

Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

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Superintendent Communiqué

April 29, 2019

#MPSinspiringexcellence

2019 SAGINAW VALLEY LEAGUE SCHOLAR ATHLETES AND TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

The Saginaw Valley League established this award to recognize excellence in the classroom and on the playing field. This award is presented annually to one female and one male student athlete from each of the Saginaw Valley member high schools. The scholar athlete award is determined by a formula that considers a student's SAT score, grade point average, athletic participation and athletic awards.

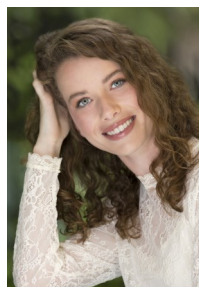
We Are proud to announce Midland Public Schools' 2019 SVL Scholar Athletes:

Midland High Chemics



Maya Albright Nathan Streitmatter

HH Dow High Chargers



Anastasia Tucker Brennan Doyle

We Are proud to announce Midland Public Schools' 2019 SVL Teachers of the Year:

Each year 15 member schools of the Saginaw Valley League select a teacher that meets the qualifications to be named SVL Teacher of the Year. Each year the recipient of this award demonstrates excellence in teaching and makes a positive impact both in the classroom and in the lives of their students. Congratulations to these deserving MPS educators!

Midland High: Bill Monroe

Mr. Monroe is the Band Teacher at Midland High, Central Park, Chestnut Hill and Plymouth. He has been part of the MPS staff for 28 years.



Dow High: Lance Ransom

Mr. Ransom is the Automotive CTE Teacher at Dow High. He has been part of the MPS staff for 11 years.



Roses to the cast and crew of



performed this past weekend by the H.H. Dow High Drama Dept.



It was a charming production with beautiful sets, lovely music and fun acting!

The weekend performances were enjoyed by all who attended!



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>



New Recycling Program Starts at Siebert

5th grade students at **Siebert Elementary** are busy eliminating waste at their school! Their teacher, Nicole Fisher, parents, and other community volunteers partnered with the **WE Are Innovators** program to provide students with an opportunity to take action on a global issue. At their first meeting, students were dreaming big recognizing global issues such as access to

clean water, pollution, and transportation. Student **Norah Lacher** says "I've always felt that I wanted to change something, but I never knew what." In the end, they found a connection between pollution, waste, and their school. They were motivated to keep the community safe and clean so have worked to start a recycling program. "I never really thought about how important recycling is, because if you think about it, in 50 years the world might look different with all the pollution," **Kendra Johnson** says. The large group divided into four subteams: education, marketing, materials, and removal. This group project was no easy task since there isn't one steamline way to get rid of recyclable materials. "I knew that recycling was kind of complicated, but I never knew that it was THIS complicated," **Katie Thaxter** says. In addition to setting up recycle streams, students are working to educate their fellow students by putting on recycling presentations and demonstrations. The 5th graders will be teaching their fellow Bulldogs how to properly sort "trash" and get them excited to carry the recycling into next year. The student were able to learn important lessons like project management, working as a team and sub-team and communication.

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Inspiring Excellence

This year's **Elementary Track Meet** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, at Northwood University's Track. The track meet runs from 4:30 until approximately 7:15 pm. This fun event is open to all 4th & 5th grade students.



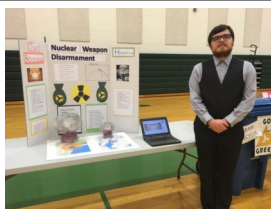
The MPS Elementary PE staff will send an information/permission slip to 4th/5th grade families. Please return the permission slip by May 17.

Congratulations to the Seniors who were involved in the 2019 HH Dow High Senior Project Fair on April 12.



The Chargers did a wonderful job in their research and preparing their displays and presentations.

Sharing of great information took place between the students and Senior Fair visitors.



