

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent
(989) 923-5026 <> @MidlandPS <> sharrowme@midlandps.org

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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.



Did you know that Wednesday, November 13, 2019 is World Kindness Day? This Day is celebrated annually on November 13 and reminds us to celebrate, promote and spread kindness.

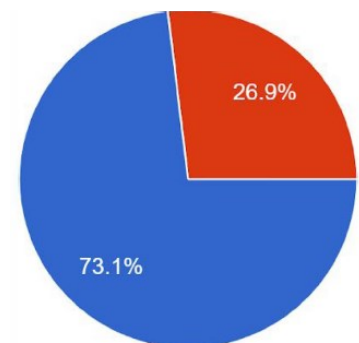


AND THE SURVEY SAYS ...

In the November 4 MPS Superintendent Communiqué, we asked our stakeholders to “weigh in” again on the pre-Labor Day start given the late Labor Day date for 2020 & 2021. Here are the results of the one-question poll:

“Are you in favor of MPS beginning school the Monday before Labor Day for the next two school years?”

We received 1,659 responses with the following results:



73.1% — Yes
26.9% — No

Thank you to everyone who shared their opinion with us!

Stay tuned ... another poll question will come your way in next week's Communiqué!

Siebert Elementary 4th & 5th graders created kindness coins in their art class. The students kept one and the second was for them to give away in the community.

Their goal: to spread smiles far & wide, and to share kindness to make the world a better place. Siebert's art teacher, Ms. Tricia Jendretzke, asked the students' parents to help their child give their kindness coin to someone. “It can be a relative or someone you know in another state or country. It could be a person in the grocery store that looks like they could use a smile. It could be a neighbor or a family friend. I've heard from students who want to give it to a coach, the mailman and more.”

Ms. Jendretzke encouraged families to share who their child gave the coin to on social media. In her note to parents, Ms. Jendretzke went on to say, “I am very excited to share that the students made enough extra this year that we will be sending some to the troops ... through *Aaron's Gifts From Home*.”

#SIEBERTBULLDOGS

#KEEPITKINDMPS



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>



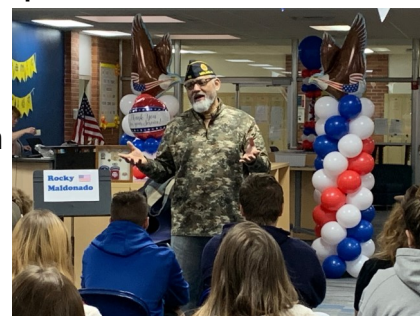
Midland High School celebrated Veterans Day this past Friday by welcoming combat veterans from all branches of service to spend the day meeting and speaking with students. Students enjoyed the opportunity to meet, greet and ask questions of the veterans about their service, their experiences and life lessons learned in the military. Veterans, in turn, had the opportunity to share their stories and lives with small groups of

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Chemics throughout the day. **The Social Studies Department** hosted the annual event and more than 500 students participated. The newly renovated Media center offered the Veterans an opportunity to showcase artifacts, pictures, videos and mini-presentations via the multiple screens. Our Veteran guests included parents as well as MHS Alumni, including our newest Vietnam Veteran MHS Alumni Jimmey Sequin who received an honorary diploma last year at the commencement ceremony. Other Veterans included Rocky Maldonado, Josh Rutledge, Dustin Mansour, Brandon Minuth, Rick Fix, Fred Honerkamp, Michael Gage, and Retired Col. Rhoda Daniel. Much thanks to the MHS Veterans Day Committee comprised of Chemic Parents and MHS Staff (Laurie Witt, Jamie Eyre, Patsy Hickman, Julie Villano, Sarah Churchfield, Jennifer Gay and Anne McKee)! Thank you also to the many local businesses who contributed to the hospitality suite including LaLonde's, Tim Hortons, Laskos, Cafe American, Chartwells Food Service, Little Caesars, Walmart, Party Savers and our own MHS Foods Class. **We honor our veterans and thank them for their sacrifice and service to our nation!**



On Tuesday, the **Social Studies Departments of Midland & Dow High Schools together with Northeast and Jefferson Middle Schools** partnered with the Midland Historical Society for a morning of professional development.



Teachers had an opportunity to take mini-guided tours of the 1874 Bradley House, and explore the surrounding Carriage House, Herbert H. Dow Historical Museum (factory replica), Herbert D. Doan Midland County History Center and the historical archives. After the tours, Mrs. Bertha Vaughn, a member of the Midland Historical Society and retired Dow chemist, spoke to the group about her experiences growing up in South Carolina during the Civil Rights Era. Ms. Vaughn had an opportunity to attend an all-white high school for one year where her love of chemistry developed. She spoke about what it was like to grow up in the Jim Crow South, as well as moving north to Michigan to work for Dow in the early 1970s.

Everyone enjoyed her talk as well as the incredible hospitality and knowledgeable staff of the Midland Historical Society.





I think we were all taken a little off guard last Wednesday when the predicted inch of snow grew into 3 or 4 inches with a little bit of ice on top just to make trees beautiful and the roads a little icy on Thursday morning.



I guess we can't ignore the fact that winter has arrived in Midland, MICHIGAN. And, of course, the possibility of inclement weather days!

During the winter months, conditions may make it necessary to close schools. **Midland Public Schools' goal is NOT to close schools unless weather and road conditions are such that the possible hazards to the children's safety outweigh the educational value of school. First and foremost, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our primary concern!**

In determining whether to close schools for inclement weather, Midland Public Schools has a team that drives the roads within the District boundaries very, very early in the morning. In addition, we consult city and county emergency management, road officials, district school superintendents within Midland County and others, depending on the conditions that present themselves during each individual weather or emergency situation.

