

May, 2023

www.midkotaschools.k12.nd

Follow us on Facebook:  
Midkota Public School

# Midkota Messenger



Mission Statement: Educating students to be accountable, competent and confident as they pursue their passion in an ever changing world.



Abigail Dreher

S  
E  
N  
I  
O  
R  
S



Andie Anderson



Mackenzie Miller



Ty Kulsrud

Enrollment Forms for **Midkota's Summer Program** will be going home shortly!

The program for Elementary kids begins in June.

Ms. Larson is hoping to include a program at the High School also. It would be held in July.





Kaylee Johnson



Carter Spitzer



Brady Anderson



Lauryn Halvorson



Bailey Ehlers



Wyatt Spickler

# Mustangs of the Month



Haylie Spickler

Haylie is a 8th grader and is the daughter of Emily & Nathan Spickler. She has 3 siblings, Trace, Kadence, & Quaid. Haylie is involved in volleyball, basketball, theater, band, choir, 4-H, & speech.

Haylie's favorite subjects are Math & English. Her goal this year is to finish with all A's.

Haylie was nominated for her excellent work in school, her positive attitude, and for asking questions & interacting with everyone.



Lydia Eslinger

Lydia is a Freshman and is the daughter of Denise & Franklin Eslinger. Lydia has a brother, Anun, and is involved in Theater.

Lydia's favorite subject is English and likes playing games.

Lydia was nominated because of her success in academics this year and for trying new things. Lydia works hard and is respectful to her classmates and teachers.



Brienna Ehlers

Brienna is a Junior and the daughter of Aaron & Lyndi Ehlers. Her siblings are Brennan, Dalton, Riley, Danica, & Breck. Brienna is involved in FBLA, Close-up, Student Council, & Basketball.

Brienna excels in all of her subjects, but her favorite is Environmental Science.

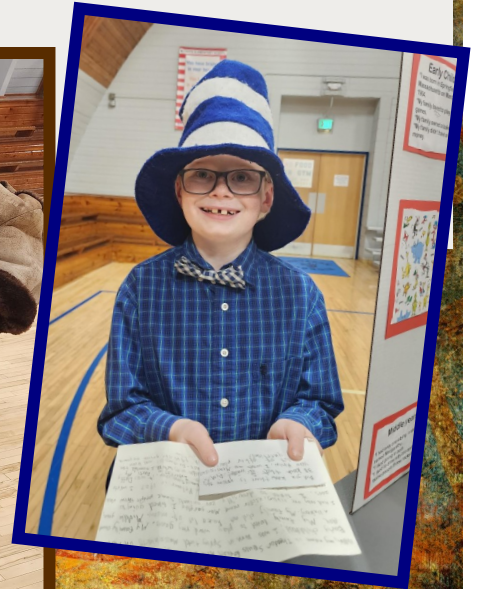
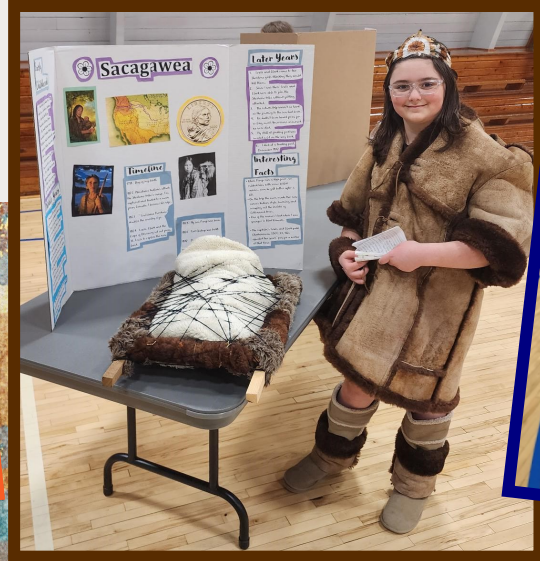
Brienna was nominated because of her kindness to others, strong work ethic, and being a positive light.

Midkota High School "Mustang of the Month" is nominated and chosen by teachers monthly after careful consideration and deliberation. These students demonstrate the values of good citizenship, cooperation and respect for adults and fellow classmates.

