

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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March 16, 2020 <> Volume 7, Issue 31

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.

COVID-19 INFO AND UPDATES FROM MPS & COMMUNITY

Thank you for being our partner in our efforts to keep all MPS family members healthy and protect student learning. The safety and wellbeing of our MPS family is our top priority. Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the district has created a plan to keep our students safe and provide an opportunity to stay connected with meaningful learning experiences. All teachers will contact their students and parent(s)/guardian(s) about keeping connected with remote or online learning until face-to-face learning becomes a safe option.



All K-12 students will have access to a school-issued device. You can expect that your student(s) will work with their teacher(s) through the use of their school-issued device using a variety of online learning tools such as Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Moodle, and/or access to curricular resources through Clever.com.

Here is some additional information about MPS on-line learning during this time:

- Given the strong and positive relationships teachers have with students, this ongoing connection is an important way to maintain a sense of community and provide support. Teachers will communicate with students and/or parents during the period of school closure using the platform of their choice. Frequent communication is encouraged between teachers and students.
- The learning opportunities are not meant to replace day-to-day direct instruction or be a distance learning class.
- During this time, teachers will not require graded assignments, however, feedback with students about their work is encouraged.
- MPS realizes that NOT all students will have equitable access to resources and technology during the closure. MPS staff will keep in mind as they develop their student on-line exercises the need to not exacerbate inequitable expectations and environments for students and families.
- Teachers will use professional discretion regarding the learning experiences given to students. It is not the intent to carry on with full course instruction and assessment. New content or concepts will not be introduced.
- As a general rule, teachers have been asked to consider issuing on-line learning experiences
 - up to 5 hours total per week for elementary students and
 - up to 12 hours total per week for secondary students (about 2 hours per course).

Go to the MPS website often for MPS COVID-19 documents and updates.

Here is the link: <https://www.midlandps.org/Content2/covid-19-coronavirus-information>

MPS Food Service — COVID-19 Closure

All MPS Elementary Schools and Midland High will have meals available for pick up M, W, F from 9-11 am for all school-age children.

MPS school buses will be delivering “grab & go” meals to the sites below M, W, F between 9 & 10 am for ALL school-age children.

- Carpenter Pre-Primary/Robotics Ctr
- Currie Golf Course
- Davenport University
- H.H. Dow High School
- Hubbard/Eastman Intersection
- Greater Midland Comm. Center
- Ingersoll Township Hall
- Larkin Fire Dept./Township Hall
- Longview Elementary
- Midland Evangelical Free Church
- Midland High School
- North Family Center
- Northwest Baseball Park--Sturgeon Rd.
- Salvation Army
- West Town Grocery

GRAB & GO GRAB & GO GRAB & GO



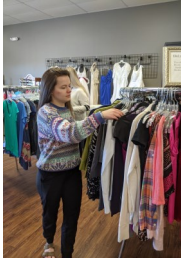
MPS CONNECT is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click here to connect with me: <https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2>



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence



On March 7, 35 students from the **Midland High School National Honor Society** volunteered at the Shelterhouse Resale Shop as part of their community service efforts. Students helped organize the stock in the shop and changed displays. They sorted donations and checked for price tags. Some students cleaned windows and tidied the interior. Many of the students expressed surprise at the number of donations and the number of tasks that needed to be completed to help the organization run smoothly. Working at the Resale Shop raised awareness among the students of the mission of Shelterhouse and how many people are helped by this program. **Way to give back Midland High Chemicals!**



Congratulations to

Diane White,
HH Dow High
Computer Science
Teacher



AND

Robert Fox,
Midland High
Computer Science
Teacher



recently awarded the Inspiring Teacher Award by the Women in Engineering Society and MSU. These two MPS educators were nominated for this prestigious award by former students and were two of just six teachers in the State of Michigan to receive this honor.

The March 17 program stated, "On behalf of Michigan State University, we would like to thank you for your dedication and inspiration to your students."

Congratulations
Ms. White and Mr. Fox!

We received the following information from Ms. Wenzel, Executive Director of **The ROCK**. "We appreciate your understanding as we've decided to not offer programs while schools are closed. As the number of coronavirus cases increases in Michigan, we feel it would be in everyone's best interest to remain closed. We also know that some of the services we were most concerned about for our students are being offered locally at this time--primarily, we are so grateful to our schools for providing a food program for our communities families. Be sure to check your school district for food distribution plans and schedules. We will be sure to keep you all posted as we move forward. Thank you for your patience and cooperation, and we wish you all the best."



