

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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May 11, 2020 <> Volume 7, Issue 40

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.

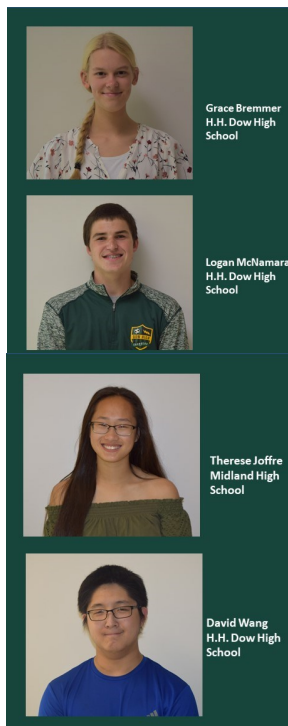
High School students from around the State participated in the first Flint Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which was held online. Congratulations to four MPS high school students who received very impressive awards during the event.

The following was recently posted on MPS community partner—MSU St. Andrews' Facebook page:
*"Congratulations to all participants in the Flint Regional Science & Technology Fair. Winners were announced last night and four of our students from the 2019 summer research program received awards: The team of **Grace Bremmer, Therese Joffe and Logan McNamara** won one special award and 5th place in grand awards for their work on Fabrications of Scaffolds For Bone Repair and Regeneration."*

David Wang received a 6th place grand award for his Quantum Computing project.

We are so proud of our young scientists!"

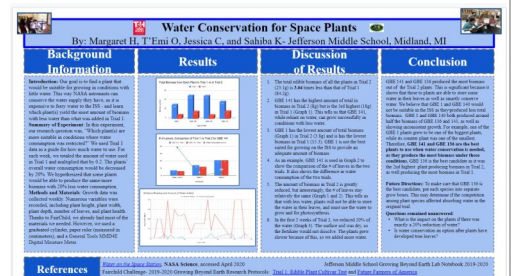
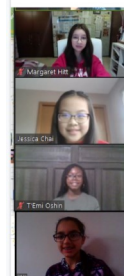
The special team award received by **Grace, Therese and Logan** for their project, Fabrications of Scaffolds for Bone Repair and Regeneration, was the McClaren Health Award for Excellence in Cellular and Molecular Biology. Congratulations Grace, Therese, Logan and David! We are proud of you!



In early November, **Jefferson Middle School** students conducted Trial 1 research according to NASA guidelines on growing 3 different species of leafy plants for consideration to grow on the **International Space Station (ISS)**. Then in early February, students designed their own test to compare with Trial 1. The students chose water conservation when growing the second set of plants, as water is limited in space travel and on the ISS. The project was to continue up until spring break, so students gathered the supplies and continued to monitor and collect data about the plants while the schools were closed. Data collected was plant height, plant width, number of leaves, health and water given. At the end, plants were harvested and biomass was measured to compare with Trial 1.

About 15 students were involved in Trial 1 and 2 research processes. Late April, NASA and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Florida sent an email offering participants an opportunity to virtually present their poster to NASA scientists. **Four Jefferson Huskies, Margaret Hitt, T'Emi Oshin, Jessica Chai, and Sahiba Kaur**, took the responsibility of preparing a presentation to share the poster and information. After 48 hours and one rehearsal with Jefferson Teacher Mrs. Christine Brillhart and Mentor Mrs. Tsay, students Zoomed with 12 NASA Scientists from all areas. **Jefferson was one of 19 middle and high schools across the United States and Puerto Rico to present online.** No places were awarded this year due to the cancelled Student Research Symposium.

Yet, JMS still earned recognition for the school—**Special Merit for Professional Presentation.**



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>

2020 SENIOR/GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Needless to say, with the current need for social distancing, MPS, as other school districts, has been seeking ways to honor and recognize our 2020 Seniors/Graduates.

A few different things that have been put in place so far:

- ⇒ Friday Night Lights that took place in April at Midland Community Stadium.
- ⇒ The HH Dow High and Midland High Sports Boosters purchased lawn signs for the students to put on their lawn. Here are a few of the photos of the signs for Charger graduates when they were delivered last week by Dow High staff members. (Note: Midland High's signs will be delivered this week. We will have MHS photos in next week's Communique.)
- ⇒ Midland Center for the Arts has graciously agreed to partner with MPS to have our 2020 senior/graduate photos scrolling on their digital sign on Eastman Road. Watch the MCFTA sign ... the senior photos will be scrolling soon.



Thank you Community Partner, Quick Reliable Printing (QRP), for providing this banner out in front of HH Dow High to recognize the 2020 Graduates.



