

Midland Newsletter



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Administrator's Message

by Caleb Bonjour, Superintendent

We have made it through two months of winter weather thus far and hopefully are over half way through the continued threat of a new snow storm popping up. Last week I was subbing in a 6th grade classroom and the students were learning about climate. When class was coming to a close we had some Q&A opportunities and a student asked me what the hardest part about being a superintendent was. Without missing a beat I was able to say one of the hardest things about being a superintendent was working with Iowa's climate.

Week after week we see new projected storms and other superintendents and I start sharing all the new information that we are seeing so that we can work together to try to make the best decision possible that will keep our students and staff safe while traveling during an Iowa winter. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the things that go into making these tough decisions.

When it comes to snow, we need to be able to travel and not slide around. Two of our biggest concerns with snow are drifting and then packed snow that can often cause slick road ways. Having got stuck in a drift on my first day of driving roads this year, I don't wish that on anyone, let alone a student that is just getting the freedom of being able to drive on their own. Mr. Stender and I work together to drive various roads and especially hit ones that are known to have significant drifting. We also love to hear what is happening in other parts of the district that we may not have been able to get to yet. With our district as large as it is we will have community members reach out from the northern and southern parts if they have seen something concerning as well and this helps us to make the best decision possible. Depending on when the snow is expected to start or what point we are in during the snow fall we will hit the roads anywhere between 4:30 AM - 5:00 AM so that we can let our news stations know and get communication out as soon as possible.

Ice is another finicky thing but it also can cause major issues in the blink of an eye. When it comes to delaying or canceling due to ice we are often looking to see if roads have been treated or what the ground temperatures and air temperatures are. If there are risks of issues arising we will always do our best to err on the side of caution.

Temperature delays and closures are probably some of the most difficult to call because the forecasts can change by the hour based on sunlight, cloud cover, and changing wind speeds. One reason people often think that we delay is that buses won't start. All of our buses will start as they are plugged in during the winter to keep their engines warm. Where issues arise is while out on the routes. The last thing we ever want to have happen is a bus gel up in the middle of a route and then we have to dispatch another bus while students are in freezing temperatures. We have plans in place that allow for us to respond quickly, but if we can avoid this we try to do so at all costs. -25 degrees gets us into a Windchill Warning. If we are in a warning we will more than likely delay or cancel. -20 or colder gets us into a Windchill Advisory. Here we will monitor as closely as possible to see what would be best, a two hour delay, canceling, or going on time. If we are in a Windchill watch we will do our best to go on time unless there are other circumstances that are giving us cause for concern.

Article Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** News from the Nest
- 3** Elementary News – PreSchool Sign Up
- 4** Admin Message Cont.

Midland 2022 Hall Of Fame

A committee will be getting together in February to look over all nominations received this year for the Midland Hall of Fame.

To nominate someone use the form found at:

<https://www.midland.k12.ia.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HallofFame-2.pdf>

get that completed and returned to Midland High School ASAP. More info on presentation when available.



M NEWS FROM THE NEST AT WYOMING



Basketball Tournament Ticket Info:

- Boys district tickets will be available ONLINE ONLY. Once we have that info we will post it to Facebook and email it out.
- Girls tickets is optional to purchase online, so watch for more info coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE: The Midland **Musical** is Sat., March 19th with performances at 3 and 6PM.

SENIOR PHOTOS: Please get all senior and baby photos turned in to the HS office ASAP for graduation slideshow purposes. Head and shoulders senior photo is preferred. Thanks!

Prom tickets are \$20 per person attending if purchased by April 1. After April 1 they are \$25 per person. Every person attending needs a ticket. When purchasing we need the names of your dates too. Prom 2022 is April 23rd. More info soon.

Post Prom Planning Meeting info coming out soon watch your email and HS Facebook page. Save the date March 19th there will be a food stand at Hwy 64 Auction in Baldwin. Volunteers will be needed in AM and early PM for that event.

In January, all 10th-12th graders took the **ASVAB** test. Thanks to all of those who showed up on time and did their best! On February 8th during 7th period, an interpreter will come share what these test scores mean and future career options for students.

Seniors, graduation is just right around the corner! Please use your time wisely and prepare yourself for life after high school: 1) Be on the lookout for more scholarships 2) Apply to any colleges/universities that you are interested in 3) File your FAFSA 4) Enjoy the last several months of high school!