School Safety Work Continues at Midland Public Schools

This past week, West Michigan Glass Coatings was installing the safety window film on all secured entrances across the district. In this photo, they are installing the film on windows in the front of Dow High. You will probably remember that this, as well as door lockdown plates, were purchased with the School Safety Grant that MPS applied for this past fall from the Michigan State Police Department.

Security film, door boots, secure entrances, video surveillance, card readers, panic control locks, digital radios, CrisisGo communication software, District Emergency Operations Plan, ALICE training for staff, mental health and wellness initiatives and School Resource Officers are just some examples of the things our District has put in place to keep our students, staff and visitors secure while in our buildings.



MHS *Focus*, DHS *Update* & *The Charger* Yearbook win big at MIPA conference on April 23 at the Lansing Center

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Focus, Midland High's school newspaper published by members of the beginning and advanced journalism classes, received many high honors at the annual spring conference and awards ceremony hosted by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association.

- *Focus* won the Spartan Award – the highest ranking given a school newspaper in Michigan – for overall journalistic excellence.
 - *Focus* was one of 12 school newspapers in the state to receive the award.
 - It is the 26th Spartan in Midland High history.

In all, 26 MHS journalism students won 39 awards in a variety of individual categories devoted to writing, photography, graphic design and page design. The *Focus* editorial board consists of editor-in-chief **Bitsy Mammel**, managing editor **Hailey Surbrook**, photo editor **Spencer Isberg**, design editor **Noah Jacobson**, news editor **Mady Sherman**, sports editor **Katie Gibbs**, feature editor **Jenna Spencer**, arts & entertainment editor **Hannah Woehrle**, opinion editor **Kelly Craig**, copy editor **Aubrey Chambers**, exchange editor **Maureen Aloff**, ad coordinator **Jacob W. May** and web editor **Adrienne Gray**. The adviser is journalism teacher Jim Woehrle.



DHS' newspaper, *Update*, and yearbook, *The Charger*, earned high honors at the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association's Spring Conference.

- The *Update*, published by the Advanced Journalism class, had 27 staff members earn 44 individual awards in categories such as photography, reporting, design, videography, and graphics.
 - The print edition was one of 12 schools in Michigan to garner the highest honor of a Spartan award while the *Update* Online received a Bronze award.
 - This was the *Update*'s 27th Spartan award in history.

The *Update*'s editorial board consists of editor-in-chief **Anikka Thorson**, managing news editor **Lillian Pressnell**, managing opinion editor **Amelya Jankens**, managing feature editor **Molly Birch**, managing sports editor **Jason Laplow**, managing design editor **Jenna Wray**, managing graphics editor **Grace Sobeck**, managing photo editors **Kate Ellison** and **Emily Danielsen**, managing social media editor **Hannah Raw**, managing web editor **Ben Brueck**, managing copy editor **Katie Ramos**, and managing business editor **Zane O'Dell**. The *Update* adviser is journalism teacher Cammie Hall.

- The Columbia Scholastic Press Association presented the *Update* with a Gold Crown Award for high school print news. It was one of 11 schools in the nation to earn this honor and the only school in Michigan.
- *The Charger* yearbook also earned a Spartan award for their 50th edition book titled *It All Started*.
 - The yearbook was one of 8 in the state to earn the award.
 - This is *The Charger*'s 3rd Spartan.
 - Thirteen students in the yearbook class earned 22 individual awards for their work in writing, photography, design, and theme coverage.

The editorial board consists of editor-in-chief **Regan O'Brien**, managing photo **Grace Baillargeon** and **Alexis Carras**, managing business **Alix Campbell**, managing academics **Paiton LeBeau**, managing people/student life **Reece Leydorf**, managing design **Logan Rivard**, managing sports **Justin Sanderson**, managing clubs **Tess Striebel** and **Dana Winslow**, and managing copy **Kellie Sauve**. *The Charger*'s adviser is journalism teacher Cammie Hall.