The MPS DSA NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!
NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 12, 2020

The Midland Public Schools' **Distinguished Service Awards (DSA)** were established to honor MPS support personnel.

Here is the link for 2020 DSA Information:

<https://www.midlandps.org/2020-DSA-Announcement>

The following MPS employee groups are eligible for nomination: Administrative Assistant/Office Professional, Grounds, Manager, Maintenance, Paraprofessional, Technician, Transportation.

This award is separate from the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Award. Support staff only are eligible for this award.

(Please do not nominate an administrator or teacher; they are not eligible for this award.)

Here is a link to the on-line nomination form: <https://forms.gle/9m3q9fMTKKtEQ7h9>

Nominate a great MPS "support staffer" today!



Thank you to the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for making the MPS Distinguished Service Awards possible!

The **Midland High Focus newspaper staff** recently received notice by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA) that the Chemic journalism students would be receiving a number of awards. Because of the pandemic, instead of the large annual high school journalism convention typically held in the spring, this year's MIPA awards were livestreamed. The awards were held via YouTube last Tuesday and viewed by thousands of students and teachers from around the State. Mr. Woehrle and *Focus* Journalism students held a watch party in the MHS parking lot to see the awards on YouTube. About 12-15 Chemics enjoyed watching the awards together (of course, following strict social distancing protocols).



The 2019-20 *Focus* journalism students earned 53 Individual Awards and 14 First Place Awards this year. Both of those numbers are award records for the MHS journalism program. One of the winning 1st Place entries was received by **Garrett Kuhn who was named 1st Place Sports Feature Photo in the State for this amazing photo.**

Mr. Woehrle made these comments to the MHS staff recently about the photo, "One of the first place entries is this photograph. It ran on Page 24 of the 9/27/19 edition of the *Focus* and was taken at Victory Day in September. It's

hard to believe that day was during this same school year that we're currently experiencing. To me, it feels like another era entirely. But I always thought Victory Day represented MHS at (or near) its best as a school/community/Chemic family. It was an important day in the life of our school, and I know of lot of YOU helped to make that a possibility. The photo documents that pretty well, and this week it was broadcast across the state as a testament to all of the things the students and staff of MHS did on that day (and every day) to make the world a better place."



As you know, last week was Teacher Appreciation Week.

Gov. Whitmer tweeted a thank you to Michigan's dedicated teachers. Here is the link if you would like to check it out.



<https://twitter.com/GovWhitmer/status/1257370540261683200>

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

→ Community
→ Schools of Choice

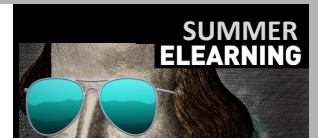
The MPS Technology Department received word of the **2020 Personal Purchase Program** where staff, students and families may purchase electronic devices at Michigan educational prices through September 30, 2020! Several of the awarded vendors on the 2020 REMC Device Purchasing Bid are offering discounts to staff, students and families on computers and accessories purchased for PERSONAL use! If you are looking for a computer or other device, check out this link for more info <https://www.midlandps.org/News/511#sthash.Mj3YEDws.dpbs>.



High School Summer eLearning Opportunity

Once school has ended for the school year, Midland Public Schools will once again be offering 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. Registration information is now available. Our online program provides students the opportunity to recover lost credits or explore new learning through online courses which students can work on 24/7! The program will heed all safety recommendations set forth by the state. 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 will begin on June 15, 2020 and must be completed by August 13, 2020. Students may only register for one course at a time.

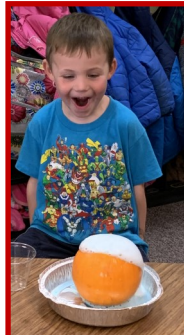
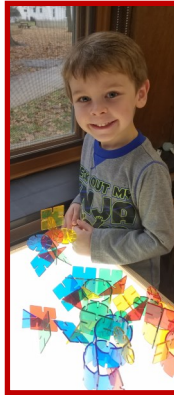
The cost for each course is \$150 for Midland Public Schools' students and \$175 for students outside of the MPS district. If you would like additional information or would like to register for a course, please visit www.midlandps.org/content/Summer%20Program. For more information, contact Principal Jeff Lauer at lauerjm@midlandps.org.



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!*

Call 989-923-5026 with any and all questions!



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TECHNOLOGY ISSUES???

Have a
broken MPS
Chromebook?

Click on this link
for virtual and
physical support
information:

<https://www.midlandps.org/News/499#sthash.JxBrsGgN.dpbs>



Is your home internet connection
slow or intermittent?

