



Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

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Superintendent Communiqué

March 11, 2019

#MPSinspiringexcellence

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Central Park Elementary School Receives National Recognition for Commitment to Empowering Students



Central Park Elementary School has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through the PLTW Launch program. Central Park is one of just 214 elementary schools across the United States to receive this honor!



The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Central Park had to offer at least two PLTW Launch modules at each grade level and have more than 75% of the student body participating during the 2017-2018 school year.

Studies show that students decide as early as elementary school whether they like and think they are good at math and science. Whether designing a car safety belt or building digital animations based on their own short stories, PLTW Launch students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and develop a passion for and confidence in STEM subjects! **Congratulations, Central Park Elementary!!**



**YIKES ... FRIDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO NOMINATE A GREAT
MPS TEACHER FOR THE GERSTACKER TEACHER AWARDS**

The nomination window CLOSING THIS FRIDAY—March 15!

For nomination information go to our website—www.midlandps.org—or click on this link:

<https://www.midlandps.org/News/223#sthash.J3dEZBCw.dpbs>

To nominate a teacher, you may also send a personal letter via US Mail to: *Gerstacker Committee, MPS Superintendent's Office, 600 E. Carpenter, Midland, MI 48640*. This year's Gerstacker Ceremony is Thursday, May 2, at 4:15 pm at Central Auditorium.

These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl and Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation.

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>



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>

Below is the MPS 2019-20 Calendar DRAFT that is slated to go to the Board of Education for Action on March 18, 2019.

DRAFT - Midland Public Schools 2019-2020 Calendar

Approved by the Board of Education on XX-XX-XXXX

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
July 2019						
	1	2	3	H	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
August 2019						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	PD	PD	R	R	30	31
September 2019						
1	H	[3]	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	PD					
October 2019						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	MSC	HSC	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
November 2019						
					1	2
3	4	PD	6	ESC	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	P	H	h	30
December 2019						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	V	h	H	V	V	28
29	V	V				

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
January 2020						
			H	V	V	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	PD	E	E	(E)	R	25
26	[27]	28	29	30	31	
February 2020						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
March 2020						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	P	28
29	V	V				
April 2020						
			V	V	V	4
5	6	7	8	9	H	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
May 2020						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	H	26	27	28	29	30
31						
June 2020						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	E	E	(E)	R	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Days of Instruction		First Semester		Second Semester		Total	
		88		92		180	
Key:	Days of Instruction	#		MPS Board Holiday	h		
	Orientation Day	O		Vacation - No School	V		
	Start of Semester	[#]		HS Exams	E		
	End of Semester	(#)		Teacher Work day - no students	R		
	State Holiday	H		Orie 1/2 Day of Instruction	P		
	High School Conferences	HSC		Professional Development - no students	PD		
	Middle School Conferences	MSC		Elementary School Conferences	ESC		

MPS Students Impressive at the Regional Science Olympiad

The 2019 Science Olympiad competition was held at Delta College on Saturday, February 23. Both Northeast and Jefferson middle schools sent 15 students and came home with top honors. **Northeast Middle School placed first overall for that day with Jefferson coming in at a close second**, beating out six other teams in the region. Both teams will travel on to the State Science Olympiad Competition at MSU on Saturday, April 27.

Northeast students placed in 19 of the 23 events while earning nine first place medals, six second place medals, and two medals each for both third and fourth places. Jefferson students placed in 20 of the 23 events earning six first, five second, eight third, and one fourth place finish.

Teams from both schools are comprised of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Students on the **Northeast team** includes **Al Kanar, Trevor Hallberg, Ethan Klaffer, Will Kanar, Sam Ringgold, Kellan Gallaway, Isabella Durham, Alauna Millward, Addison Rogers, Hannah Monville, Emily Klassen, Boston Hoblet, Lilly Caldwell, Aiden Weaver, and Holland Doyle.** Coaches for the team are Carman Kessler and Marissa Pool.



Jefferson Middle school Team: Coach Christine Brillhart, Giles Gipson, Sahiba Kaur, Yuki Togaski, Pierson Wells, Gigi Hong, Sophie Cai, Elisa Costeux, Mia Frickey, John Davis, Margaret Hitt, Anjali Dash, Cassie McGaugh, Zacky- El Nache, Robert Roe, Venkat Krishnan Iyer.

Congratulation to the **Dow High Science Olympiad Team** who placed 3rd and will be competing at states in April at MSU. The team took three 1st, four 2nd, one 3rd and three 4th place finishes. The following students competed at Delta:

Anne Ginzburg, Ashwin Saxena, Mingi Jo, Brooke Cochran, Kevin Cheng, Madeleine Hong, Andrew Zhou, Sebastian Park, Adhira Hyder, Megan Churm, Shichi Dhar, Vicki Leiti, Tolu Oshin, Advisor: Tom McNamara



Congratulations to the **MHS Science Olympiad Team** for an excellent showing! Kudos to **Jacob Miller, Brylee Pavlik, Carina Gallagher, and Emma Powell** for their first place finishes! **Advisor: Brian Reinhardt**

Great job to all of these young scientists for representing MPS so admirably!