Congrats to these students!

## The 4th Grade Living Wax Museum

After several storm postponements, the Living Wax Museum was able to be open to the public on April 20th at 2pm. The 4th graders did an amazing job of recreating their person from history. They informed their audience about their early years, middle years, later years and interesting facts about their lives. It was a wonderful time and the students' hard work paid off!



## Elementary Concert

May 4th  
7:00 PM

Elementary Gym,  
Binford



## High School Concert

May 10th

3:30 PM

H.S. Gym, Glenfield



## Midkota Music Solo and Ensemble Contest, 2023

On April 12th, 2023 our Midkota Music soloists and small ensembles made their way to the Performing Arts Center at VCSU to perform at the Region 5 Small Group Music Festival. Amy Ramsey performed

“I See the Light” for solo flute and Jace Boote performed a snare drum solo titled “Parade of the Clicking Sticks”. Both soloists earned “1s” for their performances. The Midkota Brass Choir, comprised of Alison Koller, Hailey Donahue, Mylee Reese, Trace Spickler, James Adrian, and Carter Adrian, performed an arrangement of “Were You There?” and earned a “1” for their performance. Abby Dreher, Jessa Spickler, Haylie Spickler, and Alison Koller performed a march arranged in four parts and also earned a “1” for their performance. Finally, Midkota had a vocal trio comprised of singers Abby Dreher, Lydia Eslinger, and Alysya Foster perform “Come in From the Firefly Darkness” and that ensemble also earned a “1”. For those keeping score, that is five scores of “1” of five total entries! I am so very proud of the Midkota Music students and all that they are accomplishing. Please be sure to extend a congratulations next you see these hard-working performers. **They are setting a new standard for Midkota Music!**



-Thomas Anderson, Director

## REFLEX MATH - Jane Quanbeck

You may have heard your child talking about “green lights” and using the word “reflex” and wondered just what was going on at Midkota Elementary School.

Since the beginning of October, students in grades 2-4 have been working hard to become fluent in their math facts using an app called Reflex. As they work through specially designed lessons and games students are building automaticity in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. When a student does not have to stop to think about a math fact, their brain is free to focus on the new concept being taught (finding the common denominator, or multiplying decimals, for example). Hopefully they are also making the connection that in math, effort results in achievement. Reflex is designed to recognize and reward both student effort and achievement to help them come to this conclusion.

Midkota Elementary was awarded access to Reflex for just one year through a grant application. We want to make the most of this opportunity and help as many students as possible to become fluent in their math facts. We have seen great gains in every class involved! I'm especially excited for the 4th graders who will enter 5th grade fluent in their facts and ready for Mrs. Topp's math class.

Remember, students can work on Reflex at home to get those “green lights”. The students can access their account at [go-el.com](http://go-el.com).



*Mustangs who have reached 100% fluency in Reflex Math!*

# Kaylee Johnson

Nickname: **Kay, Kjo**

Parent Names: **Nathan Johnson and Nicole Lindsey**

Siblings: **Janae and Tyler Johnson, Liam Johnson, Step Siblings: Xander and Ayla Lindsey, and Grant and Kaylee Barone**

Future plans: **Go to college and become a Physician Assistant**

What do you see yourself doing in the next 5-10 years? **Starting a career as a Physician Assistant**

What would be your ideal job? **A rich, stay at home mom**

What would be three adjectives to describe you? **My class said that I'm intelligent, athletic, and hard working**

Favorite Group(s): **The girls and the senior class**

Favorite Student(s): **Grandin Black, Kelsey Johnson, Vanessa Vollmer, Kylie Johnson, and Butch**

Favorite class you have taken at Midkota: **7<sup>th</sup> grade reading with Mrs. Spickler**

Favorite song during your time in High School: **"Run way to Mars"**

10 years from now, I will still laugh about: **TY**

Most famous person you have met: **Ms. America**

If you could invite two famous people to dinner, who would you invite and why?

