



## Administrator's Message:



Dear Midland Families and Community,

As we move through September, I want to thank everyone for helping us start the 2025–26 school year on such a positive note. The first weeks of school are always filled with new routines, fresh opportunities, and the excitement of learning. I deeply appreciate the support you provide at home and in our community - it makes a real difference for our students and staff.

For the beginning of the school year, we focused on creating welcoming school environments where every student feels valued, challenged, and supported. Our teachers continue to work hard to spark curiosity and encourage growth, while we as a district continue to emphasize safety, well-being, and strong family partnerships. Consistent attendance and open communication remain key parts of helping all students thrive.

A few highlights for September:

- **Homecoming Week** is just around the corner, and we look forward to celebrating school spirit and community pride together September 22-27.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** will be held October 29 & 30 - please watch for scheduling details.
- **Attendance Matters:** Regular attendance is key to student learning, and we appreciate your partnership in supporting this.

In addition, I want to share information about an important item on the ballot this fall. Midland voters will be asked to consider the **renewal of our Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)**. The PPEL provides funding that helps the district maintain and improve our facilities, technology, transportation, and safety equipment—areas not covered by the general fund. This is not a new tax, but a continuation of support that allows us to keep our schools safe, efficient, and up-to-date for students. To learn more, please visit our website at [www.midland.k12.ia.us](http://www.midland.k12.ia.us) and search PPEL or use this direct link: <https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/2025/08/28/ppel-2025/>

I am proud of the work being done across the district and grateful for the community partnerships that make Midland a great place to learn and grow. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or ideas to share.

Together, we can continue to support every student in reaching their full potential.

Sincerely,  
Doug Koerperich  
Superintendent

### Inside This Issue:

News from the Nest.....	2
Elementary View.....	3
Attendance Works .....	4
PPEL Information.....	5
PPEL/Election/Assembly....	6
Counselor / Nurse.....	7
Misc.....	8

# NEWS FROM THE NEST At WYOMING



Congratulations to our **2025 Homecoming Court:**

Issac Beranek, Wyatt Christiansen\*, Xander Eldred,  
Anthony Harrington, Nolan Zaehring, McKenna Doll,  
Gabbie Franzen, Sophia Hunter, Emmi Huston, AJ Soper  
\* missing from photo



## Middle School Event (Gr 7-8)

Friday, October 24

3:30-5:00 pm

Music, dancing, games & gym.

Permission forms and information  
will be sent out via Parent Square.



*Post Prom*



All parents of Midland Juniors/seniors are invited  
to attend the next Post Prom Planning Meeting on  
Oct 21 at 6PM at The Wy.

## BOUND REMINDERS

- 1) Check what notifications you have turned on, coaches will be using to send messages.
- 2) Have the physical expiration turned on. The number of days left on a physical in Bound includes the extra month (13 months) so when it turns to zero (0) it IS expired. A new physical needs uploaded before it hits zero!
- 3) If your student plans to participate in a winter sport, be sure to register them now!

If questions, [midlandad@midland.k12.ia.us](mailto:midlandad@midland.k12.ia.us)

## Processing - Life Skills

Ms. Christiansen's Food Processing class is learning so many new skills through hands on work! These kids are taking garden produce and doing a wide variety of things with it including canning, freezing, baking, dehydrating, etc.



This week they were shredding cucumbers for bread, making tomato juice, baking squash seeds, making apple butter and hot sauce!

*Did you know if you take the pulp of the tomato you can freeze dehydrate it and create Tomato Powder to use to thicken tomato based sauces?*



Thanks to all who have donated fresh fruit or veggies to our Foods Processing class! These kids have kept busy and learned a lot in Ms. C's class this fall!

### VETERAN PHOTOS NEEDED:

NHS is requesting photos of veterans from our community for our Veteran's Day Assembly. Send a photo with information including name, branch, years served (if known) to [twinters@midland.k12.ia.us](mailto:twinters@midland.k12.ia.us) or drop off to HS by 10/20





# Eaglet's Elementary



Ruger Larkey, son of Brittni and Levi Larkey and current 4th grader at Midland Elementary, was recognized with a medal and certificate from the Iowa Department of Education and National Math Stars for performing in the top 2% of 3rd graders on his state assessment in math last spring.

Way to go, Ruger!



