

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.

MPS showing kindness during the holidays!

The Woodcrest Elementary students in Mary



Wynne's classroom chose to have a blanket making party as opposed to a traditional holiday party. All of the blankets that were made were donated to Mid-Michigan Medical Center. Way to go, Woodcrest Wolverines!



Cool Example of Inclusion at MPS

Dow v. Midland Unified Basketball Game

On Thursday, December 19, after the Varsity girls' cross-town rivalry basketball game between Dow & Midland High and before the Varsity boys' game, a very special event took place—the first ever Dow v. Midland Unified Basketball

Interscholastic Game. At this game, three special education students and two general education partner players took the court with the same rules as high school basketball play.

This was an exciting evening for the players on the court with the stands filled with hundreds of students and adults cheering both teams on. The students wore their jerseys to school on that Thursday being a proud member of THEIR SCHOOLS' team! The Dow v. Midland Unified Basketball Teams will have a rematch on Friday, January 31, at HH Dow High. The Dow High Unified Team is coached by Lee Meitler and the Midland High team is coached by Dave Jenkins.



The Unified Basketball Teams are a partnership between Special Olympics Michigan and the MHSAA. Thanks to Midland High Athletic Director, Eric Albright, for bringing this idea to the Saginaw Valley schools and to Midland Public Schools!

Siebert Student Leadership

collected socks for community students and families in need.



Woodcrest Safety Patrol

did a toy collection drive to help out the Salvation Army.



A group of **Siebert students** Christmas caroled around neighborhoods and at a nursing home spreading holiday cheer!



Dow High DECA ran their annual Toys for Tots drive this holiday season and collected more than 150 toys. Each year the club strives to give back to the Midland community by hosting a toy drive competition.

This year Mrs. Williams' class defended their title as the reigning champs by donating the most toys to the drive.



A group of **Siebert Bulldogs** took action by volunteering at the Open Door. The H Hotel donates used linens so those staying at the Open Door have nice sheets and towels. Students helped to sort the sheets & towels. The sorted linens are now ready to be altered to fit a twin bed or cut up to use as rags. The Open Door staff was very appreciative of the kindness of the Siebert Bulldogs.



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>

Midland Public Schools had 22 female high school students and four MPS staff members who were invited and participated in the December 16 **POWER Up** session sponsored by the Midland Executive Inclusion Council. Here is the event description the participants received:

POWER Up is a confidence-building leadership skill development experience for females that instills these key concepts:

- Project confidence authentically*
- Own your career*
- Widen your network*
- Elevate your communication*
- Realize your purpose*




Participants had the opportunity to interact with female leaders from the local community and business sector and gain skills to support their future success. The sessions were interactive; organizers asked the students to come with an open mind, an inquisitive spirit, and a willingness to fully engage in the learning and have fun! MPS Associate Superintendent, Penny Miller-Nelson, was one of the POWER Up presenters. The topic of her presentation, "Realize your Purpose."




2020-21 **IMPORTANT DATES** INCOMING 9TH GRADE ORIENTATION

If you have an 8th Grade student, please be sure these important events are on your calendar.

→ HH Dow High School — Monday, January 20, 2020

 (6:00 — Parents/guardians report to cafeteria; students report to main gym)

→ Midland High School — Tuesday, January 21, 2020

(5:45 — International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Info)
 (6:15 — Parent Program begins in Cafeteria)

MPS is gearing up for PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for 2020-21!

- **KINDERGARTEN Orientation** at all MPS elementary schools is Tuesday, February 4, at 5:45 pm.
- **4-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL Open House** (Both IB-PYP & Great Start Readiness Program) at Carpenter Street School is Monday, March 9, 5:30 pm
- **IB PYP PRESCHOOL Registration** opens on February 1.
- **GSRP 4-Year-Old Preschool Registration** window will be announced by the State of Michigan this winter.



Speaking of our GSRP 4-Year-Old Preschool ... Midland PS has just been awarded two additional GSRP seats effective IMMEDIATELY. Go to www.michiganpreschool.org for information and/or to apply!

