

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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March 2, 2020 <> Volume 7, Issue 29

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.

**Daylight
Savings Time
this weekend
March 8, 2020**



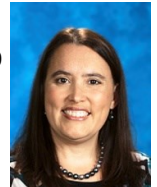
Kudos to Erin from Mrs. Schultheis' room at Adams Elementary for being the "I" in KIND.

Erin helped clean up in the lunchroom and made work easier for others.

Way to go, Erin!



Congratulations to Jen Lenon, MPS Middle School Learning Coach, who has been chosen as a Regional STEM Star from almost 70 nominees from the region. In addition to this amazing recognition for her dedication and passion for STEM, Jen will receive a \$300 grant award. She will receive this award at a STEM Teacher Dinner in mid-March. From the STEM & SVSU Winter 2020 Newsletter, "A STEM Star ... makes incredible contributions to STEM education." Kudos, Jen! We are proud of you!



IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL CHANGE...

BEGINNING TODAY EVERY VISITOR MUST HAVE THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID SCANNED TO ENTER AN MPS SCHOOL!

RAPTOR Visitor Management ...

As we reported in the February 10 Communique, MPS is launching a new school safety program called RAPTOR, which includes several large safety components. **The RAPTOR Visitor Management System is being activated District-wide TODAY!** The screening Program will require visitors to have their government-issued ID (driver's license, State ID, passport, etc.) scanned so that federal and state databases can be checked to confirm that they do not pose a threat to our school community. Once the system has completed its review, it will print a badge that identifies the visitor, the date and purpose of his/her visit.



**BEGINNING TODAY,
please bring your State DL or ID
when visiting ALL MPS SCHOOLS.**

WDYT ... District Communication?

MPS staff and families who have been part of Midland Public Schools for six or seven (or more) years, have seen an increase in the amount of District communication over these years.

Here are a few examples: Monday & Special Edition Communiques; *Our Schools* quarterly newsletter in *Midland Daily News*; Twitter; MPS Connect; text and email alerts/messaging; YouTube; etc. We would like to know your thoughts about District communications. We know it is important to keep our staff, families and community informed, but we also know that it is a balance not to inundate our stakeholders with unnecessary information. Over the next several weeks, the Communique will include a link to several short polls for you to let us know what you think about the various aspects of MPS communications.

Here is the link for a short poll about the Superintendent's Monday & Special Edition Communiques:

<https://forms.gle/DA8UA1CVX3hgufez9>



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>

All Saginaw Valley League (SVL) Basketball Honors to HH Dow High and Midland High Student Athletes!



HH Dow High All-SVL Honorees - Congratulations to Jada Garner, Abbey Rey, Katelyn Murray, Alyssa Keptner, Chloe McVey, Alexa Kolnitys, Jacob Tomsich, Anthony Zeitler, Justus Drabik, and Garrett Daniels on being named to the All-SVL basketball teams. Special Congratulations and Acknowledgment to **Jada Garner** for being named the North SVL Most Valuable Player!



Midland High All-SVL Honorees - Congratulations to Anna Tuck, Olivia Carpenter, Drew Barrie, Jordan Phillips, Zach Streich, Nick Long, Sydnie Schafer, and Alyssa Chritz on being named to the All-SVL basketball teams. Shout out to Anna Tuck and Olivia Carpenter for earning first-team recognition!

March 2, 2020

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Midland Public Schools
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**Join us as we celebrate
National Read Across
America Day**

and

**Dr.
Seuss'
Birthday
today!**



The Robots are Coming ... The Robots are Coming ... From All Over Michigan! — FREE ENTRY & PARKING!!!!

H.H. Dow High is hosting the FIRST Robotics District Competition March 20-21 in the Dow High Gym

Come and cheer on both of the MPS high schools' FIRST Robotics teams, who will be among the 39 teams competing at this event— **Team 2619, The Charge (Dow High) and Team 5509, Like a Boss (Midland High)!**

District Competition Schedule ...

