

# Superintendent Communiqué



**Midland Public Schools**  
Inspiring Excellence

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August 5, 2019 <> Volume 7, Issue 1

## **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.*



## MEET YOUR NEW PRINCIPAL!



### **H. H. Dow High Principal — Ted Davis**

High School: Madison-Grant High School, Fairmount, IN

Bachelor's: Franklin College — Secondary Education

Master's: Ball State University—Educational Admin.

Mr. Davis began his educational career in 1995—24 years in education. When we asked Mr. Davis for his educational philosophy, he said, *"I believe all students have the ability to learn."* When we asked for a thought to share, Mr. Davis said, *"I am excited to return to the H. H. Dow High School community and work with the fantastic students and staff."*



### **Midland High Principal — Tracy Speaker-Gerstheimer**

High School: Meridian Senior High School, Sanford, MI

Bachelor's: Michigan State University — English

Master's: MSU — MA in Comparative Literature  
Univ. of Texas at El Paso—  
M.Ed. in Educational Administration

Ms. Speaker-Gerstheimer began her educational career in 1998—21 years in the field of education. When asked for her educational philosophy, she said, *"I believe students need teachers who are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, creative and caring."* When we asked for a final thought to share, she said, *"I am very excited to be HOME."*



### **Jefferson Middle School Principal — Tiela Schurman**

High School: Sheridan High School, Denver, Colorado

Bachelor's: Arizona State University—Secondary Education, History, African American Studies

Master's: Northern Arizona Univ.—Educational Leadership

Ms. Schurman began her educational career in 2002—17 years in the field of education. When asked for her educational philosophy, she said, *"I firmly believe all students can learn! In addition to maintaining high academic standards for all students, my goal is to cultivate competencies for lifelong learning: resilience, grit, coping with emotions, problem solving and goal setting."*



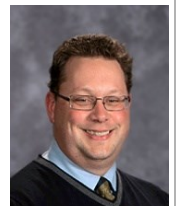
### **Adams Elementary Principal — J. Scott Cochran**

High School: Huron High School, Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor's: Univ. of Michigan—Social Studies/English

Master's: Central Michigan Univ.—Educ. Leadership

Mr. Cochran began his educational career in 1996—24 years in public education. When asked for his educational philosophy, he said, *"All students can learn!"* & *"Every day is a great day at Adams!"* Mr. Cochran's thought to share: *"With all the teachers and staff at Adams, I look forward to your children arriving to school every day, and thank you for the opportunity to work with them and help them grow."*



**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>

# MEET YOUR NEW PRINCIPAL!

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### H. H. Dow High School Principal — Ted Davis

#### Teaching/coaching background:

- ➔ Taught biology & marine biology at Gateway High, Kissimmee, Florida
- ➔ Taught biology, physical science & physical education and coached football & baseball at West Orange High, Winter Garden, Florida
- ➔ Taught health and coached football & softball at West Noble Middle School in Indiana
- ➔ Taught science, physical education, health, weights & conditioning and coached football, basketball & track at Clinton Prairie Jr. Sr. High School, Frankfort, Indiana



#### Administration background:

- ➔ Assistant Principal, Director of Transportation and School Safety Specialist at Clinton Prairie Jr. Sr. High School, Frankfort, Indiana
- ➔ Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at H. H. Dow High School
- ➔ Principal at Jefferson Middle School

*Mr. Davis is married to Melinda and has two children who are H. H. Dow High graduates—Trevor and Molly. He enjoys riding dirt bikes on the ORV trails up north.*

### Midland High Principal — Tracy Speaker-Gerstheimer

#### Teaching background:

Taught English at:

- ➔ Henry Ford Academy, Dearborn, Michigan
- ➔ Silva Magnet High School, El Paso, Texas
- ➔ Coronado High School, El Paso, Texas



#### Administration background:

- ➔ Advanced Academics Coordinator at Ysleta Independent School District, El Paso, Texas
- ➔ Assistant Principal of Discipline at Franklin High School, El Paso, Texas
- ➔ Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Instruction at Coronado High School, El Paso, Texas
- ➔ Principal at Northwest Early College High School, El Paso, Texas