Here are just a few conditions and issues that we take into careful consideration as the decisions are made:

- * The amount of snowfall we have received or is predicted; the timing of the storm; the ability of road crews/District personnel to clear roads, parking lots, sidewalks; the ability to safely transport students to school and more.
- * Dangerously cold temps combined with strong winds and wind chill temperatures. MPS does not have a set policy on when we close due to wind chill, but -20 or below generally will force a school closing.
- * Building problems caused by weather conditions such as loss of heat, power, water service, etc.

When school is in session, our school buildings and transportation fleet are warm and safe. Driving children to school may be an option for some parents, especially for those parents of high school students who do not have a lot of winter driving experience yet. Parents are asked to stay on top of weather conditions and the winter weather gear their child(ren) will need for getting to and from school, at recess, etc.



We also ask that parents have a plan should a school cancellation be necessary. Please know we realize that decisions on wintery weather mornings that cancel school may put a hardship on families for appropriate and safe supervision of their children.

Student safety whether school is open or closed will require all of us communicating and working together! Our goal is to make the best decision we can for MPS students, staff and families; however, we know the decision we make is not always popular and everyone will not agree.

I guess what I would like to leave you with is MPS is located in Midland, **MICHIGAN!** We know that winter is a fact of life for us. We cannot close school whenever we have an inch or two of snow; however, parents have to use their best judgement when it comes to the safety of their own child(ren).

On the mornings you are wondering whether school is in session at Midland Public Schools, we will communicate via:

<> text message to parent cell phone** <> email <> www.midlandps.org <> MPS-TV (Charter—190; Uverse—99) <>

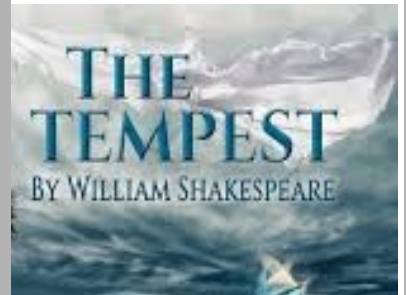
<> 923-SNOW <> Twitter: @MichaelSharro2 or @MidlandPS <> local TV/radio stations <>

** If you don't currently get MPS text messages, click on this link <https://www.midlandps.org/School-Messenger> for opt-in instructions.



H. H. Dow High Drama Department Presents William Shakespeare's The Tempest

Thursday, Friday and Saturday,
November 21, 22, 23 at 7:00 pm
at Central Auditorium



As the King of Naples and some family members are returning from the King's daughter's wedding, their ship is wrecked in a storm. The passengers and crew are thrown into the furious sea. Don't miss the excitement, magic, intrigue and romance set on a deserted island (well almost deserted).

Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased at <https://centrauditorium.ludus.com/> as well as at the door before the performances.

Congratulations to our five middle school robotics teams who participated in their initial qualifier of the FIRST Tech Challenge 2019 Skystone Season. The event was held at Bullock Creek High School, where 32 other Michigan teams joined ours for a challenging and fun-filled day.

Northeast's Viking Vendors were strong all day and entered the play-offs as an alliance captain. Although **Northeast's The Viking Force** had a bumpier ride, battling some unexpected technical issues earlier in the day, they remained focused and became an important alliance partner for the Viking Vendors in the Semifinals. The Viking alliance proved strong as they won the event together! **Northeast's Viking Vendors** also won the Innovate Award and were runners-up for the Control and Motivate Awards.



Jefferson TechnoHuskies, CyDogs and Wired Wolves had tons of fun working with all of their alliance partners at the competition. The **TechnoHuskies** went into play-offs ranked 7th, joined an alliance and made it into the semi-finals. They were excited to be chosen for the Connect Award (for collaborations done in the STEM community) and also received runner-up for the Think and Inspire Awards.

Jefferson's CyDogs finished qualification matches in 10th place and also made it onto an alliance and into the semifinals. They were excited to have achieved the competition's highest average autonomous score and Offensive Power Rating (OPR). The **CyDogs** earned the Judges Award and were a runner-up for the Control and Innovate Awards.



Jefferson's Wired Wolves had a challenging day, but the students pushed through as a team and have a lot of great moments to be proud of, including their runner-up for the Connect Award.

Northeast's Viking Vendors and **The Viking Force**, as well as **Jefferson's TechnoHuskies**, have already qualified for the Michigan State FTC Championship in December in Battle Creek. All of our teams can compete in one more FTC Qualifying Competition with the possibility for additional States Qualifications.



On Tuesday of last week, you will remember that MPS students had the day off for a District Professional Development day.

In this photo, support staff members are learning about Google Docs from MPS Media/Instructional Technology Specialist, Melissa Toner.



All throughout the District last Tuesday, MPS team members were involved in professional learning opportunities.

**IMPORTANT
DATES**
in NOVEMBER



November 23 Santa Parade

November 27 1/2 day for students

November 28-29 NO SCHOOL

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
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls'	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Tennis	Midland HS	until filled
Paraprofessional (two positions)	Siebert ES	11/12/2019
Paraprofessional (two positions)	Chestnut Hill ES	until filled
Paraprofessional (two positions)	Central Park ES	11/19/2019
School Psychologist	District	until filled
Supervisor, Special Services	Special Services	until filled
Teacher, Special Education	District	until filled

In addition to the job openings above,

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

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, no experience required, AM & PM routes available, paid training, 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!

**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

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>

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 ...

"Veterans are a symbol of what makes our nation great, and we must never forget all they have done to ensure our freedom."

— Rodney Frelinghuysen

