

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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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.



From **Midland High** — This is from a Chemic who shared this message during Tuesday announcements last week:

"...Belonging at Midland High School is knowing that although we are all different, and we all engage and believe in different things, we should still respect each other. When we don't understand someone's point of view or belief, instead of making assumptions, we should just ASK. You don't have to agree with someone about anything, but we should at least ask to better understand."

AND THE SURVEY SAYS ...

In the October 14 & 21 MPS Superintendent Communiques, we asked our stakeholders the following question in a one-question poll,

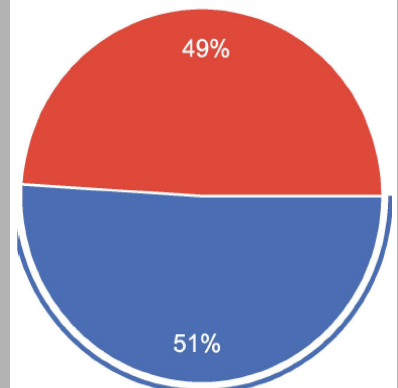
"Are you in favor of MPS beginning school the Monday before Labor Day?"

We received 2,342 responses with the following results:

51% — Yes

49% — No

Thank you to everyone who shared their opinion with us!



Please know we will take this information into consideration as we consider future MPS school-year calendars.

In these photos, the **Jefferson Middle School** staff are all sporting their "be kind." t-shirts. Every Wednesday the Huskies will be wearing **be kind.** t-shirts to celebrate the power of kindness.



At Friday night's Dow vs. Midland High annual Varsity football game, **Dow High Principal Ted Davis** took a minute from the action on the field to be the "I" in KIND!



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>

WDYT ... BALANCED CALENDAR? YES OR NO

This poll was included in last week's Communique. If you had a chance to answer the one-question poll, THANK YOU! If not, we would like to know what you think. Please answer the one-question poll before the end of the day Wednesday (October 30).



- ➔ Balanced calendars are often used to prevent summer learning loss
- ➔ The traditional model of nine months in class and three months of vacation with a few breaks has been changing
- ➔ The traditional calendar was started over 100 years ago to match the agricultural industry
- ➔ Lack of air conditioning has also been a reason that the traditional calendar has been used
- ➔ Some research indicates that the traditional calendar is broken and summer learning loss leads to weeks of re-teaching each school year and results in a full year or more of loss of academic growth by graduation
- ➔ Traditional calendar and our state requires 180 days of instruction and 1098 hours of instruction
- ➔ A balanced calendar spreads the same 180 days and 1098 hours of instruction over the entire year, resulting in more frequent breaks and a shorter summer break
- ➔ Nearly all MPS classrooms now have AC and all would have AC before a balanced calendar could be adopted
- ➔ Shorter breaks, often called "inter-sessions" allow for vacations and/or school or community partners to provide enrichment programming
- ➔ Balanced calendars often align well with extra and co-curricular activities such as band & sports
- ➔ Balanced calendars often have a 7-week summer vacation and begin school in mid-August
- ➔ Optional inter-sessions are offered where students explore educational opportunities or take a break in October, February or May.
- ➔ Here is the link to a sample balanced calendar used by a district during the 2018-19 school year:

<http://www.midlandps.org/balanced-calendar>

Please click on this link to take the one-question poll:

<https://forms.gle/bGYDfg6eK8ZBEs5x7>

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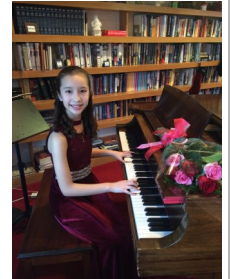


Midland Public Schools

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Congratulations to Margaret Hitt, Jefferson Middle School 8th Grade student, who

earned a State Certificate of Excellence and a Center Certificate of Excellence on her level 8



piano examination through the Royal Conservatory of Music. Because of her high level of achievement, Margaret has been invited to perform at Celebration of Excellence Recital at Symphony Center in Chicago, Illinois in March.



IMPORTANT DATES in NOVEMBER

November 5 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

<> Professional Dev. for MPS staff

November 7 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conf.