## OPERATION GREEN OUT

With the new and improved Elementary building, the staff there are looking for help with Operation Green Out. They would like to add a little life to all of the crisp and clean lines of the building. They would like to put house plants in each classroom because house plants improve air quality, improve mental health, boost productivity, help regulate humidity and eliminate air pollution. If you have any extra house plants or any cuttings they would greatly appreciate the donation.



## GRADE LEVEL LEADERSHIP AWARDS



**Student Lighthouse team** leading a matching game to review our Habits during the September assembly.



**Breakfast Buddies** - We served 201 students and 171 adults. "It was a great morning. The parking lots were full. The enthusiasm of families in the building was amazing." Mrs. Martens



## Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

#### Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy. If you are concerned about a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

#### Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Support your students if you notice signs of anxiety, and if needed, seek advice from your school or health provider

#### Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.



Revised April 2024

Visit Attendance Works at [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org) for free downloadable resources and tools!



At the **August 25, 2025** meeting, the **Midland School Board** approved a resolution to place a **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)** on the **November election ballot**.

On **Tuesday, November 4, 2025**, our community will have the opportunity to vote on **renewing the Midland Community School District's PPEL**. Approval of this measure would **continue the current levy for another 10 years without increasing taxes**.

Here is some more information:

**1) The Midland Community School District Board of Education is asking the community to renew the voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.**

- A PPEL is a voter-approved levy that generates funds for infrastructure and equipment repairs, purchases, and improvements. Funds can only be used for these purposes. Most Iowa schools have had a voted PPEL in place for more than a quarter of a century.
- The voters may authorize a voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (VPPEL) for a period not exceeding ten years and in an amount not exceeding \$1.34 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Midland Community School District has a voted PPEL of \$0.67 and is looking to maintain that amount.
- If the PPEL is renewed by voters on November 4, 2025, the district would continue to use the funds to cover costs related to building and grounds maintenance, technology advancements, and other allowed expenses.
- The PPEL would ensure funds for another 10 years.
- The existing PPEL approved by voters will sunset on July 1, 2026 without renewal.
- If the PPEL is not renewed, the district would need to consider using general fund or SAVE money to support building upkeep, transportation, and technology, potentially delaying other projects.

**2) Midland Community School District receives approximately \$178,000 annually from its voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL). The district relies on these funds to cover many crucial needs, such as:**

- Ongoing maintenance for facilities, including roofing projects
- Security enhancements (secure entrances, cameras, door systems, etc.) to keep students safe
- Furniture purchases.
- Technology purchases
- Bus, van and car purchases for student transportation
- Equipment purchases, including lawnmowers, floor scrubbers, and maintenance vehicles

**3) Renewing the levy will not increase the property tax rate.**

The MCSD tax rate will remain at \$0.67 for the voted PPEL

- Renewing the levy will maintain, not increase, the current tax rate.
- The district wants to renew the voted PPEL at \$0.67 per \$1,000 of taxable value.
- The overall tax rate was \$16.58 in FY 2025. This was reduced to \$16.28 for FY26
- The district and its board continue to examine ways to minimize impacts on property taxpayers. By extending the district's voter-approved PPEL, we will continue to make investments to protect our district's assets and ensure our students continue to have the opportunities they need to succeed.

#### 4) When and Where to Vote:

- Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at your designated polling location. Absentee ballot information will be available. Contact your county auditor.
- Early/absentee voting begins Oct. 15, 2025
- Ballots may be requested by mail by 5:00 p.m., Oct. 20
- In-person absentee voting is available in the Auditor's Office between 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and ends 4:30 p.m., Nov. 3
- Election date is Nov. 4, 2025 with polls open 7am-8pm.



More info will be available as we get closer to the vote. If you or a group have questions, please reach out to Superintendent Doug Koerperich at [midlandsuperintendent@midland.k12.ia.us](mailto:midlandsuperintendent@midland.k12.ia.us) to set up a meeting or discuss via phone. Learn more and follow updates at [midland.k12.ia.us/ppel-2025](http://midland.k12.ia.us/ppel-2025)

## School Board Elections

Thanks to these five people who took the time and effort to get their name on the ballot for our upcoming school board election. This vote will also be **Nov 4<sup>th</sup>** with **polls open 7am-8pm**. On the ballot: **Kirk Dosland, Dustin Klein, Jason Sullivan, James Sterling Graves, Kathleen A Baumer**. We have 4 regular board seats open and one vacancy to fill. Please get out and vote.

