



# Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

## Superintendent Communique

August 10, 2020 ▶ Volume 8 ▶ Edition 02

[www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org) ▶ (989) 923-5001 ▶ @MidlandPS

### Midland Public Schools District Vision Statement

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

(Adopted by the MPS Board of Education July 20, 2020)

### MPS Virtual Academy Course Catalog

Thank you for your patience as we worked through the development of our MPS Virtual Academy and Secondary Hybrid Models and Course Catalog.

MPS Virtual Academy  
Course Catalog Link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16suykdGwyY1OteX1UvIM7HWKN-uYd4PA/view?usp=sharing>

**Mandatory Form:** If your child is planning to attend on-line classes via the MPS Virtual Academy full-time or part-time in combination with F2F classes via the Middle/High School Hybrid Model, it is imperative that families complete the "Virtual School Confirmation or Withdrawal Form" by the end of the day **WEDNESDAY (8/12)**. Link to form: <https://forms.gle/Vh34BgrQiYyWhDZ7>

Note: A student who does not submit their confirmation/withdrawal form by the end of the day, August 12, will attend their MPS school F2F for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

MPS Virtual Academy Website  
Link for more info: <http://www.midlandps.org/Content/virtual-academy>

Face-to-Face Instruction: Families whose child(ren) will attend F2F do not need to do anything at this time. You will receive information from your child's school soon.

### MPS Board Takes Action on DEI Proclamation Resolution

At the August 3 Special Board of Education meeting MPS Board members approved the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Proclamation "**Resolution to Change the System, Eliminate Racism and Create More Equitable and Inclusive Schools for All.**"

Here are just a couple of the Resolution statements included in the Resolution:

- WHEREAS, the Midland Public Schools Board of Education stands firmly against all acts of individual and systemic racism; and we will openly talk, challenge and confront racism.
- WHEREAS, as a School Board and District we value each and every student, family and staff member and are committed to creating an equitable and anti-racist system that honors and elevates all.

We hope you will take a moment to read the entire Resolution:

<https://www.midlandps.org/docs/district/depts/10/DEI/FinalRacismBoarddeclarationBOEApproved080320.pdf>

### COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL TOOLKIT

Below is the link to a 20-page document that was published by the Grand Traverse County Health Department. Please note that this is the resource Midland Public Schools will refer to regarding COVID-19 protocols.

Link: <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:86ad5983-cca6-480e-8dee-dd4247c26f80>

COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL  
TOOLKIT



MPS First Day of School  
for the 2020-21 school year is  
**Monday, August 31, 2020.**

No School Friday, September 4  
and Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day  
holiday weekend.

Here is a link to the 2020-21 MPS school  
year calendar: [View the 2020-2021 District  
Calendar](#)



**MPSCConnect** is a convenient communications tool for you to connect with me.

Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or another MPS staff member will do all we can to reply to your message within the next work day.

<https://www.midlandps.org/content2/706>

— Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent

## MPS remains committed to ensuring an equitable, collaborative, and inclusive culture that empowers all to achieve success!

In the July 15 Special Edition Communique, MPS issued a "Call to Action" asking all members of our school community to identify racial injustices and bring those forth for action. Recently a member of our school community shared a concern about the inclusiveness of Edgenuity, our vendor-provided online curriculum. The district reviewed the specific concern and reached out to Edgenuity to share the concern and learn more about their diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.

In addition to providing the below statement, a representative from Edgenuity met with MPS District staff to explain in more detail their curriculum review and revision process with a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Based on the information provided, MPS is confident that Edgenuity is committed to providing inclusive, accurate, and culturally responsive curriculum.