<> Elementary schools HALF DAY
(check with school for release time)

<> Middle/High schools FULL DAY

November 23 Santa Parade

November 27 HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS

<> Check with school for release time

November 28-29 NO SCHOOL



Last week was National Bus Safety Week

Thank you to our dedicated Midland Public Schools bus drivers, paraprofessionals, transportation managers and mechanics for all they do each

and every day. It is not always easy to navigate that huge yellow bus around tight corners, on congested city streets or on slippery country roads, however, our drivers do it seamlessly with the safety of every child on their bus "top of mind."

Thank you, Transportation Team! We appreciate YOU!

Our friends at the Muskegon ISD made this short video a few years ago and shared it with us. Please take a moment to view it as we all navigate the Midland roads with the big yellow MPS buses among us. <https://youtu.be/eDEtG0W7bFE>

The **Midland High School Student Council** will be participating in Trick or Treat for UNICEF this Halloween, October 31, from 6 -8 p.m. Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) began 69 years ago as a way to help children still affected by World War II. Since then, millions of children across the United States have gone door to door on Halloween with UNICEF collection boxes, calling out, "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!" The annual tradition of Kids Helping Kids® - involving donations big and small - has helped to raise more than \$175 million since 1950. Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF funds have helped save and improve children's lives around the world. UNICEF works in 190 countries and reaches millions of children with immunizations, education, health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation, emergency relief, and more — with the help of your support!

Midland High School students participating in the collection of donations will have small orange Trick or Treat for UNICEF collection boxes.



MPS World Language teachers Patti Borus, Amy Rankin, and Brian Smith were invited to present a double session at the Michigan World Language Association annual conference last week in Lansing. They displayed their expertise on "Using Story Listening to Increase Comprehensible Input in the K-20 Classroom". Their two-hour long session was widely attended and the three received a great deal of positive feedback from the audience.



2019 has been a banner year for the 6-12 MPS World Language department as its teachers will have presented at state, regional, and national conferences! Kudos to these teachers for sharing what makes MPS World Language so successful with colleagues around Michigan, the Midwest and the country!

Congratulations **HH Dow High freshman Colson Wells** at No. 2 singles and **Dow High senior Saketh Kamaraju** at No. 3 singles earned state championships in their flights at the Division 2 state finals on Saturday at the University of Michigan.



Those championships helped the **Chargers finish fifth in the State** out of 24 teams with 19 points.



Coach Terry Schwartzkopf said, "As a team, we set a goal to finish in the top five, and I'm proud of how everyone competed and won some big matches to put us in the top five."



(Photos courtesy of Charger Athletics Twitter and Midland Daily News)



Fall was a lovely backdrop at Chestnut Hill last week!

Division 2 state semifinals begin Friday night for Chemics and Chargers.



➔ **Midland High** will host Muskegon Mona Shores Friday at 7:00 at Midland Community Stadium. Tickets for this game will be on sale at chemics.net, starting this afternoon.

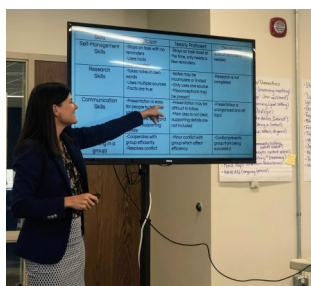
➔ **HH Dow High** will travel to Traverse City Central to take on the Trojans on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase at the TCC gate for \$6.

➔ **GO CHEMICS!** ➔ **GO CHARGERS!** ➔ **GO MPS!**

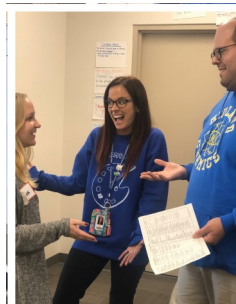
International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Training: Learning and Growing Together

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Last week, newly hired Midland Public Schools' elementary classroom and auxiliary teachers, current administrators, along with the district's PYP/STEM Coordinators and the Elementary Curriculum and Instructional Specialist, spent two and a half days exploring the foundational concepts of the Primary Years Programme. MPS hosted an IB-sponsored training entitled: *Making the PYP Happen: Implementing Agency*.