The MPS 2020-21 Schools of Choice application window 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 → Schools of Choice



THE GERSTACKER TEACHER PROFICIENCY AWARDS NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!

The nomination window CLOSES THIS 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.

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

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

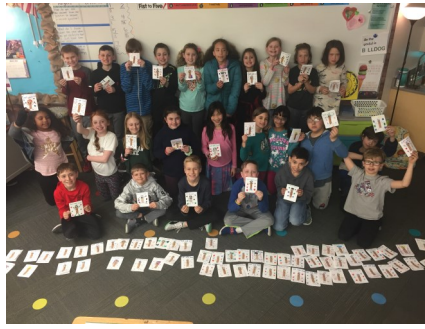
Nominate a great MPS team member for a SHINING STAR today!

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>

WE ARE SO SAD TO SAY ☹ ... THE ROBOTS ARE NOT COMING!

You can probably guess that given the current COVID-19 closures, the FIRST Robotics District event that was to be hosted by Dow High on March 20-21 IS CANCELLED! Because we included it in the past few Communiques, though, we just wanted to mention it here so there was no question.

Fourth graders at Siebert Elementary learned all about assembly lines by putting their own to the test. They made get well cards for children in the hospital. Their assembly line was able to create 10x as many cards as one individual in the same time length. They realized the benefits and some of the negatives of assembly lines. They then related this to Michigan's automotive industry and the assembly line started by Henry Ford.



Dow High Senior, Karnika Chandra, is the recipient of the 2020 DECA Emerging Leader Honor Award. This award recognizes students studying marketing, finance, hospitality and management for being an academically prepared, community oriented professionally responsible, experienced leader through participation in DECA. The award recipient must be a DECA member in his/her senior year of high school with a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or better for each of the high school semesters.



Congratulations to the **H.H. Dow DECA Club** members who competed in Detroit, March 8-10 at the DECA State Competition. In total the club brought home 66 medals and students were Finalists in their event.

The following 21 students qualified to compete at the International Conference in Nashville, Tennessee:

Gabi Donoso, Salma Elsaadany, Gena Guerrier, Olivia Jordhal, Irshad Husain, Hannah Kilbride, Marshall McGaugh, Joey Meilink, Anish Middha, Olivia Miller, Tolu Oshin, Tyler Sanchez, Charlee Semanskey, Hanna Shewchuck, Chloe Stafford, Louie Sun, Austin Urlaub, Mark VanHeel, and David Wang. In addition, two students will represent the Dow High school store "The Charger Shoppe" at the International Competition, these students are **Ellie Penn and Kate Frank.**



The MPS 2020-21 Calendar will go to the MPS Board of Education for action this evening.

Here is the link: <http://www.midlandps.org/userfiles/4/My%20Files/District%20Site/District/Calendar/20-21/20-21 MPS Calendar.pdf?id=3729>

2020-21

Midland Public Schools District Calendar

2020 - 2021 Calendar - FINAL

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
July 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	30	31
August 2020						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
September 2020						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
October 2020						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
November 2020						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
December 2020						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
January 2021						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
February 2021						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						
March 2021						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
April 2021						
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	30					
May 2021						
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	30	31				
June 2021						
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	30					

Days of Instruction	First Semester	85	Second Semester	95	Total	180
Key: Days of Instruction	8	MPS Board Holiday	1			
Orientation Day	O	Vacation - No School	V			
Start of Semester	(S)	HS Exams	E			
End of Semester	(E)	Teacher Work day - no students	T			
State Holiday	H	1/2 Day of Instruction	P			
High School Conferences	HSC	Professional Development - no students	PD			
Middle School Conferences	MSC	Elementary School Conferences	ESC			

2020-2021 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR DISTRICT'S YOUNGEST LEARNERS

Two 4-Year Old Pre-School Programs Available.



Call MPS PrePrimary Center at Carpenter (923-6411) for info.

- o **IB-PYP Preschool:** Follows the IB-PYP foundation that is the framework used by all MPS elementary schools. This is a competitively priced tuition program.

- o **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP):** State-funded quality preschool free for income-qualifying families. (Member of Regional Preschool Partnership). Click here to register: www.michiganpreschool.org



MPS Elementary Kindergarten Registration Now Open

Call your neighborhood school for registration and program information. All of the MPS elementary schools are listed on the back page of this Communique.