- ➔ Friday (3/20): Opening ceremonies 10:30 am; Matches end at 7:00 pm
- ➔ Saturday (3/21): Opening ceremonies at 9:00 am; Awards at 5:00 pm



**INFINITE
RECHARGE**

*is the Star Wars-inspired challenge for
the 2020 FIRST Competitive season.*

2020-2021 PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

**MPS OFFERS TWO PROVEN 4-Year Old Preschool
Options to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten Success!**

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Monday, March 9 at 5:30

*Both MPS preschool programs assist children in reaching their
full potential through activities that develop inquiry,
confidence, self-esteem and social & physical skills.*

Call the MPS PrePrimary Center at 923-6411 for information.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD
FOR THE 2020-21 KINDERGARTEN CLASS**

*Is your child's 5th birthday before September 1, 2020?
If so, register NOW for the 2020-21 Kindergarten class.*

*If his/her 5th birthday is between Sept. 1-Dec. 1, 2020,
and you would like them to attend Kindergarten this fall,
the State of Michigan requires a Waiver to be completed.
Here is the link to the waiver: [https://www.midlandps.org/
userfiles/4/My%20Files/District%20Site/enrollment/20200120New/20-
21%20Kindergarten%20Waiver.pdf?id=3522](https://www.midlandps.org/userfiles/4/My%20Files/District%20Site/enrollment/20200120New/20-21%20Kindergarten%20Waiver.pdf?id=3522)*

IB PYP 4-Year-Old Preschool

Proven, reasonably-priced tuition preschool that follows the IB PYP foundation that is the framework used by MPS elementary schools.

MPS invites you to compare our fees against area preschools. We are confident you will find MPS offers a great educational value!

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

State-funded, quality preschool program.

Free for income-qualifying families.

[Member of the Regional Preschool Partnership]

Click here to pre-register:
www.michiganpreschool.org

Preschool registration information & documents:
www.midlandps.org →Parents →PreSchool Program

Kindergarten — 2020-2021

Register NOW for the 2020-21 Kindergarten class

Kindergarten classes are offered at all six MPS elementary schools:

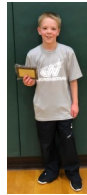
- ➔ Adams Elementary 923-6037
- ➔ Central Park Elem. 923-6836
- ➔ Chestnut Hill Elem. 923-6634
- ➔ Plymouth Elementary 923-7616
- ➔ Siebert Elementary 923-7835
- ➔ Woodcrest Elementary 923-7940

Kindergarten

Kindergarten registration information & documents:
www.midlandps.org →Parents →Kindergarten

Congratulations to all of the 4th & 5th grade students who participated in the 2020 MPS City-Wide Paddleton tournaments.

This year's tournament, hosted by the MPS elementary Physical Education teachers, featured 160 students from all six MPS elementary schools and three parochial schools. The elementary Physical Education teachers would like to thank the Midland & Dow High School students who also helped to run the tournament. Here are the results from this year's tournament:



Matt Grillo
3rd Place Grade 5

4th Grade Girls:

- 1st Place: Avery Gabriel (Adams)
- 2nd Place: Delaney DeBoer (Woodcrest)
- 3rd Place: Adele Ieuter (Woodcrest)
- 4th Place: Hannah Bissett (Chestnut Hill)



4th Grade Boys:

- 1st Place: Evan King (Woodcrest)
- 2nd Place: JD Doughty (Woodcrest)
- 3rd Place: Tucker Spaulding (Adams)
- 4th Place: Elliott Zahn (Siebert)

5th Grade Girls:

- 1st Place: Lauren Schikorra (Woodcrest)
- 2nd Place: Ana Rutterbush (Woodcrest)
- 3rd Place: Sanvi Patel (Siebert)
- 4th Place: Heidie Fix (Woodcrest)

Kudos to everyone who participated!



