

# Superintendent Communiqué

June 22, 2020 <> Volume 7, Issue 45



**Midland Public Schools**

*Inspiring Excellence*

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**MPS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Vision**

**Lead with respect, trust and courage.**

**Ensure an equitable, collaborative  
and inclusive culture.**

**Enable all to achieve success.**

## What will the 2020-21 School Year look like for Midland Public Schools?

### In-Person Learning: YES <> Virtual Learning: YES

Last week "Gov. Whitmer announced that Michigan schools may resume in-person learning in Phase 4 of the Safe Start plan, with strict safety measures in place."

My office has been receiving heartfelt communications from MPS parents on both sides relative to their preferred 2020-21 learning platform:

- ⇒ Parents who want their child in-school full time
- ⇒ Parents who want their child to continue in the virtual learning until they are more confident about COVID.

As a matter of fact, for the past couple of weeks, we included a Virtual Option Interest Survey in the Communiqué. As of this morning, we had received 376 responses to the question:

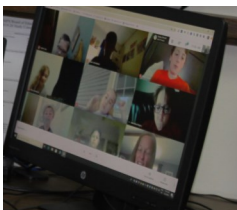
- ⇒ "Are you interested in a Virtual School option for your child for the Fall 2020-21 school year?"

**Poll Results: No: 50.3%; Yes: 25.8%; Maybe: 23.9%**

This truly is a decision that each family must make. As your school district, MPS is here to provide the learning options you seek and support your family as your child travels their K-12 educational journey!

MPS is making robust preparations for both learning platforms for the 2020-21 school year. Safety protocols including thorough cleaning and sanitizing of buildings/buses, and the purchase and staff development for CANVAS, an inclusive Learning Management System. MPS will look

forward to receiving "Michigan's Return to School Roadmap" that the Governor spoke about for further detailed information about what we will be allowed and not allowed to do as we look ahead to the fall.

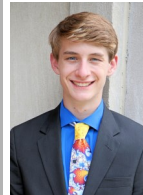


## Congratulations to the MHS team who took first place at this year's A.H. Nickless Innovation Award Competition

### The CD-ROM Midland High School Team:

Leader:

Team Members:



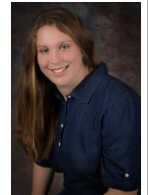
**Corbin  
Fleming-Dittenber**



**Drew  
Scheffer**



**Timmy  
Kipfmiller**



**Erika  
Leasher**

The team's project was a meal-planning app to help low-income households save money and reduce food waste. "While there are many meal-planning apps available, none of them are very useful for low-income families. These families need low-cost, nutritious ingredients that minimize food waste and are easy to prepare," the team members wrote in their project abstract. "Existing apps target special diets, focus on fine dining and do not consider the restricted. Our app will address the problem of food waste and saving money for low-income families." The team was coached by MHS teacher, Robert Fox. Each team member received a \$5,000 scholarship and a \$20,000 STEM grant for the school. In addition to the scholarships, grant and plaque, the team will receive a 3D-printed traveling trophy to showcase at their school for the next year. The A.H. Nickless Innovation Award was created to honor the memory of the late Arthur H. Nickless, a local innovator with a goal of inspiring passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Twelve teams entered this year's competition.

**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>

# MPS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Update

**MPS DEI Vision:** *Lead with respect, trust and courage. Ensure an equitable, collaborative and inclusive culture. Enable all to achieve success.*

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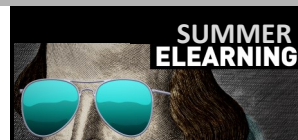
**Midland Public Schools**  
Inspiring Excellence

MPS Families & Community Members: MPS believes we are on this DEI growth journey together. As MPS staff and students continue to educate ourselves on these topics and take action in alignment with the strategy, our District is committed to sharing our progress and learning with you. We will regularly include resources for adult and student learning in our Communique. We look forward to your feedback as we together learn and grow.

