



THE MIDLAND MONTHLY



April was Occupational Therapy Month — a perfect time to celebrate the incredible team supporting our students every day!

Pictured from bottom left to right: Jessica England, Suzy Frank, Deb Gallagher, and Megan Chemey. From top left to right: Suzanne DeGerolamo, Tara Ryan, Michelle Creighton-Jones, and Cathy Munro.

Occupational Therapy Services

The Occupational Therapists at the Midland School support students to optimize their fullest potential at school, home, and in the community



Gross Motor Skills



Visual Motor/Perceptual Skills



Independent Living Skills



Pre-Vocational Skills

OTs:
Provide direct treatment,
Collaborate,
Consult,
Adapt equipment,
and more!



Fine Motor Skills



Aquatic Therapy



Sensorimotor



These therapists are dedicated to helping students build independence, confidence, and the skills they need to succeed at school, at home, and in the community. Through individualized support, collaboration, and creative interventions, they make a lasting impact on each student's journey.

From fine and gross motor development to sensory integration, visual-motor skills, and in-dependent living, our OT team does it all; always with care, compassion, and expertise and provides a full range of educationally-based related services, ensuring every student can access their program in meaningful and successful ways.

Join us in celebrating and thanking our amazing OT team for the difference they make every single day!

Social Skills



The April Social Skills theme was:

Expressing Yourself Appropriately & Self Regulation

Congratulations to our Students of the Month!

Room 209—ELI

Room 212—BRADAN

Room 214—CHELSEA

Room 215—JOSIE

Room 216—RILEY

Room 217—MARCO

Room 218—STACY

Room 219—BRYCE

Room 220—ALEEAH

Room 222—ZACHARY

The May Social Skills will be:

Flexible Thinking & Coping with Change

School News



Please join us in welcoming Aleeza and her family to Midland. We are so happy to have you here.

Aleeza joined Mrs. Moreno's class in Room 212.



We are proud to congratulate Destiny for earning **Third Place in her category** in the NJASEPS 2026 Art Contest! Her artwork, submitted by Mrs. Furnari, is a wonderful reflection of her creativity and hard work, and we are thrilled to showcase her winning piece here.



We also extend our congratulations to our **Honorable Mention** recipients, who were recognized with certificates for their impressive artistic efforts. In no particular order, congratulations to: Luca, Eli, Cameron, Elaina, Meghna, Julianna, Shaylese and Hannah.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for sharing their talents and representing our school so beautifully!

MONDAY • WEAR RED FOR ACCEPTANCE

TUESDAY • SENSORY FRIENDLY DAY
Wear pajamas

WEDNESDAY • WACKY WEDNESDAY
Crazy hair

THURSDAY • SUPERHERO DAY
Wear a superhero shirt

FRIDAY • RAINBOW DAY
Wear a rainbow shirt

Autism Acceptance "Spirit Week"



EARTH DAY



☀️ ❤️ Last Friday afternoon's outdoor assembly with music by Fryed Folk Songs was the perfect way to celebrate Earth Day. With warm sunshine overhead, students relaxed on blankets, blew bubbles, and even got up to dance with friends. A joyful afternoon filled with fresh air, music, and smiles—ending the week on a truly happy note!

School News

In Mrs. Larson's Health Class, students are building confidence for real-life experiences by learning what to expect at a doctor's visit. Dressed in lab coats and using stethoscopes, they stepped into the role of healthcare professionals—turning curiosity into comfort and helping ease the fear often associated with “white coat syndrome.”



Community News

Midland proudly hosted our 10th Annual Volunteer & Community Partner Recognition Breakfast! It was a wonderful morning celebrating the incredible individuals and organizations who support our mission and make our work possible. ❤️

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all this year's award recipients; we are so grateful for your dedication, partnership, and impact in our community!



Midland Volunteer and Community Partner Recognition Breakfast Friday, April 17, 2026

Heart of Midland Award For demonstrating the principles of Midland – positive outlook, integrity, collaboration and support to peers	Courtney Fernandez
Employment Partner of the Year For providing training, employment, advancement, and community inclusion to Midland Individuals	Scentsbid, Inc.
Heart of Midland Award For demonstrating the principles of Midland – positive outlook, integrity, collaboration and support to peers	Ryan Olson
Community Organization Volunteer of the Year For making a significant and positive impact on the Midland community through collaboration, volunteerism, and partnership	North Branch Volunteer Fire Company
Individual Volunteer of the Year For making a noteworthy and positive impact on the Midland community through collaboration, volunteerism, and partnership	Ann Rabouin
Corporate Partner of the Year For advancing Midland's mission through a valued, long-lasting collaborative partnership	Cullart Garico, LLC
Public Sector Partner of the Year For embodying innovation, collaboration, and success in partnership with the Midland community, and supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities	Mortel Grant, Plainfield School District
Heart of Midland Award For demonstrating the principles of Midland – positive outlook, integrity, collaboration and support to peers	Gregory Marzigliano
Public Sector Partner of the Year For embodying innovation, collaboration, and success in partnership with the Midland community, and supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities	Sandra "Sandy" Gogery, Somerset County Supervisor of Child Study

May Birthday Wishes in Bloom!