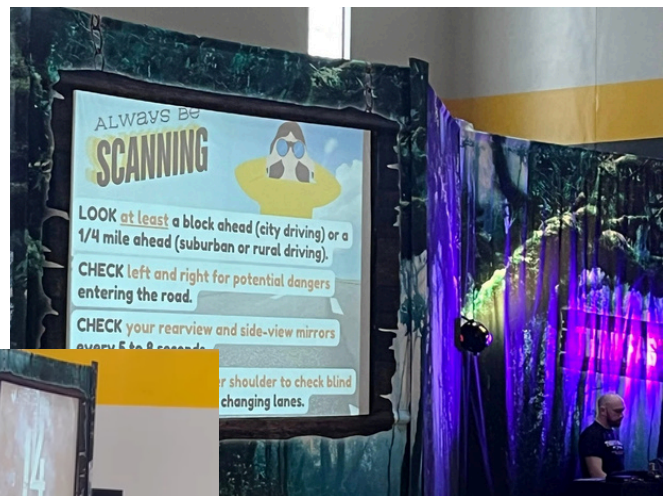
## MMHS Enjoys ThinkFast Assembly

ThinkFast® Interactive is an experiential team building, and awareness program that appeals to all ages with its professionally designed production set, sound system, music videos, and informative and engaging awareness trivia. They visited Midland Middle/High School on Friday September 19<sup>th</sup>. Here are some photos from that event, we wish you could have heard the sounds.



Interactive games had students thinking about choices they make when driving. Learning while having fun!

Page 6



This was a FREE program put on for our students through a grant. Based on the positive sounds from the gym, it was enjoyed by all!

# Counselor's Corner



**Application Day** will be all day on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the entrance area. Our goal is to have every senior apply to at least one college.

McKenna Doll is this year's **AmeriCorps Student Leader**. This means that McKenna will help all students with any college/career going activities. Some of these activities include College Application Day, FAFSA Completion Night, Decision Day, and more! McKenna is a current senior and has been a huge asset to the counseling department.

HOPE group sponsored **Spike Out the Stigma** at a home volleyball game on September 18th. This event was held to raise awareness for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Month.

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## From the Nurse's Office: Back-to-School Health Tips

As the weather cools and we settle into the school routine, it's important to keep our students healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Now is a great time to refocus on healthy habits. Here are a few important reminders for families:

### 1. Back-to-School Basics

- Sleep: 8–10 hours for teens, 9–12 for younger students.
- Healthy fuel: Start the day with a balanced breakfast.
- Hydration: Encourage a refillable water bottle.



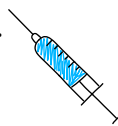
### 2. Flu Prevention

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.
- Avoid sharing water bottles, utensils, or food.
- Consider getting a flu shot each year.



### 3. When to Stay Home

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher (**must be fever-free for 24 hours without medicine**).
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- Persistent cough, difficulty breathing, or sore throat with fever.
- Symptoms that prevent full participation in school.



If you have any health concerns or questions, the Nurse's Office is always here to help.

Stay well,  
Nurse Jessica BSN, RN  
School Nurse

## NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

Our monthly school newsletter is posted on our website at: <https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/district-info/district-newsletter/>, it will also be emailed out to people who want their name on the email list – contact [mihansen@midland.k12.ia.us](mailto:mihansen@midland.k12.ia.us) to be sure you are added. For those who don't have internet access we can mail you a hard copy if you let the school office know your name and address. Contact Michelle at 319-259-5340 ext 1250 or email [mihansen@midland.k12.ia.us](mailto:mihansen@midland.k12.ia.us).

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### Vision Statement

The vision of the Midland School District is to prepare students to think, lead and serve.



**GO EAGLES GO!!** We'd love to have you in the stands cheering on our Eagles at home games, but if you can't make it, you can still catch all the action by streaming online from home! Catch us live on our Hudl page, and check out upcoming events while you're there!  
<https://fan.hudl.com/.../organi.../12794/midland-high-school>

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Midland School Newsletter  
*A Tradition of Excellence*