*Ms. Speaker-Gerstheimer has two children—son Jacob will be entering the third grade; daughter Lorin will be entering the sixth grade. She has been married for 19 years and met her husband, Christian, in the library at Michigan State University.*

### Jefferson Middle School Principal — Tiela Schurman

#### Teaching background:

- ➔ Taught World History at Apollo High School, Glendale, Arizona



#### Administration background:

- ➔ Assistant Principal of Discipline and Attendance at Greenway and Independence High Schools, Glendale, Arizona
- ➔ Assistant Principal of Student Services at Thunderbird High School, Glendale, Arizona
- ➔ Assistant Principal at Jefferson Middle School

*When asked for a thought to share, Ms. Schurman said, "It is with tremendous excitement and with great privilege that I serve as principal for the students, staff and community of Jefferson Middle School. I look forward to maintaining a collaborative partnership with students, teachers, staff, parents and the Jefferson community, to ensure students thrive."*

### Adams Elementary Principal — J. Scott Cochran

#### Teaching background:

- ➔ In Charlevoix, Michigan, taught high school and middle school Social Studies and English as well as being Varsity Soccer Coach.



- ➔ Favorite courses to teach: American History, high school and middle school English

#### Administration background:

- ➔ Principal at Northwest Academy in Charlevoix
- ➔ Assistant Principal/Athletic Director and Middle School Principal in Harbor Springs
- ➔ Curriculum Specialist at Midland Public Schools

*Mr. Cochran and his wife Kirsten have three children: Austin is a college junior, Brooke a junior in high school and Cameron is in the 5th grade. They enjoy outdoor fun, adventures in Michigan's parks & lakes, and reading.*



## TWO FLYER BOARDS!

- ✓ **Student Flyers:** Fun 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!**

Watch for next week's Communique that will include photos and information about an MPS group of students and staff who traveled to Kenya as part of the WE Movement!



Wondering when you can view the **2019-20 bus schedules**? As we have done for the past several years, the new bus routes will be included in the first *Our Schools*—the quarterly MPS newsletter that will be an insert in the Saturday, August 24, *Midland Daily News*.



The National High School Trap Shooting Tournament was held July 10-14 in Mason, Michigan. **Midland High School** was represented by eight elite shooters, **Marissa Berghuis, Hunter Buczek, Aaron Garcia, Gavin Gilmore, Dylan MacKenzie, Allie McMillan, Avery Merrow, and Connor Winslow**. The MHS five person team of Garcia (95 out of 100 targets), MacKenzie (86), McMillan (90), Merrow (84), and Winslow (84) placed 122nd out of 206 teams. While the Midland High team did not qualify for the finals (missing the mark by only 15 targets), the individuals on the team shot an average of 16% over their season averages at the national competition.

In Individual Competition, **Aaron Garcia** was the team's top scorer, shooting 98 out of 100 birds (25 and 50 straight) in the qualifying rounds. Aaron went on to compete with 400 other shooters and ended up in the top 10% overall. Berghuis shot 80 (out of 100) targets in Individual Competition, Buczek shot 75, Gilmore shot 79, Merrow shot 65 (25 straight), MacKenzie shot 85, McMillan shot 90, and Winslow shot 82. This tournament finishes the official 2018-19 high school trap shooting season.



Picture (L to R): Connor Winslow, Dylan MacKenzie, Aaron Garcia, Allie McMillan, Avery Merrow

**Welcome back!**

**We are looking forward to greeting our 7,700 MPS students on the first day of school! See you ... TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3!**

**ENROLL NOW**



**Need to enroll your child for the 2019-20 school year?**

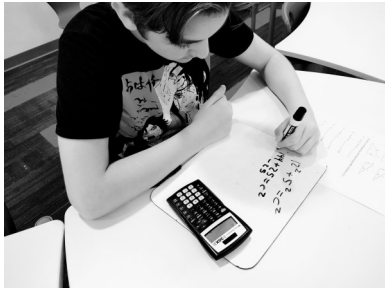
- ⇒ **4-Year-Old Preschool or Young 5's Kindergarten:** Contact the Pre-Primary Center at Carpenter Street School 923-6411.
- ⇒ **Kindergarten-Grade 5:** Elementary school offices will open for the new school year Monday, August 12. To enroll this week, contact Jana at 923-5024.
- ⇒ **Grades 6-12:** Middle and High School offices are open and would be happy to register your child. See the last page of this Communique for school contact info.

