Edition 26.3
March 26

Midkota Messenger

Inspiring Minds, Building Character, Shaping Futures.

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Superintendent News from Mrs. Halvorson

Happy March, Midkota Families!

We are excited to welcome the month of March and congratulate our students on an incredibly successful February! It has been a busy and rewarding stretch at Midkota, and we are so proud of the effort, dedication, and sportsmanship our students continue to demonstrate.

A huge congratulations to our Girls Basketball team, who advanced to the State Play-In Game and came so close to earning a state berth. What an accomplishment! We are beyond proud of the way our athletes competed and represented our school with grit and class. Our student section was electric, and the sea of blue that filled the stands was an emotional and powerful display of community pride and Titan heart. The support, the energy, and the unity in that gym are moments our students will never forget.

Our Speech Team also hosted a successful speech meet last weekend; they had 12 teams present and are competing well. Last week we also celebrated a fantastic FFA Week, showcasing student leadership, service, and pride in agricultural education. At the elementary level, Math Olympics has been a big hit, sparking excitement and friendly competition among our younger learners.

And we have more to come! March is packed with activities:

- Elementary Volleyball is underway
- Sophomore Pre-ACT Testing
- Juniors – ACT Testing
- Federal NAEP Testing for 4th & 8th Grade
- Boys Basketball is competing in District play
- Track begins next week
- Large Group Music Contest
- FFA Convention and FBLA State Competitions are coming up
- Our Washington, D.C. students depart mid-month

There are so many opportunities available to our students, and we are continually impressed by those who balance academics while participating in multiple activities. Being involved builds confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong memories. We encourage all students to find ways to get engaged!

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in Glenfield on Thursday, March 5th from 2:00–8:00 PM. We strongly encourage parents to attend and connect with teachers about student progress. There will be no school on Friday, March 6th.

It's hard to believe, but Quarter 3 ends on March 19th. The year is moving quickly, and we appreciate your continued partnership in supporting student success.

Thank you for being part of the Midkota community. Let's make it a great March!

Elementary News from Mrs. Dockter

Happy March! We have all sorts of things happening around here!

We spent the month of February celebrating Math and chasing the winter blues away with dress-up days, games and challenges. Thank you to our AMAZING teachers who put in so much extra work to help students get excited about Math. It certainly made the month fly right by!







This month also marked the first time that Midkota participated in the Griggs County Spelling Bee in several years. Thank you to Lisa Anderson for setting that up and making it happen. We have two students headed to the State Competition on March 23rd in Bismarck, Leah Edlund and Lauren Dockter.

We had a great lyceum on February 25th by The Stringman, Paul Imholte. Originally from a small town in Minnesota, Paul has mastered 12 stringed instruments and brought 12 of them to show our students. We spent 50 minutes singing fun songs and learning about instruments.





March is Reading Month and the elementary set an ambitious goal of 8,858,000 words to read before April 1st. Our theme this year is "Wild about Reading" and our school has turned into a jungle with animals peeking out of every corner. We kicked things off in the gym this morning with a couple of Reading parodies by Mrs. Topp and accompanied by her son Nathan.







Senior Class Brings Leadership to Life

The Midkota Senior Class showed us all what it looks like to take the Mustang spirit out into the community. On Friday, January 30, the almost, but not quite, graduated class headed to Grace City to clean up the gym. Don't be fooled though, while they worked hard doing some community service, they also played hard! They enjoyed some of the fun things the gym has to offer, including playing on the golf simulator. Thanks for stepping up and making our communities great places to be!







Multi-Media Class Visits Newspaper

Ms. Dietz's Multi-Media got to spend some time at the Foster County Independent, where they had the opportunity to see the work that goes into putting together a newspaper. They learned about designing ads that are placed in the paper, how to design sports pages, and the process of finally putting together the paper. They were also lucky enough to learn how cameras are used to capture action shots, and the different internship opportunities at the newspaper.



Mustangs Celebrate 100 Days of School!

The elementary school had an exciting 100th day of school this year. Some students dressed like they were 100 years old, while some dressed as if it were 1926. Students got to celebrate the day by doing different activities that had to do with the number 100.











