

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent

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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.



From **Siebert Elementary** — MCESA teacher at Siebert, Alyssa Brown, is piloting a “Bulldog Buddies” peer-to-peer program with students from Ms. Rausch’s class. This exciting program will match students with social or learning challenges in Ms. Brown’s classroom with those students from Ms. Rausch’s class who would like to be a “Buddy.” Once or twice a week, the “buddies” will spend a lunch hour in the ESA classroom playing, interacting and doing activities together.



MPS NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

DO YOU

- ➔ enjoy working with children?
- ➔ have at least 60 college credits?
- ➔ want to work part-time?
- ➔ want all of the same days off as your child?

Did you answer yes?
Substitute teaching may be a great fit for YOU!

**AS AN MPS SUB,
YOU CAN CHOOSE...**

- ➔ the days you work
- ➔ the grade levels for which you will sub
- ➔ the MPS schools for which you will sub

Midland Public Schools contracts through **EDUStaff** for our substitute teachers.

For more information go to www.edustaff.org **TODAY!**

From **Midland High** — During Tuesday, September 10 announcements a Chemic shared, *“I pledge to create an environment of belonging by including other people, and accepting other people for who they are and feeling comfortable with everyone around me.”*

From **Pre-Primary Center** — On September 11, six of our District’s youngest learners were added to the PPC “Kindness Board.”

The Pre-Primary’s 2019-20 emphasis is “throw kindness around like confetti.” The students get their photo on the board when they are “caught” sharing kindness. The ultimate goal of the PPC kindness



board is that there will be so many student photos on the board it will look like it is covered in confetti!



**Some thoughts from
#keepitkindmps ...**



keep it kindmps



“Kindness isn’t weak. It takes courage to show kindness. It takes strength. It takes effort. It takes practice. It takes setting aside what’s easy for what’s valuable. Be kind ... always.”



“I say this all the time. Weakness is not allowing vulnerability. Weakness is not allowing in empathy. Be strong. Be kind.”



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>



As the school year begins, we want to make you aware of mental health resources and partnerships in our area.

The [Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership](#) was established in 2018 with the goal of working with community stakeholders and resources to address the mental health crisis in the Great Lakes Bay Region. It is focused on assisting students by increasing awareness and sharing information about how they can get help – 24/7.

Nationwide, mental health statistics are sobering:

- 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, and 75% by age 24¹
- 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition¹
- The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years¹

The Great Lakes Bay Region Mental Health Partnership has researched and feels confident in two effective, anonymous, nationwide helplines that can connect children and families to immediate resources:

➔ Call: **1-800-662-HELP (4357)**

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

➔ Text: **BELONG to 741741**

Crisis Text Line® counseling

We ask you to join us in raising awareness by talking with your kids about mental health and supporting these efforts. We want all our students to know they **MATTER!**



Sincerely,



Michael E. Sharrow

Midland Public Schools Superintendent of Schools

¹NAMI. (2015). Mental Health by the Numbers. Retrieved from <https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-by-the-Numbers>

Cruisin Kitchen is a new **Chartwells'** (MPS food service provider) **food truck** that is currently making its



way through Michigan. Cruisin Kitchen will be in the **Midland High parking lot September 18** & the **Dow High parking lot September 19**.

Students and staff will have the chance to enjoy some great "street eat taco specials."

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>

COLLEGE NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 17
6:00-7:30 PM
NORTHWOOD UNIV.
HACH CENTER
Reps from over 70 colleges/universities will be on hand to answer your questions!

Last week we posted **three documents about vaping** (including the flyer below) on our Community Flyer Board.

This is vital information for EVERY PARENT!!

MPS Flyer Board link: <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/>

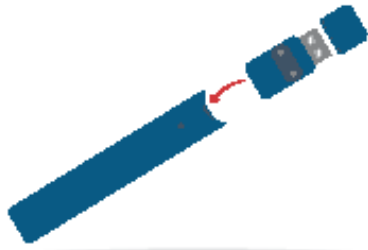
September 16, 2019

Page 3 of 5



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Inspiring Excellence



What Every TEEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT VAPING & How it Affects Your Life

MYTHS BUSTED

It's just NOT water vapor:

Vaping can expose you to harmful chemicals like diacetyl, formaldehyde and metal particles like nickel, lead and tin which can harm:



lungs



brain



heart



immune system



YOU ARE THE TARGET

4 out of 5 youth are exposed to at least one vaping advertisement

Over 15,000 flavors of e-juice

Discrete and colorful

Celebrities in advertisements

Vape pens do not need nicotine to be toxic. Diacetyl, known to be used by vaping companies for flavoring e-juice, has been linked to a lung disease called popcorn lung.

