



Dear Midland Community School District,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As we approach this holiday season, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each and every member of our incredible school community and express my heartfelt gratitude to our educators and staff for their unwavering commitment to providing a supportive and enriching learning environment for our students.

This school year has been filled with both challenges and triumphs, and I am immensely pleased with the commitment and dedication that the entire Midland Community displays. An example of this is from last Friday, when we needed to shift gears due to a water main break in Wyoming and earlier in the year when our schools were without power. Every administrator, teacher, and staff member worked together as a team on behalf of our students. The students were perfect, remaining calm and following district expectations. A sincere thank you as well to all of our parents and guardians and the public who trusted us and worked with us with little notice.

I love and believe in Public Education. As we enter the new year, public education in Iowa will be a focus of state legislation. Therefore, we have invited two state representatives: Dr. Stephen Bradley and Kerry Gruenhagen, as well as Senator Chris Cournoyer to address our school board in December. Items on the table will be funding for Iowa's AEA's which provide schools with supports for special education, math, reading, social-emotional, challenging behaviors and the list goes on. Other issues of concern are for our preschool students, at-risk supports and the flooding of money into private schools. I will be sure to keep the Midland Community updated.

Updates on our new elementary building include construction bids will be posted after the December 19th board meeting until January 20th at 2:00 pm, upon which we will be announcing the winning bid. The January school board meeting has been switched from the regular 4th Monday of the month to Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00, to accommodate board schedules.

Joy, peace and connection with loved ones is my wish for everyone this letter reaches. I also want to encourage each of us to reach out and remember those less fortunate this holiday season. Looking ahead to the new year, I am excited about the possibilities and opportunities that lie before us. Together, we will continue to create a positive and thriving learning environment for our staff and students, ***Where Everyone Belongs!***

Sincerely,

Terese Jurgensen

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Superintendent, Midland Community Schools



****Winter Break****

Winter break is December 21st (2 hour early dismissal) – January 3rd

January 3 is a full day of Professional Development – NO school

School resumes on January 4th

NEWS FROM THE NEST AT WYOMING



How College Works class presented their future careers to the First Grade students in a fun/creative way. The high school students made paper career people that resemble their future career choices. These career choices included an interior designer, orthodontist, mental health counselor, carpenter, golf course superintendent, lineman, diesel technician, radiologist, butcher, teacher, childcare director, real estate agent, and aerospace engineer.



High School Art Club painted the windows of businesses in downtown Wyoming for the Christmas City Celebration.

Archery is open to all students in 6-12th grades this year. Practice has started and will begin tournament participation in January and February.



FAFSA Night

- What: To help those complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for those planning on going to college
- When: Wednesday January 10th
- Time: 2pm-7pm
- Where: High School Cafeteria
- What to Bring: Social security number, FSA ID (create one beforehand), W-2, 2022 tax information

Counselor's
Corner

SENIORS:

Scholarship season is kicking into high gear!

Be sure to check the scholarship webpage and watch ParentSquare for potential scholarships that we have received. Be sure to give your references plenty of time to write good letters of recommendation and give them plenty of information about yourself including all activities you are involved in, any work experience, all volunteer info, most importantly **WATCH THOSE DEADLINES!!!** Show the HS office any letters or emails you receive showing you've been awarded a scholarship so you can be acknowledged at graduation!

~ Remember, 2nd semester grades are important and can affect your scholarship eligibility, **finish STRONG!**

PBIS WINNERS

Our secondary building celebrated students who consistently demonstrate our PBIS building expectations: Respect, Responsibility, and Personal Best. These students were recognized and participated in a Pin the Nose on the Reindeer Challenge. We look forward to recognizing other students throughout the year. Keep on SOARing Eagles!



Pictured (L-R): Jaicie K, Jayson R, Emerson H, Max B, Josie P, BayLee F, Laney O

HOLIDAY SPIRIT WINNERS

Our Seminar groups had a Deck the Halls contest where they worked together to decorate their door based on the theme: Holiday Carols. This year's winner was Ms. Kelck's Seminar. Congratulations!



Eaglet's Elementary View



The Polar Express



Elementary students worked very hard to meet their WIG! (Wildly Important Goal)

All students read an extra 10 min for at least 20 days!

The entire school enjoyed a morning at the movie theater and celebrated with popcorn and a drink!



HOLIDAY MUSIC

Thanks to all who joined us in person or online for our K-2 Winter Concert! Mrs. Streets and our students put on an amazing performance for "The Big Chill".



