



Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

Superintendent Communiqué

March 1, 2021 ▶ Volume 8 ▶ Edition 30
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)



Due to a Loons Baseball schedule conflict, the 2021 Graduation date has been changed.

Dow High and Midland High graduation ceremonies are now scheduled for Thursday, May 27, at Dow Diamond.

More information to follow.

This is our final article in this series celebrating Black History Month



Impact of Black Student Union (BSU) at Northwood University

"Power in inclusivity. Power in unity." is the statement shared for Northwood University's work in Diversity and Inclusion. To promote this message, an affinity group for Black students at Northwood known as Black Student Union (BSU) is supported by the University. *"Black Student Union is to provide inclusivity for all students at Northwood University. We work to bring support and awareness to cultural, social and educational needs of black culture, while educating ourselves about all cultures. We provide a platform for all BSU members regardless of race, culture and background."* <https://www.northwood.edu/student-life/organizations/black-student-union-bsu>

This week we are elevating the experiences of current **Co-Presidents of Northwood's BSU, Javonie Ellington and Camara MacKey.**

Javonie is a senior at Northwood, majoring in hospitality management. Career aspirations are in Travel Tourism. Extra-curriculars Javonie is involved in are centered around diversity and inclusion efforts on campus. Javonie is Co-President of Northwood's Black Student Union, International Student Organization co-events chair and ally, and member of Sexual Advocacy for Everyone (SAFE) clubs on campus. Co-President Camara MacKey is an entrepreneur and a Senior at Northwood, majoring in marketing with a minor in management. Camara joined the Northwood community from Chicago and is currently a track athlete and Co-President of BSU.

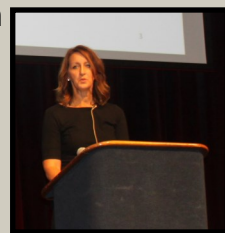
In this article, the Co-Presidents' share their experience with BSU and their vision for the future. (continued on page 2)

With Sincerest Appreciation

Over the years, Midland Public Schools has had the great fortune to partner with the Dow organization in so many varied and remarkable ways.

Please allow us to pause for a moment to express our sincerest appreciation to this magnanimous MPS corporate partner and say thank you for their unfailing support as Midland Public Schools embarked on our DEI journey in 2018. Here are a few of the significant ways Dow has supported MPS in this journey over the past several years:

- ⇒ Two Dow executives addressed more than 500 MPS employees in Central Auditorium at the Opening staff meeting in 2018 that formally launched our District's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan.
- ⇒ Several MPS staff and students were able to travel to Kenya in the summer of 2019 as part of the WE service learning trip to collaborate and learn with others from around the world as a way to more deeply understand inclusion and diversity and to empower leaders to be the change makers for positive impact in our schools and community.
- ⇒ As part of Dow's Executive On-Loan Program, from January 2020 through February 2021, Dr. Amy Beasley has provided insight and support for MPS DEI work as the District's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant. We sincerely appreciate Dr. Beasley's leadership, support and passion as our District navigated this important work.
- ⇒ We look forward to continuing our DEI journey with De'Ondre Hogan leading the charge. De'Ondre joined our team in January as our first ever Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.



Thank you Dow and Dr. Beasley for your support for MPS students & staff during our District's pivotal DEI journey!

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

What has the BSU work experience been like for you? *(continued from p. 1)*

Javonie Ellington shares that with the help of the Black Alumni Association, Northwood University's Black Student Union was revitalized in 2017. The BSU provided the space for Black students to feel safe and take a break from the obliviousness around them. BSU meetings are a great experience providing a much needed "pick-me-up" throughout the week. It has made the college experience easier to bear.



With Northwood being predominantly white, within a city that is also predominantly white, the existence of BSU softened the blow of culture shock that occurred when Camara MacKey first entered Northwood's campus from Chicago. BSU allowed Camara to connect with a larger portion of the African American community at Northwood that was thought to be nonexistent.

Javonie shares that the start of his work in BSU was a hefty task. Javonie and the previous co-president worked tirelessly to build BSU to what it is today. Many hats were worn by the duo in forms of starting programs, fundraising, coordinating meetings, etc. "We were very willing to do all of this work because it is important to us and the Black students that participate. This groundwork allowed Camara to step into a very enjoyable experience when she was elected Co-President. Camara shares, "It has been enjoyable so far, putting last minute projects together because there is a support structure put in place."

This work has been met with challenges. "There has been a lot of push back from the Northwood community," Javonie Ellington, BSU Co-president. The Co-president has had to combat a lot of misconceptions about the purpose of a Black Student Union. BSU has since created partnerships with other University groups, such as, Sexual Advocacy for Everyone and the International Club. Javonie and Camara wanted to take this direction to model what it means to be inclusive. "It does not matter that Black is in the name, everyone is welcome," Javonie Ellington, BSU Co-president.

