EAGLE PRIDE
October 2026
Midland Community School District
Doug Koerperich, Superintendent
www.midland.k12.ia.us

Administrator's Message:

It is hard to believe we are already into October! The school year is moving quickly, and it has been great to see so many good things happening across Midland. Our students and staff have been busy learning, competing, performing, and just enjoying being back together.

Homecoming Week was a great example of the Midland spirit. Even with all of the changes we had to make because of the weather, our students and staff found a way to make it a fun and exciting week. From the parade, coronation, assembly and Friday night game, there was plenty of Eagle pride on display. Thank you to our students and staff for making it such a great week, and thank you to our local businesses and community members who helped support Homecoming. Eagles supporting Eagles is what Midland is all about!

We also had a great turnout for Breakfast Buddies at the elementary school. We welcomed 209 students and 205 guests for a special morning together. It was pretty special to see parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and other special people filling the elementary school and spending time with our students. A big thank you to our kitchen staff for preparing a great breakfast and to everyone who helped make the morning such a success.

Our fall activities are also in full swing. Volleyball, football, cross country, and our other activities give our students opportunities to compete, work together, build friendships, and represent Midland. If you have a chance, come out and support our Eagles. Our students really do notice when their families and community show up for them.

I also want to recognize our agricultural education program and thank Ms. Christiansen and Mrs. Fishwild for the time and dedication they give to our students. Agricultural education and FFA provide students with hands-on experiences, leadership opportunities, and connections to future careers and the agriculture industry. These are great opportunities for our students, and I appreciate the work that goes into making them possible.

As I look around Midland, one thing that continues to stand out is how many people are willing to step up and help. Teachers, coaches, support staff, parents, families, local businesses, and community members all play a part in making Midland a great place for kids. Sometimes those things happen behind the scenes, but they all matter and they all add up.

We are also looking for volunteers to join this year's School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC). SIAC brings together staff, parents, students, and community members to share ideas and help guide continuous improvement at Midland. If you are interested in sharing your perspective and helping shape the future of Midland schools, please contact the district office.

Thank you for continuing to support our students, staff, and schools. I appreciate the pride and positive energy our community brings to Midland, and I look forward to seeing all of the good things that are still ahead this fall.

Go Eagles!

Your Partner in Education.
Doug Koerperich, Superintendent

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NEWS FROM THE NEST At WYOMING

Court: *(L-R front)* Laney Otte, Alivia Buresh, Addison Miller, Ava Franzen, not pictured Dakota Nicely. *(L-R Back)* Tyler Gaunt, Masyn Brodersen, Ashton Boge, Dane Ballou, Carter Willms

To all who helped with Homecoming in any way!

Middle School Event (Gr 7-8)

Friday, October 23
3:30-5:00 pm
Glow basketball, glow volleyball & dancing for students in grades 7 & 8.
Activity bus available.

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

2026 HOMECOMING ROYALTY

Congratulations to our '26 Homecoming Royalty: Prince Carter Willms, Princess Dakota Nicely, Queen Addison Miller and King Dane Ballou. Coronation was held on Wednesday night.

LEADERSHIP DAY

The Tri-Rivers Conference held it's first annual Leadership Day on 9/23. CJ Brodersen, Max Becker, Izzie Franzen, Milee Streets and Kinnick Moore represented Midland. They participated in a day of learning put on by the IAHSAA focused on leadership, mental health, and sportsmanship while meeting and making connections with students from the other 13 schools in the conference.

Muster On The Maquoketa

Midland 8th graders traveled to the Jackson County Fairgrounds on Sept 10th to attend Muster on the Maquoketa. They experienced a Civil War reenactment including before, during and after the war. This included learning stations about food, music, weaponry and women's roles during the war. They even experienced a live cannon fire!

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 skasik@midland.k12.ia.us or drop off to HS by 10/23

Coats For Kids

Midland families can request a winter coat from the Coats For Kids program through KCRG and the Jones Co. Family Council by filling out this google form by Oct 12:

https://forms.gle/ygigd5EDFCp3rmNDA

HS students traveled to the elementary for a Homecoming Pep Rally.

Students practiced how to safely evacuate a school bus in case of an emergency.

Kindergarten students are using sandboxes as a multisensory way to practice properly forming their numbers! This hands-on activity helps students build number-writing skills while making learning fun and engaging.

Save the Date:
School Picture Retakes
Fri, Nov 13 - 8am

Successful Breakfast Buddies Event

We welcomed families back to elementary for a special morning together. Students brought a buddy (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings, aunts or uncles) and enjoyed breakfast together. With 209 students and 205 guests, it was a full and happy crowd, even bigger and better than last year! A big shoutout to our amazing kitchen staff for preparing a great breakfast to fuel a great day of learning!

Attendance Works

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 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 you 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 for free downloadable resources and tools!

Counselor's Corner

Application Day will be all day on October 2nd in the cafeteria from 8-11am. Our goal is to have every senior apply to at least one college.

Senior Parent Meeting will be October 28th at 5:30pm in the library. We hope to see you there!

FAFSA Completion Night will be October 28th from 3-7pm in the library.

Laney Otte and Carter Willms are this year's **AmeriCorps Student Leaders**. 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! Both are currently seniors and have been a huge asset to the counseling department.

HOPE group sponsored **Spike Out the Stigma** at a home volleyball game on September 22nd. This event was held to raise awareness for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Month.

🩺 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

Flory Officially Midland's SBO

Bailee Flory is officially the School Board Official for Midland CSD. We thank Gene Lawson who filled in for us as interim SBO. Bailee has been working in the district office in Wyoming while training. She looks forward to serving the district and meeting more District patrons.

Welcome to the Midland Community School Board, Sue Pestka!

We are pleased to welcome Sue, who was appointed at the September meeting. We appreciate her eagerness to serve and look forward to the perspective and experience she will bring to the Board.

Please join us in welcoming Sue as she begins serving the Midland community and working alongside our Board and administration to support our students, staff, and schools!

Vision Statement

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

BIDS NEEDED FROM QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR TRANSPORTATION SHED

The proposal deadline is approaching October 1, 2026! Midland CSD is seeking qualified contractors for siding replacement, interior upgrades, weatherproofing and related improvements at the Transportation Shed at Oxford Junction Elementary. Review full project details and submission requirements online at:

https://tinyurl.com/5a44phfs

Midland School Newsletter
A Tradition of Excellence

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