In Art Class, the Siebert Bulldogs have been focusing on Sharing the Planet. The K-2nd

Graders made paper pulp from recycled paper. They learned how to create paper and used that new knowledge to create seed paper. Seed paper can be planted and the seeds will grow. Students will be bringing their seed papers home soon (if they haven't already). So in celebration of Earth day on April 22, plant your seed paper and enjoy watching your flowers grow.



MPS ROBOTICS COMPETE AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

The Dow High Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, and the Midland High Robotics Team 5509, 'Like A Boss', competed at the FIRST World Championship at the COBO Center in Detroit Michigan, with over 400 teams, including three additional teams from the Great Lakes Bay Region. FIRST Championships is the final and culminating event for the competition season, this year's theme:

Destination: Deep Space.

For the competition the teams were divided into six Divisions with 68 teams in each Division. The winners of each Division then competed on the "Einstein" field for the overall Championship title. In addition to participating in their competition matches, team members also attended educational conferences, visited interactive sponsor & college displays, and interacted with robotics students and coaches from all over the world.

At Worlds, Midland High's Robotics team 5509 'Like A Boss' competed on the Curie Field, and was ranked 25th out of 68 teams in their division. They were further selected to join the 5th ranked alliance. Joining them were teams 2851 (Sterling Heights, Michigan), 1023 (Temperance, Michigan), and 967 (Marion, Iowa). They competed hard into the quarterfinals where they lost after a close match. The World Championship ended the 2019 competition season for 'Like A Boss.' Out of the team's five year history, this has been their most successful yet. Midland High's team were district champions at the Dow District event. They won the Spirit Award and were finalists at the Michigan State Championship. Finally, at Detroit World's they qualified to compete in the Quarterfinals. The team had a great season and cannot wait until the 2020 Robotics season.

The Charge, had a unique experience in that they were able to connect with The Springbots from Centurion, Gauteng, South Africa, who is a sister team sponsored by Dow Chemical. The Springbot's pit was located across from The Charge. The Charge assisted them by providing a human player, mechanical/programming assistance with their robot and cheered for them for each of their matches. (A wonderful reflection from Coach Murray is in the next column →.)

During regular match play in the Daly Division, The Charge enjoyed playing with teams from around the world, including China, Israel, and India. Overall, the Charge finished the competition with 3 wins and 7 losses - ending on a high note and winning their final qualification match of the season.

As the competition season comes to an end, we want to thank all the seniors and wish them well. Congratulations to both teams for a great 2019 Destination: Deep Space season!



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A reflection from FIRST World's by Dow High's Robotics Coach, Sean Murray ...

One of the cooler moments from the World Championships last week... (even cooler than having Darth Vader visit our team and force choke one of our kids...) A rookie team from Centurion, South Africa made it to Worlds. They scraped the funds together and found a way to make it over to Detroit. Their team was only 3 kids and 1 adult. You need at least 4 kids + 1 adult to make a full competition team... and that leaves no one for any of the other vital tasks that go on during an event.

Well... as luck would have it, they were randomly assigned to the "pit" across from us (the pits are just like NASCAR pits/ garages - it's a homebase where you store tools, spare parts, and batteries and can work on your robot in between matches). Their team colors were green and gold... and we found out after the fact that they were sponsored by the South African division of Dow Chemical (though, they spelled it 'Dow Chemicals' on their shirts).

On Wednesday, when everyone is getting inspected and making last minute adjustments to their robots, the South African team coach asked for help with a robot issue... she then asked if they could borrow a student to help them carry the robot on the field.

We said yes, of course, and Sophomore Josh Kline became an official teammate of theirs. Several other DHS kids helped them in their pits with whatever they needed as well.

The kids in the stands treated them like an extension of our own team -- cheering like crazy anytime they were on the field. It was pretty special seeing the faces of the kids from South Africa light up when they heard their adopted fanbase chanting their name and number and some madman screaming "whoooo" that could be heard from across the field -- I'm told I'm loud... it helps at these events :)

We got a great thank you from them for making their first trip to the World Championships a positive one and making it feel a little less lonely - some teams have over a hundred people in the stands cheering them on, so it was nice to support them.



