USD# 226 Newsletter
April 2026

"Where the Buffaloes Reign"

The Open Range

Meade High School
409 School Addition
620-873-2981

USD 226 District Office
147 North Fowler
620-873-2081

Meade Elementary School/Jr High
310 East Grant
620-873-2671

Buff Winter Awards

As winter of 2025-2026 comes to a close, the MHS Winter Awards Banquet highlighted successful seasons for both girls' and boys' basketball, as well as dance and cheer. Student athletes were awarded their coveted "M" Letters for meeting the criteria to become a Buff letter winner. In addition, individualized awards that reward grit, determination, and skill were also handed out to those selected by their coaches and teams. Beginning with girls' basketball, head coach Garrett Daugherty handed out letters to the following players at the banquet: Jayven Conley, Joey Hicks, Laura Lynn, Jaylee Eckhoff, Makenna Smith, Frieda Lehmann, Sayler Stapleton, Kate Cunningham, Lake Hooper, Micah McDowell, and Taylor Stapleton. Boys coach, Cole Kinnamon, awarded letters to members of his team as well. They are as follows: Circeen Conley, Ashton Harjo, Samuel Lynn, Mason Olmstead, Jace Shrewsbury, Tyson Knott, Keagan Mein, Saul Mendoza, Jeremaine Conley, Tate Jones, Bryce McDowell, and Titus Ritter. Katelynn Kinnamon, the MHS dance coach, awarded the following letters to her team: Jayven Conley, Kate Cunningham, Kellie Miller, Kenadie Alexander, Laken Hooper, Laura Lynn, Makenna Smith, and Sayler Stapleton. Lastly, cheer coach, Lauren Unruh, announced the following letter winner for her team: Laken Hooper, Julie Cottrell, Abbie Gipson, Aby Dyck, Joslyn Helius, Alejandra Valenzuela, Salem Godfrey, Addison Tacha, and Kellie Miller. Individualized awards are listed to the right.

Girls' Basketball
Offensive Player of the Year – Sayler Stapleton
Defensive Player of the Year – Makenna Smith
Buffalo Award – Kate Cunningham
Lasso – Micah McDowell
Dog – Jayven Conley

Boys' Basketball
Offensive Player of the Year – Tyson Knott
Defensive Player of the Year – Circeen Conley
Most Improved POY – Nathan Ritter
Co-Buffalo Award – Titus Ritter and Mason Olmstead
MVP – Samuel Lynn

Dance Team
Leadership Award – Laken Hooper
Buffalo Award – Kate Cunningham

Cheer Team
Leadership Award – Aby Dyck
Most Spirited – Kellie Miller

Music Students Compete

MHS Music Department was on the road in February and March, competing in League Band at Minneola where the band moved quickly from their Pep Band pieces of the basketball season to the more formal classical sound of the full band. Regardless of the small turnaround time, the band scored all "I" ratings, the highest category possible. Band director, Brandon Haynes, said that he is proud of the band performance at league, but "We now set our sights on State Festival, April 15th in Dodge City". (More "Music" on page 2)

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Good Luck to all Spring Sports Participants and Coaches!
Golf, Tennis, Track and Field

Music (Continued from page 1)

The MHS band members were not the only successful musicians to compete for the school. The MHS vocal students performed at Regional competition in Dodge City, competing against much larger schools from the area. Schools including Garden City, Pratt, Dodge City, and Ulysses are a few of the schools who stood before the same judges as Meade High School, one of the few 1A schools at this site. According to Mr. Haynes, "The challenge of this festival is that students must earn a 'I' rating to qualify them for State Solos and Small Ensemble held at Bethel College on April 25". Earning a "I" rating on this day were Micah McDowell (soloist), Titus Ritter (soloist), and Madrigals (group). As Mr. Haynes stated, those performing "were among some very elite performances". See the full list of ratings from the Regional competition to the right.



