

***Mark your
calendar for
the PTO Back
to School***

Movie Night!!

Friday, August 19th

8 pm

On the field next to

MES



**From the Principal's Desk
August 2011**

**Ms. Julie Albers, Principal
jalbers@midland-7.org**

Welcome back to Midland Elementary School and to the 2011-2012 school year!!

Welcome to Midland Elementary School! Midland Elementary is a Pre-K through 4th grade elementary attendance center for Midland CUSD #7, serving children and families living in the communities of Lacon, Sparland and Varna, along with rural areas surrounding these towns.

This year, approximately 330 children will attend our school!

This will be my eighth year as principal of Midland Elementary. We have very few changes as far as personnel, though there will be a couple of new faces in our school this year. We welcome Jennifer Koeller as our new Pre-Kindergarten/Early Childhood Special Education teacher. Jennifer has worked for the past two years in the Bloomington District #87 and is a native of Flanagan. Also new at MES this year is Joe Mintus, who will be our Physical Education teacher. Joe comes to us after spending seven years at Midland High School. We are excited to have him at the elementary level this year!

This summer, our district was informed that it was one of the recipients of an Illinois Pre School for All grant, which will fund the majority of our at-risk Pre-K programs this year. This grant process was extremely competitive and we were fortunate to receive the grant funding. Because of the grant funds, we will be able to continue to offer three sections of Pre-K classes for our community this school year.

I firmly believe that our students at Midland Elementary School are so fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from an experienced, dedicated and caring faculty. Our students participate in a wide variety of activities, and it is our hope that our children develop the skills necessary to become successful life-long learners and productive citizens in our community and in society.

We want your child to be happy and successful at school and truly believe that you play a key role. It is your role to continually show interest in and support for your child. The child who knows that his or her family is interested and supports the school programs will almost always have fewer problems in school and will enjoy greater success here.

We believe in fair and consistent discipline that encourages students to responsible for themselves and their actions. This year we will again utilize the *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports* model (PBIS) to ensure that all students have a clear understanding of their behavior expectations and that our teachers and staff work with each student fairly and consistently. We have four building-wide expectations which will drive our students' behavior choices:

MIDLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 3 R-S:

I am Respectful

I am Responsible

I am Ready

I am Safe

As we did last year, during the first few weeks of the school year, teachers and staff will demonstrate to all students what it means to be respectful, responsible, ready and safe in all school settings (i.e.: cafeteria, gym, restrooms, classroom, bus, playground, etc.). We will continually practice and model the expected behaviors for our students. Our students who demonstrate these consistently will participate in monthly PBIS reward activities. Other students may need additional practice to remember the expectations in all school settings. I am looking forward to sharing more about our PBIS initiative in our September newsletter.

Students are most successful when teachers and parents communicate and work together to provide the best opportunities for learning-both in and out of the classroom. Please share with your child's teacher any information regarding his/her special needs that will help us better serve your child and your family. We believe that communication among parents, students and teachers is critical in assuring student success.

Please feel free to contact me at (309) 246-7215 or at jalbers@midland-7.org if I can be of further assistance. We are all looking forward to a wonderful school year!!

Julie Albers, Principal
Midland Elementary School