



Administrator's Message:

Dear Midland Families and Community,

As we move into December and look forward to the holiday season, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who continues to make Midland such a great place for our students to learn and grow.

First, a heartfelt thank you to our community for your support in passing the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) earlier this fall. This approval allows us to continue improving our facilities, updating technology, and maintaining safe and reliable transportation for our students. Your continued confidence in our district means a great deal and helps us provide the best environment possible for our kids.

I also want to take a moment to thank our outgoing school board member(s) for their service, dedication, and commitment to Midland students and staff: Sarah Fishwild, Katie Sorengfrey, Patti Whitmarsh, Lennie Miller and Jeramie Ellefson. Their leadership has made a lasting impact on our schools. Thank you!!

At the same time, please join me in welcoming our newly elected board member(s) to the Midland Board of Education: Dustin Klein, Kirk Dosland, Katie Baumer, James Graves and Jason Sullivan. We are excited for the new ideas and energy they bring as we continue our work together in support of student success.

As we look ahead to the new year, I have also included an article titled “The Impact of Open Enrollment Out and the Power of the Midland Family.” It is an important piece that helps explain how open enrollment affects our district and why every student truly matters to our community. Currently, nearly 120 students who live within our boundaries choose to attend school elsewhere. This represents the loss of students who could contribute so much to our schools and communities — and a significant amount of funding — leaving our district.

More importantly, it reminds us of the value of connection and pride in our schools. The article highlights how each of us can help strengthen the Midland Family by sharing our success stories, welcoming new families, and continuing to make Midland a place where students want to learn and belong.

As we move into December, I want to again thank all who serve or have served in our nation's military. Your example of dedication and service continues to inspire our students and staff throughout the year. Thank you all for your continued support of Midland Schools. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and joyful holiday season, and I look forward to an exciting and successful start to the new year together.

Your Partner in Education,
Doug Koerperich. Superintendent



Inside This Issue:

Enrollment Impact.....	2
News from the Nest.....	3
Elementary View.....	4
Nurse/ Counselor / FFA	5
Blood & Food Drives.....	6

The Impact of Open Enrollment Out and the Power of the Midland Family

Open enrollment allows Iowa families to choose a school district other than the one in which they reside. While this flexibility can benefit families seeking specific programs or opportunities, it also creates challenges for districts like Midland Community School District.

Each student who open enrolls out of Midland takes with them approximately \$8,000 in state per-pupil funding. When several students choose to attend elsewhere, the district's general fund revenue decreases, even though many expenses, such as staffing, transportation, and building maintenance, remain the same.

When that funding follows students to another district, those state education dollars, generated in part by Midland taxpayers, help support programs, staffing, and facilities in the receiving district instead of here at home. While this is how Iowa's open enrollment law is structured, it highlights just how important it is to keep and attract families who want to be part of the Midland story.

This reduction in funding can limit opportunities to expand programs, maintain small class sizes, and offer the full range of courses and extracurricular activities that help students thrive.

But the heart of Midland remains strong, and together, we can make it even stronger. As a Midland Family, every one of us plays a role in helping our district grow and succeed. We can:

- Celebrate and share our success stories. Tell others about the outstanding learning teamwork, and leadership happening every day in our schools.
- Be positive ambassadors. Speak proudly about the value of a Midland education and the caring environment we provide.
- Welcome and support new families. Our sense of belonging and community spirit are among Midland's greatest strengths.
- Stay involved and engaged. When families see our enthusiasm and commitment, they see a school worth choosing.

Together, we can continue building a school district where students, families, and staff feel connected, supported, and proud to belong. Every student counts. Every voice matters. Every link in the chain makes Midland stronger.



IMPORTANT REMINDER:



Midland CSD changed our phone number a few years ago to **319-259-5340**.

Please be sure to change this in your contacts in your phone or write it down at home so you can reach us. The old 488 number will stop forwarding very soon!

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Midland Community School District are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, creed, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in, its hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or Iowa Code § 280.3 is directed to contact: Superintendent 106 W Webster Street Wyoming, IA 52362 (563) 488-2292 who has been designated by the school district to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the ADA, § 504 and Iowa Code § 280.3.

NEWS FROM THE NEST At WYOMING



7-12 Winter Band/Vocal Concert



**December 15 at 7PM
in the Black Gym**

After reading the short story, Marigolds by Eugenia Collier, Mrs.

Schroeder's 7th Grade Literacy class focused on symbolism. Students used hexagonal thinking to draw symbols that represent themselves as individuals. They then used their communication and leadership skills to find common connections between each other. When asked, "What do we notice about the layout of our hexagons?" One student replied, "The closer together they are the more similarities we have than differences".



Midland CSD Honors Veterans



The entire Midland student body and staff as well as many community members gathered in the Gold Gym on November 11 to honor our Veterans with an all school assembly sponsored by the Midland NHS.



The colors were presented by Veterans. Midland 5th graders participated in an essay contest and these three were awarded prizes this year: Presley McCrady, Nixon Schult and Shayne Martin.