We are still accepting **Schools of Choice (SOC)** applications for the 2019-20 school year, however, we have had to close some grades in some MPS schools because they are at capacity and others are getting very tight.

For Midland Public Schools' Schools of Choice information, contact Jana at 923-5024.



Here are a few pics from this year's **MHS Chemic Challenge**:



This year's Chemic Challenge included learning about the muscular system, area and perimeter, balloon brains, cardio, Pythagorean, freaky facts, 'You Conduit!', an Oregon Trail simulation, Grandmaster chess, Tangram team challenge, building a Google site and MUCH more! As has been the case for the past several years, the 2019 Midland High Summer Chemic Challenge ended with the students with outstanding attendance enjoying a fun trip to Michigan's Adventures on Friday, July 26! Congratulations to all of this year's student participants for getting a "jump start" on the 2019-20 school year! Thank you to Andrew Filipek and Connie Beson-Steger for organizing and coordinating the three-week experience, as well as the Chemic educators who participated, sharing their dedication and making this week fun and insightful for new 9th Grade Chemics!



In addition to the job openings on Page 5 of this Communique,

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**Midland Public Schools**  
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## **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: \$9.45

### **Want to know more?**

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

## **Food Service Workers needed at MPS!!!**

Several flexible schedules to choose from between 8-2 Monday-Friday (no weekends!). To apply, click on this link:

[www.compassgroupcareers.com](http://www.compassgroupcareers.com)

Under **search jobs/keyword** type in either

**Req. #304904 or 298892**



# 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
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Boys'	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Swimming, Girls'	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Wrestling	HH Dow HS	until filled
Faculty Athletic Manager	Midland HS	08/13/2019
Paraprofessional, Office	Central Park ES	08/06/2019
Paraprofessional (3 positions)	Adams ES	08/13/2019

### MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2015 BOND UPDATE Week of July 22, 2019

#### Construction / In Progress:

##### Adams Addition & District Wide Renovations

- Installation of CMU block is 98% at Adams Elementary
- Installation of switchgear at Adams Elementary to continue
- Installation of new water main and sanitary at Adams Elementary is ongoing
- Installation of new windows and doors has begun at Adams Elementary
- Structural Steel installation at Adams to continue
- Parking lot milling is complete at Midland High
- Site Concrete installation is complete at H.H. Dow High
- Grading has started at H.H. Dow High parking lot
- Installation of lockers complete at both High School locker rooms
- Painting is complete at H.H. Dow High Locker Room
- Media Center furniture delivery at Jefferson Middle School



Milling at Midland High Parking Lot



Installation of New Windows at Adams Elementary



Furniture Delivery at Jefferson Media Center



Installation of New Lockers at H.H. Dow High Locker Room



Installation of New Lockers at Midland High Locker Room



Installation of Switchgear at Adams Elementary

#### Look Ahead:

- CMU block install at Adams to complete
- Structural steel install to continue at Adams Elementary Addition
- New HVAC installation at H.H. Dow High to continue
- Paint to start at Midland High locker room
- Parking lot paving at H.H. Dow High
- Casework install in High School Science Labs



Structural Steel Installation at Adams Elementary



Completed Site Concrete at H.H. Dow High



Midland Public Schools  
600 East Carpenter  
Midland, Michigan 48640

#### MPS Website:

[www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org)

#### Twitter:

@MichaelSharow2  
@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 ...*

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." — Mark Twain

We are excited to get the 2019-20 school year started!