What is your Vision for the organization moving forward?

Camera MacKey's goal for the organization is to change the perception of BSU. "My main goal for the organization is to prevent it from being looked down upon for having "Black" in the name. I want to work to let people know how inclusive it actually is," Camara MacKey, BSU Co-president. Camara wants to eliminate the fear surrounding BSU events and turn that fear into positivity.

Javonie wants Black students to feel like they can be their true selves and still be successful in this space. "You don't have to change yourself, take it one day at a time to strip away all the stereotypes, bigotry, and assumptions surrounding Black people," Javonie Ellington, BSU Co-president. Javonie wants people to get used to seeing well put together Black organizations. Northwood's BSU is a safe space to have tough conversations, to build a bond. As leaders in this work, Javonie and Camara have taken it upon themselves to model these expectations within their organization.

Thank you to De'Ondre Hogan, MPS DEI Director, and Dr. Amy Beasley, DEI Consultant, for the articles in this series celebrating Black History Month and local trailblazers!

MPS PARENT INFORMATION COMMITTEE (PIC) Meetings

MPS PIC is chaired by Superintendent Sharrow to share information and keep lines of communication open with MPS parents. This year, parents may participate virtually or in person at the MPS Administration Center (600 E. Carpenter). Here is the video link to the February 25 meeting: <https://youtu.be/pVWLXluakYc>. The meeting topics were NWEA and IB PYP. We have two meetings remaining for 2020-21: 4/22, 5/27. If you would like more information about PIC, please email Cindy at youngcd@midlandps.org with the following information: your name, email address, MPS school(s) your child(ren) attend.
All MPS parents are welcome!



The **Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year Award** was established 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.

NOMINATION WINDOW CLOSING MARCH 12, 2021

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

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

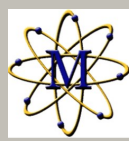


Dow High Lemelson-MIT Project Team Update

As we excitedly announced in the January 4, 2021 Communique, HH Dow High's InvenTeam, were among 13 winners from across the US in the Lemelson-MIT Student Program for their project to "develop a device to create drain covers which open in the presence of moisture." This impressive group presented their Mid-Grant Technical Review this past Saturday virtually that displayed their progress and solicited feedback.

We look forward to continuing to watch the journey of this impressive group!

Dow HS Team members include: **Caleb Qiu, Laura Leiti, Alex Kuo, Andrew Zhou, Abigail Ahn, Zoe Angell, Bobo Qiu**



The month of February has given **MHS Chemics** time to reflect on "what we love/are grateful for." Students were asked to contribute their thoughts. With the help of

I bet you have the nicest smile under your mask!

I'm so happy you're here.

Be proud of yourself for how hard you're trying!



Student Leadership in conjunction with the Peer-2-Peer Program, these thoughts of love and gratitude were displayed in Eyeball Alley to remind us that we are grateful even during these challenging times. In addition, messages of support and encouragement were displayed on student lockers.



The Midland High School Student Council recognized the One Billion Rising Movement (OBR) with their annual campaign to bring awareness to violence against women. OBR is the largest global movement to end violence against women, with organizations that participate in almost every country of the world. The name One Billion Rising is derived from the statistic that 1 in 3 women will be the victims of violence or rape in their lifetime. This number equates to more than one million people on our planet. This year's emphasis of the MHS campaign was to advocate for survivors of violence, provide resources to those in need and encourage healthy relationships. The activities over the course of the week included silent statistics, where students stood silently in the hallways with posters sharing healthy relationship tips, red flags in relationships, and statistics about domestic violence including numbers citing both men & women as the victims of violence. Students participated in a Kahoot game challenge that required students to recognize the warning signs of unhealthy relationships. We ended the week by showing our support for the survivors by wearing the colors of the movements that include pink, orange, and red.



This week, the **Midland High School Student Council is sponsoring a grief awareness week.** This week has been created with the help and guidance of the Children's Grief Center of the Great Lakes Bay Region. The goal of this week is to create an environment where grief and grieving is recognized/normalized and to recognize that every person experiences grief differently. The week will conclude with a luminary walk on Saturday, March 6. **The public is invited to join MHS Student Council at Stratford Woods Park, located at 3922 East Ashman Street, on Saturday, March 6, from 7-9 pm for an outdoor, socially-distanced "Walk to Remember."** Volunteers will be on hand to assist with parking and to direct participants along the luminary trail. To ensure safety for all participants, our volunteers will expect masks to be worn during the walk, and they will also assist in spacing groups along the trail to avoid crowding. The organizers recommend that attendees wear boots as the trail will likely be wet. Here is a link to the flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B7DrsBAWgAltTGxncFirZkRaYzg>

JOIN THE MHS STUDENT COUNCIL FOR

A WALK TO REMEMBER

DATE:
SATURDAY, MARCH 6

LOCATION:
STRATFORD PARK

TIME:
7-9 PM



*All COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Masks will be required for all volunteers & attendees.

