Edition # 26.11
Month November

Midkota Messenger

Inspiring Minds, Building Character, Shaping Futures.

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Superintendent News from Mrs. Halvorson

It's hard to believe we are already wrapping up October and heading into November! The first few months of school have flown by, and it has been wonderful to see so many positive things happening throughout our district. From classroom learning to school activities, our students and staff have been busy making this school year a great one. Our theme, "Better Together," continues to be a reminder of the importance of working together, building relationships, and creating a school environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

One of the highlights of October was the opportunity to welcome North Dakota State Superintendent Levi Bachmeier to Midkota on October 21. During his visit, Mr. Bachmeier toured both of our school buildings, visited classrooms, interacted with students and staff, and had the opportunity to learn more about our district. It was a privilege to showcase our schools and share both the strengths and unique challenges of rural education. We are proud of the opportunities we provide our students, and it was an honor to share a glimpse of what makes Midkota special.

Throughout October, both buildings have also participated in activities centered around our "Better Together" theme. It has been encouraging to see the creativity, enthusiasm, and participation from our students and staff. While academics are always a priority, building a positive school culture is equally important. Creating meaningful connections, showing kindness, and taking pride in our schools all contribute to an environment where students can succeed.

Behind the scenes, our teachers continue to focus on student learning and academic growth. On October 28, we have scheduled a late start to provide staff with dedicated time to review student assessment data, collaborate with colleagues, and discuss ways to best support students. These opportunities are valuable as we work to identify student strengths, address learning needs, and continue improving instruction. Our goal is to ensure that every student has the support and opportunities needed to be successful.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize our business manager, Katie Zimprich, for completing her business manager certification program with mastery. This is a wonderful professional accomplishment and a reflection of her hard work and dedication to our district. Congratulations, Katie! We are fortunate to have staff members throughout Midkota who continue to learn, grow, and go above and beyond for our students and schools.

Looking ahead, parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for November 5. I encourage all parents and guardians to take advantage of this opportunity to visit with teachers, celebrate student successes, and discuss areas for continued growth. The partnership between home and school plays an important role in student achievement, and we appreciate the involvement and support of our families.

Finally, as we approach Thanksgiving, I want to express my appreciation to our students, staff, families, school board, and the communities we serve. Rural schools are special because of the people who support them, and Midkota is no exception. Whether you are volunteering your time, attending school events, encouraging our students, or simply showing your Midkota pride, your support makes a difference.

Midkota Elementary Students of the Month

At Midkota Elementary, we have exceptional students! Throughout the school year, we like to take the time to recognize and celebrate the positive impact that our students can have on our school. During the month of September, elementary teachers and staff were on the lookout for students demonstrating responsibility. This month Josie Clark was selected as the Student of the Month for grades K-3 and Aurora Gaetzman was the 4-6 grade student. Congratulations ladies and keep up the great work!



#Better Together by: Mrs. Dockter

Our school's theme this year, Better Together, really resonates with me. It is something that I believe so deeply, and I see it in action daily here at Midkota. You need to know...I work with INCREDIBLE people! Everyone has their own strengths, gifts, and passions, but we are unified by our mission to provide our amazing students with the best education and start in life that we possibly can. Each person here adds an integral piece to the puzzle that makes us who we are. Every day I see helping hands and willingness to do more than what is necessary. Our Midkota teachers and staff show up for each other and for our students in so many ways every day. I see parents and community members who so sincerely support our schools, teachers, and students. I see students who are so creative and excited to learn. Alone, we are all capable people, but together, together is where the magic happens and what makes Midkota the truly special place that it is!









We had the honor of welcoming North Dakota State Superintendent Levi Bachmeier to Midkota Public Schools. During his visit, Superintendent Bachmeier toured both buildings, visited classrooms, and spent time with some our teachers and students at both the elementary and high school. We appreciated the opportunity to showcase the great things happening in our district and share what makes Midkota such a special place. - Supt. Halvorson



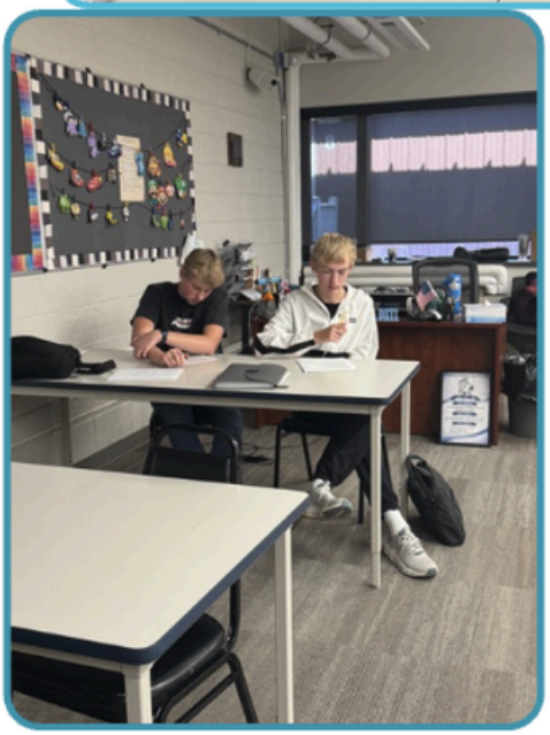












Ms. Dietz's students got to hear from Jill Larson, managing editor of the Griggs County Courier and Steele County Press. They even got to interview Ms. Dietz on the spot to practice writing their own story. Thanks, Jill for coming in!



The regular volleyball season is coming to an end. We start districts on Thursday the 29th of October. We are going in as the 4th seed and the games will be played in Park River. We are excited to play! - Jessa Spickler and Haylie Spickler

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The Titans currently have a record of 6 wins and 2 losses. The team's biggest strength is staying motivated when things go south. One area they hope to improve is defense. They are aiming for making a long playoff run. - Lakin Ronningen and Trace Spickler





Watson Spickler is a RB/LB and in 11th grade. Watson stood out because he always gives full effort. His biggest highlight of the season was a 2pt conversion and forced fumble in Enderlin. Off the field, he works on the ranch.

VFW Scholarship Opportunities

Students across North Dakota are invited to participate in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Youth Scholarship Programs, which promote patriotism, civic responsibility and appreciation for America's veterans.

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8): Students write a 300- to 400-word essay on a patriotic theme. The top national prize is $5,000.

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12): Students record a three- to five-minute audio essay. The national first-place scholarship is $35,000.
For rules, eligibility and application details for both programs, visit the Youth Scholarships - VFW webpage. The deadline to apply is Oct. 31.

Coloring Contest (Grades K-8): Younger students may enter the VFW Auxiliary Coloring Contest, with entries judged on creativity and originality.

Our Custodians are a Cut Above the Rest

October 2nd marked National Custodians Day, and an opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of our custodial staff. There is no doubt that these incredible individuals make a difference every day! A HUGE thank you to Ron Lenz, Shelley Kulsrud and Rhonda Dockter for making our schools sparkle!











#Better Together #Better Together #Better Together

2025-2026 YEARBOOKS FOR SALE!



*Available to purchase for $25 at both the Elementary and High School Offices



Congratulations to Wren Halvorson on another great season of golf!







6th Grade Buddy Reading



















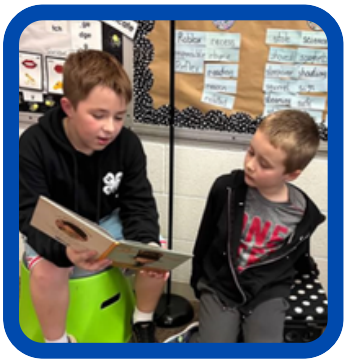












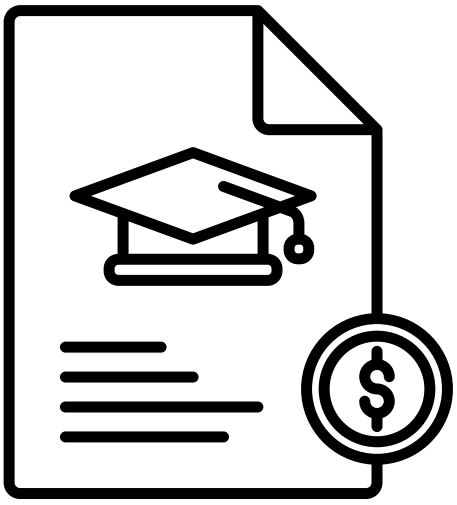
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Presentation -BND

Bank of North Dakota is offering a virtual FAFSA presentation on **November 4, 2026, at 6:30 PM CT.**
Information will be shared about the FAFSA form, types of financial aid, changes to federal student loans and more. **Seniors, you, and your parents should register for viewing.**

If you can't attend live, that's okay, the webinar will be recorded and available the following day. Anyone who registers will receive the recording via email.