Midland Public Schools ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Taylor Fegen, 2016 Midland High School Graduate

Taylor Fegan was just named one of ten **Students of the Year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor** (out of 29,000+ students!). Every year, the *Michigan Daily* recognizes a handful of students with outstanding involvement and accomplishments. Students were nominated by peers, professors and colleagues and then interviewed by the *Daily*.

Taylor is a 2016 graduate of Midland High, earning the IB diploma (and also a proud graduate of Adams Elementary and Northeast Middle School!). She is pre-med, majoring in Spanish with minors in Biology and History. Taylor is the President of the Panhellenic Association that oversees all 18 sororities on campus and also works in a research lab on campus as a peer advisor and student research assistant.

Here are two article links about the University of Michigan 2019 Students of the Year:

<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/statement/students-year-2019>

<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/statement/student-year-2019-taylor-fegan>



This photo of Taylor was taken during a semester abroad she spent in Spain last year.

Congratulations, Taylor, we are proud of you!

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CURRENT & FUTURE MPS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Adams Elementary construction is underway
- Middle and High School construction is about to begin
- Construction projects using capital improvement funds will be done this summer, such as: parking lot seal coating, air-handling units on the 2nd floor at Northeast MS, Pre-Primary Center playground equipment and other misc. projects.
- Midland Community Stadium Press Box construction to begin soon. Currently waiting for State permits.
- Razing of Eastlawn building is slated for 2019-20 and razing Franklin Center in 2020-21.

2019 Commencement— Wednesday, May 29—Dow Diamond Midland High at 4:30 pm; Dow High at 7:30 pm

Graduating Seniors will receive six reserved tickets. Other family and friends are welcome to come and sit in the general seating areas (there is no seating limit in these areas).



In case of inclement weather, commencement will be held at each high schools' gymnasiums at 7:00pm. That determination will occur by 10:00am the day of graduation; parents will be notified via mass email. Because of fire codes, the reserved ticket holders only (6 per student) will be able to attend inside the gym.

Eleven **Siebert young ladies from Brownie Troop #50219** picked up six grocery bags full of garbage from the school grounds in just a half hour in honor of Earth Day. This troop also completed the new #trashtag challenge,



which encourages people to show the before and after of garbage cleanup in a certain area!

Thank you, Brownies!

Summer eLearning Opportunity — Once school has ended for the year, Midland Public Schools will once again offer the Summer eLearning Program. Through this program, online courses are available to high school students who wish to earn either initial credit or credit recovery in select courses. While these courses do not require students to attend classes daily, students must take all tests and exams onsite at the PATHS Learning Center located in Midland High School. Students should expect to invest 45-60 hours to complete each course, but may work on their course any

place that they have an internet connection. Courses will begin on June 17, 2019 and must be completed by August 15, 2019. Students may only register for one course at a time. The cost for each course is \$150 for Midland Public Schools' students, and \$175 for students outside of the MPS district. If you would like additional information or would like to register for a course, please visit www.midlandps.org/content/Summer%20Program.





LOOK OUT PRESCHOOL ... KINDERGARTEN ... HERE I COME!

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Register NOW for 2019-20 Preschool OR Kindergarten

If you haven't had a chance, or know of a family member, friend or neighbor who hasn't had a chance, to register a child for the 2019-20 school year, please call the numbers below TODAY for information.

Spots are filling up fast for the two 4-year-old preschool programs MPS offers:

☆ **Great Start Readiness Program**

Free program for students who meet financial qualifications (923-6411)

☆ **IB-Primary Years Program**

Preschool (923-6411) Here is information on this great tuition-based program →



OPEN FOR
2019-2020

PRE-SCHOOL ADMISSION

✓ OPEN TO AGES 4
BY DECEMBER 1ST 2019

✓ CLASSES RUN MONDAY
THROUGH FRIDAY FROM
9AM-4PM

FINDINGS SHOW THAT CHILDREN
WHO ATTEND HIGH QUALITY
PRESCHOOL ENTER SCHOOLS
WITH BETTER PRE-READING
SKILLS, RICHER VOCABULARIES,
AND STRONGER BASIC MATH
SKILLS.