MPS FIRST LEGO LEAGUE (FLL) AND FIRST TECH CHALLENGE (FTC) ROBOTICS' STUDENTS PRESENTED AT DECEMBER 16 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

At the December 16 Board of Education meeting, Grade 4-5 elementary students involved in the 2019 FLL competitive season and Grade 6-8 middle school students involved in the 2019 FTC competitive season spoke about the FIRST programs' core values, project, robot game and experiences. Following their presentation, the elementary students showed Board members the robots they created. Following the middle school students' presentation, the Northeast FTC Team 9931—Viking Vendors—demonstrated their impressive robot in action.

We were excited to learn that in the 2019-20 school year, Midland Public Schools has 26 teams in the Grade 1-3 Jr. FIRST LEGO League program; nine teams in the Grade 4-5 FIRST LEGO League program; five Grade 6-8 teams in the FIRST Tech Challenge; and two high school teams in the Grade 9-12 FIRST Robotics Competition.



A big thank you to Sudie Ammerman, Midland Public Schools' Volunteer Robotics Coordinator for the FLL and FTC programs, who coordinated this presentation and does such a wonderful job overseeing the elementary and middle school FIRST robotics programs for MPS.

Congratulations to these **Midland High Seniors, Corbin Dittenber, Timmy Kipfmiller,**



Erika Leasher, Andrew Scheffer, whose phone app, "Meal Deals" won the **2019 Congressional App Challenge for the Fourth District**. This exciting news was announced by United States Representative, John Moolenaar, on December 20. This helpful app was designed to assist families who are struggling financially purchase the fixings for affordable, nutritious meals. These Chemics will be invited to Washington, D.C. in early 2020 to take part in a reception with the other App Challenge winners from across the country. These impressive app developers are advised by Midland High teacher, Bob Fox. **Congratulations, Corbin, Timmy, Erica and Andrew! We are proud of you!**



Midland Public Schools
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Congratulations to our **December 2019 Shining Stars**. These MPS team members were recognized for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students.

- ⇒ **Eric Attard**,
Music Teacher,
Northeast Middle
School
- ⇒ **Cassie Honson**,
Paraprofessional,
Plymouth
Elementary School



Congratulations to **Lynn Verdusco, Woodcrest Elementary Teacher**, and **Andrea Jozwiak, Midland High Business Education Teacher**, who have been selected to receive the **Heroes in Education Award by Saginaw Valley State University** at a ceremony to be held in March. In the message they received about their receipt of the award, the SVSU College of Education wrote, "We are delighted to be able to recognize the outstanding work you are doing to inspire, impact, innovate, and be involved as an educator."



Congratulations, Lynn & Andrea!
We are proud of you!



Congratulations to the **Midland High Business Professionals of America (BPA)**



members that participated in the December BPA Regional Competition. Their professionalism and performance was superior. Best wishes to the 49 students who will be representing MHS/MPS at State Competition. This Chemic BPA team Advisor is MHS Business Teacher, **Andrea Jozwiak**.



Congratulations to Midland PS Varsity Football Coaches named SVL Co-Coaches of the Year!

- ☆ HH Dow HS → **Jason Watkins**
- ☆ Midland HS → **Eric Methner**

2019 Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Academic

All State Academic Awards:

- ☆ **Division 2 Honorable Mention Team Awards:**

→ **HH Dow High School**
→ **Midland High School**

- ☆ **Division 2 Dream Team:**

HH Dow HS → **Collin Erickson**
Midland HS → **Timmy Kipfmiller**

- ☆ **Division 1/2 First Team:**

Midland HS → **Tommy Johnstone**

- ☆ **Honorable Mention:**

HH Dow HS → **Marek Belgiorino**
Midland HS → **Maxx Fisher**
HH Dow HS → **Evan Metiva**



On December 17, one hundred **HH Dow High DECA Members** participated in the District 1 DECA Competition held at SVSU. 86 members earned medals and 79 qualified for the State Competition to be held in Detroit in March of 2020.

In total, Dow High brought home an impressive 193 medals.

- ☆ Earning the highest test score for Dow High: **Salma Elsadany**.
- ☆ Earning the highest role play score: **Haily Tanis** (with a perfect score).
- ☆ Earning the highest total combined score was the team of **Adam Haydanek and Aiden Murphy**.



This Charger DECA team Advisor is DHS Business Teacher, **Erin Royalty**.

Midland Public Schools wishes you and your family a 2020 filled with peace, joy, good health and many, many smile-filled memories!

