



Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

Superintendent Communiqué

February 15, 2021 ▶ Volume 8 ▶ Edition 28

www.midlandps.org ▶ (989) 923-5001 ▶ @MidlandPS

Midland Public Schools District Vision Statement

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

(Adopted by the MPS Board of Education July 20, 2020)

As Midland Public Schools engages in the celebration of Black History, we want to take the opportunity to highlight the important history of Black lives within the Midland community. We



do not need to look far to discover courageous stories of pioneers who dared venture into the unknown, being some of Midland's first Black families to join the community during the Civil Rights Era. Let's start by learning from Dr. Betty Jones. Dr. Jones is a teacher, author, social worker and mentor to young people. Dr. Jones has shared her experience from the evolution of Black History celebrations from growing up in the segregated south, and her transition into Midland.

Black History Month Traditions in Midland

From Dr. Betty Jones

I grew up in the segregated south of the 1940s and 1950s. So I have personal memory of separate public facilities like restrooms, water fountains, inadequate school supplies, etc. and all the other embedded messages that our lives and futures were less important. However, I was also the beneficiary of Black neighbors, teachers, and churches where caring was embedded in the culture. While we lacked money and "things," we were invested with values, aspirations and a sense of mission for racial improvement.



*In 1940, the entire Black community celebrated **Black History Week** – at school, church, and even on neighborhood streets in the evening. I remember neighborhood sings of freedom hymns on the front porch, and I knew all the verses of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." In my neighborhood during Black History Week, every house offered a neighborhood "pot." As children, we went from house to house enjoying whatever special dish had been prepared by the household, i.e. fried chicken, pies, cake, punch, etc. It was a joyful week of warmth and fellowship. At our house, my mother baked cakes for "the pot," and my brother and I argued who got to enjoy leftover batter in the bowl or on the spoon. (Continued on page 2)*



Congratulations to
Midland High Junior,
Katy Grumelot, for earning
two Scholastic Art Silver Key



awards in Drawing and Illustration. Katy will be honored at a reception taking place at Kendall College of Art and Design this spring.

Kudos, Katy!

Congratulations, February 2021 MPS Shining Stars!

We are excited to announce the February 2021 Midland PS Shining Stars. These monthly awards go to MPS team members who go above and beyond to make MPS a great place for students.

Congratulations to our February Shining Stars—

★ **Amy Rye-Fisher,**
Kindergarten
Teacher,
Plymouth Elem.



★ **Kay Moyers,**
Paraprofessional,
Central Park Elem.



Ms. Rye-Fisher and Ms. Moyers will be recognized at tonight's Board of Education meeting. Join us in thanking and congratulating them for all they do each and every day for MPS students.

SHINING STARS ... Have you seen or heard reports from your child of an MPS staff member who goes above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students? If you would like to nominate a deserving MPS team member, please complete and submit the Shining Star nomination form.



Here is the link: <https://www.midlandps.org/Content2/shining-star-nomination-form>

MPSCConnect 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

(Continued from page 1)

From Dr. Betty Jones

Black History Month was initiated in 1976. My family had moved to Midland in 1968, when the community was largely ignorant of Black culture. It was our mission to introduce the richness of traditions with which we were familiar and which sustained our identity. And the celebration of Black History Month was one of our important traditions – infused with Black poetry, music, dance and soul food. The first Black History Celebration in Midland was held on February 18, 1973 at the Midland Community Center. The theme was “Black Voices – Our Song for the Future.” I chaired that event and our records document that more than 100 Midland Blacks and neighboring guests attended. Everyone was involved, including our children from tiny tots to pre-teens. This first event was a model of cooperative effort, and attracted curiosity and attention from the entire Midland community. It was an opportunity to celebrate our heritage and identity in a visible way, and to engage the talents of our children.

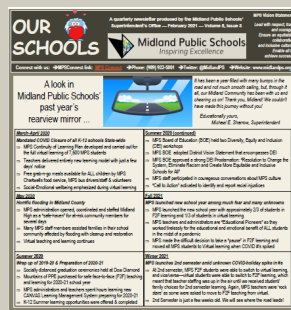


Celebration of Black History Month took root in Midland and spread in popularity throughout the community. White families often joined the celebration by invitation, as an opportunity to learn about Black traditions and experience soul food. We had excellent cooks who shared Black cuisine from multiple regions.

Midland PS publishes a quarterly publication in the *Midland Daily News* called **Our Schools**. This eight-page publication includes info from our Pre-Primary Center, six elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools. The February 2021 edition was published in Saturday's *MDN*.

Click on this link to see some of the great things happening in *Our Schools*!

<https://www.midlandps.org/OurSchools02-2021>



MIDLAND PS COVID #'S

Midland Public Schools continues to post COVID student and staff quarantine, confirmed/probable, close contact updated numbers every school day front and center on the main page of the MPS website: www.midlandps.org. Don't hesitate to check it out!

The City of Midland and the We Hear You Coalition is launching the **Midland Racial & Ethnic Equity & Inclusion Survey** that explores issues of racial and ethnic inequity in Midland and gives community members an opportunity to share their experiences with community leaders. They are asking for feedback from those who are 18 or older and live within the City or County of Midland.



[HERE](#) is a link to a recent ABC 12 news segment about the survey launch.

The survey takes approximately 25 minutes to complete and all answers will remain anonymous. Here is a link to the survey: www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/wehearyou.

The Saginaw Valley League established this award to recognize excellence in teaching. This award is presented annually to one teacher from each of the Saginaw Valley member high schools. Any teacher who has taught for at least five years and whose current teaching assignment is full or part time in grades 9-12 is eligible to receive this award. Click on the links below to nominate a Dow or Midland High teacher.

