March is Women’s History Month

As you may remember, we kicked off our 3-part series last week in honor of March is Women’s History Month. For this series, we are using as our reference the Midland Center for the Arts’ (Center) virtual exhibit entitled “Seeing HERstory 100 Years of Women’s Rights.” Even more specifically, the “Women in Midland” portion of the exhibit that honors the contributions of local women—meant to be a representation of the strong women in our community. Here is the link to the Center’s virtual exhibit if you’d like to check it out: 100 Years of Women’s Rights / Virtual Exhibit (midlandcenter.org). In this week’s article, we will highlight some of the “Women in Midland” who have made a difference in the lives of Midland students and families:

Georgia (Gina) Espinoza Wilson, Ed.D.
“Her Life’s Trajectory: From Daughter of Migrant Workers to Inspirational Educational Leader.”
“Gina Espinoza Wilson earned her Ed.D in Education Leadership. … She is currently principal of Midland’s Windover High School, a charter alternative high school.”
“Sadly, their American teachers disregarded and criticized her migrant worker parents, but fortunately there were also other, more encouraging voices — these, they passed down to their children. Gina, with a deep understanding of her students, supports and guides them, practicing what she teaches.”
“Gina serves as Chair of Midland’s Cultural Awareness Coalition. In 2012 she received the Spirit of Rotary Award from Midland’s Noon Rotary Club.” (continued on page 2)

Congratulations, March 2021 MPS Shining Stars!

Katie Partipilo, Preschool Teacher, PrePrimary Center at Carpenter Street School
Lindsay Timmerman, Counselor, Jefferson MS

Ms. Partipilo and Ms. Timmerman will be recognized at tonight’s Board of Education meeting for going above and beyond for MPS students. Join us in thanking and congratulating Katie & Lindsay for all they do each and every day.

Students in Mrs. Lipovsky’s Class at Adams Elementary have been writing poetry about inspirational poets, authors or writers. Here is a very special poem about poet Amanda Gorman by 5th Grade student Addison Palmiter.

Flock of Birds
Amanda Gorman inspires others,
Our sisters, brothers, fathers, and mothers,
Connect to one another through her words,
Come together like a flock of birds,
And although she is young,
She brings us into only one native tongue,
The language of love, humility, and hope,
We can do this with each other; walk your tightrope,
Land the jump, fight your battle,
Swing that bat, round the cattle,
Poems like Amanda Gorman’s can make souls move,
This is the point that she’s trying to prove,
If our world was a whole,
And if we weren’t so quick to control,
We wouldn’t have to fit the pieces back,
Or communicate by talkin’ smack,
But don’t fret,
The future will be great, I bet,
‘Cause the future is in the hands of us,
Us as in Amanda Gorman’s and plus!

MPSConnected 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
Renee Pettinger
“An ‘Ordinary’ Person, Doing Extraordinary Things”

“Blessed with parents who were ‘through and through givers,’ Reneé Pettinger found her passion for urban ministry in college. After starting rescue missions in Holland, MI and Port Huron, she launched a national campaign for child abuse and neglect awareness, but then missed contact with people.”

“Both a builder and a sustainer, as Midland’s Open Door director, Reneé has overseen that ministry as it has grown. They now have two houses, one for men and one for women and children, a staff of 16 and many volunteers. Her vision of the Open Door is a conduit for Midland, a place where other community members can come together with the guests to break bread over a bowl of soup, a place for neighbors to celebrate and help each other.”

Terry Townley
“Hails from pioneer stock, where women were natural nurturers — wives, mothers, and grandmothers, as well as natural leaders, independent thinkers, and people of faith. Terry is all of these.”

“Terry became active in LWV (League of Women Voters) in the 1980s. The LWV-Midland’s robust conversations and research studies on public and charter schools, discussions that led to consensus and official positions, resonated with her passion for education. She served as the Education Chair for LWV and as PTO President for Siebert School. Elected to the Midland Public Schools Board of Education, Terry served from 1984-1992.”