Griggs County Spelling Bee Champs



The Griggs County Spelling Bee was held on February 18th at the Midkota Elementary school. After a few years of not competing, Midkota was once again ready to showcase their top spellers. The 5th and 6th grade classes each had a classroom spelling bee in January, and the top 4 from each class moved forward to the Griggs County Bee. The Bee consisted of 50 words from the 2026 Scripps Words of The Champion book. The top two spellers are moving on to compete in the State Spelling Bee on March 23rd in Bismarck. Our runner up this year is Lauren Dockter, and the Griggs County Spelling Champion is Leah Edlund. They did a great job, and we can't wait to see them represent both our school and our county. Way to go!



Midkota Public Schools
School Board Election
June 9, 2026

Notice of Candidate Filing Deadline

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing to have a candidate's name printed on the ballot for the Midkota Public School District No. 7 is April 6, 2026, by 4:00 p.m. The following offices are up for election:

Glenfield-Sutton-McHenry (3-year term)

Binford Precinct (3-year Term)

An individual seeking election to the Midkota School Board shall prepare and sign a document (Statement of Intent) stating the individual's name and the position for which that individual is a candidate. A candidate shall also file a SFN 10172 (Statement of Interests) as required by section 16.1.-09-02. The documents must be filed with the school district's Business Manager or mailed to and in the possession of the business manager by April 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

All forms are available from the Business Manager or Assistant Business Manager at Midkota School or may be obtained online at https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=30&ptlPKID=3



BATTLE BOTS!

Our 9th grade class had an exciting Sphero Battle Bot Competition! Students put their coding and problem-solving skills to the test as they designed, programmed, and battled their bots in head-to-head challenges. It was awesome to see creativity and perseverance in action! Congrats to Toby for winning the most battles!



MUSTANG ARCHERS
Right on Target

The Mustang Archery team has been having a great year. The team is made up of students from Kensal and Midkota, grades 4-12. If you've never been to an archery meet, you might be wondering what it's like. There are two kinds of contests - 3D, and Bullseye.

In the Bullseye competition, students shoot five arrows at a classic bullseye target. Each arrow is worth up to 10 points. They shoot 3 rounds from 10 meters and 3 rounds from 15 meters. The final score is the total points from all six rounds, with the highest possible score being 300.

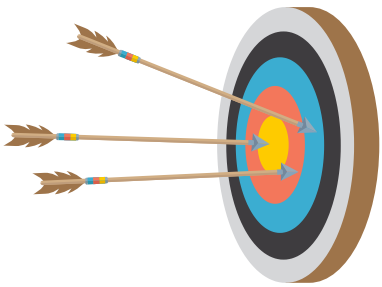
The 3D competition consists of shooting at 3D animal targets from varying distances. The targets vary in size, from a turkey up to an elk. The archers shoot 5 arrows at each target and rotate through 6 different targets. Again, the most points an arrow can score is 10. Their scores are added up, and the highest score possible is 300.

The archers are divided into different divisions. There are both girls and boys divisions, and then they're further put into elementary (4th and 5th grade), middle school (6th-8th grade), and high school (9th-12th grade) divisions.





ARCHERY NEWS



By: Skarlett Ekren

Last weekend on Saturday our Midkota archery team went to Jamestown for the St. Judes Charity tournament. Jesse Wessels got 1st in 9th grade boys with a 282 in 3D and 4th in 9th grade boys for bullseye with a 275, Cole Wessels got 8th in 8th grade boys for both 3D and bullseye with a 250 along with a 264, Jordyn Rickford had a 260 bringing her to 3rd place in the 9th grade girls division, Kauri Johnson got 5th in 8th grade girls with a 254 in 3D, Clara Lee with a 268 in bullseye got 4th overall for 8th grade girls, and Skarlet Ekren placed 2nd for 9th grade girls with a 269 in bullseye. This weekend our archery team will go to Griggs County for their next tournament on Saturday and Sunday. In March we will be going to Minot for State Archery March 20-21.



Mic Drop! Speech Team off to Great Start



The Midkota Speech team competed at their season opener in Central Valley on Saturday, January 31st. Individual Results are as follows:

- Heidi Ramsey placed 6th in Serious and 5th in Dramatic
- Amy Ramsey placed 6th in Persuade and 7th in Extemporaneous Programmed Reading
- Grandin Black placed 2nd in Inform and 1st in Radio Broadcasting

On February 7th, the speech team competed in Northern Cass. Individual results are as follow:

- Heidi Ramsey - Top Novice in Serious and Top Novice in Dramatic
- Grandin Black - 3rd in Inform and 2nd in Radio Broadcasting



The Midkota Speech team competed at the Park River Invitational on Saturday, February 21st with 17 other schools. We are excited to report that we had 5 students experience their first speech meet. Individual results are as follows:

- Emily Frohms - Top Novice in Serious Prose
- Avery Johnson - Top Novice in Dramatic
- Heidi Ramsey - 8th Place in Dramatic
- Grandin Black - 4th in Radio Broadcasting and 1st in Inform, STATE QUALIFYING!