Statement from Edgenuity:

*We are very thankful that you brought this to our attention, as we are actively working with our team to address concerns just like this one in our curricula. We are determined to revise any of our content that presents bias, unfair representation, or insensitive material. We will definitely take a look at this course and strive to do better. Thank you again for letting us know.*

*I also want to let you know that we are taking the following steps to ensure that we are improving our practices around diversity, equity, and inclusion:*

- *Led by our Curriculum teams, we will conduct independent, third-party audits of our curricula, products, and services for bias.*
- *We will conduct an independent, third-party audit of our internal practices and policies for bias.*
- *We will introduce required bias and DEI training initially for our managers and then expanding that to all employees.*

**Annual Notices** — Per statute, the Midland Public Schools must notify stakeholders of applicable state and federal laws.

All students and parents are expected to review and be knowledgeable of the information included herein annually. These annual notices are included in MPS student handbooks, located on each of the schools websites.

Here is the link to the Annual Notices information:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:0629ec9c-5d81-4201-81c1-758d6ea8485d>

## Community DEI Workshop Opportunities

The Midland community has two DEI groups—Midland County Inclusion Alliance (MCIA) and Midland County Inclusion Council (MCIC). These groups' consist of Midland area business leaders, volunteers and others "dedicated to fostering a community that values diversity, ensures equality and cultivates inclusion."

MCIA & MCIC are hosting several upcoming events for community members (high school age and older) regarding DEI.

### August 15 at 10:00 am — Inclusion 101

Will discuss why inclusion matters and how it improves our community

### August 20 at 7 pm — How to be an Ally

Will focus on what it means to be an "ally" and why allies are important in our community.

### September 17 — Inclusion 101 for Families [Grades K-3 at 7 pm; Grades 4-8, 8 pm]

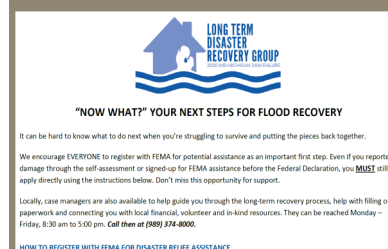
Two separate introductory webinars will be held (led by MPS teachers) that will assist families of school-age children with age-appropriate information on diversity, equity and inclusion and the importance of an inclusive community.

Click here to register for any/all of these workshops: <https://midlandinclusioncouncil.com>

United Way of Midland County asked our office to share the attached document with MPS stakeholders who have been adversely affected by the 2020 Mid-Michigan dam failure.

Here is a link to the document, "**Now What? Your Next Steps for Flood Recovery**" from the Long Term Disaster Recovery Group.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:de35b8d5-83a4-46af-bf14-d23730b49809>



Click on the link above for the entire 2-page document





## Special Services Director Announcement

We send our best wishes to Kevin Gosson, MPS Special Services Director, who has announced his retirement as of the end of September.

Midland Public Schools welcomes Jennifer Brunsell as the new Midland PS Special Services Director. Ms. Brunsell comes to MPS from the Bay-Arenac ISD where she held the position of Special Education Director for Bay City Public Schools. In addition to the Director of Special Education, she also held the position of Transition Coordinator for Bay and Arenac Counties.

Ms. Brunsell has multiple years of experience teaching Special Education within the Saginaw and Bay-Arenac Intermediate School Districts. She holds a Masters of Education Leadership from SVSU and her Bachelor of Science in Education from Central Michigan University.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Brunsell to Midland Public Schools.

## Bond construction work continues across the District this summer

The 2.95 mills bond work dollars continue to do great things for Midland Public Schools' buildings.

Work continues at the high schools, middle schools and throughout the District. As you can see in these photos, the new turf has been installed and is looking great at Midland Community Stadium and the new gymnasium floor has been installed at Jefferson Middle School.