SPONSORED BY



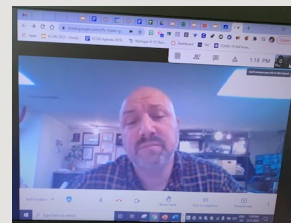
Children's Grief Center



Where do you find Toilet Paper in a Global Pandemic?

Scott MacNellis, owner of **LaLonde's** **MARKETS** joined MHS Economics class in a Google Meet last week. Students are studying different types of business organizations and

Mr. MacNellis answered many questions about the challenges and benefits of being a private business owner in Midland. He spoke of his prior history as an Art Teacher and how he and his wife Emily bought the family business from his father-in-law. Students had an opportunity to ask a variety of questions ranging from business acquisition, struggles during a pandemic, supply costs and employee relations. MacNellis shared the many changes that his business enacted to be proactive in providing a clean, safe and healthy workplace for their employees/customers. "Great customer service and a positive customer experience is key" said MacNellis. "If you can't beat them in price, beat them in service." One student commented, "I like how you try to be creative and give your employees a chance to pitch their favorite event and hat." Another student noted, "I learned how businesses have to adapt to the changes of Covid and that you were able to be creative and innovating in locating products your customers want/need (like toilet paper)." MacNellis couldn't locate toilet paper via the regular supply route so he contacted local hotels here in Midland that were shut down and asked to purchase their toilet paper reserves, which is how LaLondes put toilet paper on their shelves for their customers. As one student summarized, "I will also remember your passion for your employees and how they are your favorite part of your job. I hope to work for an employer like you someday." Tremendous thanks to Scott MacNellis for giving of his time to speak with our high school students!



Siebert Elementary First Grade News

Recently, **Ms. Sczepanski's students** celebrated the landing of the rover, Perseverance, on Mars. The rover was also carrying a small helicopter named

Ingenuity. Ms. Sczepanski's nephew, a former Siebert student, was on the team from the JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) who worked on the flight software development for this project. The children each made a helicopter and tested its ability to fly. The students enjoyed learning about this exciting project.



Here is a photo of Ms. Sczepanski's students enjoying their recess and playing in the snow last week!

Mrs. Lanphier's students have been studying how to measure objects with both standard and non-standard units of measurement. After practicing measuring classroom objects with rulers, students used marshmallows of different sizes to measure different length lines. Their careful measurement was rewarded with a (clean!) bag of marshmallows to enjoy.



Free Meal Schedule During Spring Break Week

Midland Public Schools will be providing the Free Summer Meals Program for all community children age 0-18 during Spring Break. That means **Free Meals** for all children! No need to fill out a pre order form at this time. A request signature of confirmation of meal pick up will be provided at each location.

- ⇒ **Saturday March 27th (3 meals) 9:00 am-11:00 pm**
- ⇒ **Tuesday March 30th (7 meals) 11:00am-12:30 pm**

Meals will be available for pick up at the following schools: Central Park Elementary & Midland High School.



Well
hello,
March!



The City of Midland and the We Hear You Coalition has launched 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. The survey takes approximately 25 minutes. All answers will remain anonymous.

Here is a link to the survey:
www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/wehearyou.

2021-22 Midland PS Schools of Choice application window is now open for In-District & Out-of-District students.

If you would like more information, go to our website: www.midlandps.org →Community →Schools of Choice

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

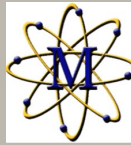
- 😊 **4-year-old Preschool**
- 😊 **Development Kindergarten (DK)**
- 😊 **Traditional Kindergarten**



Space is limited in Pre-school and DK!