Recently the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT) announced the Michigan winners for their annual Aspirations in Computing Award.

These Dow High Chargers earned recognition:
- Grace Chae (Affiliate Winner)
- Madeleine Hong (Affiliate Winner)
- Faith Tabler (Affiliate Winner)
- Abigail Yoo (Affiliate Honorable Mention)
- Norah Allington (Affiliate Rising Star)
- Ella Roberson (Affiliate Rising Star)

These Midland High Chemics earned recognition:
- Elliana Rinn (Honorable Mention)
- Gabrielle Schloop (Honorable Mention)
- Taylor Sanborn (Honorable Mention)
- Lauren McGuirk (Honorable Mention)

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC) honors 9th-12th grade students for their computing-related achievements and interests and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award recipients are selected based on their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing, as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans for post-secondary education.

Congrats to Northeast Middle School 8th Grade student Colter Mahabir who placed 7th at the recent 2021 MathCounts Chapter Invitational Competition. Way to go, Colter!

Spring Break 2021—March 29 through April 5.
Classes resume Tuesday, April 6.
MPS 2021-22 enrollment is now happening for ...

😊 4-year-old Preschool
😊 Development Kindergarten (DK)
😊 Traditional Kindergarten

Space is limited in Preschool and DK!

Register NOW to ensure your space for 2021-22.

For information, call 989-923-5001 or go to www.midlandps.org

Plymouth 4th Grade Class had Very Impressive Visitors

Through a community collaboration effort with the Midland Police Department, Mr. Waha's 4th Grade class at Plymouth Elementary was recently surprised with some special visitors. Officer Thielen and his K9 partner, Leo, came to the class and Leo was able to show off some of his special skills. The class really enjoyed the presentation and it tied in great with what they are learning in science about the brain and how it works with sending messages to the rest of the body. Leo showed the class that through the transfer of human cells to an object, he could use his senses to track and find two of School Resource Officer Hawkin's lost items. The class really enjoyed their unique lesson and it was a positive experience that they will not forget any time soon.

Friday, March 26, Half Day School Dismissal Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams ES</td>
<td>11:51 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chestnut Hill ES</td>
<td>11:51 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Park ES</td>
<td>11:51 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth ES</td>
<td>12:06 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siebert ES</td>
<td>12:06 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodcrest ES</td>
<td>12:06 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter PPC</td>
<td>12:11 pm</td>
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</tbody>
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* On 3/26, secondary schools are following 4th-6th hour schedules. HS students: 7th hour classes will meet 10:55-11:50 am.

2021-22 Midland PS Schools of Choice application window is now open for In-District & Out-of-District students.

If you would like more information, go to www.midlandps.org ➔ Community ➔ Schools of Choice

The 2021 GERSTACKER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!

For information go to www.midlandps.org.
Nomination form link: https://forms.gle/mRVpC3MeHPr5cwfd7

You may also submit a nomination letter to:
Gerstacker Committee, Midland Public Schools, Superintendent's Office, 600 E. Carpenter, Midland 48640

The nomination window CLOSES FRIDAY, APRIL 16.

Free Meal Schedule During Spring Break Week

Midland Public Schools will be providing the Free Summer Meals Program for all community children ages 0-18 during Spring Break. Meals will be available for pick up at the following schools: Central Park Elementary & Midland High School. No need to fill out a pre order form at this time. A request signature of confirmation of meal pick up will be provided at each location.

Saturday, March 27th (3 meals) 9:00 am-11:00 am AND Tuesday, March 30th (7 meals) 11:00 am-12:30 pm
The Midland Department of Public Health is recommending that all individuals returning from domestic or international travel perform a “Back to School” screening.