**Ian Somerhalder and Alex O'Loughlin because they are extremely hot**



Pet peeve: **Slow drivers and when people chew with their mouth open.**

Favorite TV Show: **One Tree Hill, The Vampire Diaries, and Hawaii Five-o**

Favorite Music: **Anything but rap**

Favorite Athlete(s): **Harley Hoyt, Jessa Spickler, Vanessa Vollmer, and Kylie Johnson**

Favorite Saying/Quote: **LOL**

Mom always thought I was: **Lazy and Messy**

Favorite hobby/pastime: **The Lake**

I'm proudest about: **Keeping up and doing well in the activities that I am in even when it gets hard.**

Do you have any hidden talents? **I can do the splits**

Sports/ activities Involved in: **Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Student Council, National Honor Society, FBLA, Acalympics, and Envirothon**

Favorite memory of those sports/activity? **Mr. Monson trying to teach me how to take a charge in basketball.**

What would you like to say to teachers and coaches? **Thank you for pushing me to do my best even when I made it difficult**



Midkota 5th & 6th Graders Presented;

# Presidents, Presidents, Presidents

- a musical



The **Jacob Johnson Memorial Scholarship** is opening donations to the community. The donations that we receive will be distributed into 2 scholarships each year for graduating students of Midkota High School.

If you would like to donate, please mail a check to:

**Jacob Johnson Memorial Scholarship**

**PO Box 253**

**Carrington, ND 58421-0253**

The JJMS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



# Abigail Dreher

Nickname: **Abby, Abdog, Abdizzle, and Dizzle**

Parent Names: **Josh and Lindsay Dreher**

Siblings: **Savanna, Jake, and Millie**

Future plans: **I plan to attend VCSU as an English major.**

What do you see yourself doing in the next 5-10 years? **I will have graduated from college and joined the work force. Ideally, I will be writing/editing books full-time.**

What would be your ideal job? **My ideal job would be as an author and/or editor.**

What would be three adjectives to describe you? **Smart, sarcastic, and procrastinatory.**

Favorite Group(s): **The band, choir, and academic challenge team.**

Favorite Student(s): **All the Spickler kids- except Wyatt, lol.**

Favorite class you have taken at Midkota: **I don't have one, but, if I had to pick, probably junior high English with Mrs. Spickler.**

Favorite song during your time in High School: **Next Up Forever by AJR**

**10 years from now, I will still laugh about: Ty in general.**

Most famous person you have met: **Cara Mund, the Miss North Dakota who became Miss America.**

If you could invite two famous people to dinner, who would you invite and why? **Maybe Dwayne Johnson and Tom Holland because The Rock is funny and he's my mom's favorite actor and Tom Holland plays Spider-Man, my favorite superhero.**

Pet peeve: **Get-to-know-you questionnaires.**

Favorite TV Show: **The Mandalorian**

Favorite Music: **Early 2000s Rock**

Favorite Athlete(s): **I don't have any.**

Favorite Saying/Quote: **"Just let me do it." -Abigail Dreher**

Mom always thought I was: **"Smart, unorganized and a procrastinator."**

Favorite hobby/pastime: **Reading or drawing**

I'm proudest about: **My Scholastic Art and Writing award.**

Do you have any hidden talents? **I can wiggle my nose.**

Sports/ activities Involved in: **I've been in band, choir, speech, theater, and academic challenge team this year. In the past, I was also involved in volleyball, archery, Envirothon, and student council.**

Favorite memory of those sports/activity? **One of my favorite memories is scaring Lydia half to death with a light saber in practice for "The Internet is a Distract-Oh Look, a Kitten!"**

What would you like to say to teachers and coaches? **Thank you for putting up with me this long.**





# Summer Reading, Had Me a Blast!

By: Mrs. Dockter

Well the summer is almost here. I promise! With our extended winter weather this year, it was sometimes kind of hard to believe we would ever see the green grass again (between piles of snow still I grant you) let alone feel temperatures above freezing.

With only 3 weeks remaining of this school year, students of all ages are getting ready to push pause on their formal education. Although our students have worked hard and have definitely earned a break, allow me to offer a small suggestion: Keep students reading! Studies have shown that summer reading is essential to student success. A study done in Knoxville, TN found that students, who do not read during the summer, lose an average of 2 months of reading development. This summer slide consequently slows student growth down when they come back to school in the fall. Reading is like exercise for your brain. If you don't exercise your muscles, you lose strength and muscle tone.

