class and school volunteers back to Meridian again this year. Volunteer opportunities will start after the Labor Day weekend.
- Your classroom teacher will share information and coordinate volunteer opportunities with you.
- Prior to volunteering, everyone must complete a brief orientation and sign a volunteer code of ethics document. These will be available the first time you come in to volunteer.
- In addition to classroom volunteer opportunities, there are other ways to get involved through PTO in volunteering to help at one of our upcoming events.

### **SHINE Yard Signs**

- If your student received an end of the year SHINE award last spring, please return the yard sign so that we can use them to hand out again for our first SHINE awards in September.

### **Technology Updates from Mr. Plummer**

- We are excited to continue to be a 1-to-1 device school! After the first week, all students in grades 1-5 should now have their chromebook checked out and issued to them. Kindergarten students will have them checked out after the 2nd week.
- Students in K-2 will keep devices at school unless their teacher sends them home on occasion. Students in grades 3-5 will take their device home each night and students should be responsible for making sure it is charged and brought with them each day.
- It is highly encouraged that students use their district issued Chromebook for school work. This will ensure that they have access to the most up to date software and security. The district IT department cannot support or troubleshoot issues with personal devices.
- Teachers will be using GoGuardian software to ensure a safe and secure technology environment that is most conducive to focus on learning. For more information, please see the attached letter. [GoGuardian Family Letter](#)

**Meridian Spiritwear Store:** Now is the time to order some *AWESOME* Meridian spiritwear. We have t-shirts, hats, hoodies, and more for sale on the [online Meridian Spiritwear Store](#). Get your Meridian gear ordered now so your student can wear it every Wednesday for school spirit days, or any other day of the week they want to show their Mustang pride! **The deadline to order is September 10, 2022.**

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