The "Register Today" button in the images is not clickable, so you will the below registration link.
Direct registration link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9073206694577829973

If you have questions, contact:
Amanda Woidyla
University & Student Development Coordinator
Bank of North Dakota
1200 Memorial Highway | Bismarck, ND 58504
P: 701.328.5655 | T: 800.472.2166
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Special Delivery

Midkota Elementary students raised $939 for their bus driver, Jody, through their Coin Wars during Homecoming Week! Students were able to surprise Jody with a sweet delivery. We love teaching our students about giving back to our community and those in need.



Grandin Carter Black



1.Which school event do you look forward to this year?
State FBLA/Speech Meets
2.What project or assignment challenged you the most as a student?
Cybersecurity Class in general
3.What's your favorite school lunch?
Pizza
4.Finish the sentence; “I will always remember...”
Beating the staff at Homecoming Volleyball
5.Describe your senior year in three words.
Enjoyable, Fast, Fun
6.If you could create one mandatory course for future seniors, what would it be?
Life Skills Class



7.Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Paying off student loans
8.What club or sport would you add to Midkota if you could?
Ping Pong League
9.What are your 3 best skills?
Organization, Leadership, Motivation
10. What's your favorite quote?
Success is not just about reaching the top, but about enjoying the climb.
11. What makes you proud to be from Midkota?
We have a school that truly cares about one another.
12. Which subject prepared you most for life after high school? Why?
English 11, taught me to be a better writer

Jessa Ann Spickler



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

Prom

2.What's your favorite school lunch?

Orange Chicken and Orange Cream Ice Cream Bars

3. Describe your senior year in three words.

Fast, Fun, Sad

4.If you could create one mandatory course for future seniors, what would it be?

Gym class altogether one last time

5.Write the school rule you wish we had.

Bubblr's have to be less than $2 (I'm going broke)



6.Finish this sentence; "I will always remember..."

Our trip to DC/NYC.

7.What club or sport would you add to Midkota if you could?

Men's Volleyball

8.What are your 3 best skills?

Laughing louder than my own mom, absolute beast in basketball, and a Bubbl'r chugger - Decided by Brooke

9. What's your favorite quote?

"You don't stop the combine for the field mice"

10. You are talking to your 8 year old self, what advice do you give?

Don't wish your time away

11. What pizza topping describes you and why?

I would be the crust (yes, I kno wit is not a pizza topping) because I am rough around the edges



Cross-Country

Brynn Twedt said the cross-country season has gone very well this year. She thinks team's biggest accomplishment was getting new PRs. The most memorable meet this year for her was in Mayville since most of the runners got new PRs. Brynn said that getting a PR is the most exciting moment of the meet. Brynn said that the more hills on a course the slower they were. Also, if it was windy and cold that slowed down the runners too. Brynn's biggest accomplishment this year was getting a PR with a time of 22:04 minutes. Brynn said that when she is struggling, she tells herself to keep going and then she feels great when she finishes.





Lauren Dockter says, "The cross-country season has gone pretty well". The team's biggest accomplishment is having most of the kids qualify for state. She says all the meets are memorable and doesn't have a favorite. Lauren's most exciting moment was when Kelby Kuster was neck and neck with an opponent and gave it his all, winning him first place at the Mayville meet. The course and weather has a major effect on how the runners do at a meet. She says, "When it rains it makes the course very muddy and hard to see". Lauren's biggest accomplishment this season was running three 5k races. During a difficult race Lauren thoughts are "I can't be last". Some advice she would give to someone considering running cross county is "It's tougher than most other sports, but through it you learn more about yourself and your team".