I hear those questions running around in your mind. "But my student doesn't like to read. How can I make them read during the summer when it is a battle I fight all school year?" "We are so busy in the summer! How am I ever going to fit in reading time for my student?" Yes these are valid questions and concerns. If you happen to not have avid book worms in your house, convincing them of the importance of summer reading can be a bit of a stretch. So, with that in mind, I offer these suggestions:

- **Keep it strictly fun.** When I say reading during the summer, I am not advocating that your student read textbooks. (Unless that's their thing!) Find out what interests your student(s) and find books that pique that curiosity. Maybe your student has a deep and abiding interest in the Titanic. Get your hands on some Titanic books. Perhaps they can't get enough of books written about the pioneer days. Swap with a friend and grab a new series for your student to read.
- **Try audio books.** Students can still benefit from hearing a book read to them. Audio books can encourage struggling readers by opening up a world of adventure to them without the difficulty of written language. Vocabulary will still increase because students are exposed to new words they may not use in their every day life. If it is possible to locate a print book that is the same as the audio book, it is twice as nice for students to be able to follow along. Audio books are also handy for busy families on the go. Put on a book in the vehicle that everyone can enjoy and you will not only give everyone's brains a nice work out, but also allow for some good family book discussions.
- **Check out your local library for a Summer Reading program.** This is a fun way for students to earn prizes or challenge themselves with new books from a suggested library list. Both Foster County and Griggs County run summer youth reading programs. Check them out for some summertime fun! Also, utilizing the library to find books that interest your child (see suggestion #1) can keep the cost of finding the "right" book to a minimum. County libraries often belong to a inter-library loan program and can request books from other libraries in the state at no cost to you.
- **Create a Book Challenge.** Many lists are already available online, but help your student(s) choose a group of friends to do a book challenge with this summer. Maybe it's a family book challenge? Maybe it's a t-ball book challenge? The sky's the limit.

So whatever else you do this summer, get out there and get reading. I challenge you!

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

# MAY

| Sun                                | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Teacher/Staff<br>Appreciation Week | 1<br>10a Varsity Golf @ Mayville<br>4:30p SB @ Thompson; V, JV<br>4:30p BB @ Steele; V, JV                | 2<br>10a JH./JV Golf @ Enderlin<br>4:30p SB @ McVile vs. Larimore; V/JV                              | 3   | 4<br>10a Varsity Golf @ Hillsboro;<br>4:30p BB @ Tolna vs. Maple River;<br>7p Kinder Graduation & Elementary Spring Concert | 5<br>10a JH./JV Golf @ Hope<br>4:30p SB @ McVile vs. Carrington; V/JV   | 6<br>11a Varsity Track @ Carrington                  |
| 7                                  | 8<br>10a Varsity Golf @ Oxbow CC  | 9<br>7:30a School Board Mtg @ MHS<br>2p V/JH Track @ Mayville<br>4:30p BB @ Park River; Varsity Only | 10<br>6th Grade HS Tour<br>10a JH./JV Golf @ Casselton<br>3:30p HS Spring Concert | 11<br>2p Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea;<br>4p SB @ Pembina; V/JV<br>4:30p BB @ Tolna vs. LaMoure; V/JV                      | 12<br>10a Varsity Golf @ Cooperstown<br>TBD Varsity Track @ Jmstn<br>3:30p JH Track @ Casselton                         | 13   |
| 14                                 | 15<br>10a Varsity Golf @ Fargo CC; 4:30p SB @ McVile vs. Northern Lights<br>V/JV; 4:30p BB @ Ashley; V/JV | 16<br>Region 2 Qualifier 1 Golf @ Rose Creek<br>4:30p BB @ Carrington; V/JH                          | 17<br>TBD SB Regional Play In games<br>6p Awards Banquet @ MHS                    | 18<br><b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b><br>10a JH./JV Golf @ Hillsboro<br>TBD BB Region 3 Play in games                             | 19<br><b>P/D TUTORING DAY</b><br>Region 2 Qualifier 2 Golf @ Carrington Crossroads<br>2p Regional Track Meet @ Larimore | 20<br>2p Graduation @ MHS<br>TBD SB Regional Tourney |
| 21                                 | 22<br>10a Varsity Golf @ Bois de Sioux<br><br>Baseball Regional<br><br>Softball Regional Tournament @ TBD | 23<br>JH./JV Golf @ Prairiewood<br>6p Track Supper @ GCC<br><br>Tournament @ TBD                     | 24<br>Varsity Golf @ Casselton  | 25<br>Regional Baseball Tourney @ TBD   | 26<br><br><br>State Track Meet @ Bismarck   | 27   |
| 28                                 | 29  | 30<br>Region 2 Golf Team @ Carrington Crossroads   | 31  |   |   |  |