Click here to view a document
provided by the MPS Technology
Team with helpful tips for best
internet practices:

<https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/best-practices>



As you know, last week was Teacher Appreciation Week. We heard so many great ways MPS students, families, PTOs and school Booster groups expressed their thanks to MPS teachers for their hard work and dedication (especially during these extraordinary times). Here is an adorable sidewalk message from a Siebert student that says,

**"To the world you're a teacher,
but to your students you're a
Super Hero!"**



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

4

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

For Preschool forms: 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 → Parents → Kindergarten



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Important phone numbers

- Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline 1-855-444-3911
- Michigan Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741
- Michigan Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

If you need more support, contact your school's phone number on the last page of this Communique to connect with your school counselor or family intervention specialist.

A recent study shows that the more a teen is inactive, the more likely they are to experience symptoms of depression. Exercise has many benefits, including your brain producing more endorphins, focusing on the activity helps to forget about other worries, and improves sleep. Staying active is one of the most effective ways to stay mentally healthy and to cope with worry, sadness, and isolation. Here are some tips on starting a new routine - set goals, virtually work with a friend and encourage each other, try different activities.

How do I begin to incorporate more activity into my day?

It is good to start by recognizing that your resources and energy may be depleted.

*The more inactive and slowed down we are,
the worse and more hopeless we feel - it's a cycle.*

- **Don't wait to feel motivated!** Sometimes it may feel like we need to wait until we feel better before we get more active, but actually our motivation often follows action! Our brain can follow our body. We have to do things before we feel ready. So even though you may not feel like doing it, trust that once you get going, the energy will find you and you will feel better!
- **Plan for the activity.** Think realistic: What time and where will you be able to do your activity? Even if it is 15 minutes of movement, it will be beneficial!
- **Get creative.** There are many free home exercise programs and virtual yoga and dance classes available. But you could also be active by going for a walk, playing charades, playing an instrument, doing yard work, cleaning your room, offering to do family chores, drawing or painting, cooking dinner, baking, making a collage or DIY project, or playing with your pet outside. What other ideas of being active can you think of?
- **Be consistent.** Remember, we may not enjoy these activities right away, but they can still help us feel better in the long run if we stick with them. What we do every day is more important than what we do on any one day. Stick to your plan 5 to 10 times and you will see that it starts to feel more like a habit!

(<https://storage.trailstowellness.org/trails-2/covid-19-resources/self-care-during-covid-19-for-everyone.pdf>)

Here is a link to hundreds of free workouts: https://active.popsugar.com/?utm_source=popsugar.com&utm_medium=editorialpost03162020&utm_campaign=active-free-launch

Be Well,
Your Social
Emotional
Learning
Team

Central Park Elementary Family Intervention Specialists

⇒ Danielle Fox, LLMSW & Katie Hilliard, LMSW —

HH Dow High Counselor

⇒ Lori Hallberg, LLPC

Midland High School Counselors

⇒ Jessica Harrold, M.A., & Hayley Stepaniak, LLPC

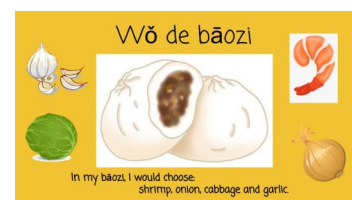
Plymouth Elementary Family Intervention Specialist

⇒ Erin Pung, MA/LLP



MPS Elementary World Language

Elementary students have been busy engaging in learning through their World Language classes. In a recent lesson, Spanish students at Carpenter, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert and Woodcrest explored the topic of foods through a video about tacos from around the world. Students in Young 5s through 2nd grade then expressed likes and dislikes while students in 3rd through 5th grades created their own unique taco creations. As well as completing their assignment, they voted on the best taco in town. At Chestnut Hill, Taco Bell was the preferred location with their own home being a close second. At Woodcrest and Adams, Mandarin students did a similar lesson involving the traditional Chinese food, Bāozi.



We hope MPS
Moms had a ...

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
Day!

Midland Public Schools' FIRST Lego League Jr. Season Recap

Congratulations to our *FIRST Lego League Jr Boomtown Build* teams! With the program now offered in all MPS elementary schools, approximately 150 students in Grades 2 and 3 were able to participate. Special thanks to our coordinators, volunteer mentors, parents and students at each school for making the season such a success. Unfortunately, Covid-19 had other plans. The final step, their grand finale--the Great Lakes Bay FLL Jr. Expo, had to be cancelled. Despite not having an Expo where they would be able to demonstrate their designs and explain the research and work they'd done, every student on every team has a reason to feel accomplished! Using engineering, design, programming and automation skills, each team built a Boomtown model with features focused on accessibility, durability, environmental friendliness and beauty.