Middle School Robotics Teams Represent Midland at State Championship

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All five of our MPS **FIRST** Tech Challenge teams (Northeast teams 9931 Viking Vendors and 12722 The Viking Force, Jefferson teams 10309 TechnoHuskies, 10615 CyDogs and 12603 Wired Wolves) were invited to compete at the Michigan FTC State Championship in Battle Creek in mid-December. They were joined by 66 other top FTC teams in Michigan. The 72 teams were split into 36 per field (Edison and Franklin Divisions). Over the course of two days they played qualification matches and were interviewed by judges, before the final teams met in the playoffs and the awards were given out.

Northeast's **The Viking Force** was very excited to compete in their first FTC State Championship and were joined by **Northeast Viking Vendors** and the **Jefferson CyDogs** in the Franklin Division. The two Northeast teams had similar experiences and ended qualification play in back-to-back positions, with both teams making it into the playoffs. As Captains, **The Viking Force** were able to select more Midland friends and the **Jefferson CyDogs** joined their alliance. The combo alliance advanced to the Division Finals, but were defeated by the eventual overall state champions. The **Jefferson CyDogs** were Finalists for both the Connect Award, which celebrates a team that is highly engaged with the engineering community, and the Promote Award for their video submission on how being in **FIRST** has impacted the students on the team.

The **Jefferson Wired Wolves** faced tough competition throughout, coming up against multiple teams who ended up in the playoffs for the Edison Division. They took it in stride, worked hard and never gave up. They couldn't be more pleased with everything they learned this season, and they did it all while still having fun! Also playing in the Edison Division were the **Jefferson TechnoHuskies**. As playoff Alliance Captains, they selected 4-Gear Clovers, a Rookie Team from Brighton, MI, and Techno Trojans II from Fruitport, MI as their alliance partners. Based on robot capacities and game strategies, their alliance selection helped them become the Champion Alliance of the Edison Division. Even though they lost to the Franklin Division Champions during the Championship Finals, they were more than happy to celebrate what they have achieved at the State Championships. The **Jefferson TechnoHuskies** received the Finalist Award and Inspire Award. The Inspire Award celebrates a team with the strongest qualities in all judged awards, including removal of engineering obstacles through creative thinking, innovative robot design, reliable robot control, community engagement, gracious professionalism, team spirit, and teamwork!

The **Jefferson TechnoHuskies** are honored to be invited to compete at the **FIRST** World Championship in Detroit April 28 to May 2, 2020.

It is no surprise that we have such talented and innovative students in Midland, but having all five of our middle school teams together at the State Finals is quite an accomplishment! Congratulations to the Midland Public Schools' **FIRST** Tech Challenge Robotics teams!



FIRST Robotics Competition 2020 Season Kicks Off for High School Teams!

The 2020 **FIRST** Robotics Competition Season for our Midland High and Dow High School teams is underway!



The Dow High team, FRC 2619 - **The Charge** and the Midland High Team, FRC 5509 - **Like a Boss** watched the game reveal in the Midland Public Schools' Robotics Center. This year's challenge is called **INFINITE RECHARGESM** and is in alignment with the '**FIRST RISE**' Star Wars theme for all **FIRST** programs. Teams will have 8 weeks to design, build, and program a 125-pound robot where two competing robot alliances will collect & score power cells in order to energize their shield generator during 2.5-minute matches. To activate stages of the shield generator & win the match, robots will interact with a control panel & climb to the rendezvous point after scoring a sufficient number of power cells.

Save the Date: The 2020 **FIRST** Midland District Competition will be held at H. H. Dow High School on March 19-21.



As you know, MPS has been embracing a spirit of Inclusion & Diversity this year in many different ways across District lines.

Here is one great example ... The week before holiday break, as a way to promote the goal of inclusion, the **HH Dow High Student Council** included in each day's announcements, information about these different holidays from around the world:

- ➔ Las Posadas is a Christian religious festival celebrated between December 16th and 24th. During this celebration in Mexico, each night a child dressed as an angel leads a procession through the town.
- ➔ Hanukkah is a Jewish religious holiday. It's an 8-day celebration, (this year December 22-30), often celebrated by lighting the menorah, spinning dreidels and enjoying delicious food!
- ➔ Kwanzaa, which started in the United States in the 1960s. It is a 7-day holiday which celebrates African culture, family and the giving of educational and homemade gifts! It shares a candle lighting tradition with Hanukkah and Christmas.
- ➔ Christmas is a Christian religious and cultural holiday on December 25th. People often celebrate by decorating a Christmas tree, giving gifts and listening to various Christmas songs.



