Welcome, MPS Students & Staff, to 2020-21

FACE TO FACE Learners — key thoughts as we launch 2020-21

SOFT/SLOW START—PATIENCE & KINDNESS — TENACITY & DETERMINATION

→ Classrooms have been quiet since last March ... extra time to adjust to relationships, processes, routines and expectations will be important. Taking time to get familiar with and adhere to MPS safety protocols will be vital to student success.
→ Bus schedules take time to establish. Late student pick-up or drop-off from home and/or school is likely at first.
→ ALL school visitors & volunteers must follow office staff directives for safety protocols and procedures upon school entry.
→ Understandably, administrators have been receiving many messages, many based on fear and uncertainty of the unknown. We will all need to face this year with tenacity and purpose, while being patient and kind with each other.
→ We are all entering this school year with different thoughts and expectations. Actively listening to each other will be key.

VIRTUAL Learners — key thoughts as we launch 2020-21

SOFT/SLOW START—PATIENCE & KINDNESS — TENACITY & DETERMINATION

→ As we all know, virtual learning is an unprecedented learning format and CANVAS is a new technology platform for our District. We do not expect a Ready, Set, Go virtual start, but rather a “soft start.” Students and teachers will start slowly, taking time to develop relationships, routines, processes, coursework, expectations, methods and more.
→ We are all entering this school year with different thoughts and expectations. Actively listening to each other will be key.
→ Determination and stick-to-itiveness will be vital for our virtual learners to be successful.
→ Important information about CANVAS is on page 2 of this Communique (for parents to be “observers” of their child’s CANVAS course).

We believe our District is as ready as we can be for the 2020-21 school year. At our virtual opening staff meeting last week, our Board President, Scott McFarland, referred to our teachers as “Educational Pioneers,” which is certainly true. MPS teachers and administrators have worked tirelessly this summer preparing for the new school year where learning will take place in the midst of a pandemic. Whether your child will be learning F2F or virtually, many children (and adults) are feeling anxious. We ask for your patience, kindness, tenacity and determination as we work together for the best educational and social-emotional interest of every MPS student during the 2020-21 school year!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child’s school or my office. We truly are all in this together!

MPSConnect is a convenient communications tool for you to connect with me.
Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or another MPS staff member will do all we can to reply to your message within the next work day.
https://www.midlandps.org/content2/706

— Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent
**FREE MEALS FOR ALL MPS CHILDREN FROM 0-18 YEARS OF AGE — WOW!**

MPS Received word at 2:03 this afternoon in a letter from the Michigan Dept. of Education: “The US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) announced earlier today the extension of federal waivers allowing flexibilities in child nutrition programs to continue feeding all Michigan children during the pandemic. Effective immediately, meals will continue to be provided to children ages 18 and under at no cost to the families.” (Families are asked to still complete the free/reduced price meal application for the 2020-21 school year. Applications can be completed online: [www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com)).

**FOR MPS SCHOOL BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS:** [http://chartwellsk12.com/compass-usa.com/MidlandPublicSchools](http://chartwellsk12.com/compass-usa.com/MidlandPublicSchools)

MPS VIRTUAL ACADEMY — Student Breakfast/Lunch Information:

MPS will provide meals for ALL K-12 students enrolled in our virtual learning programs. Meals will be available for pick up at Adams, Siebert, Woodcrest, Plymouth, Chestnut Hill and Central Park on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11 am to 12 pm. If you plan to pick up meals for your child(ren) **YOU MUST PRE-ORDER**. For instance, if you plan to pick up meals for your child tomorrow (Tuesday—9/1), you must pre-order their meals before the end of the day today (Monday—8/31). Unfortunately, if you do not pre-order, there will be no meals available for your child to pick-up that day. To pre-order, click on this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9OE9zSBE1CE8qw1C7 peer?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9OE9zSBE1CE8qw1C7 peer?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)  
All children ages 0-18 will receive these food service meals free of charge, however, families are asked to complete the free/reduced meal application. [http://www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com).

If you have questions, please call Chartwells at 989-923-5062.

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**IMPORTANT INFO & LINKS FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS**

Parents/guardians are invited to create a Canvas account if they desire to become observers of their student(s) Canvas course(s).  
Important Note: Parents/guardians will not be able to create an account until students are rostered to their teacher’s Canvas course and a pairing code is created.

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**Elementary students** (Grades K-5) homeroom teachers will generate pairing codes and share the codes with parents/guardians.

**Secondary students** (Grades 6-12) will be able to generate a pairing code to share with parents/guardians.  
Note: Multiple pairing codes for individual parents/guardians can be created as needed.

⇒ **How to generate a pairing code as a student (Grades 6-12) for a parent/guardian as an observer:**  

⇒ **Canvas Parents/Guardians as Observers Video Instructions:** How to create a Canvas parent/guardian Observer account to become an observer of their student(s) Canvas course(s).  
[https://midlandps.instructuremedia.com/ce7d02585-b015-4849-a557-dc489683a515](https://midlandps.instructuremedia.com/ce7d02585-b015-4849-a557-dc489683a515)

⇒ **Canvas Parents/Guardians as Observers Guide:** How to link multiple students to a Canvas Observer user account using the pairing code generated for their student(s).  

⇒ **Parent/Observer Guide**  

⇒ **Student Guide**  
Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction

Please join us in congratulating Cammie Hall, HH Dow High Journalism and English Teacher, recently selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). According to the press release released by NSHSS, “Cammie was nominated by a student for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the profession.” This honor recognizes exemplary educators whose passion and devotion inspire their students to grow and develop as scholars, leaders and citizens. Congratulations to Cammie Hall for this wonderful, well-deserved honor!

Seal of Biliteracy through the State of Michigan

Congratulations to the fifty-seven (57) MPS 2020 graduates/seniors who have earned the Seal of Biliteracy from the Michigan Department of Education! In the near future, the recipients will receive a letter from MPS with their certificate and seal. The Michigan Seal of Biliteracy is an award presented to MPS students who have demonstrated proficiency in English and at least one other world language by their high school graduation.

Here are a few of the requirements for those interested in attaining the Seal of Biliteracy from the State of Michigan:

- complete the 12th grade with a 2.0 GPA in their English courses
- show an Intermediate High (or higher) Proficiency in another world language
- students can show proficiency at an Intermediate High range by:
  - achieving a 4 or higher on the AP test for that language
  - achieving a 4 or higher on an IB HL test, or
  - achieving a 5 or higher on an IB SL test.

For more information about the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-81351-456570--00.html.

Social Emotional Video Link

We have all experienced or seen someone close to us, possibly both children and adults, who have been struggling mentally and/or emotionally during this COVID-19 time we are all living through.

Several Midland PS staff members recently participated in a regional professional learning session on Trauma Informed Practices with Dr. Stephanie Grant.

Dr. Grant shared a free video that we wanted to pass along to our parents. "Returning to Learning During Covid":
https://vimeo.com/443901326

From the Office of MPS Special Services

Re: MPS Virtual Academy Services

Please note that students with an IEP that have related services such as speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or social work and are currently enrolled in the MPS Virtual Academy, will be receiving those services by outpatient therapy. Your child’s service provider will be in contact with you to schedule a time for you to bring your child into the school in which your child had previously received services. Thank you for your cooperation and patience.
MPS has open seats in 4-year-old Preschool Programs

MPS has proven programs that provide a SOLID EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION for our community’s youngest learners!

Two 4-Year-Old MPS Preschool Programs

⇒ International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme
Proven, inquiry-based reasonably-priced tuition preschool that follows the IB PYP foundation at all MPS elementary schools. MPS invites you to compare our fees against area preschools. We are confident you will find MPS offers a great value!

⇒ Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
Results-driven, high-quality, FREE preschool for 4-year-old students from income-qualifying families. Regional Preschool Partnership — GSRP Questions: (844) 492-7707 or (989) 923-6411
GSRP Registration: www.michiganpreschool.org

For 4-year old Preschool Info, call 923-6411 OR click on this link
https://www.cpp.midlandps.org/12/Content2/prekregistration

Join us for the 2020-21 Parent Information Committee (PIC) Meetings

The MPS Parent Information Committee is chaired by Superintendent Sharrow to share information and keep lines of communication open with MPS parents. The 2020-21 PIC meetings will be held the 4th Thursday of the month from 12-1 at the MPS Administration Center.

Here are the 2020-21 Meeting Dates: 9/24, 10/22, 1/28, 2/25, 4/22, 5/27.
(No meetings in November, December, March because of school breaks.)
Parents may attend either in person or virtually. Meetings will also be videotaped for parents to watch when it is convenient.

If you would like more information about 2020-21 PIC meetings, please email Cindy at youngcd@midlandps.org with the following information:
1. your name
2. your email address
3. the MPS school(s) your children attend

School Messenger Parent Guide
School Messenger is the notification system Midland Public Schools uses to communicate with families both on a school and district level. For instance:
⇒ Weekly newsletters and other notices from your child’s principal and school
⇒ Superintendent Monday and Special Edition Communiques
⇒ Inclement weather and emergency notices from the District

Here is an important document with more information about School Messenger and the directions for “opting in” and “opting out.”

Elementary Before/After School Care & The ROCK After School Program

As has been the practice in the past, before and after school care are available at all MPS elementary schools (of course, using safety/health COVID-19 protocols). The care providers handle their own registration. Here is a list of the providers at MPS schools and their phone numbers:

Quality Time (by GMCC) — 832-7937 x 2237
Central Park Elementary, Chestnut Hill Elementary, Siebert Elementary, Woodcrest Elementary

NOTE: Quality Time Program will begin September 8.

Campfire — 832-2295
Pre-Primary Center at Carpenter Street School, Adams Elementary, Plymouth Elementary

The Rock After School Care for Grades 6-12
The Rock After School Program is for students in grades 6-12. Students can choose activities from a semi-structured program including homework assistance. No fee is charged for the ROCK programs, however, fundraising is done throughout the year to support the program.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE PROGRAM. For those interested in attending the Community Center ROCK program, ask the ROCK about transportation options.
For info: https://conta.cc/30TvBKn or call 835-2542.
JOIN OUR MPS TEAM — Current Open Positions

MPS Employment Opportunities Link: https://www.midlandps.org/Content/Employment%20Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Posting End Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Driver, Substitute</td>
<td>MPS Transportation</td>
<td>Until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls’</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>Until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Soccer, Girls’</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>Until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Wrestling</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>Sept. 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional, Special Education</td>
<td>9 Positions</td>
<td>Varied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional, Instructional Support</td>
<td>Adams ES</td>
<td>Sept. 8, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional, Substitute</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>Until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Special Education</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>Sept. 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Food Service Workers Needed at MPS Schools

Interested in working in the food service dept. when your child is in school? Click on this link for more information and to apply: www.compassgroupcareers.com

Under search jobs, the key word is #418143.

WELCOME TO 2020-21! First day of school images!

More 1st day images on Page 6

MPS District Vision
Lead with respect, trust and courage.
Ensure an equitable, collaborative and inclusive culture.
Enable all to achieve success

MPS Website: www.midlandps.org
Twitter: @MichaelSharrow2 @MidlandPS
YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools
Student Flyers: https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/
Community Flyers: https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers

MPS Board of Education Members:
► Scott McFarland, President
► Pam Singer, Vice President
► Phil Rausch, Secretary
► Mary Fredell, Treasurer
► Lynn Baker, Trustee
► Brad Blasy, Trustee
► Jon Lauderbach, Trustee
Email: board@midlandps.org

Wise words to ponder …

“You have to cherish things in a different way when you know the clock is ticking, you are under pressure.” — Chadwick Boseman
Enjoy these 2020-21 1st day of school images