- ⇒ **STAFF:** In recent weeks, MPS Teachers & Administrators have been participating in virtual courageous conversations and open dialogue about our MPS culture and where change is needed. In the coming weeks and months, we will continue these discussions to continue actions toward a more equitable and inclusive culture in all segments of Midland Public Schools.
- ⇒ **PETITION:** As you may have heard, MPS has received a petition with 2,000+ signatures from a group of passionate, insightful MPS graduates who are “respectfully insisting that MPS craft a comprehensive Elementary, Middle and High School curricula plan inclusive of Black history and specifically addressing systemic racism and White privilege; (ii) require diversity and inclusion training for all staff; (iii) encourage its peer schools in the Greater Mid-Michigan area to do the same.” MPS administrators met with this group of graduates last week. A rich dialogue took place about the group’s ideas and the District’s plans going forward. We are proud of these MPS grads and look forward to further discussion and actions.
- ⇒ **RESOURCES:** Our staff will be studying the book *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin D’Angelo this summer. It’s a springboard for the learning and professional development we will begin in the fall. Several of our teachers and administrators are highly recommending the book *How to Be an Anti-racist* by Ibram X. Kendi. This book is a good companion to *White Fragility* and “asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it.” These books are in stock and can be ordered at the following Black-owned bookstores: <https://lithub.com/you-can-order-today-from-these-black-owned-independent-bookstores/>

## High School Summer eLearning Opportunity

As MPS has for many summers, now that the school year has ended, Midland Public Schools will offer 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. 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 began 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. To register or for info, please visit [www.midlandps.org/content/Summer%20Program](http://www.midlandps.org/content/Summer%20Program) or Principal Jeff Lauer (lauerjm@midlandps.org).



For podcasters, Dr. Brene Brown’s new series *Unlocking Us* features a recent interview with Austin Channing Brown on her book *I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. Dr. Brown’s whole podcast series is excellent. <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-austin-channing-brown-on-im-still-here-black-dignity-in-a-world-made-for-whiteness/>

**Note: The following are community programs; they are not hosted by MPS.**

### Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

is again hosting their summer reading program.

This year it is a Virtual program entitled, “*Imagine Your Story*.” This great program is for everyone—ages infant through adult. We hope you and your child will check it out.

Here is the link:

<https://www.gadml.org/srp>



### Racial Justice Story Hour

Beginning Thursday June 25, the United Church of Christ, Midland will be hosting a virtual racial justice story hour.

Each week, they will share a picture book online related to racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity followed by a time for questions, answers, and learning.

Discussions will be moderated. Stories will be read by various community members.

Once you complete this form to register, you will be sent the private weekly link via email each Thursday morning for the rest of the summer. <https://bit.ly/3dRF7li>

This learning opportunity is for children and families in the community to develop understanding, empathy and appreciation for our many differences.

## Midland Public Schools Summer Hours



- ✓ Elementary offices closed through August 7.
- ✓ Through August 14, the MPS Administration Center and Middle & High School offices will be open Monday-Thursday and closed on Fridays. (Full-year staff members will work 10 hours each day M-Th.)
- ✓ 4th of July week—MPS is closed Thursday & Friday, July 2 & 3.



**Design an Ad Winners** — Each year, our wonderful community partners at *Midland Daily News/Hearst Media Communications* work in conjunction with MPS art teachers and students to publish ads for local businesses designed by student artists. This year's ads were published in the May 16 *Midland Daily News*. Unfortunately, Covid prevented their annual awards evening hosted by MDN. Below are the Grade 5-12 student artist winners for this year's annual Design an Ad Contest. Thank you to MDN, the local businesses who placed the ads and the Art teachers who supported our students' artistic efforts. Awards are being personally delivered to each winner.



