Edition 26.5
May 26

Midkota Messenger

Inspiring Minds, Building Character, Shaping Futures.

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Superintendent News from Mrs. Halvorson

As we move quickly toward the end of another successful school year at Midkota, there are several important dates and celebrations to share with our community.

We are excited to celebrate the Class of 2026 at Graduation on Sunday, May 24 at 2:00 PM. Graduation is always a special milestone for our students, families, staff, and community. We hope you will join us in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding group of seniors. 🎓

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and at Midkota we take this opportunity to celebrate all staff and our bus drivers together. While there are many individual appreciation days throughout the year, we believe it is important to recognize the entire team at once. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff, custodians, kitchen staff, office staff, and bus drivers each play an essential role in supporting students every day. Please take a moment to thank a staff member or bus driver for helping keep our students safe and ensuring they arrive where they need to be ready to learn. 🚌

Thursday, May 8 will be a Tutor Day and Staff Professional Development Day. Tutor Day will take place from 8:30–11:45 AM in each school building. Transportation between towns will be available—please contact the school office to schedule pick-up if needed. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 AM. This is a great opportunity for students to receive extra support from their teachers and complete any missing assignments before the school year wraps up.Our last day of school is May 21, with an early dismissal at 1:30 PM. It's hard to believe how quickly the year has gone!

Spring activities continue to keep students busy, with baseball, softball, track, and golf in full swing. As always, these events impact afternoon attendance, but they provide valuable opportunities for students to represent Midkota and grow through competition and teamwork. We recently wrapped up State FBLA, Speech, and FFA conventions, and we are very proud of how well our students represented Midkota through their effort, growth, and accomplishments. We are now looking forward to our upcoming spring music concerts, where students will have another opportunity to showcase their talent. 🎶

While we finish strong this school year, we are also preparing for next year. One important change ahead is the transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus, as the State of North Dakota moves all public schools to this new student information system. We have been working hard to ensure data accuracy and complete training. Families will receive more information as we continue implementation throughout the summer.

As the final days of the school year approach, we encourage students to stay focused, finish assignments, and take pride in ending the year on a strong note. Thank you for your continued support of Midkota Schools—together, we are Inspiring Minds, Building Character, and Shaping Futures. 💙

Elementary News from Mrs. Dockter

Bring on the Summertime Sun and Reading Fun! By: Mrs. Dockter

Whew! School flew right by! The year has been so filled with learning, activities, and fun that sometimes the end of school just sneaks right up on me while I am not looking. The month of May brings concerts, graduations, field trips, track day, and the knowledge that when we come back next year, our school will be different. This year's sixth grade class will be seventh graders in Glenfield, we will have new preschool students to meet, and also a new janitor as Bruce Sorum retires this summer. Thank you Bruce for your 6 years of dedication to our school. Thank you for the countless smiles you have created in students and staff and for your can-do outlook. You will be missed!

We will never get this exact time or year back as well as the moments where memories that were made along the way. Each year is as special and unique as each of our Midkota students. Thank you for coming along on this journey with us. I am so blessed to be able to work in the community that I do, for the school that I do, with the students and staff that I do. As we get ready to say our summer goodbyes, I want to leave you with a few thoughts and ideas.

If you have been at Midkota a little while, you probably know how much I love to read and that I am a huge fan of books and reading for students in general. But perhaps I haven't shared with you why. Opening the cover of a book brings the excitement of an adventure just waiting around each page. I often can't put a book down until I know what happens next! (Which often interferes with me weeding the garden. Ha!) Reading is a proven way to improve student scores and counteract any summer regression. Also research shows that limiting screen time affects children (and adults) in a ton of positive ways. I won't detail the research here, but if you Google "mayo clinic too much screen time" you will find an article that sums it up well. Want more than an article? Feel free to check out "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt. The elementary teachers read that book together last year, and it is certainly a wealth of information. Please know that I am not advocating that you go cold turkey on TV time or that you give up family movie night (never!), just aim for less.

