

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.



On February 4, **students from Plymouth and Central Park** presented to the Midland Parks and Recreation Department, a donation toward the new Miracle Field. They helped kick off the city's crowdfunding campaign that was started for the Miracle Field. The donation is being put toward easily accessible playground equipment.

The idea began with the Plymouth Pioneer Programmers First Lego League team. The FLL team had to do a community action project as part of their season. After doing research and interviewing Ms. Karen Murphy from the Parks and Recreation Department, they decided on helping fund equipment for the new park that is in the works. Through a pop can drive and generous donations, they were able to raise \$1,500. The team didn't stop there! They reached out to the students at Central Park on the Student Leadership Team.

The Plymouth team emailed Central Park their idea. Central Park was quick to jump on board and help their friends at Plymouth. The Student Leadership Team raised an additional \$200 toward the project.

The start of an idea from a small rookie robotics team and collaborative efforts with a neighboring school were celebrated and then recognized. It all started with an idea, communication, and collaboration. These students have made a difference!

For updates, information and opportunities, visit their Facebook page: *Middle of the Mitt Miracle League* or website: www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/miraclefield.



MPS Safety Initiatives

As you know, since 2015 MPS has been working hard to enhance safety in our schools for students, staff and visitors. Here are just a few improvements made across the District in the past five years: secure school entrances, card readers, security cameras, window filming, classroom door lockdown plates, ALICE safety protocol staff training, traffic flow, Emergency Operations Manual, digital radios, and much more.

MPS is about to begin implementation of a new school safety platform—**RAPTOR**. Within the next few weeks, MPS will implement **Phase I**, which is the **Visitor Management System**. Once Phase I is completed, all school visitors will have their driver's license scanned when they enter our school offices. The system will quickly search several federal and state databases and then print an ID badge for those who are not flagged as a threat to the school community.

RAPTOR'S Phase II includes implementation of a Volunteer Management System (to replace our current United for Success volunteer database).

RAPTOR'S Phase III will include implementation of a powerful District-wide Emergency Response Platform.

Stay tuned! We will keep you informed as we work through the implementation of each of the phases of the **RAPTOR** platform!

RAPTORTM



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>

Brooklen Reid has been named **Dow High Work Based Learning Student of the Month**. Brooklen was nominated by her colleagues at The Midland County Clerk's Office for her outstanding work ethic and contributions to her work group. As a member of the Clerk's office, Brooklen's responsibilities include the processing and issuance of birth certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses, assumed names, military records, and concealed pistol licenses. Brooklen is also responsible for processing and delivering all of the incoming mail for the County Services Building and the Midland Courthouse. She also assists in preparation for local elections, as well as administering state and federal elections. Brooklen's colleagues state that her greatest strength is



being extremely detail oriented. She is organized, on time and always ready for the day. When asked what they enjoy most about having Brooklen on staff, her supervisor stated, "I enjoy the fact that I have another team member who can be trusted to do complex tasks accurately and timely. Our staff also enjoys that Brooklen is always quick to help and brings a "can do" attitude to work with her every day."

Congratulations, Brooklen! Keep up the Great Work!

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>

Dow Science & Sustainability Education Center Summer Internship for High School Students

STUDENT INTERN Opportunity

Current Grade 9-11 students are encouraged to consider applying to be a paid summer intern for the Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center (DSSEC) Summer Research Experience at Saginaw Valley State University.

Program dates are June 29 – August 6, 2020. The anticipated schedule is Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Current Grade 9-11 students interested in a paid summer internship with the Dow SSEC must complete the [online application form](#) and submit their cover letter & resume by March 27, 2020.

All application materials can be found at this link: <https://www.svsu.edu/dowsciencesustainabilityeducationcenter/summerresearchexperience/>.

Midland Public Schools' staff members win pop-up pizza eating contest a week ago



To commemorate Pizza Sam's 60-year anniversary in downtown Midland, *Midland Daily News* hosted a pizza challenge. The MPS 6-person team—Jeff Jaster, Associate Superintendent; Eric Albright, MHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director; Margaret Doan, Plymouth Elementary Principal; Paul Schroll, Siebert Elementary Principal; Matt Murphy, DHS Assistant Principal; and Dave Dziedzic, Director of Technology proved they were the pizza eating champs over their worthy opponents—Midland Fire Department, Midland Business Alliance and a team from the *Midland Daily News*. Mr. Jaster said when asked for a statement by MDN, "... It was just a lot of fun to get together. It's not very often that we as school employees get to leave the building—you never get a lunch out, so this was our version of a lunch out."



Midland Center for the Arts has a wonderful exhibit now on display entitled,

20/20 Vision: seeing HERstory

By featuring local women changemakers, the 20/20 Vision: Seeing HERstory exhibition demonstrates how women have been the engines of creation and change within the community for more than 100 years. #HERstory.