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Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence



Here are a few more great Science Olympiad photos of our middle school teams!



2019 SAGINAW VALLEY LEAGUE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nomination window closes THIS FRIDAY—March 15!

The Saginaw Valley League established this award to recognize excellence in teaching. This award is presented annually to one teacher from each Saginaw Valley member high school.



Link for info: <https://www.midlandps.org/News/230#sthash.4LakjaM6.dpbs>



Congratulations to the approximately 350 Dow High students who participated in MSBOA District 5 Band and Orchestra Festival the first weekend in March.

The **Symphonic Band, Gold Band, Green Band, Symphony Orchestra, and Concert Orchestra** all received **1st division ratings for superior performances.**

In addition to receiving 1st division ratings overall, each ensemble earned "straight 1s," meaning every single judge who heard them gave them a first



division rating. Way to go, Chargers!



Midland's FIRST Robotics District Competition at HH Dow High School on March 22-23

Both MPS award-winning high school robotics teams will be competing...

DHS Team 2619 The Charge

MHS Team 5509 Like a Boss

For more information go to: <http://www.first-glbr.org/>



Entry and Parking are Free!
Everyone is welcome to come, watch and cheer for their favorite teams & robots!

Nepal Project - Phase 2

Central Park Elementary School

continued fundraising efforts this year to support the Nepal Project - Phase 2! Kudos to the students and families for raising over \$600 for this phase of the project! We are excited to share that the money raised will help support a new science lab in Saraswati School!

Students and teachers will have access to new innovative STEM equipment, supplies and lab furniture to support their learning! In addition, the donation will be used for new computers, room wiring and student water bottles! Through this project, students have learned first-hand about life in a different part of our world. Students continue to be active participants in taking action to help create a better and more peaceful world! Great job, Central Park!



**2019-20
SCHOOLS
OF
CHOICE**



The application window for the first round Schools of Choice for 2019-20 is open until March 29, 2019.

Link to the 2019-20 Schools of Choice Application: <https://www.midlandps.org/userfiles/4/My%20Files/District%20Site/Parents/SchoolofChoice/201812/2019-20%20FALL%20RES%20and%20NRSOC%20App.pdf?id=2232>

Families will be notified of the status of their application mid to late April.

NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

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4-YEAR-OLD MPS PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

- ☆ **Great Start Readiness Program** (no-fee program for children who qualify)
- ☆ **IB PYP Preschool** (tuition-based program)

MPS is YOUR trusted school district and has all the tools necessary to help your child to be confidently kindergarten ready!

MPS KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

- ☆ **Young 5's Kindergarten**
- ☆ **Traditional Kindergarten**

FOR INFORMATION

- ⇒ For Preschool or Young 5's Kindergarten information, call Amy at the Pre-Primary Center (923-6414).
- ⇒ For Kindergarten questions, call your child's school office. School numbers are listed on the back page of all MPS Monday Superintendent Communiques.

**SPACE IS
LIMITED.
REGISTER
NOW!**



We received some very cool information from a Midland High Chemic Teacher last week, **English/Drama Teacher Megan Applegate**, about a group she is advising called **Scene Partners**. *"I wanted to share with you the success of the efforts of MHS students to represent their school in a positive light and demonstrate their Chemic Pride. I'm attaching a photo from our first event and the flier of our most recent event for an explanation of Scene Partners. These students are advocates in their own rights for inclusion and are, in my humble opinion, a more accurate depiction of the students here at MHS than the current court of public opinion. I asked for permission to share with you thoughts from the parents of ESA students; I received several emails like this one I am sending to you.... There are good things happening in MPS and here at Midland High."*



Comments from a parent about Scene Partners, "...Thank you SO much for starting the Scene Partners! I love that you're leading the way and teaching your students the importance of inclusion. ...and by "teaching" I don't mean by just talking with them about it, but instead by taking the next step...by taking action and living it! I'm so impressed with your initiative and I'm so amazed by these young adults from MHS.

We thoroughly enjoyed both the bowling event and the peer-to-peer event last night. We had so much fun last night! Smiles were everywhere!

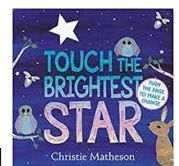
A lot of special needs kids are sadly excluded from many social activities that most kids take for granted, and they have a hard time making friends. (For example, [my son] was finally invited to a classmate's birthday party last year and I cried when we got the invitation). [He] has a few good friends now, and his "social life" is better this year. However, there are many special needs kids for whom that isn't the case. How amazing that you and these MHS high school students came together to reach out to the special needs kids in our community to invite them to play and have fun! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"



The You be The Chemist Challenge for students in grades 5th through 8th interested in chemistry topics and careers. The YBTC is a multilevel individual competition that begins at the school qualifier level. The top students from Jefferson Middle School were invited to a regional challenge competition at SVSU. The top three students from this competition move on to the state level. Representing **Jefferson** are: Left to right: **Coach Christine Brillhart, Sahiba Kaur, Shubhan Nagakar, Alexandra Leiti, Robert Roe, and Mia Frickey.**



The Michigan Department of Education announced last week that **"Touch the Brightest Star,"** an interactive children's bedtime story by Christie Matheson, was selected as the Library of Michigan's 2019 Ready to Read Michigan selection. All 649 public libraries statewide received



copies of the book. The Grace A. Dow Library will have events and story times featuring "Touch the Brightest Star" in April.