Congratulations speakers!



NAEP 2026 PARENT-GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION LETTER

Grades 4, 8, and 12 Civics, Mathematics, Reading, or U.S. History

Friday, January 30, 2026

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Midkota High School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it is a common measure of achievement across the country.

Your child will/may take a mathematics or reading assessment. In addition to subject-area questions, students voluntarily complete NAEP survey questions. These questions provide valuable information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and outside of the classroom. More information about NAEP survey questions is available at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents under the section "Survey Questionnaires & Your Student: What You Need to Know."

The assessment takes about 120 minutes for most students, which includes transition time, directions, and completion of survey questions.

The information collected is used for statistical purposes only.

- Your child's grades will not be affected.
- Students may be excused for any reason, are not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question.
- While the assessment is voluntary, NAEP depends on student participation to help policymakers improve education. If you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by Friday, February 27, 2026.

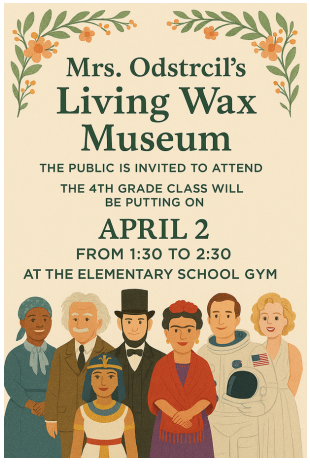
There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP, but please encourage your child to do their best. Contact Iris Brandt at 701-785-2126 or at Iris.Brandt@k12.nd.us if you have any questions.

We are excited that our school is participating in NAEP. We know that Midkota High School's students will show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely,

Iris Brandt

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts the National Assessment of Educational Progress to evaluate federally supported education programs. All of the information you provide may only be used for the purposes of research, statistics, and evaluation under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA; 20 U.S.C. § 9543) and may not be disclosed, our used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law. Every NCES employee as well as every NCES agent, such as contractors and NAEP coordinators, has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of $250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you. Electronic submission of your information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015.





Check out the many opportunities to visit MES and see all the fun things happening here. From visiting a wax museum to having some fun learning about STEM at the Family Stem Night, there's bound to something going on that you'll enjoy. Our students and staff have worked hard to provide fun community opportunities.



Lydia Elizabeth Eslinger



1.Which school event do you look forward to this year?
Prom

2.Describe your senior year in three words.
An Unforgettable Year.

3. What club or sport would you add to Midkota?
Hockey

4.Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
With a masters in Biology and married

5.What was the most enjoyable book you read in high school?
The Great Gatsby

6.What community service activities have you been involved in with your town?
BSA, Volunteering at the Library

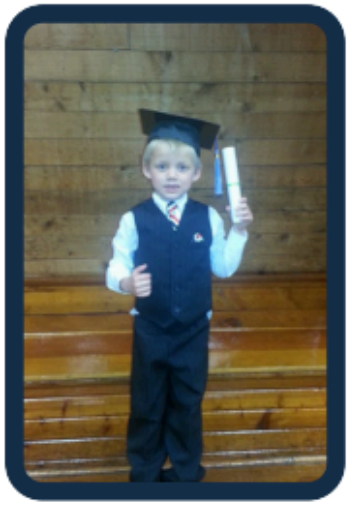
7.What is your dream vehicle?
Mazda Miata

8.What subject prepared you most for life after high school? Why?
Independent Living & Financial Literacy because they prepare me for my future