At **Adams**, the students had a fun time including windmills for power, hotels, motorized elevators, aquariums, space museums, wind turbines, housing and more in their Boomtowns. The **Central Park** team meetings were filled with cooperation and team building practice as they learned to lean on teammates for support and ideas. Seeing the students brainstorming, programming and engineering cohesively as a team was very inspiring. At **Chestnut Hill**, teams in their inaugural season worked hard to create accessible, durable and environmentally friendly towns and shopping centers. They really enjoyed learning and working together. The **Plymouth** teams applied excellent teamwork skills in researching the best ways to build a city. They had a lot of fun expressing themselves through their collaborative designs. Our **Siebert** teams enjoyed learning about sustainable cities, engineering, programming and building. Each team worked collaboratively building off of each other's ideas, contributing to the final model. Finally, at **Woodcrest**, the teams all enjoyed learning about engineering and building sustainable cities while improving their team building skills. Students from **The Charge**, **Dow High's Robotics team**, were excited for the opportunity to assist as mentors on several teams and prepare activities for the Expos. I am sure that all students (younger and older) are already excited for the coming season.

Congratulations to all 26 of our FIRST Lego League JR teams from Midland Public Schools for an adventurous, educational, and successful Boomtown Build season!



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Adams Elem. FLL Jr. Teams



Central Park Elem. FLL Jr. Teams



MORE 2019-20 ELEMENTARY FLL JR. TEAM PHOTOS ON PAGE 7!

Chestnut Hill Elem. FLL Jr. Teams



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Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence



Siebert Elem. FLL Jr. Teams



Plymouth Elem. FLL Jr. Teams



Woodcrest Elem. FLL Jr. Teams





Looking for specific resources during the COVID-19 crisis?

Northeast Michigan 211 is a great place to start ...

<https://www.211nemichigan.org/>

As our community journeys through the COVID-19 crisis, the Midland Community Success Panel would like to hear from area residents to understand how everyone is doing.

The PERMAH **Wellbeing Survey** will help by providing immediate feedback and ideas to increase wellbeing and help to identify ways to best support our community.

Survey link: <https://midland.permahsurvey.com/>

When you take the survey (in about 10 minutes) you will:

- Step on the PERMAH Wellbeing scale and see how the recent changes are shaping your wellbeing.
- Immediately see your results – including your levels of thriving and struggle – and discover why stress doesn't have to undermine your wellbeing or performance right now.
- Create tiny daily wellbeing changes by choosing from 200+ evidence-based wellbeing activities that can help you, your family, your colleagues and our community.
- Download your tailored wellbeing plan packed with tips and questions to help guide your wellbeing journey.



Student Personal Items Located In the School

Our principals are developing formal plans to have student personal items returned to students and/or parents. It is our plan to wait until the Stay Safe, Stay Home Order is lifted before allowing this to occur. If a student has an item they need immediately and cannot wait, we are asking parents to email their Principal. The Principal will retrieve the item for you and have a curbside pickup process. When we do bring students in to retrieve items after the Stay Home Order is lifted, we will require a temperature scan and allow only a few students at a time as scheduled. Stay tuned for a communication from your Principal in the near future with additional details.

Future Local Food Pantries

May 21, 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church
3701 Jefferson Ave, Midland
Registration: 9:00
Distribution: 11:30
Sponsor: Trinity Lutheran



June 24, 2020

Blessed Sacrament Church
3109 Ashman, Midland
Registration: 9:30
Distribution: 11:00
Sponsor: Blessed Sacrament Church

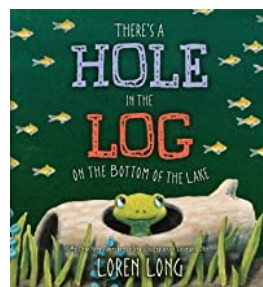
July 23, 2020

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
3516 E Monroe Rd, Midland
Registration: 9:00
Distribution: 11:30
Sponsor: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

(Thank you to Kurt Faust for providing this information!)

Dolly Parton, generous gifter of the Imagination Library books for children from birth through age 5, has recorded herself reading a number of fun children's books. Click on this link if your young child would enjoy hearing Dolly read, "There's a Hole in the Log on the Bottom of the Lake" by Loren Long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fo0tTGfMy4>



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Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website:

www.midlandps.org

Twitter:

@MichaelSharow2

@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 ...

"Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved." — Erich Fromm

Happy Mother's Day, MPS Moms!