And what kind of princi-PAL would I be if I recommended less screens, and didn't give you some other options? As such, I have put together a list of summer reading ideas for students (or you!). By the way, there are also a lot of great benefits from audio books as well.

Have an AMAZING summer, and I'll be seeing you soon!



Other Ideas

1. Make homemade ice cream or popsicles
2. Build a fort—blanket or otherwise
3. Freeze small toys in ice blocks and let kids excavate
4. Check out your local library summer programs
5. Go hiking in a state park
6. Have students make a summer bucket list
7. Create a backyard scavenger hunt
8. Play the license plate game and see how many states you find over the summer
9. Try out flashlight tag in the evening
10. Paint some kindness rocks to share

Mrs. Dockter's Summer Reading Recommendations

1. Holes
2. Little House on the Prairie
3. Wish
4. The Lemonade War
5. Artemis Fowl
6. Heat (by Mike Lupica)
7. Double Identity (by Margaret Peterson Haddix)
8. I am Regina
9. Smile
10. The Report Card

Happy Reading!



OCEAN





ARTIC



WETLAND

EXPLORING HABITATS IN 1ST GRADE!

Mrs. Gleason's 1st grade students used their creativity skills to build their own habitat boxes. They painted a replica, used clay to assemble their animals, and added details to finish. Each box shows the originality of each student!



DESERT



SAVANNA





RAINFOREST

SAFE KIDS GRAND FORKS

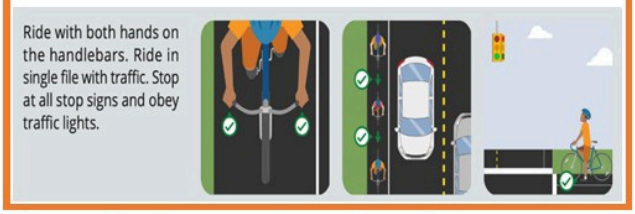
Keeping kids safe at HOME, at SCHOOL, at PLAY, and ON the WAY!!

VISION ZERO

Here comes the sun! Warmer weather means more outside activities like riding your bike, scooter, or skateboard. A few easy tips to remember:

Always wear a properly fitting helmet. Helmets are different for different activities—scootering and skateboarding are safest with a multisport style helmet. Bikers of all ages are encouraged to wear bike helmets.

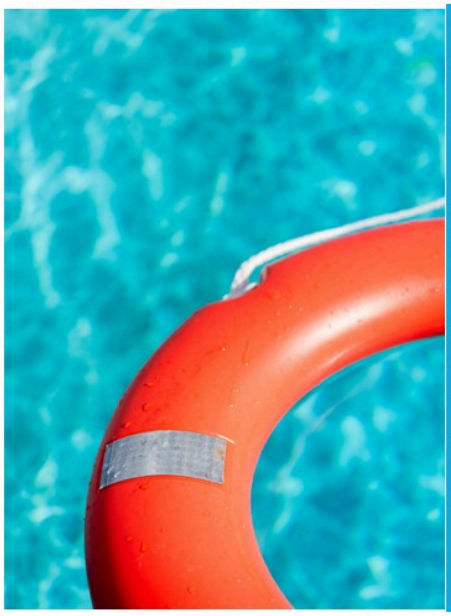
Fit all helmets to the rider with a snug fit and fasten the chin strap so the helmet stays in place. Abide by all traffic laws. If your helmet has been involved in a crash – replace it.



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY



One of the most common misuses our team sees with motor vehicle safety is transitioning kids too soon to the next seat up. For kids using booster seats, keep them in their seat until the seatbelt fits correctly. To determine correct fit, the young one should sit with their back against the seat back, their knees bent at the edge of the seat, their feet flat on the floor, the shoulder belt crossing at the chest and collar bone (not at the neck) and across the hip bones (not on their soft tummy muscles). If you have questions about seat belt or car seat use, please reach out to our team of car seat technicians who would be happy to help.



Drowning remains a leading cause of death for our kids. Children account for one of every four drowning deaths in the US. For every child that drowns, 5 more are treated in the emergency room for near drowning injuries. This means learning to swim and water competency is more than just a sport—it's a survival skill.

For our young students: designate an adult water watcher for young swimmers at all times, be within arms reach with young and new swimmers. Never leave a young child alone in the bathtub or in the care of another child. It is recommended that all kids have some type of water safety training by age five.

For our teens: Every year about 370 children and teens ages 10-19 drown. Many of these happen in lakes and rivers. If you haven't yet, enroll your student in swim lessons from a qualified instructor and make sure they still have adult supervision.

When enjoying the water—choose a safe place and time to swim, learn to recognize water obstacles—boat and jet ski traffic, water currents, water temperature.

Never go into the water or commit to supervising young or inexperienced swimmers while under the influence of alcohol or other substances that may impair your judgement. No matter what the skill level, never allow children to swim alone.

Altru Health System is proud to serve as the lead agency for Safe Kids Grand Forks. For more information on this and other childhood injury prevention topics, visit safekidsgf.com, call us at 701.780.1489 or email safekids@altru.org.

Altru

This information is brought to you by Safe Kids Grand Forks & our partners at Vision Zero.

Spring Sports Update from the Multi-Media Class

⚾ Baseball Battling Toward Midseason Turnaround

The baseball team is nearing the halfway point of the season with a 2–5 record. It's been hard to find many days with great baseball weather, but as we head into May, they will have more opportunities to play and put some more marks in the win column. With the Region Tournament set for mid-May, the team hopes to hit their stride and be playing their best ball in the post season.

🏃 Track & Field Shows Strength in Numbers

MIdkota has 18 girls participating in track and field this spring, while there are 8 students competing on the mens team. After competing in three meets so far, the team looks ahead to a busy May schedule, with six varsity meets and four junior high meets remaining. Our tracksters are continually improving, and are excited for more opportunities to build on their skills.

🥎 Softball Off to a Hot Start

The Nelson County–Midkota softball team has opened the season strong with a 4–1 record. Their only loss came in a hard-fought game against Grafton. Despite this loss, the team has been averaging 10 runs a game. Wow! 12 of the 34 softball players are from Midkota. Currently ranked 10th in the state coaches poll, they look to keep the momentum going in the weeks ahead.











School Board Meeting ~ Midkota School District 7
March 24, 2026, 7:30 AM
Midkota Elementary School, Binford, ND

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

1. Call the Meeting to Order
President Hoffman called the meeting to order and offered the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36 and a quorum was established. Spickler moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Herberg, Motion carried.

2. Consent Agenda
Motion by Spickler to approve the consent agenda. Johnson 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 Open Enrollment

Spickler moved to approve the open enrollment request. Herberg seconded. Motion carried.

5.2 Superintendent Evaluation

Johnson motioned to approve the superintendent evaluation. Spickler seconded. Motion carried.

5.3 Pledged Assets

Spickler motioned to approve the additional pledge of assets. Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

5.4 Resignation

Herberg motioned to approve Kallie Musland's resignation with regret. Seconded by Spickler. Motion carried.

5.5 Amend: HCAA – Purchasing

Johnson moved to amend policy HCAA Purchasing on first reading and waive the second reading per board policy BDA. Herberg seconded. On roll call vote, all voting yes. Motion carried.

5.6 Amend: HBAA – Federal Fiscal Compliance

Johonson motioned to amend policy HBAA Federal Fiscal Compliance on the first reading and waive the second reading per board policy BDA. Ronningen seconded. On roll call vote, all voting yes. Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports-None at this time.