Solo Performances (Ratings from I-4)

Micah McDowell – 1
Titus Ritter – 1
Bethany Reimer – 2
Bayleigh Canton – 2
Elias Strickland – 2
Karay Henson – 2
Axel Antonio-Salto – 2
Avery Bussen – 2

Group Performance (Ratings from I-4)

MHS Madrigals* – 1
* Axel Antonio-Salto, Bayleigh Canton, Kate Cunningham, Karay Henson, Micah McDowell, Adan Mercado, Jordan Padgett, Chet Powell, Bethany Reimer, Nathan Ritter, Titus Ritter, Sayler Stapleton, Elias Strickland, Ethan Strickland, Eliana Zortman







Quiz Bowlers Bring It Home!

MJH Quiz Bowlers (shown above). Both JV and Varsity teams medaled at the Bucklin Tournament in March. The JV Team (left bottom), consisting of Trey, Samson, Kenzleigh, Andelyn, Anthony, Dylan, and Thomas, came home with second place medals. The Varsity Team (left top) upped the ante and placed First!. The Varsity Team (left), Milo Ava, Ryle, Abby, Addy, and Morgan, earned first place, bringing home gold! The team is coached by MJH ELA teacher Martha Friesen.

Pepperoni, Please!







Select junior high students (shown above and left) were treated to a celebratory pizza party to commemorate their success throughout the third quarter. Students who had a 3.4 GPA or better, no more than three absences and no office referrals earned the party. Each quarter, students are given the opportunity to join the list of those who meet the criteria. Students are now in their fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Life is a Roller Coaster






Using their knowledge of physics, the MES fourth graders explored how energy can be stored at height. In the activity “Bumper Coasters” students built paper roller coasters, releasing marbles down them, combining height and gravity to test their hypothesis that the height of the marble at the start affected its speed. Each student gained understanding of height energy and energy transfer while watching marbles collide down the track.



Upcoming Important Dates

Fri., April 3rd &
Fri., April 10th
No School
Easter Break

Wed., April 8th
Pre-8th
No School
SPIAA Math Contest

Wed., April 15th
1:00 Dismissal

Sat., April 18th
Prom



Book Shoppin'







Thank You

The MES/MJH and MHS Students would like to thank all who shopped at this year's book fair!

Kiwanis and Key Club Giving Back



MHS Key Club members (pictured above and left) helped the local Kiwanis organization sort and box state commodities to distribute to local families and individuals in need. Local Kiwanis members perform the task monthly for the community at the Beam Center. Kiwanis, International is the parent organization of Key Club International.



Fundraiser to Support Local Students



Many local organizations and foundations provide support for Meade students who will attend colleges and technical schools after leaving Meade High School. Several examples are the Kiwanis Club, PEO, Meade Teachers Association, CMS, IdeaTek, Meade County Conservation District, Alliance Ag & Grain, Invenergy, Meade Community Foundation, Community Foundation of the Southwest, to name just a few. Thank you to the Meade Community for supporting the many fundraisers that these organizations hold as well as your support for the organizations themselves. Our "village" goes above and beyond for our students.

