

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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MPS INCLUSION & DIVERSITY VISION STATEMENT

Everyone in our school community is valued, safe, treated with kindness and respect, and works together to make our community and world a better place.

SPECIAL EDITION COMMUNIQUE

March 26, 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) — **** MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS UPDATE ****

Do You or Someone You Know Need Additional Support During This Time?

Midland Public Schools is a member of the Midland County COVID-19 Coalition, a team of community organizations united in identifying and resourcing community needs. As a partner, Midland Public Schools is asking our families to complete a brief survey to let us know if you or someone you know needs additional support. This support can be food beyond the school provided meals, home supplies, personal hygiene items, school supplies, or other necessities. Please don't hesitate to fill out the survey to let us know how our community may be of assistance during these tough, unprecedented times.

Link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8R9MVV>

Third Quarter Marking Period

There will be no third quarter marking period for MPS students. It is a likely scenario that we will issue only a semester-ending grade if school resumes April 13 as scheduled. We are exploring many other options as well that may fit the many possible scenarios; such as, a later return-to-school date and potential school-year-end date. Stay tuned. We will keep you informed as soon as we receive word from the State of Michigan.

End-of-Year Events

Class of 2020 Graduation is still currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 2; however, depending on the pandemic status as the end of the school year gets closer, we are developing alternative scenarios to honor the Class of 2020 and their accomplishments. Awards ceremonies and prom will also be explored for alternative options if warranted.

Student Fees, Spring Sports

- ➔ Student fees, such as spring athletics and International Baccalaureate (IB) testing are being investigated at this time. We have been in contact with IB on the possibility to return testing fees to the families. More guidance is expected in April.
- ➔ We have also been in contact with MHSAA regarding the spring athletic seasons and no decision has been made at this time. If the spring seasons are cancelled, MPS will look at a fee reimbursement plan.

MPS Technology Team Support During Closure

- ➔ Virtual Support — The MPS Technology Team is providing virtual support to staff and families during the extended school shutdown from **8:00 AM-4:30 PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**. For virtual support M-F, you can call the Help Desk and leave a voicemail message—(989) 923-5119 or send an email to help@midlandps.org and someone will assist you ASAP.
- ➔ Limited Device Physical Support — Beginning Friday, March 27, the tech team will also be providing limited access physical support to handle issues around physically broken devices. Tech Team representatives will be onsite MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the MPS Administration Center (600 E Carpenter Street). The drop-off and pick-up point will be the Admin Building Receiving Room doors in the parking lot between the Admin Building and the bus lot. This parking lot may be accessed from either George St. or State St. A cart with bins will be available to help everyone adhere to the minimum 6' personal space rule. We will repair devices as quickly as possible and contact you with the pick-up information when it is ready. Please call the Help Desk at (989)923-5119 in advance and leave a voicemail to let us know about the problem you are experiencing to expedite this process.

LUNA, the amazing, adorable Central Park Elementary service dog is working from home too.

Check out this fun video: <https://www.midlandps.org/luna-check-in-1>

Don't stop reading ... lots more MPS COVID-19 mandated closure updates on Page 2 ↓

MPS CONNECT is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click here to connect with me: <https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2>

Testing & Assessments

- ➔ State-mandated assessments scheduled in the upcoming weeks along with school accountability has been waived by the United States Department of Education. Our legislators need to take action but is expected to pass.
- ➔ AP testing will not occur face-to-face. A 45-minute online exam will be given. Each subject has two testing dates. More guidance is expected on April 3.
- ➔ IB testing will not occur this year. Students will receive their IB diploma or certificates. More guidance is expected soon.

Online Learning, April 13 Date, School Supplies, Make-up of Instructional Days/Hours

- ➔ MDE has released guidance that states there is no mechanism to earn instructional time through online or e-learning during the mandated closure. The Governor is not in full agreement with this statement. MPS is committed to continuing online or e-learning connections and opportunities until we return to school.
- ➔ April 13 is the present return to school day announced by Gov. Whitmer. We are planning for this scenario as well as a longer closure if we receive that announcement from the State. In the event the closure lasts past April 13, MPS is looking at the possibility of distributing school supplies for students who may need them. Stay tuned.
- ➔ There is no guidance at this time if days or hours of instruction will need to be made up. It is my belief that additional instructional time will be required to catch all students up. I believe it may be better to add this time to an earlier start of the 2020-2021 school year as the COVID-19 curve is hopefully flattened by then. It is clear the curve for the US and Michigan has not decreased at this time. We will, of course, keep you informed as soon as we hear anything from the State.