7. Adjournment & Next Meeting

April 14th – 7:30 AM, Midkota High School – Glenfield, ND

Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 AM. Seconded by Spickler. Motion carried.

Midkota Speech Team Ends Season with Plenty of New Hardware



The Midkota Speech Team ended their season with great showings at both the Regional Tournament and State Class B Speech Tournament.

At the Regional Tournament on Saturday, April 11, Midkota earned 95 team points to secure the Regional Runner-Up title. S

Leading the way, Heidi Ramsey was named the Regional Champion in 2 different events, taking 1st place in both Serious Prose and Dramatic. Grandin Black also had a standout performance, earning 1st in Radio and 2nd in Inform, qualifying twice for state competition. Haylie Spickler added a double qualification as well, placing 2nd in Impromptu and 3rd in Inform.



Other state qualifiers included Amy Ramsey, who placed 1st in EPR and 4th in Poetry; Nora Twedt, who took 2nd in Serious Duo and 4th in Dramatic; and Kauri Johnson, who earned 2nd place in Humorous Duo.

Other competitors adding to the team's success included Emma Stangeland and Brinn Black, who placed 4th in Humorous Duo, and Emily Frohms, who took the 4th place award in both Serious Prose and Storytelling.

The team wants to thank Grandin Black and Miss Dietz for designing and creating the team's Regional Speech shirts.

The team then headed to the State Meet held in Mandan, North Dakota, where they competed against top speakers from across the state. The team celebrated two state finalists: Haylie Spickler, who earned 3rd place in Impromptu, and Grandin Black, who placed 7th in Radio Broadcasting.

Additional state competitors included Amy Ramsey, Heidi Ramsey, Kauri Johnson, and Nora Twedt.







PROM 2026

A NIGHT ON THE GREEN











STEM NIGHT

-Carlin Odstrcil

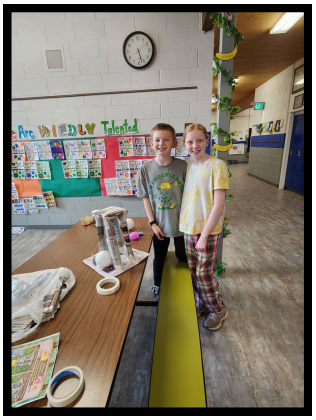
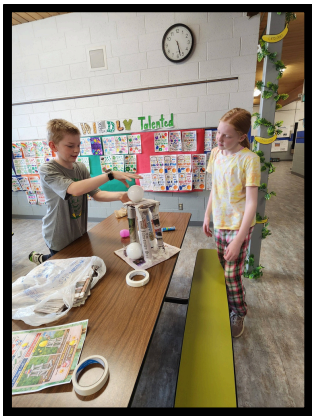
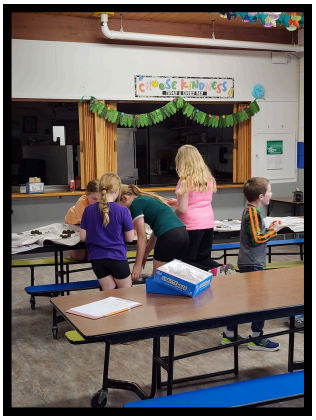
The recent Family Spring STEM Night was a tremendous success, bringing together students, families, and staff for an evening filled with curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning. The event provided an engaging opportunity for families to explore science, technology, engineering, and math together while celebrating learning beyond the classroom.

Throughout the night, students eagerly rotated through a variety of interactive STEM stations designed to spark problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration. Activities encouraged hands-on exploration—from building and designing, to experimenting, coding, and testing ideas in real time. Laughter, excitement, and thoughtful conversations filled the room as families worked side by side, learning from one another and cheering on student creativity.

One of the highlights of the evening was seeing students confidently explain their thinking and discoveries to their families. These moments showcased not only academic skills, but also communication, perseverance, and teamwork—key components of STEM learning. Families expressed appreciation for the chance to better understand what STEM looks like in the classroom and how they can support learning at home.