Brynn Twedt



Lauren Dockter &
Emily Frohms



Macy Skjeret

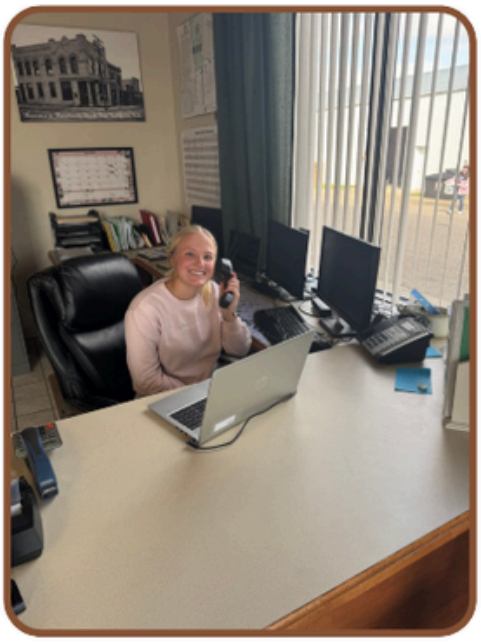


Bentley Barclay



Roxy Urness

Work-Based Learning



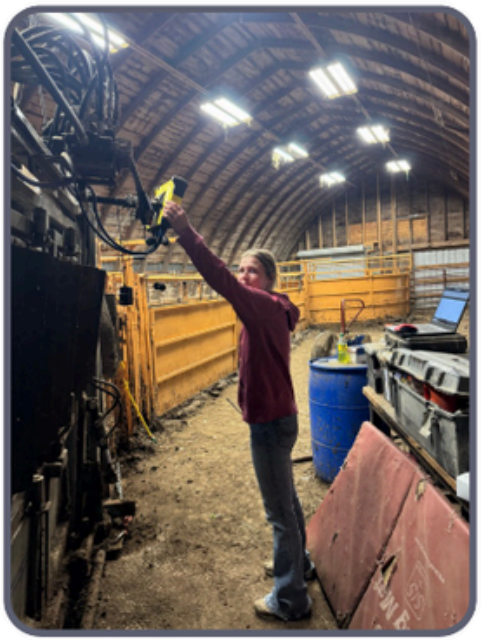
Mylee Reese: Vorland Land Company



Brooke Anderson: Agri-Sales



Lakin Ronningen: Ronningen Farms



Jessa Spickler: Spickler Ranch North



Hailey Donohue: Binford Grocery



Grandin Black: Binford/Glenfield Public Schools

Work-Based Learning



Cale Spitzer:
Spitzer Farms



Rogen Schaeffer:
Trelstead Farms



Trace Spickler:
Spickler Ranch South



Haylie Spickler:
Spickler Ranch
South



Jack Adrian:
Christian Motors



Titus Smith II:
Gary Ivesdahl



Students are invited to wear red, white and blue!

Looking ahead:

Elementary Christmas Concert is Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00pm

Band members are to be in the music room by 6:40pm. Students are to be in their classrooms by 6:45pm

High School Christmas Concert is Monday, December 7th at 7:30pm

Small Pop Tabs... Big Impact

By Mrs. Topp

The Ronald McDonald House has been a place of refuge for many families during trying times. Their mission is to keep families together and provide comforts of home while their child receives medical care. Not only is the Ronald McDonald House a cozy home-away-from-home, no family is turned down due to an inability to pay for their stay. What a beautiful relief for those with an ill child in the hospital when financial burden and emotional stress are enough to endure.

Pop tabs donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities are recycled and the money gained from recycling helps to keep things running smoothly.

These may be delivered at any time to the 6th grade classroom. Thank you so much for your continued support as we endeavor to do a small act of philanthropy that has a big impact. We are fortunate to receive a newsletter on occasion to see pictures of families we've blessed through our pop tab support and learn their stories. Sharing these with students is heartwarming!

For more information on our local Ronald McDonald House Charities, visit www.rmhcfargo.org. There are wonderful volunteer opportunities if you are interested in contributing in other ways as well.

