

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.

SPECIAL EDITION COMMUNIQUE

May 24, 2020

2019-2020 ... OH WHAT A (SCHOOL) YEAR!

Dear MPS Students, Staff and Families ...

In anyone's wildest imagination when we kicked off the 2019-20 school year just eight short months ago could we have predicted that our Memorial Day Weekend would look like it does today. Between months of fear, uncertainty and social distancing due to Covid-19, dams failing, worst flooding in our County's history, power outages, disaster recovery trucks/trailers everywhere, and the list goes on and on. If your family or someone close to you was directly affected by the floodwaters, you are in the thoughts and hearts of your MPS family!

Please know how incredibly proud and humbled I am to be part of the Midland community! Neighbors helping neighbors, community organizations and individuals stepping up to give a helping hand wherever they could, providing a hot meal to those working so hard to clean up the aftermath of the devastating floodwaters, our City/County officials and utility companies working tirelessly to make sure our infrastructure system is providing safe water and the services we rely on for our daily lives, the work of the Red Cross and United Way of Midland County coordinating the outpouring of outside goods and services being offered to the Midland County community, and the list goes on and on and on.

As you probably know, Midland Public Schools had the honor of providing care and support firsthand by opening Midland High as an emergency shelter. Please allow me to thank the MPS administrators, staff, medical professionals and many volunteers who worked tirelessly to provide a comfortable and welcoming place during a very scary time for our community. Those who got the shelter up and running so quickly were exhausted and sometimes overwhelmed, but we all worked together to make the best environment we possibly could for our neighbors. The outpouring of food, water, personal care items, infant supplies and so much more was so appreciated and truly humbling! Many of those who stayed at the MHS emergency shelter were elderly and/or handicapped and were frightened. Our staff and the many volunteers who came were kind, compassionate, patient and caring. It was a very tough time and a very special time!

Like many of our students and their families who were affected by the floodwaters, Dow High had standing water. Among other areas, our lovely newly-renovated Media Center took a direct hit by the floodwaters. We have had Serve Pro working their magic to remediate the mud and debris so we can restore this beautiful learning center for our Dow High Chargers for the upcoming school year.

You may be asking what the outcome of this past week means for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Our District Administrators are meeting Tuesday morning to plan a path forward. We are anticipating that our MPS teachers and students who were not directly affected by last week's flooding will continue the virtual learning that has been taking place through Friday, June 5. Please stay tuned. We will send more information following that meeting.

Please know that the Grab & Go Food Service is continuing. It is also important to know that this is not just for MPS families. This is for any child ages 0-18. The meals are being disbursed from MHS, all MPS elementary schools and from various sites via MPS school buses. <https://www.midlandps.org/Content2/mps-food-service-during-closure>

Finally, please allow me to recognize our 2020 Graduating Class. Our Seniors' final official day was this past Friday (May 22). These hardworking, goal-oriented graduates have completed their K-12 journey. We wish them all the best as they embark on the next leg of their life's journey ... whether it be post-secondary education, the world of work, the military, etc. ... please know the best wishes of your MPS family go with you. We can't wait to see the places you'll go and the accomplishments you'll realize. We are still tentatively making plans to hold a graduation ceremony July 24 at Dow Diamond. Please continue to watch the Communiques for updates regarding this event.

#MidlandStrong ... is not just a hashtag. It is a frame of mind for our strong community of modern pioneers! Midland Public Schools ... your public school district ... is proud to be part of this amazing community!

Please stay safe, strong & healthy!

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent



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>