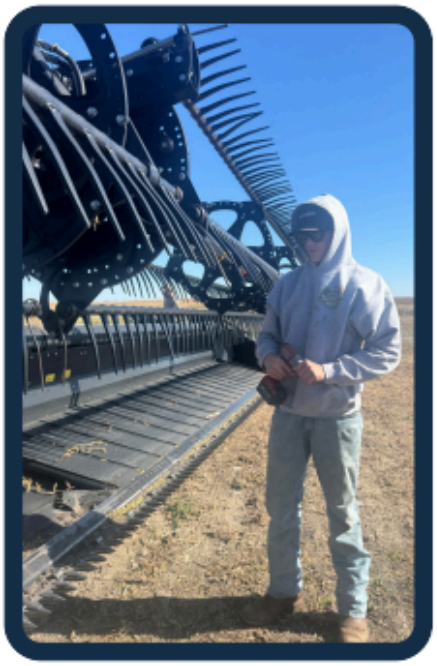
9.What sporting events are the most fun to attend? Why?
Hockey Games in Jamestown

10.If you woke up tomorrow and could speak a foreign language, what would it be?
German or French

11.What project or assignment challenged you the most as a student?
A Biology assignment



Tyler Nathan Johnson



1.Which school event do you look forward to this year?
Graduation
2.What's your favorite school lunch?
Tacos
3. If you could create one mandatory course for future seniors, what would it be?
Welding Class
4.What project or assignment challenged you the most as a student?
All
5.What was the most enjoyable book you read in high school?
Slacker
6.What community service activities have you been involved in with your town?
Mowing
7.What is your dream vehicle?
Tank
8.What is this year's must have fashion item, in your opinion?
Carhartt Sweatshirts
9.What club or sport would you add to Midkota if you could?
Racing
10.You are talking to your 8 year old self, what advice do you give?
Don't waste time
11.Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Working
12.What is your favorite quote?
"It'll be okay."

FEBRUARY FFA MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Brinn Black and Jackson Ekren



Hardwood Hustle! Check out some action shots from the Titans hard at work on the court.



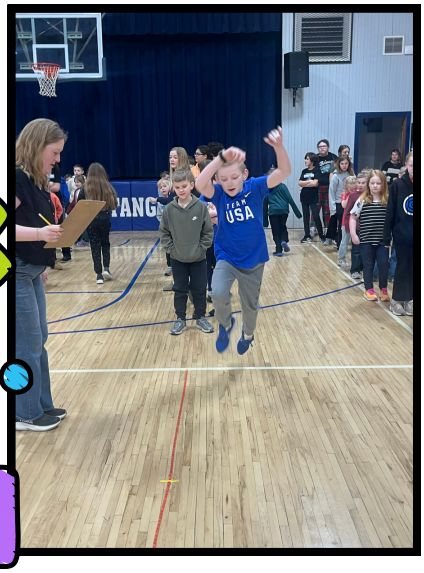






Mustangs Count on Success!

The Midkota Mustangs decided to get in the Olympic spirit this February by competing in their very own Math Olympics. Our student mathletes were busy competing and having fun with many activities over the month. They kicked off the fun by creating their own Olympic torches using patterns and blocks. They participated in long jumping, math relays, and math game challenges. They really multiplied their fun this month!











If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you.
If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 E: Hotdogs/Corndogs HS: Orange Chicken	3 E: Chili HS: Beef Stew	4 E: Chicken Alfredo HS: Hot Ham & Cheese	5 E: Taco Salad HS: Pizza Sticks	6 **NO SCHOOL** **P/T Comp Day**	7
8	9 E: Chicken Nuggets HS: Spaghetti	10 E: Pulled Pork HS: Country Fried Steak	11 E: Orange Chicken HS: BBQ's	12 E: Tater Tot Hotdish HS: Chicken Nuggets	13 E: Soup & Sandwich HS: Soup & Sandwich	14
15	16 E: Brunch HS: Chicken Alfredo	17 E: Chicken Burgers HS: Tater Tot Hotdish	18 E: Pizza Sticks HS: Ham	19 E: Meatballs HS: Mini Corn Dogs & Mac-N-Cheese	20 **NO SCHOOL** **Spring Break**	21
22	23 E: Chicken Noodle Hotdish HS: Fish	24 E: Subs HS: Hotdogs/ Corndogs/Polish Sausage	25 E: Meatloaf HS: Pulled Pork	26 E: Chicken Strips HS: Chili	27 E: Pizza HS: Pizza	28
29	30 E: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham HS: Taco In A Bag	31 E: Beef Stew HS: Chicken Strips				

Website: www.midkotaschools.k12.nd.us | Facebook Page: Midkota Public School



Sorum Soars in Academics

Congratulations to Midkota High School's Payton Sorum on being named a Class B NDASSP Academic All State Honorable Mention. Payton will receive a certificate of recognition for her achievements from the North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals.