From the MCFTA website, "Explore 20/20 Vision: Seeing HERstory as we take an in-depth view of women's contributions to the nation and the local community that shaped the last 100 years in the U.S. See the portraits of and learn about local Michigan women making a difference today and the change makers of tomorrow."

You may wonder why we are sharing this with you. We are proud to say that three current MPS employees (and several MPS retirees) are among those featured in this wonderful exhibit.

→ **Sarah Gornicki Pancost**, HH Dow High International Baccalaureate Coordinator and Teacher



→ **Maryanne Lipovsky**, Adams Elementary 5th Grade Teacher



→ **Shona Siddiqui**, District ESL Tutor



Make plans to see this exhibit before it ends on April 26.





Last week, the **National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT)** announced the **Michigan winners for their annual Aspirations Award**. Approximately 30 winners and 30 honorable mentions are chosen from the entire State. Midland PS is proud to report that approximately 25% of these awardees are from our District!

MPS Winners—Aspirations in Computing:

Jamie Brooks (MHS)

Edie Haase (MHS)

Ellie Haycock (MHS)

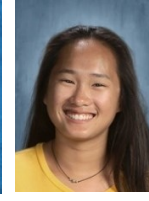
Therese Joffre (MHS)

Maylee Rielle (MHS)

Ashley Seigmund (MHS)

Kiran Sequeira (DHS)

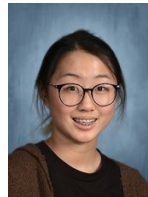
Julianna Thompson (MHS) *[photo unavailable]*



MPS Rising Star Awards:

Madeleine Hong (DHS)

Abigail Yoo (DHS)



Congratulations

MPS Honorable Mentions:

Courtney Collamer (MHS) *[photo unavailable]*

Abby Haag (MHS)

Nicole James (MHS)

Eden Ozkan (MHS)

Meghana Reddy (MHS)

Alexa Swanson (MHS)



Award Info From NCWIT: The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC) honors 9th-12th grade students for their computing-related achievements and interests, and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award recipients are selected based on their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing, as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans for post-secondary education. Since 2007, nearly 14,000 students have received an Award for AiC.



Chestnut Hill Multi-Cultural Night Memorable and Impactful

Chestnut Hill Elementary held a multi-cultural night on Thursday, February 6. CHE families, Saginaw Valley State University students, and two gentlemen from Dow's MENA group presented on fifteen different countries/cultures. The evening began with third grade students singing a song about saying hello in different languages. Students, families and visitors then traveled to the gym to learn about different countries and cultures. A food table with foods representing the different countries was also available for guests to taste new foods. The event was well attended with over 165 students visiting with their passports.

All in attendance shared their gratitude for such a great event. Both presenters and visitors were thrilled with the experience. A special thanks to the CHE teachers and staff that helped make this inaugural event such a success! We look forward to making this a CHE tradition.





Midland Public Schools

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Important 2020-21 MPS Preschool & Kindergarten

Registration Information

2020-2021
Registration

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

4

**Monday, March 9 at 5:30 at
Carpenter Street School
IB PYP 4-Year-Old Preschool**



inquiry-based, fairly-priced tuition
preschool that follows the IB PYP
foundation at all MPS elementary schools.

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

results-driven, high-quality, **FREE** preschool for 4-year-old
students from income-qualifying families. Regional Preschool
Partnership — GSRP Questions: (844) 492-7707 or 923-6411

GSRP Pre-Registration Open: www.michiganpreschool.org

For Preschool forms: www.midlandps.org →Parents→PreSchool Program

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

5

Will your child be 5 before September 1, 2020?

**If so, then NOW IS THE TIME TO
REGISTER your child for the
Fall of 2020 Kindergarten class!**



**ALL MPS Elementary Schools are
ready to receive your child's registration paperwork.**

(Adams, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest)

Have questions about the difference between Developmental Kindergarten
(Young 5's) and Regular Kindergarten? Your neighborhood school office
staff or the Carpenter PrePrimary Center (923-6411) will be happy to help.

For Kindergarten forms: www.midlandps.org →Parents →Kindergarten



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Way to go, Lily Skedel,
**Adams Elementary 5th
grader**, who was very
kind to a classmate last

week! She stayed in from recess to
help a classmate clean out and
organize her desk, helping her
friend put in place organizational
folders so that she could find
everything in the future—together,
they definitely set her friend up for
success. Kudos, Lily!



**The MPS Schools
of Choice
application window
for 2020-2021 is
now open for
In-District and Out-
of-District students**



If you would like more information,
go to our website and click as
follows:

www.midlandps.org

→Community → School of Choice

Contact Jana at 923-5024 or
kullickjs@midlandps.org
with questions.