Before arriving at school, staff and students should:

- Perform daily symptom monitoring using the COVID-19 Staff and Student At-Home Screening Checklist for Schools [link](https://www.midlandps.org/userfiles/5/My Files/COVID symptoms checklist.pdf?id=5730)
- Consider getting tested for COVID-19
- Think about attending school virtually for 7 days upon return
- If symptoms of COVID-19 develop after returning from travel, individuals should isolate immediately and contact their primary care physician for diagnosis and treatment

Hot Spots and International Travel Recommendations

Individuals travelling to an area with high incidence of COVID-19 (“hot spots”), those travelling internationally, or individuals participating in higher risk activities (i.e. attending large gatherings, family reunions, amusement parks, etc.) are recommended to get tested and quarantine for 7 days upon their return. One week of virtual school is additionally recommended for these individuals. At this time, California, Florida, New York, and Texas are considered areas with high incidence of COVID-19. Check whether you are planning to travel to a hot spot [here](https://bit.ly/38fJXrX).

What Should I Do While I am Travelling?

While travelling, it is recommended that all individuals wear a mask, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated for COVID-19. Additional recommendations include social distancing, avoiding crowds or large gatherings, and practicing good hand hygiene. For more information about travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the CDC website [here](https://bit.ly/30i9rAl).

Return to School

Following the return from Spring Break, schools are reminded to follow strict adherence to mitigation procedures. Schools should instruct staff and students to wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart, and to wash hands often. Schools should additionally encourage families to participate in daily symptom monitoring.

What Should I Do If I Have Been Vaccinated?

Staff who have been fully vaccinated (i.e. it has been at least 2 weeks after the administration of the 2nd dose), do not have to quarantine upon return from domestic or international travel. Individuals that have not been fully vaccinated (i.e. have only had one dose or it has not been at least 2 weeks after the administration of the 2nd dose) are recommended to quarantine and attend virtual school upon return. Fully vaccinated individuals that develop symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate immediately and contact their primary care provider for diagnosis and treatment.

Is Your Family Planning to Travel Over Spring Break?

Here is the link to the 2-page Travel Safely During COVID-19 flyer:

[link](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Accessible_Safe_Holiday_Travel_Guidance_222021_FINAL_717620_7.pdf)
**JOIN OUR MPS TEAM — Current Open Positions**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Adams ES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Manager</td>
<td>Jefferson MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Driver, Substitute</td>
<td>MPS Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Track, Girls’</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Football</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Tennis, Girls’</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Bands (after school/evening)</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Honor Society Advisor</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional, Special Education (8 positions)</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional, Substitute</td>
<td>District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher, Business Education</td>
<td>District</td>
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<td>Teacher, Elementary</td>
<td>District</td>
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<td>Teacher, Music</td>
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<td>Teacher, Secondary Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher, Special Education</td>
<td>District</td>
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**SHINING STARS ...** If you would like to nominate a deserving MPS team member, please complete and submit the Shining Star nomination form.  
https://www.midlandps.org/Content2/shining-star-nomination-form

**CHARTWELLS, Midland PS food service provider,**  
**IS NOW HIRING!**

Chartwells Food Service is looking for Workers/Cashiers in MPS buildings.  
No Nights, Weekends, or Holidays!  
Flexible schedules available.  
4-5 hours daily, Monday-Friday.

GO TO:  
www.compassgroupcareers.com  
and insert job number 457063

**Midland PS Food Service remote free meal pick-up**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays:** Meals may be picked up 11 to 12:30 at Adams, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest and MHS.  
**Saturdays:** Meals are available for pick up from 9-11 am at two locations— Central Park Elementary & Midland High.

**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  
Phil Rausch, Vice President  
Pam Singer, Secretary  
Jon Lauderbach, Treasurer  
Lynn Baker, Trustee  
Brad Blasy, Trustee  
John Hatfield, Trustee

**Email:** board@midlandps.org

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**Wise words to ponder ...**  
“There are good ships and wood ships, ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are friendSHIPS, may they always be!  
—Irish Proverb