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

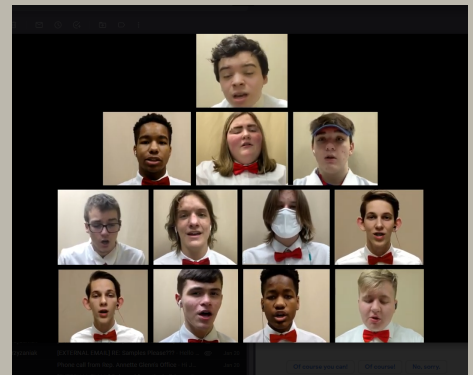
For information, call 989-923-5001 or go to www.midlandps.org



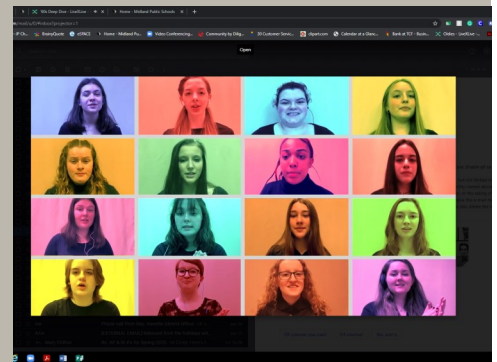
Midland High Meistersingers Continue the annual Singing Valentines tradition — COVID style

Due to social distancing, this year's singing Valentines were delivered digitally on February 14 via email with a personal greeting. Singing Valentines were able to be delivered in person within the Midland High building on February 15, of course, adhering to safety protocols. Following 40 hours of splicing, dicing & editing, enjoy these fun performances.

- 😊 [Sh'boom](#)
- 😊 [I Choose You](#)
- 😊 [For The Longest Time](#)
- 😊 [Count On Me](#)



Mr. Daniel Farison is the Director of this very talented group.

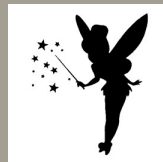


Midland PS High School Drama Program Notes & News



Congrats to the **HH Dow High** cast and crew of "Tinker Bell" that was available to view via online stream this past weekend. We may not have been able to gather in our beautiful

Central Auditorium to see this play, however, the talent and hard work of the cast and crew sparkled brilliantly during this COVID-safe delivery method.



Looking Ahead ... The **Midland High Drama group** have two upcoming productions:



⇒ *The Revolutionists* by Lauren Gunderson will be recorded on March 17th



⇒ *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde will be recorded on April 9th.

The Importance of Being Earnest



Both shows will stream the weekend of April 17th via CentralAuditorium.AnywhereSeat.com

Thank you for supporting our high school Thespians this year... our limited size, socially-distanced and masked casts & crews!

March Midland County Inclusion Council Workshops

Inclusion 101 for Families Virtual Workshop

Tuesday March 2, 2021

K-3rd Grade | 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

4th-8th Grade | 8:00 pm-9:00 pm

Led by MPS teachers and Community Council members, these introductory workshops will equip families with age-appropriate tools and information on diversity, equity, inclusion and the importance of an inclusive community.



The Language of LGBTQ+ Inclusion with Trevor Ewers & Robbyn Prange on Thursday March 11, 2021 from 7:00-8:00pm

In today's fast-paced world, true collaboration and teamwork is unleashed when diverse minds are supported to create an inclusive environment. Join Trevor Ewers and Robbyn Prange as they explore the language of LGBTQ inclusion and why inclusion is not just the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. Broaden your understanding of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and how this knowledge can translate to increased openness, trust and teamwork in your home, school or workplace.

For info & registration: <https://midlandinclusioncouncil.com/>



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JOIN OUR MPS TEAM — Current Open Positions

MPS Employment Opportunities Link:

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

MPS District Vision

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Enable all to achieve success.

Position	Location
Building Manager	Jefferson MS
Bus Driver, Substitute	MPS Transportation
Coach, Head, Track, Girls	HH Dow HS
Coach, Assistant, Tennis, Girls	Midland HS
Director of Bands (Coaching)	Midland HS
National Honor Society Advisor	Midland HS
Paraprofessional, Special Education (7 positions)	District-wide
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District
Teacher, Business Education	District
Teacher, Music	District
Teacher, Secondary Science	District
Teacher, Special Education	District

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>

New MPS Team Members

Please join us in welcoming these MPS staff members who joined our team in February:

Certificated Staff Members

- Alex Waha, Family Intervention Specialist, Central Park Elementary, 2/8/2021

Support Staff

- Daniel Reed, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary, 02/08/2021
- Zakaria Rostom, Paraprofessional, Administration, 02/09/2021
- Erykah Curns, Paraprofessional, H. H. Dow High School, 02/15/2021

Coaching Staff

- James Day, Assistant Soccer Coach, H. H. Dow High School, 02/01/2021

Welcome! We look forward to working with you!



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>



Midland PS Food Service remote free meal pick-up

Tuesdays & Thursdays: Meals may be picked up 11 to 12:30 at Adams, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest and MHS.

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

Thank You, Chartwells Team!



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, Treasurer
- Lynn Baker, Trustee
- Brad Blasy, Trustee
- John Hatfield, Trustee

Email: board@midlandps.org

Wise words to ponder ...

"Stand up straight and realize who you are,
that you tower over your circumstances."

— Maya Angelou