SECONDARY MUSIC ACCOLADES

March 16, 2020

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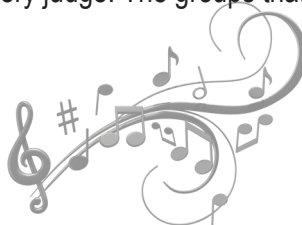


Midland Public Schools
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★ **The Midland High Choirs**—both Chorus and Meistersingers—earned a Division One Rating at MSVMA Choral Festival!

★ Congratulations to the over **800 Midland Public School student musicians** who participated in the MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival. Every MPS band and orchestra that attended the event earned a first division rating overall with most ensembles earning first division ratings from every judge. The groups that attended and their directors are listed below.

- ☆ Jefferson 8th Grade Band - Nicki Bruski
- ☆ Jefferson 8th Grade Orchestra - Amanda Thoms
- ☆ Northeast 8th Grade Band - Eric Attard
- ☆ Dow High Green Band - Stephen DeRees
- ☆ Dow High Gold Band - Eric Attard
- ☆ Dow High Symphonic Band - Stephen DeRees
- ☆ Dow High Concert Orchestra - Amanda Thoms
- ☆ Dow High Symphony Orchestra - Amanda Thoms
- ☆ Midland High Blue Band - William Monroe
- ☆ Midland High Gold Band - Chris O'Connell
- ☆ Midland High Symphonic Band - William Monroe
- ☆ Midland High Symphony Orchestra - Anna Mamassian



Congratulations to **Jefferson Middle School 8th Grade student, Madeline Cha!** Madeline won the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Concerto Competition. In addition to winning a scholarship, Madeline will perform the *Vieuxtemps Violin Concerto* with the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra during their concert in early May.



Roses to our MPS high school and middle school student musicians, directors, teachers and advisors for these great results. We are proud of your talent and hard work!

WDYT ... District Communication?

We apologize for the inconvenience, but the Our Schools poll from last week had a "glitch" and we are hoping that those who tried to complete the poll will try again this week. We would truly value your thoughts about the MPS quarterly newsletter—**Our Schools**.

Our Schools is an 8-page, full-color insert in the *Midland Daily News* print and on-line editions that comes out 4 times a year.

Here is a link to the most recent *Our Schools*:

<http://www.midlandps.org/2020-02-ourschoolsnewsletter>.

The August edition comes out before school starts and includes new school year information and bus schedules. The fall edition, is 12 pages and includes our State of the District section.



Monday & SE Communiques

We will not publish regular Monday Communiques for the next few weeks given that there is no school.

We will, however, continue to publish Special Edition Communiques as we receive information needs to be shared with families and staff.

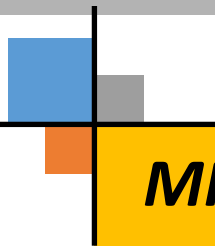
Thank you for your support! It is our hope that you & your family..



Click on this link to **share your thoughts about *Our Schools* with us:**

<https://forms.gle/ij8yu2RQAgepYRpx6>

(We will share the results of the three communication polls once all three have all been completed.)



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
Administrative Assistant	Special Services	until filled
Assistant Principal	District	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Volleyball	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Tennis	Midland HS	until filled
Coach, JV, Boys', Soccer	HH Dow HS	until filled
Paraprofessional	Plymouth ES	until filled
Paraprofessional	Siebert ES	until filled
Preschool Teaching Associate	Carpenter Pre-Primary Ctr	until filled
Psychologist	Special Services	03/17/2020
School Counselor	District	until filled
Summer Grounds (4 positions)	Grounds	until filled
Teacher, Elementary (2 positions)	District	until filled
Teacher, Middle School	District	until filled
Teacher, Secondary Science	District	until filled
Teacher, Family Consumer Science	District	until filled
Teacher, Special Education	Chestnut Hill ES	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.

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

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

**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**

March 16, 2020

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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](https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools)

Student Flyers:

[https://sites.google.com/
midlandps.org/studentflyers/](https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/)

Community Flyers:

[https://sites.google.com/
midlandps.org/communityflyers](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 ...

"The person who deserves most pity is a lonesome one on a rainy day who doesn't know how to read."

— Benjamin Franklin