IB Workshop leader, Erica Chiotti, organized the workshop around the three main components of the PYP framework: The Learner, Learning and Teaching, and The Learning Community. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a variety of engaging activities and explore multiple texts which enabled the group to better understand many of the essentials of the PYP, including: teaching through a conceptual lens, inquiry-based instruction, the Learner Profile, Approaches to Learning, and how to foster learner agency. The training allowed participants to experience



a culture of thinking as well as collaborate with colleagues. Learners also examined Unit of Inquiry planners and their school's Programme of Inquiry. Each participant left training excited to return to their classroom, teams and/or current position ready to share, implement and utilize new tools and strategies while applying their deeper understanding of the PYP. The journey begins for these educators!

2019 Midland FIRST Tech Challenge Qualifier for Middle School Robotics Teams



The middle school robotics competition, *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC), will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 2 at Bullock Creek High School. Come out and cheer on our local area



middle school robotics teams! In this year's challenge, Skystone, the robots will create structures that push into the skies!

Good luck to the Northeast Viking Vendors and Viking Force! And, good luck to the Jefferson TechnoHuskies, CyDogs, and Wired Wolves!

Admission is FREE and open to students of all ages, parents, and community members.

Dow High's Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, helped with several community outreach activities in October. The



Charge cleaned-up trash along our "Adopt-a-Street" section of Patrick Road in Midland to help our community look great and volunteered at a couple of elementary school carnivals.

At Chestnut Hill Elementary's STEM night, Midland High's Robotics Team 5509, Like a Boss, presented robot demos, while The Charge presented their interactive STEM activity, the Hug-O-Meter, where students learned about circuits.





Chestnut Hill Chipmunks And Siebert Bulldogs

Being the "I" in KIND!



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If you drive by **Central Park Elementary** this week, you will probably see this interesting looking large trailer. It is the **Food Agriculture & Resources in Motion (FARM) Science Lab**.

This amazing Lab will be at CPE from today through November 1. When Central Park Explorers visit this FARM Science Lab this week, they will learn about how their food is raised. This lab is equipped with the latest teaching technologies and tooled with STEM-based lessons to increase agricultural awareness. Every lesson uses hands-on activity, from planting a seed, doing a parts-per-million exercise or making plastic out of corn.



Join Midland High's Drama Department for their fall production of **Shakespeare in Love** at Central Auditorium, November 1-2, at 7:00 pm & November 3 at 2:00.

Have you checked out the **MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards** under the Community tab on the MPS website lately? The Student Flyer Board includes fun activities for students; the Community Flyer Board has important events & opportunities for parents. We receive flyers from our great community partners each and every week. If you haven't had a chance to go the MPS Flyer Boards lately, take a moment to click these links:

Student Flyers: <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/>

Community Flyers: <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers>

Mark your calendar ...

Financial Aid Night for Midland County Seniors is Thursday, November 7 at Midland High from 6-7:30 p.m.

Assistance will be provided to parents and students to complete the FAFSA financial aid app for college during this evening. Email Karen Dralle to register: drallekm@midlandps.org

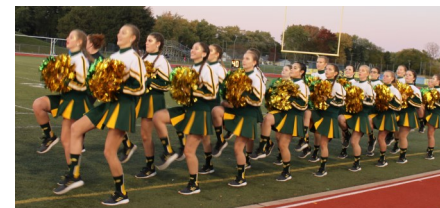


Tickets are \$6 for students and seniors and \$8 for adults and are available for purchase at Live Oak, Village Green, on-line at <https://centrauditorium.ludus.com/> as well as at the door before the performance.

To go or not to go? That is the question! Don't miss this fun play (in modern English) where love-sick Shakespeare stumbles his way to greatness with his creation of *Romeo and Juliet*.

PICS FROM FRIDAY'S ANNUAL CROSS-TOWN RIVALRY!

 **Midland Public Schools**
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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, Swim, Boys'	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Wrestling	HH Dow HS	until filled
MTSS Coordinator	District	until filled
Paraprofessional	Adams ES	10/29/2019
Paraprofessional	Chestnut Hill ES	10/29/2019
School Psychologist	District	until filled
Teacher Consultant, 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 ...

"I love that in celebrating Halloween, we can get lost in the magic of make-believe and fantasy no matter what age we are!" — Natalya Neidhart