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to all our wonderful students and staff celebrating this May! May your special day be filled with happiness, laughter, and sunshine. Here's to a year ahead full of growth, joy, and beautiful moments!

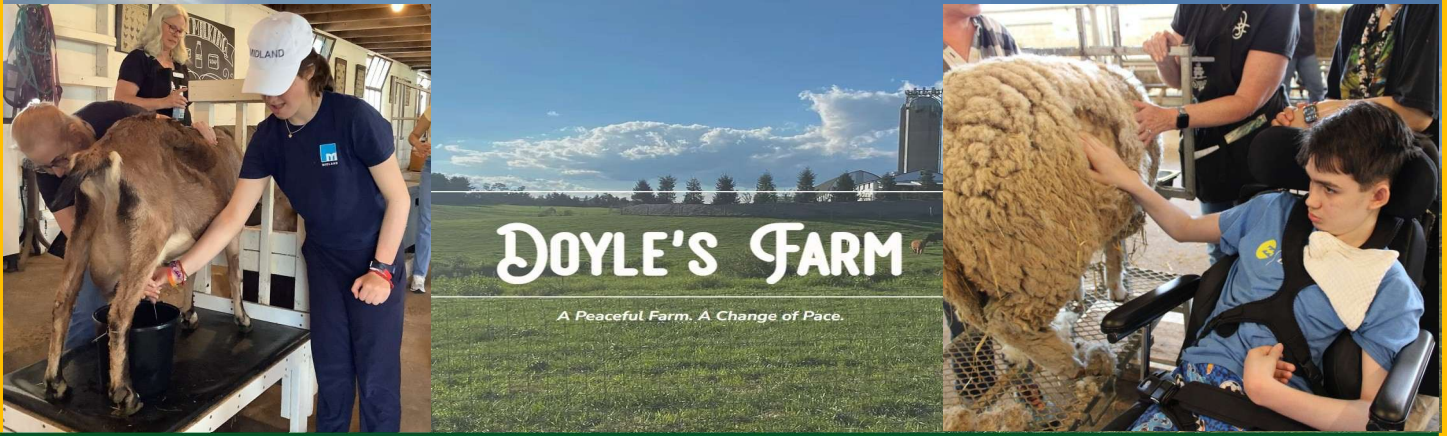
Happy Birthday!

Students

Ian	Ashley	Zacharia
Aidan	John	Keily
Dylan	Henry	Thomas
Nicholas		Josephine

Staff

Miss Paul	Mr. Sutton	Mrs. Enriquez
Mr. Kayode	Mrs. Benitez	Mrs. Reynolds
Mrs. Ninni	Mr. Lakins	Mr. Dornick
Mrs. Shea	Miss Cifelli	Mrs. Furnari
Mrs. Simini	Ms. Parekh	



Students in Mrs. De La Torre's class enjoyed an unforgettable community outing to Doyle's Farm, where they were fully immersed in farm life—milking goats, feeding animals, collecting eggs, and even planting sunflowers! This hands-on experience allowed every student to meaningfully participate while learning about caring for animals.



LEARNING INSTITUTE

Understanding Supported Housing, Self-Direction, and the Priority Waiting List

Presented by: Patricia Brennan, Director of Community Care Program Waiting List, DHS Kimberly Jessamine, Statewide Waiting List Coordinator, DHS Natalie Trump, Program Director of Education and Training, CLEP

When: Thursday, May 14th, 2026, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM

Where: Virtual via Teams

This presentation will provide critical information on the basics of accessing and obtaining supported housing for individuals with developmental disabilities in a clear and user-friendly manner. Topics will include the Priority Waiting List, the Community Care Program, and Self-Directed Services. Hear real-life stories from families who have faced similar challenges and decisions as they navigated finding the right community housing option for their loved ones.

PLEASE REGISTER BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO HOLLY HONEYWELL AT
HONEYWELL@MIDLANDNJ.ORG.

A MEETING LINK WILL BE SENT ON THE MORNING OF THE EVENT.

Save the Date

THE LION KING

May 15th, 2026

The Drama Club is excited to perform scenes from The Lion King.

We hope you can join us for this wonderful event.

The performance will begin at 1:40.



MOVE FOR MIDLAND



Sponsored by Williams Companies - Building Beyond a Playground!

Saturday, May 30th

1:00 – 3:30 PM

Midland School Gym

Help us build inclusive spaces where everyone can play, grow, and thrive!

- FREE games & activities
- Prizes & giveaways
- Music with DJ JeanMarie
- Food trucks
- Construction-themed fun for all ages!

Wednesday, May 6th

Project ACES

Friday, May 8th

**Rusty (therapy dog) visits
Super Seniors Prom**

Thursday, May 14th

Student Council meeting

Friday, May 15th

**Drama performance
The Lion King**

Thursday, May 21st

**Student Council meeting
Assembly—Midland thanks
the Military
School Spirit Day—
wear Patriotic colors**

**Friday, May 22nd-
Monday, May 25th**

**Closed—Memorial Day
Closed—Memorial Day**

Tuesday, May 26th

School resumes

Thursday, May 28th

Student Council party

Saturday, May 30th

Move for Midland