In case you forgot,  
 you add lots of beauty to the  
 world and I'm so happy you're  
 here today.

# may

| <b>Sun</b> | <b>Mon</b>   | <b>Tue</b>  | <b>Wed</b>   | <b>Thu</b>   | <b>Fri</b>                                       | <b>Sat</b> |
|------------|--|---|--|--|--|------------|
|            | 1<br>E: Fish Sticks<br>HS: Breakfast                                 | 2<br>E: BBQ's<br>HS: Spaghetti                        | 3<br>E: Pulled Pork<br>HS: Hot dogs,<br>Corn dogs,<br>Polish sausage | 4<br>E: Chicken<br>Nuggets<br>HS: Chicken<br>Strips                                  | 5<br>E: Stroganoff<br>HS: Puled<br>Pork          | 6          |
| 7          | 8<br>E: Corn dogs,<br>Hot dogs<br>HS: Subs                           | 9<br>E: Spaghetti<br>HS: Fettuccini<br>Alfredo        | 10<br>E: Scalloped<br>Potatoes &<br>Ham<br>HS: Hamburg-<br>ers       | 11<br>E: Tacos<br>HS: Orange<br>Chicken  | 12<br>E: Cooks<br>Choice<br>HS: Taco in a<br>bag | 13         |
| 14         | 15<br>E: Mac-N-<br>Cheese & Mini<br>Corn dogs<br>HS: Pizza<br>Sticks | 16<br>E: Pizza Hot<br>Dish<br>HS: Hot Ham<br>& Cheese | 17<br>E: Chicken<br>Gravy<br>HS: Chicken<br>Burgers                  | 18<br>E: Hamburgers<br>& Hot dogs<br>HS: BBQ's                                       | 19   | 20         |
| 21         | 22   | 23  | 24   | 25   | 26   | 27         |
| 28         | 29   | 30  | 31   |  |  |            |
|            |  |   |  |  |  |            |

**Midkota School District 7**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
**March 14, 2023, 7:30 AM**  
**Midkota High School**  
**Glenfield, North Dakota**

Board Members Present: President Joel Utke, Veronica Vollmer, Preston Hoffman, Shian Hoyt, Bobbi Hoffman, Louis Halvorson, Justin Spickler.

Others Present: Superintendent/HS Principal Ryan Baron, Charla Hoyt, Austin Monson, Kevin Veile

Present Via Zoom: Elementary Principal Linn Dockter, Carrie Braaten

President Utke called the meeting to order, and a quorum was established. Motion by Vollmer to approve the agenda as presented with Faculty Surveys added to New Business, seconded by Halvorson. On roll call vote, motion passed.

**REPORTS:**

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORT: Elementary had a great turn out for Parent Teacher conferences last week. Reading Month is underway; the students are enjoying the activities and dress up days that it brings. Blinds for the new windows have been delivered and installation has begun. Kindergarten screening letters have been sent out and will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Parent breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> along with the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade musical.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT: March 20<sup>th</sup> will be the first day of baseball and softball practice. There is only one 7<sup>th</sup> grade girl participating in softball this season. Discussion was had about transportation for her. Discussion was also had about possibly using the indoor baseball facility available at the old Grace City School for some baseball practices. Elementary volleyball is underway. The two interested high school students were hired for head coach(es). A parent has volunteered to help out when the students are unable to be at a practice or game. Mr. Monson also reported to the board of the topics that were discussed at the last coop meeting. Next coop meeting will be March 28, 2023. Basketball schedules are finished for next year with the new three class system in place. May 4 is a tentative date for the elementary spring concert.