Lady Titans Capture 2nd Place Title in District Tournament

WELL DONE!

The Lady Titans finished up their district tournament with a 2nd place title. The team had a great tournament, winning their first game against Midway Minto, and securing a berth in the championship game with an overtime victory over Park River in their second game. The championship game was a nailbiter, as both teams gave it their all, with Hatton Northwood pulling out the victory.
Jessa Spickler and Kelsey Johnson were both named to the All-District Team. Way to go girls! We are proud of our Lady Titans!





School Board Meeting ~ Midkota School District 7
January 13, 2026, 7:30 AM
Midkota Elementary School, Binford, ND

Board Members Present: Bobbi Hoffman, Shian Hoyt, Jed Hasenwinkel, Keith Herberg (Zoom), Ross Johnson, Tim Ronningen, and Justin Spickler.
Others Present: Superintendent Kristi Halvorson, Iris Brandt, Linn Dockter, Charla Hoyt, Katie Zimprich

1. Call the Meeting to Order
President Hoffman called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:37 and a quorum was established. Hoyt moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Hasenwinkel, Motion carried.

2. Consent Agenda
Motion by Hoyt to approve the consent agenda. Ronningen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment-None at this time.

4. Reports-Reports were presented to the board and are on file in the business office.

5. Business

5.1 Adopt policy GAAE – Critical Race Theory

Hoyt motioned to adopt policy GAAE Critical Race Theory on first reading and waive second reading to expediate the policy adoption process per board Policy BDA. Hasenwinkel seconded. On roll call vote, all voting yes, motion carried.

5.2 Adopt policy GACG – Educational Opportunities through sponsoring entities

Hoyt motioned to adopt policy GACG Educational Opportunities through sponsoring entities on first reading and waive second reading to expediate the policy adoption process per board Policy BDA. Johnson seconded. On roll call vote, all voting yes, motion carried.

5.3 Adopt policy GCC – Protection of pupil rights amendment

Hoyt motioned to adopt policy GCC Protection of pupil rights amendment on first reading and waive second reading to expediate the policy adoption process per board Policy BDA. Johnson seconded. On roll call vote, all voting yes, motion carried.

5.4 Pledged Assets

Hoyt motioned to approve the Pledged Assets amount. Hasenwinkel seconded. Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports
None at this time.

7. Adjournment & Next Meeting

February 10th– 7:30 AM, Midkota High School – Glenfield, ND

Hoyt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 AM. Seconded by Spickler. Motion carried.



The difference between winning and losing is most often not quitting.
-Walt Disney



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 DC Trip 3 on 3 Tourney @ MES & MHS	2 BBB District Tourney @ Larimore	3 7:30a School Board Meeting @ MES Track Practice Starts	4 Pre-ACT Testing—Sophomores	5 1:30p Early Dismissal 2p-8p Parent Teacher Conferences @ MHS NO ASC	6 **NO SCHOOL** **P/T Comp Day** Girls State Basketball Tournament @ Minot	7 Speech @ GCC
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins! Set your clocks ahead 1 hour!	9 BBB Regional Tournament @ Devils Lake	10 8:30am NEAP Testing—8th grade 4:30p E-VB @ BCN	11 County Health @ MHS Band & Choir Regional Contest @ Carrington	12 BBB Regional Tourney @ Jamestown	13 4:30p E-VB @ Carrington	14
15	16 Baseball & Softball Practice Starts	17 E-VB @ GCC	18 Multi Media FT to WDAY	19 7:30a School Board Meeting @ MES 4:30p E-VB @ Kensal vs. Pingree-Buchanan NO ASC	**20** **NO SCHOOL** **Spring Break** **Q3 Ends** Boys State Basketball Tournament @ Minot	21 Speech @ MPCG
22 FFA Convention in Minot	23 State Spelling Bee @ Bismarck	24 Public Health @ MES 4p E-VB @ MES vs. GCC	25 Students Gone for DC Trip	26 4:30p E-VB @ McVille vs. Dakota Prairie	27	28 Speech @ BCN
29	30 4:30p E-VB @ Four Winds State FBLA Conference @ Bismarck	31 E-VB @ MES vs. Carrington				

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Midkota "Meats" The Challenge



The Midkota Ag Class had a full circle learning moment when they had the opportunity to apply their knowledge in a real-world setting.
After learning about meat cuts and how to cook them properly last semester, students in Miss Vollmer's livestock production class got hands-on experience cutting and packaging meat. Real-world skills in action!