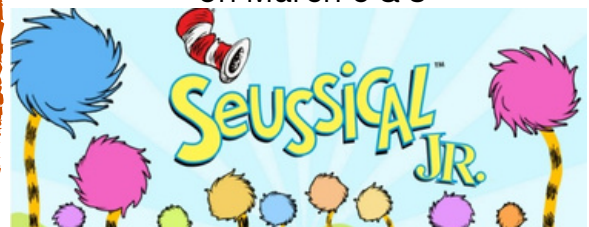


Superintendent Koerperich addressed the crowd as did Steve Agnitsch. The Midland choir and staff sang the National Anthem and the band played a medley of songs. Veterans presented the flags and did the gun salute. A brunch was served following the ceremony to all Veterans.

We are all grateful for the Veterans in our district!



Save the Date - 2026 MMHS Musical
Prepare to be entertained by Midland's musical production of Seussical Jr. on March 6 & 8





Eaglet's Elementary



Elementary Winter Concerts



Dec 11 - Gr 4-6 @ 6pm in OJ

Dec 18 - Gr K-3 @ 7pm in Black Gym in Wyoming

Happy Holidays!



TEAM WORK: 1st and 2nd grade classes received help from the Midland FFA officers one morning recently. They did many activities such as uno, reading, math games, and even helped write letters to veterans!



ELEMENATRY ARCHERS

Mr. Dosland and Ms. Yousse guide students in the fundamentals of archery at Midland Elmentary this week! We are excited to offer this new activity as part of our PE curriculum for fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. These students can also join the Midland Archery Club. If interested talk to Ms. Yousse!



Supporting our Veterans Through Flag Essays

All Midland 5th graders learned about the flag code and wrote an essay about their learning. Three essays were chosen by the American Legion Posts as the winners: Presley McCrady, Nixon Schult and Shayne Martin. Those students got to read their essays at the Veterans Day Assembly.

All learned something about our American Flag!



DON'T FORGET

Cooler weather will arrive soon - please make sure students are sent to school with warm gear!

**Coats - Hats - Gloves
Snow Pants - Boots**

Counselor's Corner



HS Sem 2 Schedule Changes: All schedule changes must be done before we leave for Winter Break on December 19th. Please make an appointment with Mrs. Lasack to make changes!

Books

ANGEL BOOKS

Thanks to the Friends of the Wyoming Public Library, Midland PATS, Citizens State Bank and Ohnward Bank for doing their annual Angel Book Program again this fall. Their goal is for all students in PS-8th grades to take a new book home at the winter break. If you want to donate, drop a book off at either school office, the Wyoming Library or either bank in our district by December 10th. You can also purchase a book online from this wish list:

<https://tinyurl.com/bddz2s>



From the Nurse's Office

REMINDER: We ask that you **DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL SICK.**

Use standard precautions to help prevent the spread of illness (washing/sanitizing hands often, get plenty of rest, cover your cough/sneezes etc.). If a student gets sick during the school day they need to go to the nurse's office and we will call a parent/guardian if the student needs to go home.

For a visual chart of who should stay home for what and how long check out this webpage:

<https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Nurse-Emoji-Illness-Guidelines.pdf>

PARENTS--please include the student's symptoms when leaving a voicemail on the attendance line and make sure your contact information is accurate in PowerSchool. Reminder any student absent 3 consecutive days due to illness will need a doctor's excuse to return. We appreciate your help in reducing the spread of illness at school!

If you have any questions regarding illness or if/when a student should stay home please reach out to the school nurse at 319-259-5340 ext 1400 or midlandnurse@midland.k12.ia.us.

BLUE & GOLD GOOD NEWS

Our FFA **Degree Banquet** was held on Oct 28 in the Calkins Barn. Sixteen 8th graders received their Discovery Degree, which is the first step in the FFA program encouraging exploration within the organization. Fifteen 1st year members received their Greenhand Degree. Twenty 2nd year members received their Chapter Degree which is the highest degree a chapter can award to members.

Livestock Judging was at Kirkwood with Midland taking two teams. The Gold Team consisting of Quinn Hansen, Wyatt Schoenherr, Sean Christiansen, Brydenn Werden finished 4th place overall. They placed 1st in Sheep/Goat, 13th in Beef, and 15th in Swine. Wyatt finished as 3rd place individual overall and 8th in swine. Quinn placed 11th in goat category.

Feed a Farmer was Oct 15, our chapter made and delivered 100 meals to local farmers and workers in the agricultural field. With the partnership with the Jones Co. Pork Producers we were able to celebrate National Pork Month with pork chop sandwiches, with a side of the Midland FFA BBQ team's signature sauce.

Subdistrict Volleyball was held here on Oct 21st. We hosted this event with 10 teams attending, including 3 Midland teams. The traveling trophy stays at Midland for a 3rd year in a row. Linn Mar received the sportsmanship award.



PATS Blood Drive



Wed, Dec 17
2:30-6pm

Call Elisha to reserve your appointment
319-480-4929



MCSD Holiday Food Drive

Midland NHS, Spanish Club and Midland Elementary are joining to sponsor a food drive from Dec 5-12. Boxed/canned items can be dropped off at either school location. **Thanks for caring Eagles!**



Vision Statement

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

Enjoy winter break!

School dismisses Friday, Dec. 19th 3:20

No School Dec 22-Jan 2

Jan 2 is a full staff inservice day

School resumes Monday, Jan. 5,
starting Semester 2 for MMHS