5th Grade Boys:

- 1st Place: Taber Edwards (Chestnut Hill)
- 2nd Place: Braden Miller (Chestnut Hill)
- 3rd Place: Matt Grillo (Chestnut Hill)
- 4th Place: Borden Wallace (Adams)

On Friday (2/28) our office released a Special Edition Communique about COVID-19 (Coronavirus). If you didn't have a chance to see it, here is the link: <https://www.midlandps.org/2020-02-28SECommunique>

As you look ahead in **MARCH** please note the following dates:

- 3/27: Half Day of School
- 3/30-4/3: Spring Break—No School



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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>

Have you checked out the **MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards** under the Community tab on the MPS website lately? Many fun opportunities for students are posted.

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

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

**MPS
FLYER
BOARDS**

THE GERSTACKER TEACHER PROFICIENCY AWARDS NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!

The nomination window CLOSES FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

For nomination information go to our website: www.midlandps.org or click on this link: <https://www.midlandps.org/gerstacker-awards>

To nominate a teacher, you may also send a personal letter via US Mail to:
Gerstacker Committee, Midland Public Schools, Superintendent's Office,
600 E. Carpenter, Midland, MI 48640

This year's Gerstacker Ceremony is
Thursday, April 30 at 4:15 p.m. at Central Auditorium
and will celebrate 65 years of
Midland Public Schools' teaching excellence.

Don't miss your chance. Nominate a great MPS teacher today!

These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl & Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation.

SAGINAW VALLEY LEAGUE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Saginaw Valley League established this award to recognize excellence in teaching and is presented annually to one teacher from each of the Saginaw Valley member high schools.

Any teacher who has taught for at least 5 years and whose current teaching assignment is full or part-time in grades 9-12 is eligible for the SVL Teacher of the Year Award.

If you wish to nominate a deserving teacher, click on one of the two links below for the form to submit for your nominee's school:

[H.H. Dow High School](#)

[Midland High School](#)

The SVL Teacher of the Year Award nomination DEADLINE is FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020



Last week, over 100 **Dow High Students in Marketing, Health Care Technology and Computer Technology** participated in Ready Set Get Hired, a mock interview event sponsored by the Midland County ESA. Students completed two mock interviews, a group interview, a portfolio review session and an employability skills session. Prior to the event, students created professional career documents like resumes, cover

letters and portfolios. Thank you to all of the local business members who volunteered their time to help these students sharpen their skills.



FIRST Robotics Dean's List Award Semi-Finalists

Congratulations to **Moira Blanchard and Ben Miller**, who are The **Midland High Robotics 2020 Dean's List Award Semi-Finalists!**

The FIRST Dean's List Award celebrates outstanding student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for FIRST and its mission while achieving personal technical expertise & accomplishment. Moira & Ben will find out during the upcoming competition season if they will advance as finalists for this award.



Midland High FIRST Robotics at Kettering FIRST Robotics Competition

The **Midland High Robotics Team 5509, 'Like A Boss'** competed at the Kettering University FIRST Robotics Competition this past weekend with 39 other Michigan teams. Midland High won the Spirit Award which celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnership and teamwork furthering the objectives of FIRST. Great job by Team 5509! Midland High will next compete at the Midland District Event at Dow High School March 19-21.



Chestnut Hill thanks these great Dads that served food at the Chestnut Hill PTO Carnival this past Friday night for the entire three-hour shift. They not only served food but shared lots of smiles with Chestnut Hill Chipmunks! Their support of CHE is greatly appreciated.

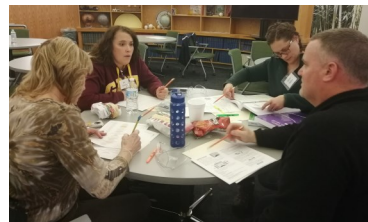


A great educational community partner — Michigan State University St. Andrews (MSU St. Andrews)

MSU St. Andrews, located here in Midland, "hosts a combination of extramurally supported STEM education programs for students and families; plus associated professional development opportunities for teachers in the greater Midland region." (Excerpt from www.standrews.msu.edu/about/) This dedicated education partner has graciously taken our feedback and moved many of the teacher workshops to after school hours as to not take educators out of the classroom.