February is **National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (TDVAM)**. This is an issue that impacts everyone – not just teens – but their parents, teachers, friends and communities as well. Parents, talk to your teens about their relationships. If support is needed call the national hotline at 1.866.331.9474 or text LOVEIS to 22522

Good luck wrestlers @ sectionals on Feb 5th at Wilton 11am - **PURCHASE TICKETS AHEAD!!!!**

All sectional wrestling tickets must be purchased through Hometown Tickets prior to the event. Price is \$6.00. No cash purchases will be accepted. Please share this with all Midland Wrestling fans!

For tickets go to: <https://www.iahsaa.org/tickets/>

2022 ATHLETIC BOOSTER OF THE YEAR – NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Midland Athletic Boosters are looking for your nominations for 2022 Athletic Booster of the Year. This can be a person, business, organization, etc. that in some way is currently or has in the past helped the Midland Athletic Program in an extraordinary way. Please submit a short letter of recommendation with the reasons you feel your nominee should be the 2022 recipient of this award.

Nominations are due by February 1, 2022 to any Booster Officer or you can mail it to Midland High School, ATTN: Athletic Boosters, PO Box 109, Wyoming, IA 52362.

For a list of previous winners check:
http://www.midland.k12.ia.us/default.asp?NewsCategory=Athletics_AthleticBoosters

Students can sign up for our summer driver's education course in the office and pick up a calendar and class rules sheet. Students must have their learners permit and the fees paid before the first day of class which is tentatively June 6 (*may be delayed if school calendar year is extended*). Please do not make any payments until mid-May. Full course fee is \$450. Students on reduced lunch qualification would cut fees in half so \$225. Students on free lunch qualification would waive the fees so cost is \$0. Class size is limited and if too many sign up date of birth may be used to determine who is enrolled. Students who previously failed the course always go to the bottom of the list. Be sure to check the calendar dates as if you miss three classes you would fail the course.

THANKS COUNSELORS!

Thanks to Mrs. Lasack and Mrs. Schnepfer for all of the help they give our students each day. National School Counselor's Week is February 7-11, but we appreciate them each and every day! If they have done something to help you, brighten their day with a card, an email, etc. ☺





Eaglet's Elementary View



I LOVE YOUR FACE!



HUGE thanks to our PATS group who made sure EVERY elementary student received a Joe Beckman, I Love Your Face, t-shirt!



5th grade enjoyed hooking up their instruments to Makey Makey and coding it through Scratch! Ms. McDermott incorporated computer science standards into an engaging hands on project!



Mark Roberts, from Clinton County Conservation, brought his red tailed hawk to teach 3rd grade about Diurnal raptors.

Difference Maker Lunch



Our January "Difference Makers" enjoyed a special lunch with older role models from the High School! Fun was had by all!

Preschool and Kindergarten sign-up for 2022-23

The Midland District would like to have information on the number of Preschool and Kindergarten students to be enrolled next fall for the 2022-23 school year. A preschool student must be 4 years old by September 15, 2022 and a kindergarten student must be 5 years old by September 15, 2022 to attend school.

K / PK Round up is scheduled for Friday March 4, 2022.

Kindergarten Round up: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Preschool Round up: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM OR 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Please visit the district website, www.midland.k12.ia.us, to Sign up/RSVP by clicking on the *Preschool Roundup Information Form*

Administrative Message Cont.

Earlier this year we had a day that was -20 windchill. We went on time with hard surfaces only routes. Many other schools had a two hour late start. This was the toughest decision so far this year as we were an outlier. Here was the thought process through that situation. We knew the temperatures were cold, but in talking with other districts we knew that a lot of gravel roads still needed to be cleared and that many of their school grounds hadn't been touched the day prior and they wanted to let their staff have time to get them cleaned up. By running hard surface only routes this helped us avoid the uncleared roads. Looking at the windchill hour by hour, it was going to stay -20 for the whole day (it actually didn't go above -20 windchill until 4:00 that afternoon). I struggle with the idea that at 7:00 -20 windchill is too cold, but at 10:00 it isn't. The temperature is the temperature. In talking with Mr. Stender, we felt that going on time was the best call.

With all of this said, we will always keep the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of our decisions. We want to be in school but the health and safety of our students can't be risked to get some extra hours in. When we do cancel though, we also know that this carries its own burdens. We have students that will now miss two meals for the day, parents that will miss work, and in some situations the guaranteed warmth of a building or the much needed connection with a teacher or friend. The decisions and impacts that they have are never taken lightly and we are always doing our best to look at how we can make those decisions more efficiently as possible!

If you ever have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. You are always more than welcome to join me for a cup of coffee at 4:30 while we drive some roads too. :)

Take care and GO EAGLES! ~ Caleb Bonjour, Superintendent cbonjour@midland.k12.ia.us