SUPERINTENDENT/HS PRINCIPAL REPORT: Prom has been set for April 21, 2023; Mr. Baron will be attending. Mr. Baron also gave updates on spring sports and activities.

State Assessments for grades 7-11 will start March 21. These tests will cover math, reading, writing, and science.

Building updates were also presented; the Ag portable will be wired into the fire alarm system, Building Trades portable will need new devices and then wired into the system. We are waiting to hear from Kolenda on the boilers for both buildings.

Charla Hoyt has stepped down from the Business Manager position. She will continue with the duties of Assistant Business Manager as she had before, and Lisa Jorde will continue with

Payroll duties. An ad will be placed for a Business Manager with flexibility in hours, 3-5 days per week.

Drivers Ed will be held at Midkota Elementary School June 12-16, 2023, and taught by Mr. Brenden Parsley. GCC asked if their students could attend also. It was agreed that they could attend but everything they need will run through their district including fees and technology. A negotiations request has been made by the Midkota Education Association. A Zoom meeting will be held with their reps on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am.

Mr. Baron & Mrs. Brandt will be attending the Cognia workshop this Thursday. Cognia is the continuous improvement platform.

Discussion was had about sick days and there not being a sick bank for ancillary staff. It was decided that it would be added to the staff handbook and the teacher portion will be reworded for better understanding.

Mr. Baron also updated the board on current enrollment, what we are doing for continuous improvement, and legislative updates.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Hoyt to approve the minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup> Regular School Board Meeting, February bills and the March budget, seconded by Spickler. On roll call vote, motion passed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

HIGH SCHOOL GYM & BINFORD ADDITION: Zerr -Berg's were contacted, and they sent us plans and a contract to look at. Building committee will meet to discuss plans and contract.

BUILDING TRADES PROJECT: Mr. Veile reported that the weather has put building behind schedule. Hoping to have the cabin's roof on and completely enclosed by the end of the school year. Bids will be taken when the cabin is enclosed. Insurance company will be called to get insurance for the cabin.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

2023-24 CALENDAR: Five options were given to teachers and staff to vote on. Options 1 & 5 being the most popular. Option 1 had an early start date in Mid-August with graduation being the weekend before Memorial Day and Option 5 had a start date of August 23 with graduation being Memorial Day weekend. Discussion was had and Hoyt made a motion to go with Option 5 for the 2023-24 School Year Calendar, seconded by Halvorson. On roll call vote, motion passed.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING: Motion to approve made by Hoyt, seconded by B. Hoffman. On roll call vote, motion passed.

AMERICAN BOARD OF TEACHERS CERTIFICATION REQUEST: Mr. Hoyt will be taking his teacher certification test and put in a request if the district would pay the fee for this test. Discussion was had and Hoyt made a motion that the district will pay for Mr. Hoyt to take his certification test, seconded by Spickler. On roll call vote, motion passed.

OPEN ENROLLMENT: Hoyt made a motion to accept the open enrollment request for next school year, seconded by Spickler.

SECOND READING OF REQUIRED A POLICIES: Hoyt made a motion to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of the required A policies, seconded by Halvorson.

AAM STEINKE SCHOLARSHIP: Discussion was held, and Hoyt made a motion to select the top 3 applicants for the Aam Steinke Scholarship, seconded by Vollmer.




NESC COMMITMENT OF SERVICES FOR 2023-24: Motion was made by Hoyt accept the contract for NESC services for the 2023-24 school year, seconded by Vollmer.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATIONS: President Utke collected evaluations and met and reviewed such evaluations with Mr. Baron.

FACULTY SURVEYS: A sample survey was discussed for faculty to evaluate administration. It was decided that a section should be added to also evaluate the board.

Motion by Hoyt to adjourn meeting, seconded by P.Hoffman. On roll call vote, motion passed.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Midkota Elementary School in Binford, ND

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Manager  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved



**Midkota Graduation**  
**Saturday, May 20th**  
**2pm**  
**Midkota High School**  
**Glenfield, ND**