The event also strengthened school-family partnerships by creating a welcoming space where learning felt joyful and accessible. Families commented on how meaningful it was to experience school as an active, engaging environment rather than just a place for instruction. The shared experience helped reinforce the idea that learning is a collaborative effort among students, families, and educators.

Family Spring STEM Night would not have been possible without the dedication of staff members and volunteers who planned, prepared, and supported each station. Their commitment ensured that every student and family felt welcomed, included, and encouraged to explore new ideas.
Overall, Family Spring STEM Night was a celebration of curiosity, creativity, and community. The enthusiasm and strong turnout demonstrated the value of hands-on learning experiences and the powerful impact of bringing families together around education. We look forward to continuing this tradition and building even more opportunities for students and families to learn, explore, and grow together.

Living Wax Museum Brings History to Life at Midkota Elementary

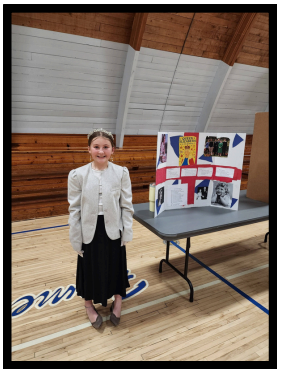
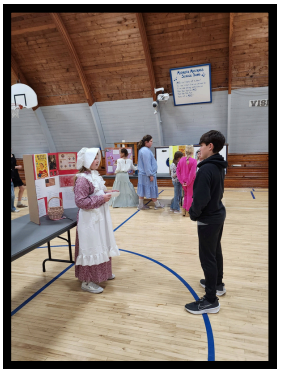
-Carlin Odstrcil

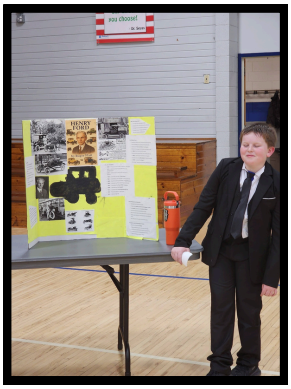
Students at Midkota Elementary recently brought history to life through their annual Living Wax Museum. As part of this project, each student selected a historical figure and read a biography to build foundational knowledge about their character. Students then conducted additional research to learn more about the individual's life, accomplishments, challenges, and impact on history.

Using their research, students created informational tri-fold displays highlighting key facts, important contributions, and interesting details about their historical figure. The final step of the project challenged students to truly become their character. Dressed as their chosen figure, students memorized and presented short speeches in first-person, sharing their character's story with visitors.

The Living Wax Museum was presented to families, fellow students, and members of the public. Guests were invited to walk through the museum, interact with the "wax figures," and learn history directly from the voices of those who shaped it. The project helped students strengthen reading, research, writing, and speaking skills while building confidence and deepening their understanding of history in a memorable, hands-on way.

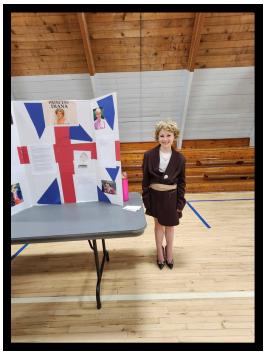









Elementary Students of the Month



Midkota Elementary is proud of announce our March Students of the Month. In March we were looking for students who encourage those around them. Our K-2 recipient was Brooke Black, and our 4-6 selection was Kelby Kuster. Congratulations to you both and thank you for being such an encouragement to others!

April FFA Members of the Month



Nolan Hoffman and Sophia Dalman

Wish America a Happy 250th Birthday at our Spring Concert

Midkota's Elementary Spring Concert and Kindergarten Recognition will be held **Thursday, May 7** at **7:00pm**. We are celebrating America's 250th birthday with a patriotic theme to our program. The students and public are invited to wear their best red, white, and blue that night!