January 2nd / 3rd / 15th – No School

January 4th – School Resumes

January 10th & 24th – 1:15 PM Early Dismissal



ANGEL BOOKS

Thanks to the Friends of the Wyoming Public Library and to all who donated to their Angel Books program. Each elementary student got to take home a book for the holidays. Keep reading! ☺

Food Processing class shared their learning and food with participants of the Iowa Association of School Boards in mid-November. Since then they have been experimenting making many different types of dipping or barbeque sauce. They change ingredients to see how it affects the taste. The office staff have enjoyed taste testing for them.



PSYCHOLOGY FIELD TRIP

On Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the Psychology class at MHS got the opportunity to visit the mental health institute in Independence, Iowa. These students spent the morning touring the facilities and speaking to the staff about the programs and classrooms that are on site. In addition, the students are given the opportunity to tour the museum that is there, and take a look at all of the paperwork, tools, and operating rooms that has made up the past of the facility itself. We also spent time there revisiting some of the material that has been covered and highlighted over the semester in our class. It was a very productive trip and I am thankful that the administration gives us the chance and opportunity to reflect and continue the learning process in a different atmosphere.



THANK YOU to our student volunteers who helped with holiday activities in their communities this holiday season! We had FFA kids helping put up lights in Wyoming and working in the library at the Christmas City Celebration. A couple of NHS members helped with lights as well. Some helped at LN Christmas with crafts. Thanks for helping others, what a great service to our community!

For more school news, follow us on Facebook: 'Midland CSD'

Midland hosted the **Tri-Rivers Conference Festival Choir** on November 13th.



Midland NHS and Midland Elementary combined to put on this year's **Veterans Day Assembly** on November 10th. Our full student body enjoyed getting together to honor our Vets. NHS hosted a breakfast following the assembly. Thank you to Lennie Miller for being the program speaker. Thanks for your service ladies and gentlemen! Here are a few photos of this event.



THANK YOU VETERANS!



School Board Member Committees.

Committees Voted on & Approved:

- + Finance: Sarah Fishwild & Teryn Crist
- + Negotiations: Sarah Fishwild & Teryn Crist
- + Building & Grounds: Derek Denniston, Jeramie Ellefson, Scott Doll
- + Policy Review: Stacie Cronkleton & Teryn Crist
- + SIAC: Sarah Fishwild & Teryn Crist, Teri Sterk & Stackie Cronkleton
- + Jones County Conference Board: Derek Denniston
- + Clinton County Conference Board: Scott Doll

CARING FOR OTHERS

This year our HS girls basketball team had the opportunity to participate in a scrimmage to start the season called the Achieve Challenge. For the achievement part each participating team was encouraged to do a team service project. This season we chose to adopt a family in need to provide Christmas gifts and other needs this holiday season. They held a TV raffle with all proceeds used to fulfill this challenge. Thank you to all who participated or donated! *Happy holidays from MHS Girls Basketball*

High School Basketball Rule Change

If you go to a HS basketball game this year you will notice they are no longer shooting 1-and-1's.

The new IHSAA rules are:

- Team Fouls reset each quarter
- Scoreboard will show a max of 5 fouls per quarter
- Once at 5 fouls the bonus will always be 2 freethrows

So far this transition has gone well and seems to speed up the game.

THINKFAST

We had some presenters come to MMHS for a student assembly about distracted or impaired driving. Students got to participate in a variety of fun interactive and purposeful activities that hopefully made them THINKFAST.

Put that phone down and drive safely Eagles! Let's save lives together!

Open Enrollment may allow parents/guardians to enroll their child(ren) into another Iowa school district under the terms and conditions of Iowa Code 282.18 and Iowa Administrative Code 281-17. House File (HF2589) eliminated the March 1st deadline for open enrollment.

HOMEWORK STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Completing Homework on Time Contributes to School Success

Homework reinforces skills learned in the classroom and provides additional practice. It allows students to be responsible and work independently. Homework maintains a link between home and school by engaging children to talk about what they are learning, while providing parents with an opportunity to see how their students are progressing. The following study tips can help students succeed in the classroom.

Top 10 Tips for Studying

1. Don't leave revision until the last moment before an exam. It's best to look over your notes every day. The more you see it, the more you remember!!
2. Have a separate place for studying and another for relaxing.
3. Make sure that it is a quiet place to study.
4. Don't procrastinate. Get down to studying as soon as possible. The longer you put it off, the later you will get to bed.
5. Make sure that you have all the books that you need.
6. Read through what you need to learn.
7. Make notes on the key points.
8. Take short regular study breaks.
9. As yourself the sort of questions that might be in the exam.
10. Get to bed at a sensible time and sleep well!!

Vision Statement

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



Midland Community Schools
MIDLAND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
Volume 31, Issue 2230
A Tradition of Excellence

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