Recently seven MPS middle school teachers attended a 2-hour workshop using Vernier Sensors for STEM classroom activities. There were opportunities for the educators to explore sensors with hands-on training. Here are a few of the sensors educators were able to experience:

colorimeter, accelerometer, motion detector, photogate and many more. The teachers also received training on data collection and use of the Data Logger software. These photos are MPS teachers in brainstorm and discussion at the end of the workshop! A few upcoming educator workshops include Measuring Photosynthesis Rates for Plants in Different Light Conditions, GMO Investigator Parts 1 & 2.



You may also remember that MSU St. Andrews hosts Family Astronomy and Telescope Nights each year. Watch for information for their next "star-gazing" Family Night!

Thank you, MSU St. Andrews!



Midland Public Schools now has its own app for your smartphone.

In our app, you will find MPS info like news, events, staff, schools and more.

Interested in including it on your smartphone or tablet? Search Midland Public Schools in your app store.



The **HH Dow High Girls' Varsity Basketball Team** has volunteered at **Woodcrest Elementary** on the day of all of their 2019-20 home games this season, as well as for the past four seasons. This past Tuesday was their last regular season home game and their



final time for volunteering this season. The student athletes read with the Woodcrest students, played with them during recess, helped with math facts and a variety of other fun/educational activities.



This year the Charger Team worked with students in these classes:

Ms. Peavey 3rd Grade, Ms. Doughty 4th Grade, Ms. Lanphier Kindergarten, Ms. McGee 1st Grade.



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD — CONGRATULATIONS CHARGERS, HUSKIES & VIKINGS!



Congratulations to the **Dow High Science Olympiad team** that competed at regional's at Delta College in late February. Dow took 6 -1st place medals, 2 - 2nd place medals and 4 - 3rd place medals. The team placed 3rd overall and will be moving on to States in April. Team members include: **Sean Anderson, Kevin Cheng, Shichi Dhar, Anne Ginzburg, Madeline Hong, Adhira Hyder, Mingi Jo, Alex Kuo, Laura Leiti, Victoria Leiti, Rehan Manjila, Toluwani Oshin, Sebastian Park, Ashwin Saxena, Andrew Zhou.**



Students at both **Jefferson and Northeast Middle Schools** dominated the **Regional Science Olympiad Competition at Delta College** on February 22 with Jefferson placing first and Northeast coming in at a very close second. Their wins permit both teams to compete at the Science Olympiad State Meet at Michigan State University in April. Jefferson and Northeast students both earned medals in 18 of the 22 events: Jefferson earned eight first place medals, six second, and four third, and Northeast students earned seven first place finishes, eight second place, and three third.

Jefferson team members at the Saturday competition included: (back) **Gigi Hong, Alexa Leiti, Sarah Li, Shree Singh, Jessica Chai, Tara Singh, Margaret Hitt, Sahiba Kaur.** (front) **T'emi Oshin, Coach Brillhart, Arun Venkatesan, Pierson Wells, Nimai Patel, Arnav Choudhary.** Not picture are John Davis and Sophie Cai.



Northeast team members at the competition on Saturday included: **Autumn Brutyn, Claire Caldwell, Lilly Caldwell, Gabe Cathcart, Holland Doyle, Isabella Durham, Kellan Galloway, Trevor Hallberg, Boston Hoblet, Al Kanar, Will Kanar, Emily Klassen, Zak Lacina, Keith Peterson, Isla McCubbin-Green, Rori McCubbin-Green, and Sam Miller.** The team was coached by Carman Kessler.



Best wishes to the Chargers, Huskies & Vikings at States!