MUSTANG OF THE MONTH

BE THE ONE: THAT'S RESPONSIBLE



Brinn Black is a 7th grader. Her parents are Gavin and Sandi Black, and her siblings are Grandin, Barett, and Brekken. Brinn is involved in Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Speech, Student Council, Band, Choir, Theater and 4-H. In her free time, she enjoys playing sports. Her fears are tornadoes because they are deadly. A teacher's nomination said, "Brinn is a great student who shows lots of responsibility by getting her assignments done on time, working with others, and staying on top of work when she is gone. Brinn is kind to others and always has a positive attitude." She excels in science and history. She shows other students to be kind. Brinn's advice for other students is to be determined and hard-working. Brinn's current goal is to get all A's. Her future goals are to get really good at sports and to go to college.



Jesse Wessels is a 9th grader. His parents are Natasha and Roy Wessels, and his siblings are Cameron, Daveigh, Maya, and Cole. Jesse is involved in Basketball, Football, Archery, and Track. In his free time, he enjoys playing basketball. He excels in Math. A teacher's nomination said, "Jesse has shown characteristics of responsibility by getting his assignments before he is going to be gone and gets it done on time. He is a great student, works hard on any assignment or project, and can be counted on by classmates and teachers." He shows other students that he is responsible and gets his work done. His advice for other students is to be better and work hard. Jesse's current goal is to keep good grades. His future goal is to get better at sports and to graduate.



Kelsey Johnson is a 12th grader. Her parents are Pete and Jess Johnson, and her siblings are Kyle, Kauri, and Aleks. Kelsey is involved in Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Softball, Theater, FBLA, Band, Student Council, and National Honors Society. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends and family. A teacher's nomination said, "Kelsey shows responsibility with everything she does in and out of the classroom. She stays on top of assignments when she is gone for activities and can be counted on as a leader in the classroom and with anything she does." She shows other students that she works hard at everything she does. Kelsey's advice for other students is to work hard and do your homework. Kelsey's current goal is to graduate with a 4.0. Her future goals are to go to college and to be successful.

Midkota FBLA Shines at State

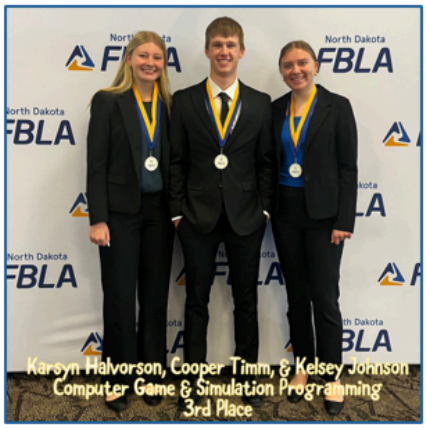
State FBLA Convention wrapped this month, and our kids had a great conference!

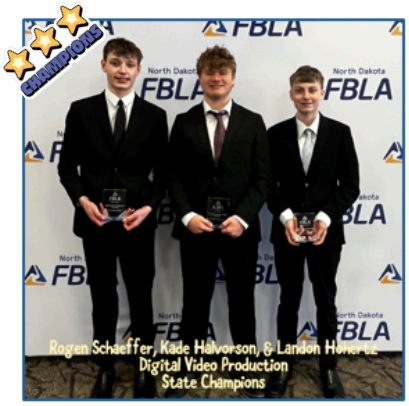
More than 1,300 students from across North Dakota participated, and Midkota was proudly represented by 24 students, with 2 teams qualifying for Nationals—an outstanding accomplishment!

Many of our students came very close to making finals - which is exciting for the future of our program. These students represented Midkota well and we are so proud of all of them!!

FBLA
Future Business Leaders of America













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

The attitude you bring to the day
is what the day will bring to you.
Great attitude, great day.