#### These students received "Best of Show" Awards

Connie Cai	9	HH Dow
Lauren Haines	10	HH Dow
Adelyn Mikols	8	Jefferson
Brianna Perez	8	Northeast

#### MPS students' ads were selected as winners

Abbie Steele	5	Adams
Jay Streeter	5	Siebert
Tyler Place	5	Siebert
Lauren Huang	5	Adams
Stephanie Haskett	5	Adams
Cecilia Smith	5	Siebert
Jane Whittaker	5	Woodcrest
Alana Pretto	5	Woodcrest
Heidi Fix	5	Woodcrest
Luz Maldonado	5	Adams
Addison Jones	5	Adams
Benjamin Warner	5	Chestnut Hill
Owen McNames	5	Siebert
Deion Watkins	5	Adams
Maggie Frazee	5	Chestnut Hill
Karen Gray	5	Siebert
Reed Vander Waal	5	Chestnut Hill
Hannah Brown	5	Chestnut Hill
Elaina Ringgold	5	Chestnut Hill
Addison Rice	6	Northeast
Avery Nickel	6	Jefferson
Jenna Seybert	6	Northeast
Cristina Geib	6	Northeast
Nathan Pham	6	Northeast
Jake Bush	6	Northeast
Porter Pritchard	6	Northeast
Noah Wigren	6	Northeast
Jacob Lind	6	Northeast
Cierra Collison	6	Northeast
Tega Kamatoy	6	Northeast
MaKayla Long	6	Northeast
Alexis Hussey	6	Northeast
Samantha Thomas	6	Northeast
Ella Riddle	6	Northeast
Julianne Hoge	6	Northeast
Noah Anderson	6	Northeast
Ondine Matteucci	7	Jefferson
Olivia Fernette	7	Jefferson
Macy Such	7	Jefferson
Alex Grocholski	7	Jefferson
Delaney Kepsel	7	Jefferson
Abigail Warren	7	Northeast

#### MPS students' ads were selected as winners (continued)

Ethan Deborski	7	Northeast
Marison Clement	7	Jefferson
Francis Borden	7	Jefferson
Ariana Goodwin	7	Jefferson
Isabel Dowker	7	Jefferson
Sydney Roberts	7	Jefferson
Allison Nussear	7	Jefferson
Isabella Carmona	7	Northeast
Colton Alvarez	7	Northeast
Kieley Pauls	7	Northeast
Livana Moua	7	Northeast
Isaac Bowers	8	Northeast
Coral Cooper	8	Jefferson
Jayla Kessler	8	Jefferson
Emma Thomas	8	Jefferson
Keegan Luick	8	Jefferson
Elisecia Abbas	8	Jefferson
Ivory Farris	8	Jefferson
Hope Chuma	8	Jefferson
Trevor Halberg	8	Northeast
Abby Watts	8	Northeast
Jasmin Holden	8	Northeast
Violet Trosen	8	Northeast
Madison Skutt	8	Northeast
Natake Servinski	8	Jefferson
Olivia Fernette	8	Jefferson
Reece Johnson	8	Jefferson
Helen Pendleton	9	HH Dow
Nathan Holmes	9	HH Dow
Madison Poole	9	HH Dow
Jacob Bao Nguyen	9	HH Dow
Danya Lee Dasilaban	9	HH Dow
Corrine Cai	9	HH Dow
Kathleen Maloney	9	Midland High
Emily Kraenzlein	9	Midland High
Jeanette Henry	10	HH Dow
Jericho Sears	10	HH Dow
Jessica Saimen	10	HH Dow
Samone Burroughs	10	HH Dow
Eva Poprave	10	Midland High
Kelly Dang	11	HH Dow
Katelyn Murray	11	HH Dow
Carter Senserbuugh	11	HH Dow
Maggie Smith	11	HH Dow

**Congrats to all of these talented MPS student artists!**





## NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER FOR 2020-21 4-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

*MPS has proven programs that provide a  
SOLID EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION for our  
community's youngest learners!*

# 4

### Two 4-Year-Old MPS Preschool Programs: (923-6411)

#### International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Proven, inquiry-based reasonably-priced tuition preschool that follows the IB PYP foundation at all MPS elementary schools. MPS invites you to compare our fees against area preschools. We are confident you will find MPS offers a great value!