If you would like more information, go to our website and click as follows:

www.midlandps.org → Community → Schools of Choice

Schools, Families, and Social and Emotional Learning

Ten Things You Can Do at Home

1. **Focus on strengths.** When your child brings home a test, talk first about what he or she did well. Then talk about what can be improved. Praise specific strengths. Don't just criticize things that were done wrong.
2. **Follow up with consequences for misbehavior.** Sometimes parents say things in anger that don't curb the behavior in the long run. You might say, "Because of what you did, no television for a month." Both you and your child know that after one or two days the TV will go back on. Decide on consequences that are fair, and then carry them out.
3. **Ask children how they feel.** When you ask your child about his or her feelings, the message is that feelings matter and you care.
4. **Find ways to stay calm when angry.** It's normal to get angry or irritated sometimes. Learn to recognize "trigger situations" and do something about them before you lose control. Try taking deep breaths for a few moments. Consider having a "quiet area" where people can go when they are upset. Or you can just stop talking and leave the room for a while. Sit down as a family and talk about what everyone can do to stay calm.
5. **Avoid humiliating or mocking your child.** This can make children feel bad about themselves. It can lead to a lack of self-confidence and, in turn, problems with schoolwork, illness, and trouble getting along with friends. Unfair criticism and sarcasm also hurts the bond of trust between children and parents. Be mindful of how you speak to your children. Give them the room to make mistakes as they learn new skills.
6. **Be willing to apologize.** Parents need to be able to apologize to their children if what they said was not what they meant. Calmly explain what you really wanted to say. By doing this you're being a good role model. You're showing how important it is to apologize after hurting someone. You're teaching that it's possible to work through problems with respect for the other person.
7. **Give children choices and respect their wishes.** When children have a chance to make choices, they learn how to solve problems. If you make all their choices for them, they'll never learn this key skill. Giving children ways to express preferences and make decisions shows that their ideas and feelings matter.
8. **Ask questions that help children solve problems on their own.** When parents hear their child has a problem, it's tempting to step in and take over. But this can harm a child's ability to find solutions on his or her own. A helpful approach is to ask good questions. Examples include, "What do you think you can do in this situation?" and "If you choose a particular solution, what will be the consequences of that choice?"
9. **Read books and stories together.** Reading stories aloud is a way to share something enjoyable and learn together about other people. For example, stories can be a way to explore how people deal with common issues like making or losing friends or handling conflicts. Ask your child's teacher or a librarian to recommend stories on themes that interest you and your children.
10. **Encourage sharing and helping.** There are many ways to do this. Together you and your child can prepare food in a homeless shelter or go on a fund-raising walk-a-thon. You can help out elderly neighbors or needy families. This teaches children that what they do can make a difference in the lives of others.



This information was submitted by the School Mental Health Group.

This excerpt was taken from the "Ideas and Tools for Working with Parents and Families" document published by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



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
Administrative Assistant	Special Services	until filled
Assistant Principal	District	until filled
Bus Driver/Trainer (Full Time)	Transportation	03/03/2020
Bus Driver/Office Assistant (Full Time)	Transportation	03/03/2020
Bus Driver/Mechanic Assistant (Full Time)	Transportation	03/03/2020
Coach, Assistant, Volleyball	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Tennis	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, JV, Boys', Soccer	HH Dow HS	until filled
Paraprofessional	Plymouth ES	03/05/2020
Paraprofessional (two postings)	Transportation	03/03/2020
Preschool Teaching Associate	Carpenter Pre-Primary Ctr	until filled
School Counselor	District	until filled
Teacher, Elementary (Two postings)	District	until filled
Teacher, Middle School	District	until filled
Teacher, Secondary Science	District	until filled
Teacher, Family Consumer Science	District	until filled
Teacher, Special Education	Chestnut Hill ES	until filled

In addition to the job openings above, **BUS DRIVERS & PARAPROFESSIONALS** are needed in our Transportation Department.

**Interested in working with children? Want the same days off as your child?
Consider becoming a member of the MPS Transportation Team!**

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



A few details about being part of our Transportation Team:

- ➔ Flexible schedule, AM & PM routes available, no experience required, paid training, both regular & sub drivers and paraprofessionals are needed.

Salary:

Bus driver: \$14.22/hour starting salary ... within four years: \$18.01/hour
Para: \$ 9.65/hour to start ... with steps to \$13.12

Call MPS
Transportation
with questions
and to apply!
923-5041

**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**

March 2, 2020

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Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

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/>

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:

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

wise thought to ponder ...

*"You're never too old, too wacky,
too wild, to pick up a book and
read to a child."*

— Dr. Seuss