**2021 SVL
TEACHER OF
THE YEAR
AWARD
NOMINATION
WINDOW IS
NOW OPEN!**

Dow HS: <https://www.midlandps.org/docs/district/SVL/2021/2021SVLNominationFormDHS.pdf>

Midland HS: <https://www.midlandps.org/docs/district/SVL/2021/SVLMHSNomform2021.pdf>

2021-22 Midland PS Schools of Choice

The 2021-22 MPS Schools of Choice (SOC) application window is now open for both In-District and Out-of-District students. If you would like more information, go to our website: www.midlandps.org
→Community →Schools of Choice



Did you know that Midland PS has TWO flyer boards?

- ➔ **Student** — focuses on activities available for students
<https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/>
- ➔ **Community** — focuses on information for parents
<https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers/>

MPS Flyer Boards have been around for about eight years or so. Their sole intent is to help community organizations inform MPS families about the great things happening in which students and families can take part.



For instance ...

- ➔ did you know that the Chippewa Nature Center has some great FREE events in February (snowshoe hikes, the Owl Prowl, Wigwam in the Winter)? There is a CNC flyer on our Student Flyer Board with information about these great events and many others.
- ➔ did you know that the Michigan State University Extension offers homeownership education webinars for those interested in purchasing a home? There is an MSU Extension flyer on our Community flyer board site.

Community organizations send great flyers our way all the time. When spring/summer breaks get close, you won't want to miss the fun opportunities available for your children. It is important to check our two MPS flyerboards often.

MPS 2021-22 enrollment is now happening for ...

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



**Space is limited in
Pre-school and DK.**

**Register NOW to
ensure your child's
space for 2021-22.**

**Go to www.midlandps.org or call
989-923-5001 for information**

Important dates for 2021 seniors/grads



- ➔ **Friday, May 21 — Seniors' Last Day**
- ➔ **Thursday, June 3 — Graduation**

Further graduation details to come soon!

Power Half Hour Workshop on Savoring (offered monthly on different topics) [Register here!](#)

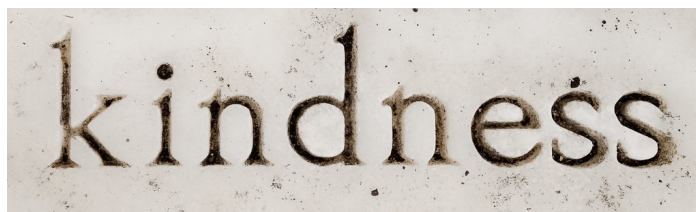
Join this free, fun and engaging half hour workshop to discover how the perks of positivity can have a positive effect in your life. In this workshop, you will learn about the three forms of savoring, the science of why they help us, and how to use savoring effectively to improve your wellbeing! This workshop is interactive and practical - each participant will leave prepared to use this tool personally and will be encouraged to share it with others. Or maybe you have already learned about savoring and just want time to practice how you can use it to slow down more and better appreciate the good. Come one, come all! Let's play!



WORKSHOP DATE (on Zoom*)
Wednesday, February 17
12:30-1:00 pm OR 4:15-4:45 pm*

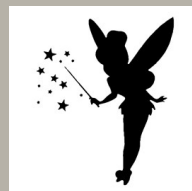
*The link to the workshops will be sent to registrants the day before your scheduled time from info@midlandareawellbeing.org.

(Check your spam folder if you don't see the link in your inbox!)



Dow High Drama Club

Chargers Onstage is
FINALLY back on the stage to
rehearse the hybrid-play 'Tinker Bell.'
Want to see the Chargers on-stage?
Tune in at home February 26-28 via online stream.
Access to this fun play is \$10 (plus service fee) through
CentralAuditorium.AnywhereSeat.com.



Thank you for supporting Chargers Onstage limited size, socially-distanced, and masked cast and crew!



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JOIN OUR MPS TEAM — Current Open Positions

MPS Employment Opportunities Link:

<https://www.midlandps.org/Content/Employment%20Opportunities>

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MPS District Vision

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Position	Location
Bus Driver, Substitute	MPS Transportation
Paraprofessional, Special Education (8 positions)	District-wide
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District
School Psychologist	District
Teacher, Elementary	Siebert ES
Teacher, Special Education	District

Semester 1 Student Report Cards are now available to view in Home Access Center. <https://hac.midlandps.org/HomeAccess>

Report cards will be available in HAC until February 26, 2021.

Following 2/26, HAC will be unavailable as our tech team will be setting up for the next marking period. Print your child's report card before February 26 if you would like to do so.

Midland PS Food Service remote free meal pick-up continues Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

Tuesdays & Thursdays: Meals are available for pick up 11 to 12:30 at Adams, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest and Midland High.

Saturdays: Meals are available for pick up from 9-11 am at two locations— Central Park Elementary & Midland High.

Thank You, Chartwells Team!



Own your own home and need assistance with roof repairs?

Midland County Habitat for Humanity has partnered with Home to Stay to offer roofing assistance to help homeowners with roof repairs. **Applications are being accepted until March 1.** Click here to view the brochure: <https://www.midlandps.org/userfiles/5/My Files/Roofing Initiative Flyer 2021.pdf?id=5543>

Click here for the application: <https://midlandhabitat.org/home-repair/roofing-initiative/>



Looking for Scholarships? **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO APPLY!**

The Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) has 250 different scholarships worth over \$750,000 available to students. Be sure to apply for the scholarships you are interested in on the MACF website **TODAY** <https://www.midlandfoundation.org>



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

Email: board@midlandps.org

Wise words to ponder ...

"I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free ... so other people would also be free." — Rosa Parks