The H.H. Dow High School Robotics Team 2619, 'The Charge', and the Midland High School Robotics Team 5509, 'Like A Boss'

competed at the Kettering University *FIRST* Robotics Competition this past weekend with 39 other Michigan teams. **'The Charge' won the Engineering Inspiration Award**, which celebrates a team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school,

as well as their community. During the 'Destination: Deep Space' competition, Dow and Midland High were alliance partners for their first match of the competition, in which they worked well together and won the match. 'The Charge' finished in 15th place after Qualification matches and was selected to be part of the 7th place Alliance for playoffs, where they advanced to the quarterfinals. 'Like A Boss' was also selected for the playoffs as part of the 6th place Alliance and they also advanced to the quarterfinals.

Great job by both teams!



Young Robotics Teams Participate in Mission Moon Expo

Twenty nine local area FIRST LEGO League Jr. Robotics teams participated in the 2019 Mission Moon FLL Jr. Expo, hosted by Nexteer Automotive and Midland Public Schools. With 13 teams and approximately 75 students participating, Midland Public Schools has doubled the program size over the course of the last year and FLL Jr. teams from Adams, Plymouth, Central Park and Woodcrest Elementary schools participated. This year's challenge, called Mission Moon, is space themed and the teams researched and solved problems with regard to air, food, energy and water on the moon. They then developed a moon base, engineered solutions with Legos and used programming to motorize at least one part of their moon base solution.

The culmination of the season is the Expo and the teams participated in four activities during the event. During team interviews, although many were nervous, they talked to "judges" about their solution and how they worked together as a team. Some of our Middle School FTC robotics teams, along with one from Merrill, provided demos and allowed the students to drive robots. At the FLL station, the teams were able to modify programming and then see how the Mindstorms robot would react to those changes. Finally, with the gracious gift from Midland Center for the Arts, the teams enjoyed the highlight of the event: a space themed presentation in the Portable Planetarium. All of the students and teams had a great time!



Congratulations to our Midland Public Schools teams for a great season and for being awarded the following awards:

- ☆ **Adams Moon Camp - Best Teamwork Award**
- ☆ **Adams Moon Walkers - Most Extensive Research Award**
- ☆ **Adams Invading Space Scientists - Best Way to Survive on the Moon Award**
- ☆ **Adams Lazer Fast Comet Explorers - Least Likely to be Impacted by a Meteor Award**
- ☆ **Plymouth Engineering Pioneers - Most Efficient Award**
- ☆ **Plymouth Discovery Pioneers - Best Water Management Award**
- ☆ **Plymouth Builders - Best Air Production System Award**
- ☆ **Plymouth Lego League - Amazing Movement Award**
- ☆ **Central Park Programming Explorers - Best Defense Against an Alien Attack Award**
- ☆ **Central Park Lego Learners - Robust Energy Award**
- ☆ **Central Park Lego Lightning - Inquiring Minds Award**
- ☆ **Central Park Lego Builders - Team Work Award**
- ☆ **Woodcrest The Fire Launchers - Most Colorful Display Award**



All of the teams are now looking forward to next year's challenge.

SEE TEAM PHOTOS ON PAGE 6



MISSION MOON EXPO
FIRST LEGO League Jr.
Saturday, March 10
Held at
Jefferson Middle School

MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TEAMS PHOTO PAGE



Great job to all of the Grade 1, 2, 3 students who participated!

Special thanks to our volunteer staff, parents, coaches and mentors that enable this program for our students. What a wonderful memory for everyone involved!

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
Administrative Assistant	Special Services	3/18/2019
Coach, Assistant, Boys' Tennis	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Softball	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Volleyball	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Pom Pon	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Soccer	HH Dow HS	until filled
Manager of Human Resources	Human Resources	3/18/2019
Mechanic's Assistant	Transportation	until filled
Paraprofessional, Support Staff	Transportation	until filled
Paraprofessional, Support Staff	Transportation	until filled
Preschool Teaching Associate	Carpenter School	until filled
Principal, Elementary, Adams	Adams Elementary	until filled
Sign Language Interpreter	District Wide	until filled
Supervisor of Special Education	Special Services	until filled
Temporary Summer Grounds	District Wide	until filled

In addition, **we are always looking for**

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS AND BUS DRIVERS.

Click on this link for information about these opportunities:

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

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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

Email: board@midlandps.org

wise thought to ponder ...



"I see the world through
Irish eyes, and they are
smiling."

— Denise Morrison

Dates for our High School Spring Musicals ...

- ☆ April 11-13: "Newsies" by Midland High
- ☆ April 25-27: "Cinderella" by HH Dow High

THEATER

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>

Flyerboard



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