WHY CHOOSE US?

✓ HIGHLY QUALIFIED
TEACHING STAFF

✓ INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE
PROGRAMME FOR
KINDERGARTEN
READINESS

✓ LOW TEACHER/CHILD
RATIOS



CONTACT US NOW AT
(989) 923 6411

PRE-PRIMARY CENTER/MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1407 WEST CARPENTER STREET

We also have two great Kindergarten options:

☆ **Young 5's Kindergarten** at the Pre-Primary Center (923-6411) (Limited space available!)

☆ **Traditional Kindergarten** in your child's neighborhood school. (Call your child's school for information. All school phone numbers are on the last page of this Communique.)

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE ... REGISTER TODAY!

Last week, we received the nicest message from Terra Riddle, Senior Manager of Investor Relations & Campaign for the United Way of Midland County ... "Midland Public Schools was wonderfully represented at our Spirit of the Community awards ceremony last night. We are truly grateful for the partnership we have with MPS and for the outstanding, community-minded people that represent MPS so well. You truly have a special group of people with the Midland High Drama Club, Jacob May and Paul Schroll. I have attached a few photos from last night ... Thank you for your support, guidance and leadership that has produced such great people in our community!"



2019 Outstanding Community Collaboration
Award: **Midland High Drama Club**



2019 Outstanding Student Award:
Midland High Junior: Jacob May



Siebert
Principal,
Paul Schroll,
is our District's
United Way
Representative

Midland Public Schools was named
a 2019 Companies that Care

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	Building	Posting End Date
Assistant Principal	Jefferson MS	4/30/2019
Coach, Assistant, Volleyball	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Cheer	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Football (2)	Midland HS	4/30/2019
Coach, Assistant, Football	Midland HS	5/07/2019
Coach, Assistant, Pom Pon	Midland HS	4/30/2019
Coach, Assistant, Tennis, Boys'	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Golf, Girls'	Midland HS	4/30/2019
Coach, Head, Cheer	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Pom Pon, Fall/Winter	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Pom Pon	Midland HS	4/30/2019
Coach, Head, Soccer, Boys' JV	HH Dow HS	5/07/2019
Mechanic's Assistant	Transportation	until filled
Preschool Teaching Associate	Carpenter School	4/30/2019
Sign Language Interpreter	District-wide	until filled
Teacher, P.R.O.D.I.G.Y. Program (3 positions)	ADE, PME, WCE	until filled
Teacher, Science	District-wide	until filled
Teacher, Summer School (32 positions)	Elementary	until filled
Teacher, Summer School (7 positions)	Plymouth ES	until filled
Teacher, Summer School (6 positions)	Central Park ES	until filled

In addition, we are always looking for

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS,
PARAPROFESSIONALS & BUS DRIVERS.

Click on this link for information about these opportunities:

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

Please keep the nominations coming in for MPS staff members you believe are

Shining Stars!

Link to Shining Star nomination form:

<https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form>

Midland Public Schools now has **TWO FLYER BOARDS!**

- ✓ **Student Flyers:** Fun student activities, events and opportunities for students:
<https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/>
- ✓ **Community Flyers:** Information and events that may be of interest to parents & adults : <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers>

Check back often. Flyers are coming in all the time!

Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website:

www.midlandps.org

Twitter:

@MichaelSharrow2
@MidlandPS

YouTube Channel:

<http://midps.org/youtube>

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 ...

"Character isn't defined by the moments when you're up 3-1, but instead by how you battle when you're down 0-2."

—Baseballism