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 E: Pizza HS: Country Fried Steak	2
3	4 E: Chicken Burgers HS: Ham & Baked Potatoes	5 E: Chili HS: Tater Tot Hotdish	6 E: Subs HS: Chicken Alfredo	7 E: Turkey HS: Pizza Burgers	8 **NO SCHOOL** **PD/Tutoring Day**	9
10	11 E: Corn dogs/ Hotdogs/Brats HS: Orange Chicken	12 E: Crispitoes HS: Pizza Sticks	13 E: Pasta with meat or white sauce HS: Mini Corn Dogs & Mac-N-Cheese	14 E: Orange Chicken HS: Chili	15 E: Chicken Alfredo/ Lasagna HS: BBQ's	16
17	18 E: Chicken Strips/ Nuggets HS: Spaghetti	19 E: Beef Stew HS: Hot Ham & Cheese	20 E: Pulled Pork HS: Hot dogs, Polish Sausage, Corn dogs	21 E: Breakfast HS: Hamburgers	22	23
24 _____ 31	25	26	27 **HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!** **CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!**	28	29	



3rd Grade Digs up Fun



The third-grade class spent some time digging in the dirt this past month. County Health came to the class and helped the students plant some different vegetables, including peas, tomatoes, peppers, and more. We are starting to see sprouts, and the students are excited to transplant their vegetables and take them home to eat.



Our school board election will be Tuesday, June 9th from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

If you are unable to make it out to your designated precinct that day, there is still time to apply for an absentee ballot. Please contact your county auditor for an application.

More information and a printable application can be found at: https://www.sos.nd.gov/elections/voter/voting-north-dakota/how-do-i-vote/absentee-voting

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

Be humble enough to be coachable.
But be confident enough to dominate your position.

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 TBA JV Golf @ Grand Rapids 4:30p BB @ Tolna vs. Larimore; V/JV 6:30p FFA Banquet	2 TBD Softball Day @ UND (Albrecht Field) 11a Varsity Track @ Carrington
3 Staff Appreciation Week	4 10a JV Golf @ Linton 4p SB @ McVille vs. PCN; V/JV 4p BB @ Walhalla; V/JV	5 10a Varsity Golf @ Napoleon 2p Varsity Track @ Larimore	6	7 10a Varsity Golf @ Edgeley; 4:30p JH SB @ Larimore; 4:30p BB @ Hillsboro;V/JV 7p MES Spring Concert & Kinder Grad	8 **NO SCHOOL-PD/ Tutor Day** 1p Track @ UJ; 3p JH Track @ Casselton; 4:30p BB @ Tolna vs. Maple River Varsity Softball Midseason Madness @ Fargo	9 TBD Track @ Larimore 10a BB @ New Rockford
10	11 10a Varsity Golf @ VC; 3p Track @ VCSU 4p SB @ Larimore; V/JV; 4:30p BB @ Tolna vs. H/N; V/JV; 4:30p JH BB @ Northwood	12 7:30a School Board Mtg @ MES 10a JV Golf @ Oakes 4p SB @ Hope; V/JV 4:30p BB @ Tolna vs. Carrington; V/JV	13 9:30a Region 3 Golf Tourney @ Carrington	14 4:30p BB @ Minto; V/JV 6th Grade Field Trip 7:30p HS Spring Concert	15 JH Baseball Jamboree @ Park River	16 Track Regionals @ Mayville SB Play in game @ TBA
17	18 10a Varsity Golf @ Grand Rapids Region 2 Softball Tournament @ Thompson	19 6p Track Supper @ GCC Region 2 Baseball Tournament @ Mayville	20	21 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** **1:30pm Dismissal**	22 State Track Meet @ Bismarck	23
24 2p Class of 2026 Graduation @ MHS 31	25	26 10a Golf Super Regional @ Jamestown Country Club	27	28	29 State Softball Tournament @ Jamestown State Baseball Tournament @ Jamestown	30