Here is another great example of MPS students showing kindness in our community! For the 6th consecutive year, the **MHS Chemic Varsity Hockey Team** purchased and donated adorable, fuzzy stuffed animals for children who are patients at Midland's MidMichigan Medical Center. Way to go, Chemics!



Photo courtesy of Midland Daily News

The Siebert Culture Club recently hosted an Open House featuring the culture of the different countries in Europe. Students worked over the past month to research and put together posters to educate others. The hard work paid off when students from other schools and members of the community came together to enjoy a taste of traditional food and learn about each country's unique culture.



Don't miss H.H. Dow High's 2020 RenFair!
January 24 at 7:00 pm at Midland Center for the Arts

Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and are on sale now at the MCFTA ticket office or online at <https://www.mcfta.org/event/h-h-dow-high-school/e27743/>. (All proceeds support the Dow High music programs.)



Get your tickets now before they sell out and watch our very talented HH Dow High Chargers **Shine!**

Congratulations to the **H. H. Dow High Debate Team** who competed at States this past weekend. The team of **Tayce Shamamian** and **Faith Tabler** won the varsity tournament earning Dow High the Varsity State Championship for the first time in DHS history. On the novice level, the team of **Corrine Cai** and **Anthony Tang** broke to the final round and placed 2nd overall in the Novice State Championship. **Faith** was recognized as 5th speaker in the Varsity division and **Corrine** earned 1st place in the novice division. This Charger Debate Team is Advised by DHS Teacher, Amy Bushey.

Congratulations to the entire team on an outstanding season and State finish.



WELCOME BACK!!

We hope you had a nice holiday break, but now it is time to get back to work.
1st Semester ends January 23!

Join our Team

MPS Current Job Openings

Click on this link for current job postings:

<https://www.applitrack.com/mps/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp>

Position	Location	Posting End Date
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls'	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Tennis	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant Track	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Volleyball	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, JV Soccer, Boys'	HH Dow HS	until filled
Paraprofessional (two positions)	Central Park ES	01/06/2020
Paraprofessional (two positions)	Chestnut Hill ES	until filled
Paraprofessional	Adams ES	01/06/2020
Student Support Services	District	until filled
Teacher, Elementary	District	until filled

MPS NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

Midland Public Schools contracts through **EDUStaff** for our substitute teachers. You choose the days, grade levels, schools at which you would like to sub!
For more information go to 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>

MPS FLYER BOARDS

Have you checked out the **MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards** under the Community tab on the MPS website lately?

Student Flyers: <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/>

Community Flyers: <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers>

Did you know the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, through the Michigan Electronic Library (<https://www.mel.org/az.php>), offers 24/7 remote access to LearningExpress Library, an interactive online resource designed to help students succeed? LearningExpress Library includes hundreds of practice exams and remedial courses for 4th graders through high school students in the areas of math, reading and writing skills improvement. The resource also includes practice exams and courses for the ACT, SAT, and AP tests. This resource is free to all Michigan residents, but you must create a login to download any materials.



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

January 6, 2020

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Midland Public Schools
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MPS Website:

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Twitter:

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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>

Administration	923-5001
Adams Elementary	923-6037
Carpenter Pre-Primary	923-6411
Central Park Elem.	923-6836
Chestnut Hill Elem.	923-6634
Plymouth Elementary	923-7616
Siebert Elementary	923-7835
Woodcrest Elementary	923-7940
Jefferson Middle	923-5873
Northeast Middle	923-5772
H. H. Dow High	923-5382
Midland High	923-5181

MPS Board of Education Members:

- Pam Singer, President
- Scott McFarland, Vice President
- Lynn Baker, Secretary
- Mary Fredell, Treasurer
- Brad Blasy, Trustee
- Jon Lauderbach, Trustee
- Phil Rausch, Trustee

wise thought to ponder ...

"And now we welcome
the new year. Full of
things that have never been."

— Rainer Maria Rilke

