A group of Jefferson Huskies in a special needs classroom became “pumpkin partners” with a group of 6th graders at JMS this past week. They spent time getting to know each other; worked together to design their pumpkins; and met up later in the week to paint & decorate the pumpkins, which are now proudly displayed in the JMS Principal’s office.

When Saginaw Arthur Hills JV volleyball team took the court with only five team members last week, the Dow Charger JV team combined teams and split into two teams to scrimmage. The smiles in this photo show that a great time was had by all!

WDYT … BALANCED CALENDAR?
YES OR NO

- Balanced calendars are often used to prevent summer learning loss
- The traditional model of nine months in class and three months of vacation with a few breaks has been changing
- The traditional calendar was started over 100 years ago to match the agricultural industry
- Lack of air conditioning has also been a reason that the traditional calendar has been used
- Some research indicates that the traditional calendar is broken and summer learning loss leads to weeks of re-teaching each school year and results in a full year or more of loss of academic growth by graduation
- Traditional calendar and our state requires 180 days of instruction and 1098 hours of instruction
- A balanced calendar spreads the same 180 days and 1098 hours of instruction over the entire year, resulting in more frequent breaks and a shorter summer break
- Nearly all MPS classrooms now have AC and all would have AC before a balanced calendar could be adopted
- Shorter breaks, often called “inter-sessions” allow for vacations and/or school or community partners to provide enrichment programming
- Balanced calendars often align well with extra and co-curricular activities such as band & sports
- Balanced calendars often have a 7-week summer vacation and begin school in mid-August
- Optional inter-sessions are offered where students explore educational opportunities or take a break in October, February or May.
- Here is the link to a sample balanced calendar used by a district during the 2018-19 school year: http://www.midlandps.org/balanced-calendar

Please click on this link to take the one-question poll: https://forms.gle/bGYDfg6eK8ZBEs5x7

Please respond before Wednesday, October 30. Thank you!
Students in Ms. Beson-Steger’s Economics class at Midland High learned firsthand about the role of nonprofit organizations. Renee Urlaub, who is a member of the United Way of Midland County staff, shared her knowledge and experiences and the many ways that the United Way serves the individuals and families of our community. Students had an opportunity to ask questions, inquire into the funding distribution, and the multiple services available to people of all ages who have need. Thank you, Ms. Urlaub, and thank you, United Way of Midland County!!

**WDYT … PRE-LABOR DAY START? YES OR NO**

A few years back, the Michigan Department of Education started allowing districts to apply for a waiver for schools to begin their year the week before Labor Day.

We would like to poll our stakeholders to see if there is an interest in Midland Public Schools possibly starting school the week before Labor Day?

As you consider this question, please keep the following points in mind:

- The school year would start one week early— the Monday before Labor Day
- The first week students would attend Monday-Thursday with a 4-day weekend
- High school athletics have already begun
- Aligns with post-secondary courses available to high school students
- Would give students an additional week in preparation for spring assessments
- The school year would end 4 days earlier in June

Here is the link for this one-question poll: [https://forms.gle/Gv3vYFzFGbm7ckmx5](https://forms.gle/Gv3vYFzFGbm7ckmx5)

**Mark your calendar …**

Financial Aid Night for Midland County Seniors is Thursday, November 7, at Midland High from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Assistance will be provided to parents and students to complete the FAFSA financial aid app for college during this evening. Email Karen Dralle to register: drallekm@midlandps.org

**Important Dates**

in NOVEMBER

November 5  NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
  <> Professional Dev. for MPS staff
November 7  Elementary Parent-Teacher Conf.
  <> Elementary schools HALF DAY (check with school for release time)
  <> Middle/High schools FULL DAY
November 23  Santa Parade
November 27  HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS
  <> Check with school for release time
November 28-29  NO SCHOOL

MPS Board of Education meetings are now available to livestream via YouTube while the meeting is taking place. Click here if you would like to view tonight’s Board of Education meeting live beginning at 7:00 p.m. [https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools](https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools)

This poll closes Wednesday, October 23.
Midland High’s Drama Department is presenting *Shakespeare in Love* at Central Auditorium, November 1-2, at 7:00 pm and November 3 at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are $6 for students and seniors and $8 for adults and are available for purchase at Live Oak, Village Green, on-line at [https://centralauditorium.ludus.com/](https://centralauditorium.ludus.com/) as well as at the door before the performance.

To go or not to go? That is the question! Don’t miss this fun, comedic play (in modern English) where love-sick Shakespeare stumbles his way to greatness with his creation of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Have you checked out the MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards under the Community tab on the MPS website lately? The Student Flyer Board includes fun activities for students; the Community Flyer Board has important events & opportunities for parents. We receive flyers from our great community partners each and every week. If you haven’t had a chance to go the MPS Flyer Boards lately, take a moment to click these links:

- **Student Flyers:** [https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/](https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/)
- **Community Flyers:** [https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers](https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers)

State Representative Annette Glenn spent a morning last week touring several MPS schools. One of her stops was Adams Elem. where she enjoyed seeing the renovations of the building and participating in one of our new STEM Project Lead the Way activities with 4th grade students in Ms. Washabaugh’s classroom: The Human Brain!

On Saturday (10/19) morning Midland High Band, Pom, Cheer and Meistersingers added some music, energy and their beautiful voices to sing the national anthem to kick off the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

Plymouth Pioneers & Jefferson Huskies being the “I” in KIND!
Join our Team

**MPS Current Job Openings**

Click on this link for current job postings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Posting End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Basketball</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>10/22/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Swim, Boys’</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Wrestling</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTSS Coordinator</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Adams ES</td>
<td>10/29/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Central Park ES</td>
<td>10/22/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Chestnut Hill ES</td>
<td>10/29/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>10/22/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional (2 positions)</td>
<td>Plymouth ES</td>
<td>10/22/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Psychologist</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the job openings above, **BUS DRIVERS** and **PARAPROFESSIONALS** are needed in our **TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT** for the 2019-20 School Year!

**Requirements:**
- High school diploma or GED
- Pass criminal background check
- **DRIVERS:** Pass pre-employment drug test, physical/back assessment
- **PARAS:** Pass physical/back assessment & Work Keys

**Additional Details:**
- Flexible schedule, no experience required, AM & PM routes available, paid training, regular & sub drivers and paraprofessionals are needed

**Salary:**
- Bus driver: $13.54/hour starting salary ... within four years: $17.15/hour
- Paraprofessional/Sub Paraprofessional: $9.65/hour to start with steps to $13.12

**Want to know more?**
- Contact MPS Transportation (923-5041) today for info or to apply!

Midland Public Schools needs substitute teachers! You choose the days, grade levels, schools at which you would like to sub!

For more information go to [www.edustaff.org](http://www.edustaff.org) TODAY

Nominate a great MPS team member for a SHINING STAR today! MPS Team Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019-20 school year for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS team member today!

[https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form](https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form)

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"My life is based on pain, passion and purpose."

— Elijah Cummings