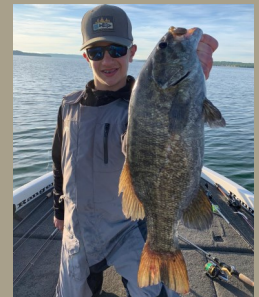
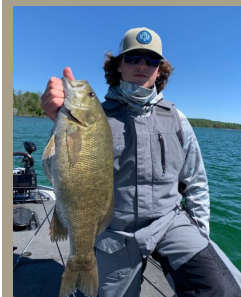
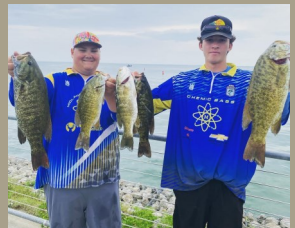
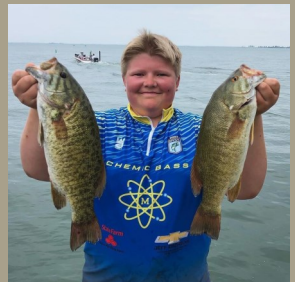


Thank you MPS Voters for making MPS facilities safe, secure, comfortable and modern for students, staff, families and community members to enjoy and utilize.



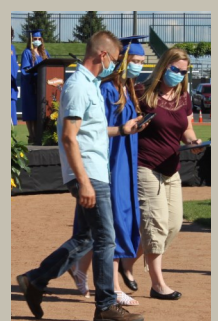
Congratulations to the **Midland High Bass Team** who fished in several tournaments this summer.

There are over 90 high school teams in Michigan's B.A.S.S. Nation. Midland High has four teams of two anglers. Currently, the Chemics have three teams ranked in the top 25, two in the top 15 and even one in the top 10. These anglers are incredibly skilled, talented and very knowledgeable about lake and river systems. There is a lot of research, planning and preparation that goes into fishing these tournaments.





# MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020 GRADUATION MEMORIES AT DOW DIAMOND — FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020



BEST WISHES TO 2020 MPS GRADUATES. WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR ABOUT "OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO." (quoting our good friend, Dr. Seuss)





# Midland Public Schools

*Inspiring Excellence*

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## JOIN OUR MPS TEAM — Current Open Positions

MPS Employment Opportunities Link:

<https://www.midlandps.org/Content/Employment%20Opportunities>

### MPS District Vision

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Position	Location	Posting End Date
Bus Driver, Substitute	MPS Transportation	Until filled
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls'	HH Dow HS	Until filled
Coach, Head, Soccer, Girls'	HH Dow HS	Until filled
Coach, Track, Head, Girls	Midland HS	August 20, 2020
Electronic Learning Facilitator	Midland HS	Until Filled
Paraprofessional, Instructional Support	Carpenter PPC	August 18, 2020
Paraprofessional, Special Education	Chestnut Hill ES	August 18, 2020
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District-wide	Until filled
School Psychologist	MPS Special Services	Until filled
Teacher, Elementary	MPS District	Until filled
Teacher, Secondary English	MPS District	Until filled
Teacher, Secondary Math	MPS District	Until filled
Teacher, Secondary Science	MPS District	Until filled
Teacher, Secondary Social Studies	MPS District	Until filled
Teacher, Special Education	Northeast MS	Until filled

**MPS Website:** [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org)

**Twitter:**

@MichaelSharrow2

@MidlandPS

**YouTube Channel:**

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

[MidlandPublicSchools](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

Email: [board@midlandps.org](mailto:board@midlandps.org)



## MPS IS GEARING UP FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR!

### Midland City Education Association Memorial Scholarship Recipients

The Midland City Education Association recently awarded four \$1000 scholarships to high school graduating children of MCEA members. The following graduates are the four exceptional winners.

#### Madeleine Lang

Madeleine graduated from Midland High School and will be attending Grand Valley State University in the fall to study biochemistry on a pre-med track. Her parents are Heidi and Paul Lang and Mike Trebilcock.



#### Evan Metiva

Evan graduated from H. H. Dow High School and will be attending Alma College in the fall, majoring in Business Administration and Management. Evan will also be playing football for the Scots. His parents are Katherine and Mike Metiva.



#### Alec Newton

Alec graduated from H. H. Dow High School and will be attending Ferris State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Construction Management. His parents are Amy and Mark Newton.



#### Hannah Woehrle

Hannah recently graduated from Midland High School and will be pursuing a degree in International Relations. Her parents are Ann Schmitz and Jim Woehrle.



### Wise words to ponder ...

*"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." — Philo*