APRIL

MES/MJH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	*Breakfasts include assorted cereal, yogurt, string cheese, fruit, juice, & milk. Lunches include salad bar, fruit, & milk.	01 **French Toast Sticks** G&G: Pop-tart **Chicken Strips** Mashed Potatoes Corn Roll	02 **Pancake on a Stick** G&G: Cherry Streusel **Lasagna Roll Up** Garlic Bread Peas	03 No School
06 No School	07 **Cereal & Sausage** G&G: Blueberry Muffin **Crispito** Pretzel w/ Cheese Broccoli	08 NO SCHOOL MATH CONTEST	09 **Waffles & Sausage** G&G: Sausage Breakfast Sandwich **Super Nachos** Watermelon	10 **Breakfast Pizza** G&G: Long John **Biscuits & Gravy** Sausage Hash Browns
13 **Biscuits & Gravy** G&G: Pancakes & Sausage **Tater Tot Casserole** Peas Roll	14 **Breakfast Bites** G&G: Cinni Mini **Grilled Chicken Patty** Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Broccoli	15 **Bagel w/ Cream Cheese** G&G: Cereal Bar **BBQ Beef Sandwich** Baked Beans	16 **Banana Muffin** G&G: Breakfast Pita **Chicken Quesadilla** Spanish Rice Corn	17 **Donut** G&G: Cinnamon Monkey Bread **Spaghetti** Green Beans Garlic Bread Stick
20 **Cereal & Hash Brown** G&G: French Toast Sticks & Sausage **Pepperoni Pizza** Corn	21 **Strawberry Bagel** G&G: Waffles **Hamburger on a Bun** Tater Tots Carrots	22 **Ham, Egg, & Cheese Breakfast Bar** G&G: Pop-tart **Hot Ham & Cheese Sub** Sun Chips Green Beans	23 **Sausage Breakfast Sandwich** G&G: Western Omelet Quesadilla **Italian Pasta Bake** Steamed Carrots Roll	24 **Peach Parfait** G&G: Coffee Cake **Little Smokies** Mac & Cheese Peas
27 **Pancakes & Sausage** G&G: Biscuits & Gravy **Mini Meatball Sub** Baby Baked Potatoes Broccoli	28 **Blueberry Muffin** G&G: Waffle & Sausage **Pork Rib Sandwich** Sweet Potato Puffs	29 **Cinnamon Monkey Bread** G&G: Chocolate Chip Muffin **Corn Dog** Hash Browns Corn	30 **Breakfast Bites** G&G: Ham & Cheese Flatbread **Walking Taco** Watermelon	

APRIL

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MHS Menu	*Breakfasts include assorted cereal, yogurt, string cheese, fruit, juice, & milk. *Lunches include salad bar, fruit, & milk.	**01** **Cinnamon Roll** G&G: Banana Bread **Meatball Sub** Potato Chips Carrots	**02** **Pop-tart** G&G: Cinnamon Roll **Corn Dog** Red Potato Wedges Green Beans	**03** SCHOOL CLOSED
06 SCHOOL CLOSED	**07** **Cereal & Sausage** G&G: Biscuits & Gravy **Beef & Bean Burrito** Spanish Rice Corn Tortilla Chips	**08** **Blueberry Muffins** G&G: Waffle & Sausage **White Chicken Chili** Corn Muffin Fruit	**09** **Bagel & Cream Cheese** G&G: Chicken Biscuit Sandwich **Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich** Potato Wedges Asparagus	**10** **Uncrustable Sandwich** G&G: French Toast Sticks & Sausage **Beef Steak Fingers** Mashed Potatoes & Gravy California Blend Veggies
13 **Cereal Bar** G&G: Breakfast Pizza **Chicken Tenders** Tater Tots Peas	**14** **Banana Muffins** G&G: Egg Taco & Salsa **Super Nachos** Fruit	**15** **Granola Bar** G&G: Pancakes & Sausage **Pulled Pork Sandwich** Baked Beans Coleslaw	**16** **Strawberry Bagel Roll** G&G: Sausage English Muffin **Lasagna Roll Up** Cheese Bread Stick Green Beans	**17** **Donut** G&G: Cinnamon Monkey Bread **Crispitos** Pretzel w/ Cheese Broccoli
20 **Cereal & Hash Brown** G&G: Breakfast Burrito **Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce** Garlic Break Stick Green Beans	**21** **Banana Bread** G&G: Donut **Chicken Quesadilla** Tortilla Chips Savory Rice	**22** **Cinnamon Roll & Sausage** G&G: Pop-tart **Hamburger on a Bun** Lettuce & Tomatoes Broccoli Strawberries & Bananas	**23** **Waffle & Sausage** G&G: Hot Ham & Cheese Flatbread **Pepperoni Pizza** Corn Tossed Salad	**24** **Pancake on a Stick** G&G: Fruit & Granola Yogurt Parfait **Pork Rib Sandwich** Sweet Tater Tots Fruit
27 **Cereal & Sausage** G&G: Breakfast Bites **Breaded Chicken Drumstick** Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Biscuit	**28** **Scrambled Eggs w/ Biscuit** G&G: Biscuits & Gravy **Beef Tacos** Spanish Rice Tortilla Chips	**29** **Sausage Bagel Sandwich** G&G: Chocolate Chip Muffin **BBQ Beef Sandwich** Baked Beans Coleslaw	**30** **Cinnamon Twist & Sausage** G&G: Sausage Breakfast Sandwich **Stromboli** Garlic Bread Stick	April SHOWERS bring May FLOWERS

April Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	**2** -MHS Track @ Meade 3 pm -MHS V Tennis @ Pratt 3 pm -MJH JV/V League Quiz Bowl @ South Central 3 pm	**3** **NO SCHOOL**	4
6 **NO SCHOOL** **-**MHS JV Tennis at Garden City 9 am	**7** -Dr. Seuss Day @ MES All Day -ACT for Juniors (on-line) 8:30 am – 11 am -MHS V Golf @ Protection 3 pm -MHS V Tennis @ Lyons 4 pm	**8** -No School for PS – 8th -5th -8th SPIAA Math Contest All Day	**9** -MHS JV Tennis @ Liberal 1 pm -MHS V Tennis @ Scott City 11 am -MJH T&F @ Spearville 3 pm	**10** -MHS T&F @ Liberal 3 pm	**11**
13 **-**MHS JV Tennis @ Dodge City 3 pm -USD 226 Board of Education meeting @ District Office 6 pm	**14** **-**MHS Golf @ St. John 1 pm -MHS T&F @ Ness City 3 pm -MHS V Tennis @ Chaparral 3 pm -MJH T&F @ Satanta 3 pm	**15** -1st – 4th Mini Spelling Bee @ MES 9 am -KSHSAA State Music Large Groups @ Dodge City 9 am -Early Dismissal (Teacher Inservice) 1 pm	**16** -MHS V Tennis @ Meade High School 3 pm	**17** **-**MHS JV Golf @ Jetmore 1 pm -MHS T&F @ Spearville 3 pm	**18** -KEMFA State Powerlifting (All Day) -Public Viewing for Prom 5:30 pm (Fairgrounds) -Promenade 6:30 pm (Fairgrounds) -7:15 Prom (Fairgrounds)
20 -MHS JV Tennis @ Dodge City 3 pm -MHS V Tennis @ Claflin 3 pm	**21** -MHS JV Golf at Plains/SWH 10 am -MES K-3 Spring Musical Program @ MES 7 pm	**22** -Administrative Professionals Day -SPIAA Meeting 11:30 am	**23** **-**MHS V Tennis at Great Bend 9 am -MJH T&F @ Cimarron 10 am -MHS JV Golf @ Meade 3 pm -MHS V Tennis @ Hoisington 3 pm	**24** **-**MHS JV Golf at Ashland 1 pm -MHS T&F at Holcomb 3 pm	**25** -MHS KSHSAA State Music - Small Ensembles & Solos (All Day)
27 -MHS V Golf @ Cimarron 1 pm -MHS JV Tennis @ Meade 3 pm	**28** -MHS JV Golf @ SWH (Plains) 1 pm -MHS JV Tennis @ Scott City 1 pm -4th – 6th Music Program @ MES 7 pm	**29** -Senior Signing Day (All Day) -3rd Grade Wax Museum @ MES (All Day) -MJH SPIAA Vocal Contest @ Hodgeman County 9 am -Senior Girls Luncheon @ Methodist Church 11:45 am -Senior Boys Kiwanis Lunch 12 pm	**30** -MHS V Tennis @ Great Bend 9 am -MJH T&F @ Kiowa County 3 pm		