Are you part of Michigan's essential workforce? Do you need childcare so you can serve our community?

Essential workers as defined by the Governor's executive order are: Health care workers, home health workers, direct care workers, emergency medical service providers, first responders, law enforcement personnel, sanitation workers, childcare workers, correctional workers, postal workers, public health employees, key government employees such as child protective services and foster care workers, court personnel, and others providing key infrastructure to Michiganders such as utilities, mass transit, manufacturing, and groceries. Essential workers in need of emergency childcare can fill out this survey to get connected with a local provider: <http://www.helpmegrow-mi.org/essential>

MPS Food Service Continues During Closure — Including Spring Break Week (3/30-4/3) and Good Friday (4/10)

Last week more than 20,000 meals were picked up at MHS, our elementary schools and at various meal pick-up points where food is being delivered by MPS school buses. If you haven't had a chance to take advantage of the food service yet, it is certainly not too late. These free meals are available for any child ages 0-18. Anyone can pick up the meals for a child (parent, aunt, uncle, grandparent, neighbor, friend, etc.) Identification is not required when picking up meals.

MPS School Food Pick Up Sites: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-11 a.m.: Midland High and all six MPS Elementary Schools

In addition, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday these are the meal MPS school bus pick-up locations and times:

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| ➔ Carpenter Pre-Primary/Robotics Ctr — 9:00-9:45 a.m. | ➔ Longview Elementary — 9:00-9:45 a.m. |
| ➔ Charter Square Apartments — 9:00-9:45 a.m. | ➔ Midland Evangelical Free Church — 9:00-9:45 a.m. |
| ➔ Davenport University — 9:00-9:45 a.m. | ➔ North Midland Family Center — 10:00-11:00 a.m. |
| ➔ E. Cheryl Ln & E Brian Ln — 10:00-11:00 a.m. | ➔ Northwest Baseball Park--Sturgeon Rd. — 10:00-11:00 am. |
| ➔ H.H. Dow High School — 9:00-9:45 a.m. | ➔ Salvation Army — 10:00-11:00 a.m. |
| ➔ Hubbard/Eastman Intersection — 9:00-9:45 a.m. | ➔ VFW Post 3651 — 9:00-9:45 a.m. |
| ➔ Greater Midland Comm. Center — 10:00-11:00 a.m. | ➔ Village East Office — 10:00-11:00 a.m. |
| ➔ Ingersoll Township Hall — 10:00-11:00 a.m. | ➔ Westown Grocery — 10:00-11:00 a.m. |
| ➔ Larkin Township Hall — 10:00-11:00 a.m. | ➔ Windover School (Chippawassee) — 9:00-9:45 a.m. |

Here is a link to an area map that shows the meal sites and times. (Please zoom in (+) for detail and readability.)

http://nsfgrace.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Embed/index.html?webmap=2bc97144c47b466f95b50022a1bf00f2&extent=84.2932,43.5729,-84.063,43.6786&zoom=true&previewImage=false&scale=true&disable_scroll=true&theme=light

Thank you also to the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network for continuing to provide food for the **Backpack Buddy** food program at elementary schools through the closure and to the MPS staff and volunteers who package and disburse it to MPS families!

April 1, 2020 is Census Day! Have you had a chance to go to www.2020census.gov yet? The 2020 Census is happening now. You can respond online, by phone or by USPS mail. You probably received your invitation in your mailbox at home to respond to the 2020 Census earlier this month. This mailing included detailed information and a Census ID for completing the Census online at www.2020census.gov. If you would prefer to complete the census by paper or phone instead of online, click on this link for information: <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>

It takes just a few minutes to complete the 9-question survey. The results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year for education, roads, hospitals, libraries and more. Please keep in mind, if your household does not complete the survey soon, between April and July you will receive reminder postcards/letters in your mailbox. In addition, between May and August Census Bureau employees will visit the households that have not completed the survey. It really is quick and easy. We hope you will complete the census today.

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out via MPS Connect: <https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2>

Be well, Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent