

# 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.*

During the past two months, we have seen our world, country, state and community change in many ways. Information is coming at us from all directions ... sometimes accurately, sometimes not so accurately.

Please allow me to address a large misconception that was brought to my attention late last week regarding the 2020-21 school year.

### **MISCONCEPTION**

MPS plans to offer only on-line learning this fall.

### **FACT**

**Midland Public Schools has every intention of having students attend classes this fall in all 11 MPS schools!**

Having said that, please know ...

- MPS is not planning online education as a replacement for the in-person classroom. However, MPS is anticipating the many possible scenarios that we may face and/or that parents may request when we return this fall. Preparing for all scenarios should be expected of us by MPS stakeholders!
- Our District wants to meet all MPS parent and student educational needs going forward. We are making plans to give the parents who may not want their children to attend school physically (out of concerns for health/safety) to have a quality virtual option. (As an fyi ... for the past several years, MPS has successfully offered virtual learning to approximately 100 students each year who were not able to excel in the traditional classroom.)
- Midland Public Schools plans to open all 11 school buildings this fall. However, (needless to say) this is dependent upon the Governor's Executive Order allowing face-to-face PreK-Grade 12 instruction.

This week is

**Thank you MPS  
Teachers for**

**all you do each and every day for MPS students!**

**Please know YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

**T E A C H E R**

APPRECIATION WEEK



Congratulations to **Midland Public Schools' Music Teacher Amanda Thoms** who was nominated and voted as **Orchestra Director of the Year** for **Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Association for District 5**. Ms. Thoms teaches Orchestra at HH Dow High, Jefferson and Siebert.

**Congratulations Ms. Thoms! We are proud of you!**

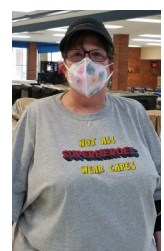
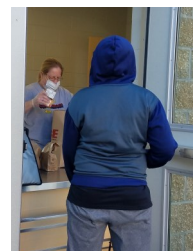
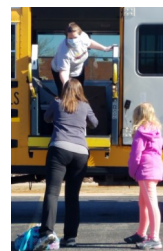
On Friday, May 1, MPS celebrated **Annual School Lunch Hero Day**, which is a national celebration to honor the hard-working individuals who prepare healthy meals for students every single day. During these unpre-

**SCHOOL LUNCH  
HERO DAY**



cedented times, School Lunch Hero Day was the perfect time to celebrate and thank these essential workers. As of May 1, almost 200,000 meals have been prepared and disbursed for Midland community children since mid-March. Our School Lunch Heroes received a fun t-shirt that said, "Not All Superheroes Wear Capes." If your family has been enjoying the meals, when you see these hard working essential workers, **please take a moment to say a heart-felt THANK YOU**

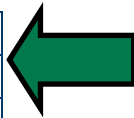
**when you pick up your meals this week for their hard work and dedication to our students and community!**



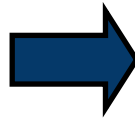
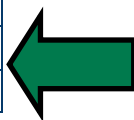
**MPS CONNECT** is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click here to connect with me: <https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2>

## Midland Public Schools Top 10% of the 2020 Senior Class

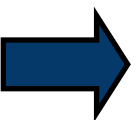
Sean	Anderson
Kimia	Beigzadeh
Andrew	Brandon
Jocelyn	Cha
Kavya	Chandra
Kevin	Cheng
Shichi	Dhar
Collin	Erickson
Iris	Funaioli
Scott	Gilbert
Alexus	Houk
Adhira	Hyder
Neil	Janwani
Anna	Jensen
Saketh	Kamaraju
Sasha	Konovalenko
Victoria	Leiti
Samantha	Ludwick
Anish	Middha
Christine	O'Donnell
Annabelle	Park
Mackayla	Pirie
Jared	Poliskey
Madeline	Poupard
Isabella	Rhee
Ashwin	Saxena
Charlee	Simanskey
Nicholas	Soto
Lindsay	Thompson
Heather	Van Dort
David	Wang
Emma	Wright
Audrey	Xu



H. H. DOW HIGH CHARGERS TOP 10%



MIDLAND HIGH CHEMICS TOP 10%



Blake	Adams
Meredith	Brookens
Madeline	Dollard
Ethan	Dotson
Corbin	Fleming-Dittenber
Olivia	Freidinger
Eden	Haase
Rita	Halphen
Elizabeth	Haut
Andrew	Heye
Therese	Joffre
Thomas	Johnstone
Luca	Jolly
Tegan	Kareus
Timmy	Kipfmiller
Madeleine	Lang
Quoc-Dai	Le
Erika	Leasher
Makayla	Nehrt
Katelyn	Nylund
Tyler	Pritchett
Maylee	Rielle
Andrew	Scheffer
Carlie	Servinski
Jackson	Shinske
Halle	Sodini
Jenna	Spencer
Rebekah	Stanley
Taryn	Vielma
Ashley	Welsch
Caryn	Wenban
Aidan	Wilber-Gauthier
Nathan	Witt
Hannah	Woehrle
Samuel	Yoder



### The MPS 2020-21

### Schools of Choice

**application window is open for In-District and Out-of-District students.**



If you would like more info, visit our website: [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org)

→ Community

→ Schools of Choice

As you know, Midland Public Schools has now completed several weeks of on-line learning under the Continuity Learning Plan.

- We have heard many comments from students, parents and staff... both positive and negative!
- Are you wondering what other families are thinking and feeling? This article from *Bridge Magazine & Public Sector Consultants* came out Thursday morning with interesting facts and figures from the 800 parents who were polled. Check it out: <https://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/michigan-poll-coronavirus-break-hurts-kids-dont-order-more-school>
- Watch for a poll in next week's Communique with some of the same types of questions included in the *Bridge's* poll.



## Have a Broken MPS Chromebook?

→ **Virtual Support** — 8:00 AM-4:30 PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. you can call the Help Desk and leave a voicemail message—(989) 923-5119 or send an email to [help@midlandps.org](mailto:help@midlandps.org).

→ **Limited Device Physical Support** — Tech Team representatives will be onsite MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the MPS Administration Center (600 E Carpenter Street). The drop-off and pick-up point will be the Admin Building Receiving Room doors in the parking lot between the Admin Building and the bus lot. We will repair devices as quickly as possible and contact you with the pick-up information when it is ready.



## The 2020 Clara Highhill Memorial Scholarship Competition (held digitally this year)

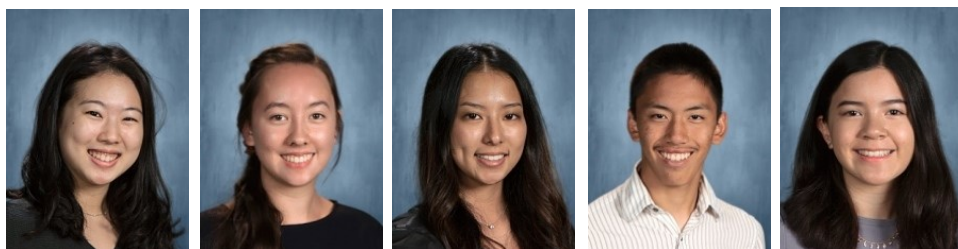
High school students from all over Midland County were able to audition for this award, which can be used to help pay for further study of instrumental music. This year, all five recipients were Midland Public School students. WOW!

First Prize - Abigail Yoo (Dow High, Violin)  
Second Prize (Tie) - Abigail Ahn (Dow High, Violin)  
Second Prize (Tie) - Grace Chae (Dow High, Violin)  
Honorable Mention - Caleb Qiu (Dow High, Violin)  
Honorable Mention - Cara Gallagher (Midland High, Flute)



**Congratulations to these talented student musicians!**

(Pictured in order listed)



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**Midland Public Schools**  
Inspiring Excellence

Central Park's Office Professional Brett Seamster shared his next Recess Break installment on Friday.



Check out the fun riddles, tongue twisters & more.  
Enjoy Recess Break #5:

<https://www.smores.com/s127q>

**2:1:1** Looking for specific resources during the COVID-19 crisis? Northeast Michigan 211 is a great place to start ...  
<https://www.211nemichigan.org/>

Several years ago, MPS launched our **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Strategic Plan**. A major component of the MPS STEM Plan was the implementation of **Project Lead The Way (PLTW)** that provides transformative [STEM] learning experiences for PreK-12 students. The PLTW curriculum creates an engaging, hands-on classroom environment and empower students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive. PLTW curriculum is implemented across K-12 MPS grade levels. All MPS elementary students are immersed in PLTW coursework. At the secondary level, students may take PLTW courses as electives. Congratulations to all six MPS Elementary Schools—Adams, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert and Woodcrest—who we learned late last week have been recognized by the Project Lead the Way organization as Distinguished Schools. <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition/distinguished-schools?>



According to the PLTW announcement, *The PLTW recognition program is designed to honor districts and schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. These districts and schools are empowering students to thrive in an evolving world and have achieved exemplary results from their PLTW programs.*

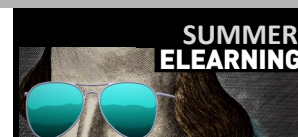
The MPS Technology Department received word of the **2020 Personal Purchase Program** where staff, students and families may purchase electronic devices at Michigan educational prices through September 30, 2020! Several of the awarded vendors on the 2020 REMC Device Purchasing Bid are offering discounts to staff, students and families on computers and accessories purchased for PERSONAL use! If you are looking for a computer or other device, check out this link for more info <https://www.midlandps.org/News/511#sthash.Mj3YEDws.dpbs>.



## High School Summer eLearning Opportunity

Once school has ended for the school year, Midland Public Schools will once again be offering 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. Registration information is now available. Our online program provides students the opportunity to recover lost credits or explore new learning through online courses which students can work on 24/7! The program will heed all safety recommendations set forth by the state. While these courses do not require students to attend classes daily, student support will be provided by email, phone call or video chat. On-site support will become available based on State of Michigan recommendations but will not be required for daily work, quizzes or tests, however, exams must be monitored. Exams will be proctored onsite (when appropriate) or virtually by appointment. 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 15, 2020 and must be completed by August 13, 2020. 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](http://www.midlandps.org/content/Summer%20Program). For more information, contact Principal Jeff Lauer at [lauerjm@midlandps.org](mailto:lauerjm@midlandps.org).





# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

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## Important phone numbers

- Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline 1-855-444-3911
- Michigan Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741
- Michigan Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

If you need more support, contact your student's school's main number

When "I" is replaced by "We", illness becomes Wellness!

If you are a parent working from home and feeling more *disconnected from all the virtual connections*; try these tips from *Psychology Today's* article *Zoom Fatigue: Don't Let Video Meetings Zap your Energy*:



Dial in into your meetings rather than using your computer to avoid focusing on a "living headshot." Then you can also move around or sit outside in the sunshine.



Try not to schedule back-to-back meetings so your brain has a chance to switch gears.



Take breaks from your screen between meetings for fresh air, water or quick exercise.



Take notes by hand when you can to increase retention and focus on what is being said.



Try to make your home office feel different from your living area - even if it's the same space! Change the lighting, change your playlist, and put work items away.

***Reminding yourself there are still boundaries between work and play can help you feel more connected to those around you.***

*It is normal to feel isolated during this unique and challenging time - here are some creative ways to combat the feeling of isolation and boost connection:*



Set up a gratitude tree group - where every member posts something they're grateful for



Leave a note by a neighbor's door.



Volunteer with a local organization.



Follow your child's school PTO for neighborhood "events" and activities such as scavenger hunts.



Become "pen pals" with relatives or friends.



Set daily challenges with a friend or group.