#### 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

(989) 923-6411 GSRP Registration Open: [www.michiganpreschool.org](http://www.michiganpreschool.org) For  
Preschool forms: [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org) → Parents → Preschool Program

### MPS Kindergarten Program: (923-5026)

# 5

**Will your child be 5 before 9/1/2020?** If so, now is the time to register him/her for the Fall of 2020 Kindergarten class.

**If your child's birthday is between 9/1/2020 and 12/1/2020**, we have the waiver for you to complete so your child can be part of the Fall 2020 Kdg. class.



For Kindergarten forms: [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org) → Parents → Kindergarten



**Midland Public Schools**  
Inspiring Excellence

**2020 MPS Graduate photos  
began  
scrolling on  
the MCFTA  
digital sign  
today**

MIDLAND  
CENTER  
FOR THE  
ARTS

Below are the dates that the Midland and HH Dow High 2020 Graduate photos will scroll on the Eastman Road sign:

HH Dow High  
June 29 and July 13

Midland High  
June 30 and July 14

*Thank you,  
Midland  
Center for  
the Arts!*



**2019-20 REPORT CARDS  
NOW available in Home  
Access Center (HAC),  
however,  
ONLY UNTIL JULY 9.**

After that date, the District will be preparing for the HAC rollover of student records for the 2020-21 school year.

Please contact your school office staff to request a copy of your child's report card once the HAC window has closed or with any report card questions you have.

If you need your child's report card when your building is closed, please feel free to contact the District via MPSCconnect.



# Free Preschool

For Qualifying Families

[MichiganPreschool.org](http://MichiganPreschool.org)

[Preschoolpartnership.org](http://Preschoolpartnership.org)

**844-492-7707**



These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education.



# 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
Bus Driver, Substitute	MPS Transportation	Until filled
Coach, Assistant, Football	HH Dow HS	Until filled
Coach, Assistants, Football (2)	Midland HS	Until filled
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Boys'	HH Dow HS	Until filled
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Boys'	Midland HS	Until filled
Coach, Head, Basketball, Girls'	Midland HS	Until filled
Paraprofessional	Science Resources Center	July 1, 2020
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District-wide	Until filled
Preschool Teaching Associate (Part-time)	Carpenter PPC	Until filled
School Psychologist	MPS Special Services	Until filled
Speech & Language Psychologist (.5 FTE)	MPS Sepcial Services	Until filled
Teacher, Elementary	District	Until filled
Teacher, Secondary, Business Education	Midland HS	Until filled
Teacher, Special Education	Central Park ES	Until filled
Teacher, Summer School	Central Park ES	Until filled
Teacher, Summer School, Elementary	District	Until filled
Teacher, Summer School	Plymouth ES	Until filled
Teacher, Summer School	Midland HS	Until filled
Teacher, Summer School	HH Dow HS	Until filled
Teacher, Summer School	Northeast MS	Until filled
Teacher, Summer School	Jefferson MS	Until filled

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Midland Public Schools  
600 East Carpenter  
Midland, Michigan 48640

### MPS Website:

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

"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me."

— Jim Valvano

### The MPS 2020-21

#### Schools of Choice

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



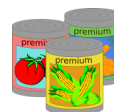
If you would like more info, visit our website:

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

- Community
- Schools of Choice

### Upcoming Local Food Pantries

June 24, 2020	Blessed Sacrament
June 25, 2020	North Midland Family Ctr.
July 2, 2020	West Midland Family Ctr.
July 8, 2020	Aldersgate
July 9, 2020	Coleman Family Center
July 23, 2020	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
July 26, 2020	North Midland Family Center
August 4, 2020	Midland High
August 21, 2020	Aldersgate



Happy Father's Day  
MPS Dads!