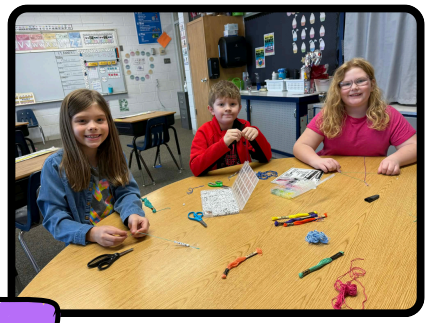


3rd Graders Multiply Their Fun

The 3rd grade class has been learning multiplication and division throughout the year! They enjoy solving fact puzzles, working as a team on task cards, and competing against each other in flash card speed rounds! They've also stayed busy doing science experiments and enjoying grammar groups with student helper Alette.













MUSTANG OF THE MONTH

BE THE ONE: PERSEVERANCE



Haylie Spickler is an 11th grader. Her parents are Nathan and Emily Spickler, and her siblings are Trace, Kadence, and Quaid. Haylie is involved in volleyball, basketball, speech, FBLA, student council, and band. In her free time, she enjoys showing cattle. She doesn't have a fear. She excels in English. A teacher's nomination said, "Haylie has shown a positive attitude and perseverance through her knee injury and continues to be a part of athletics, clubs, and organizations as much as she can. Haylie works hard and shows determination in everything she does." Haylie's advice for other students is to work hard and get good grades. Haylie's current goal is to end the year with a 4.0. Her future goals are to go to college and to be successful.



Aubrie Stangeland is an 8th grader. Her parents are Aleah and Ethan Stangeland, and her siblings are Letti and Jonah. Aubrie is involved in basketball, volleyball, speech and 4-H. In her free time, she enjoys practicing sports, baking, and reading. Her fears are snakes, spiders, and mice. She excels in science. A teacher's nomination said, "Aubrie has shown perseverance by completing all her homework without concerns from teachers, has a positive attitude, and works her hardest with everything she does. Aubrie's advice for others is to persevere during hard times, be kind, and work hard. Aubrie's current goal is to heal and get all A's. Her future goals are to graduate college and get a job.



Paige Black is a 9th grader. Her parents are Travis and Katie Black, and her siblings are Bryar, Emmett, and Brooke. Paige is involved in basketball, volleyball, softball, FFA, and FBLA. In her free time, she enjoys going to the lake with her cousins and being with her friends. Her fears are heights because they make her feel nauseous and chickens because they're very creepy. She excels in English and Science. A teacher's nomination said, "Paige continues to work hard in all classes, she asks questions when necessary, and is always using her time wisely during class and other classes to get homework done." Paige's advice for others is to work hard at things you want to achieve, and have a good attitude. Paige's current goal is to get good grades and make it a good year. Her future goals are to graduate college with a degree for an optometrist (eye doctor) and to get married.

February Students of the Month



Midkota Elementary is excited to announce their February students of the month! This month we focused on the character trait of Empathy, and our K-3 grade recipient was Josephine Urness and our 4-6 grade recipient was Liam Hovland. We are proud of you! Congratulations!

Lady Titan Basketball Comes to a Close

The Lady Titans ended an exciting season with a barn burner on Saturday, March 1. After taking the 3rd place title in the regional tournament, with an exciting 63-61 win over Hatton-Northwood, our girls earned themselves a spot in the state play in game. They played Edgely-Kulm-Montpelier on March 1st in Mayville for a chance to go to the big show. The Titans played their hearts out in front of a huge crowd. While we ended up coming up short after EKM hit a buzzer beater to edge us out by 1 point, the team had a lot to be proud of. Not only did the team play some great basketball, but they showed great heart. Kelsey Johnson, a senior, walked away with a place on the All-Region team, and she scored her 1,000th point during the regional tournament. Kadence Spickler, freshman, was named KNDK 1080's Player of the Game in the win over Hatton-Northwood. Way to go team! We are proud of you and can't wait to see what next season brings!



National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026

National FFA Week was a huge success! From morning trivia questions and FFA dress-up days, to rope pulling, square bale tossing, stick horse races, potato sack races, pie-eating contests, a Case vs. John Deere dodgeball tournament, and FFA officer visits to the elementary school, it's been an action-packed week.

The FFA is a national student leadership organization that prepares students for careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.