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends - Turn clocks back one hour	2 District VB @ Larimore	3 4pm E-BBB @ GCC	4 2:20pm Theatre Dress Rehearsal @ MHS	5 1:30pm Early Dismissal; 2pm-8pm P/T Conferences @ MES; Picture Retakes	6 **NO SCHOOL** **P/T Comp Day**	7 FB Semi Finals 7pm Theatre Performance @ MHS
8 4pm Theatre Performance @ MHS	9 VB Regions @ Park River 10:10am MES Lyceum	10 7:30am School Board Mtg @ MES 4:30pm E-BBB @ MES vs. Carrington VB Regions @ Park River	11 **NO SCHOOL** **Veterans Day** Region One Act Play @ Jamestown	12 4pm E-BBB @ McVille VB Regions @ Park River	13 Dakota Bowl @ Fargo 4:30pm E-BBB @ BCN	14
15	16 GBB Practice Starts Sophmores "Reality Check" in Tolna	17 E-BBB @ MES vs. GCC	18	19 State VB Tourney @ Bismarck	20 State VB Tourney @ Bismarck	21 GBB Scrimmage @ Steele; V, JV State VB Tourney @ Bismarck
22	23 State One Act Play @ Jamestown	24 State One Act Play @ Jamestown	25	26 **NO SCHOOL** **Happy Thanksgiving**	27 **NO SCHOOL** **Thanksgiving Break**	28
29	30 BBB Practice Starts 5:30pm GBB @ MHS vs. Benson Co; V, JV					





“Better Together”
October Activities











NOVEMBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 E: Chicken Strips HS: Orange Chicken	3 E: Spaghetti HS: Biscuits & Gravy	4 E: Orange Chicken HS: French Dip	5 E: BBQ's HS: BBQ's	**NO SCHOOL** **P/T Comp Day**	7
8	9 E: Meatballs HS: Beef Stew	10 E: Chicken Fajitas HS: Chicken Nuggets	**NO SCHOOL** **Veterans Day**	12 E: Hamburger Hotdish HS: Tacos	13 E: Soup & Grilled Cheese HS: Mac-N-Cheese & Mini Corn Dogs	14
15	16 E: Chicken Burgers HS: Tater Tot Hotdish	17 E: Beef Stew HS: Chicken Alfredo	18 E: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham HS: Ham	19 E: Chili HS: Chicken Burgers	20 E: Hotdogs & Corndogs HS: Pizza	21
22	23 E: Popcorn Chicken HS: Spaghetti	24 E: Brunch HS: Hotdogs & Corndogs	25 E: Soup & Sandwich HS: Chili	**NO SCHOOL** **Happy Thanksgiving**	**NO SCHOOL** **Thanksgiving Break**	28 E: HS:
29	30 E: Chicken Alfredo HS: Chicken Strips					

School Board Meeting ~ Midkota School District 7
September 8, 2026, 7:30 AM
Midkota Elementary School, Binford, ND

Board Members Present: President Bobbi Hoffman, Shian Hoyt, Jed Hasenwinkel (Zoom), Ross Johnson (zoom), Justin Spickler (zoom), Tim Ronningen, Keith Herberg (zoom).
Others Present: Superintendent Kristi Halvorson, Katie Zimprich, Gavin Black, Elementary Principal Linn Dockter, and High School Principal Iris Brandt.

Budget Hearing
President Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:33 and a quorum was established. Superintendent Halvorson and Business Manager Katie Zimprich reviewed the 2026-2027 budget with the board answering questions throughout the review. No one from the public attended. The public hearing ended at 7:49.

1. Call the Meeting to Order
President Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:49 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a quorum was established. Hoyt motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Elementary Flooding. Motion was seconded by Ronningen. Motion carried.

2. Consent Agenda
Hoyt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ronningen. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment-None

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

5. Business

5.1 HS Annual Compliance Report
Hoyt motioned to approve the Annual HS Compliance Report. Ronningen seconded. Motion carried.

5.2 ES Annual Compliance Report
Hoyt motioned to approve the Annual ES Compliance Report. Ronningen seconded. Motion carried.

5.3 Financial Report
Hoyt motioned to approve the Annual Financial Report. Ronningen seconded. Motion carried.

5.4 Tuition Agreement
Hoyt motioned to approve the tuition agreement. Ronningen seconded. Motion carried.

5.5 Elementary Flooding- The board discussed the flooding issues at the Elementary school and asked Superintendent Halvorson to pursue finding quotes for concrete work.

6. Committee Reports- None

7. Adjournment & Next Meeting
October 6th 7:30 AM, Glenfield, ND

Hoyt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 AM. Seconded by Ronningen. Motion carried.