GET THE FACTS

local trends

(Data collected from the Muskegon MPHY survey)



Percentage of teen vapor use



addiction



Vaping can deliver a **high dose of nicotine** which can lead to addiction.

- One **JUUL** pod is **=** to 1 pack of cigarettes.
- Vaping can **increase** your risk of **cigarette use** by 8x
- Vaping **increases** your risk of other **substance use**

Why I choose not to vape!

- "I get to stay on my **sports team**."
- "I can use my money to **buy AirPods** instead."
- "I **won't get a fine** or have a record."

TalkSooner.org

© Talk Sooner is copyright protected and owned by Lakeshore Regional Entity.

Paid for by Drug Free Communities Grant Funds.
For complete source information, visit TalkSooner.org/drugs/e-cigarettes
This message has been brought to you by

knowsmake
think. share. act. with. the world.



PLEASE USE CAUTION IN ALL MPS SCHOOL ZONES!
PLEASE BE KIND, PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE!
YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY!



September 16, 2019

Page 4 of 5



MPS VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to volunteer for MPS, register at
<https://www.midlandps.org/volunteer>.

Already registered? Be sure you took care of your volunteer continuation for the 2019-20 school year, especially Level 3's.



Level 2 volunteer driver? Please keep your driving documents up-to-date.

Questions or changes to your volunteer profile?
Contact: Renee Urlaub, Volunteer Manager, 923-5034.



Upper Elementary FIRST LEGO League Robotics Teams Kickoff City Shaper Season

The Midland Public Schools FIRST LEGO League Robotics teams, which consists of students in 4th and 5th grade, kicked off their competition season and teams have started to work on their game challenge and project. This year's challenge is called City Shaper and this theme is geared around finding solutions to problems that cities face, like transportation, accessibility or even natural disasters. Teams will learn how architects design and construct buildings and that they combine science and art to make buildings and structures for their clients. They will also learn about the many roles on a construction team, like structural, civil and environmental engineers and electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and project managers.



The teams will build, program and test a Mindstorms robot that will complete missions that are on a 4' x 8' playing "field." In addition, teams will pick a problem that cities are facing and will speak with experts, do research, develop a solution and then share their solution. At the culmination of their season, the teams will participate in a local qualifier where they will execute robot matches, be judged on their project and be judged on how well the team demonstrates Gracious Professionalism.

For this season, Midland Public Schools will have 9 teams, approximately 70 students, from our elementary schools participating. The teams will compete at their local district qualifier in early December. Good Luck to all of our teams!

JOIN US for 2019-20 PIC Meetings!

The MPS **Parent Information Committee** is chaired by Superintendent Sharrow to share information and keep lines of communication open with parents.

For the 2019-20 school year, the PIC group will meet the 1st WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH from October through May from 12:00-1:00 at the MPS Administration Center (600 E. Carpenter).

Meeting dates:
October 2 December 4 March 4
November 6 February 5 May 6

(You will note there are not meetings in January or April. The first Wednesday falls during winter & spring breaks.)

PIC participants are welcome to bring their lunch and come every month or just the months when their schedule allows. Topics for discussion are always timely and student programming centered.

If you are interested in being part of the 2019-20 PIC, please complete this very brief form:

<https://forms.gle/dNj7FifwpKJbSyf7>

Call Cindy at 923-5026 if you have questions.



Join our Team

MPS Current Job Openings

Click on this link for current job postings:

Position	Location	Posting End Date
Coach, Assistant, Wrestling	HH Dow HS	until filled
MTSS Coordinator	District	until filled
Paraprofessional	Secondary	9/24/2019
Paraprofessional (two positions)	Central Park ES	9/24/2019
Paraprofessional	Northeast MS	9/24/2019
Paraprofessional	Midland HS	9/17/2019
School Psychologist	District	until filled
Sign Language Interpreter, Substitute	District	09/20/2019
Teacher, Special Education	Elementary	9/24/2019

Here is the link for **MPS School Lunch Program** Information.

<http://chartwellsk12.compass-usa.com/MidlandPublicSchools>

A new free/reduced application is required every year!

Here is the link to the on-line application. www.lunchapp.com.



In addition to the job openings above,

BUS DRIVERS and PARAPROFESSIONALS
are needed in our
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
for the 2019-20 School Year!

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

Additional Details:

- Flexible schedule
- AM & PM routes available
- No experience required
- Paid training
- Both Regular & Sub Drivers and Paraprofessionals are needed

Salary:

- Bus driver: \$13.54/hour starting salary ... within four years: \$17.15/hour
- Paraprofessional/Sub Paraprofessional: \$9.65/hour to start with steps to \$13.12

Want to know more?

- Contact MPS Transportation (923-5041) today for info or to apply!

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:

- ➔ 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 ...*

*"Treat everyone with
respect and kindness.
Period. No exceptions."*

--Kiana Tom