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
WEEK**

THE GERSTACKER TEACHER PROFICIENCY AWARDS NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!

Don't miss your chance. Nominate a great MPS teacher today!

*The nomination window **CLOSES FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020***

For nomination information go to our website—www.midlandps.org—or click on this link: <https://www.midlandps.org/gerstacker-awards>

To nominate a teacher, you may also send a personal letter via US Mail to:
**Gerstacker Committee, Midland Public Schools Superintendent's Office,
600 E. Carpenter, Midland, MI 48640**

This year's Gerstacker Ceremony is
Thursday, April 30 at 4:15 p.m. at Central Auditorium
and will celebrate 65 years of Midland Public Schools' teaching excellence.

February 10, 2020

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The Plymouth Elementary Choir, under the direction of

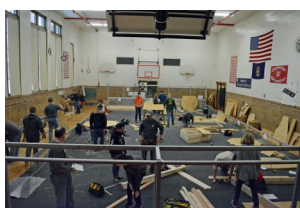
Mr. Dan Farison, performed



our *National Anthem* at the Midland High School boys' basketball game on February 4th. Way to go, Plymouth Pioneers!

FIRST Robotics Practice Field

Thanks to the dozens of volunteers who worked over two weekends in January & February to build the *FIRST* Robotics Infinite Recharge practice field at the Carpenter Robotics Center. Thanks also to the local businesses who donated many of the supplies to make this possible – Ace Hardware, Lowe's, Home Depot, Prime Industrial Fasteners, MAP Mechanical and SK Saran!



The field is available to all high school robotics teams in the Great Lakes Bay Region as they prepare for this year's competitions!

As part of their World Language Mandarin Chinese classes, all **4th Grade students in Woodcrest Elementary** last week made dumplings to experience celebrating Chinese New Year.



Last week was an exciting week at Adams Elementary!

Adams Atoms held PE classes and lunch in their brand new gym and cafeteria for the first time!



THANK YOU MPS Voters

for passing the Bond five years ago!

In addition to that, Adams held their first student assembly in the gym when Dow Tennis Classic Tennis Pro, Caitlin Whoriskey, demonstrated some "tennis moves" and spoke with the students about her life as a tennis pro.

Thank you to the Dow Tennis Classic Tennis Pros who came to elementary schools and shared their time and tennis skills with MPS students!

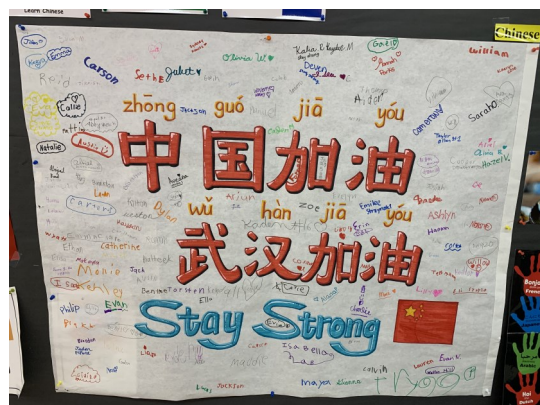


Many **Woodcrest Elementary** students voluntarily signed their names on this poster about supporting China to fight the Coronavirus and save lives.

The Chinese characters on the poster are wishing China and the City (Wuhan) where the outbreak started to have more energy to fight the virus and to save lives.

中国加油
Cheer Up,
China

武汉加油
Cheer Up,
Wuhan



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, Volleyball	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Tennis	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Football	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Volleyball	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, JV, Boys', Soccer	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Volleyball	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Girls' Lacrosse	Midland HS	02/11/2020
Paraprofessional	Northeast MS	02/11/2020
Paraprofessional	Woodcrest ES	02/18/2020
Preschool Teaching Associate	Carpenter Pre-Primary Ctr	until filled
Teacher, Elementary	District	until filled
Teacher, Industrial Education	District	until filled

In addition to the job openings above, **BUS DRIVERS & PARAPROFESSIONALS** are needed in our Transportation Department.

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



A few details about being part of our Transportation Team:

- ➔ Flexible schedule, AM & PM routes available, no experience required, paid training, both regular & sub drivers and paraprofessionals are needed.

Call MPS
Transportation
with questions
and to apply!
923-5041

Salary:

Bus driver: \$14.22/hour starting salary ... within four years: \$18.01/hour

Para: \$ 9.65/hour to start ... with steps to \$13.12

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**

MPS FLYER BOARDS

Have you checked out the **MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards** under the Community tab on the MPS website lately?

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

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

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:

- ➔ 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 ...

"I have decided to
stick with love.
Hate is too great
a burden to bear."
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