Be Well,  
Your SEL  
Team

Danielle Fox, LLMSW & Katie Hilliard, LMSW — Central Park Elementary Family Intervention Specialists  
Lori Hallberg, LLPC — HH Dow High Counselor  
Jessica Harrold, M.A., & Hayley Stepaniak, LLPC — Midland High School Counselors  
Erin Pung, MA/LLP — Plymouth Elementary Family Intervention Specialist



We all know, especially during this time of separation, how important **Social Emotional Wellness** is for all of us, and most especially for our children. MPS schools have been doing very special messages from their staff to their students. This one was sent from Chestnut Hill staff to their students this past Friday. We thought it may give you a smile.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Aq4acmiQP8LW9CUMII8B1APFizK7FS5r/view?usp=sharing>



A timely kudos from the **MPS Board of Education to MPS Staff, Students and Parents** was published in the Community Connections section of Saturday's *Midland Daily News*! If you didn't see it, please take a moment to read this positive message to our community ... <https://www.ourmidland.com/opinion/voices/article/Rich-Learning-Continues-Kudos-from-MPS-Board-of-15240208.php>



As our community journeys through the COVID-19 crisis, the Midland Community Success Panel would like to hear from area residents to understand how you everyone is doing.

The PERMAH **Wellbeing Survey** will help by providing immediate feedback and ideas to increase wellbeing and help to identify ways to best support our community.

Survey link: <https://midland.permahsurvey.com/>

When you take the survey (in about 10 minutes) you will:

- Step on the PERMAH Wellbeing scale and see how the recent changes are shaping your wellbeing.
- Immediately see your results – including your levels of thriving and struggle – and discover why stress doesn't have to undermine your wellbeing or performance right now.
- Create tiny daily wellbeing changes by choosing from 200+ evidence-based wellbeing activities that can help you, your family, your colleagues and our community.
- Download your tailored wellbeing plan packed with tips and questions to help guide your wellbeing journey.



### Student Personal Items Located In the School

Our principals are developing formal plans to have student personal items returned to students and/or parents. It is our plan to wait until the Stay Safe, Stay Home Order is lifted before allowing this to occur. If a student has an item they need immediately and cannot wait, we are asking parents to email their Principal. The Principal will retrieve the item for you and have a curbside pickup process. When we do bring students in to retrieve items after the Stay Home order is lifted, we will require a temperature scan and allow only a few students at a time as scheduled. Stay tuned for a communication from your Principal in the near future with additional details.

### Future Local Food Pantries

#### May 21, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church  
3701 Jefferson Ave, Midland  
Registration 9:00  
Distribution 11:30  
Sponsor: Trinity Lutheran

#### June 24, 2020

Blessed Sacrament Church  
3109 Ashman, Midland  
Registration: 9:30  
Distribution: 11:00  
Sponsor: Blessed Sacrament Church

#### July 23, 2020

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church  
3516 E Monroe Rd, Midland  
Registration: 9:00  
Distribution 11:30  
Sponsor: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

(Thank you to Kurt Faust for providing this information!)

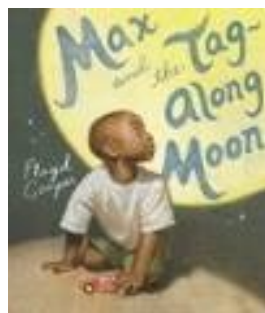
*On Wednesday & Thursday (May 6 & 7) of this week, Food Pantries are taking place in Midland. See the flyers on the MPS Flyer Board for more information.*

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



Dolly Parton, generous gifter of the Imagination Library books for children from birth through age 5, has recorded herself reading a number of fun children's books. Click on this link if your young child would enjoy hearing Dolly read, "Max and the Tag Along Moon."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcSR9jsotTg>



Midland Public Schools  
600 East Carpenter  
Midland, Michigan 48640

### MPS Website:

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

### Twitter:

@MichaelSharow2

@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:

- ➔ Scott McFarland, President
- ➔ Pam Singer, Vice President
- ➔ Phil Rausch, Secretary
- ➔ Mary Fredell, Treasurer
- ➔ Lynn Baker, Trustee
- ➔ Brad Blasy, Trustee
- ➔ Jon Lauderbach, Trustee

### wise thought to ponder ...

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." — Marie Curie