



Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

Superintendent Communique

December 14, 2020 ▶ Volume 8 ▶ Edition 20
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)

CDC recommendations for those who travel during this time:

- "Consider getting tested with a [viral test](#) 3–5 days after your trip and reduce [non-essential activities](#) for a full 7 days after travel, even if your test is negative. If you don't get tested, consider reducing non-essential activities for 10 days.
- If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected. Also take these actions for 14 days after you return from travel to protect others from getting COVID-19:
- [Stay at least 6 feet/2 meters](#) (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who did not travel with you, particularly in crowded areas. It's important to do this everywhere — both indoors and outdoors.
- Wear a [mask](#) to keep your nose and mouth covered when you are in shared spaces outside of your home, including when using [public transportation](#).
- If there are people in the household who did not travel with you, [wear a mask](#) and ask everyone in the household to wear masks in shared spaces inside your home.
- [Wash your hands](#) often or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#).
- Watch your health: Look for [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, and take your temperature if you feel sick."

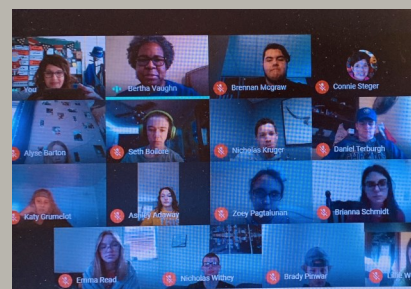
Excerpt taken from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

MHS Government Class has Memorable Speaker

Last Thursday, Midland High's Government class welcomed a guest speaker to their Virtual Google Meet. Mrs. Bertha Vaughn spoke about her life and childhood growing up during the Jim Crow Era in South Carolina. Mrs. Vaughn shared stories about drinking from the colored water fountain, as well as her experiences attending an all-white high school after the passage of Brown v. Board of Education, where she fell in love with chemistry. As one student commented, "I will always remember your story about the water fountains. I can't imagine having separate water fountains based on skin color." (Lillie Wood) Mrs. Vaughn also spoke about the recent current events concerning racism and racial violence in America today.

Students were able to ask questions throughout the Google Meet and numerous students commented on Mrs. Vaughn's transparency and willingness to answer tough questions. "I'd like to give a big thanks for addressing the adversity that you have faced and to shed light on the struggles still being faced in America by other African Americans." (Brianna Schmidt) As students reflected on her visit, another commented, "I will always remember how you talked about staying strong through the struggles in life because through struggle brings perseverance." (Brennan McGraw)

Thank you, Mrs. Bertha Vaughn, for your willingness to join the Midland High Virtual class. We were so happy to "meet" you!



2021-22 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for Midland PS 4-Year-Old Preschool

Who better than Midland Public Schools to trust for your child's 4-year-old preschool?

MPS offers two proven, high-quality Preschool options:

- ★ IB-PYP Preschool that combines the inquiry-based PYP foundation used across our MPS elementary schools in this high-quality, well-priced tuition preschool
- ★ Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) free preschool for qualifying families. (Regional Preschool Partnership)



For Information: <https://www.midlandps.org/content/Preschool%20Program>

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

Midland PS Food Service Update Through January 14, 2021



With F2F students returning to the classroom December 9, traditional breakfast and lunch food service will take place in elementary and middle schools.

For high school and virtual academy students, the meal pick up times and places are as follows.

- ➔ **Meals will be available for pick up Tues. & Thurs. at all these schools from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm:**
Adams Elementary, Siebert Elementary, Woodcrest Elementary, Plymouth Elementary, Chestnut Hill Elementary, Central Park Elementary & Midland High.
- ➔ **Every Saturday two (2) meals will be available for pick up at Central Park Elementary & Midland High School locations only, 9:00 am to 11:00 am.**

Scheduled dates and number of free meals families may pick up per child:

- ➔ December 15 (2 Meals) ➔ December 17 (3 Meals)
- ➔ Holiday Break December 22 (5 Meals)
- ➔ Saturday, December 26 (2 Meals) [Central Park & MHS only]
- ➔ Holiday Break December 29 (5 Meals)
- ➔ Saturday, January 2 (2 Meals) [Central Park & MHS only]
- ➔ January 5 (2 Meals) ➔ January 7 (3 Meals)
- ➔ January 12 (2 Meals) ➔ January 14 (3 Meals)

Thank You, Midland PS Chartwells' Team!

Important Upcoming Dates:

Holiday break: December 23-January 1

January School Days, Semester Dates:

Elementary and Middle:

- ALL F2F and Virtual Students will resume instruction January 4
- 1st Semester Ends January 14, 2021
- 2nd Semester Begins January 19, 2021

High School Students:

- According to last week's Governor/MDHHS COVID briefing, the pause in F2F learning for Michigan high schools has been extended for an additional 12 days—through December 20. As a result, MPS high schools will continue in virtual learning through December 22. We will await further guidance/updates from MDHHS and/or the Governor's Office when F2F learning can resume for high school students.
- Midland PS will not administer high school 1st semester exams. January 12-14 are now considered normal school days for MPS students.

Administration Center Holiday Break Office Hours

December 23: Building closed, staff working remotely
 December 24 & 25: District closed for Holiday
 December 28 & 29: Building Open
 December 30: Building closed, staff working remotely
 December 31: District closed for Holiday
 January 1: District closed for Holiday

Note: Your school will communicate their holiday break office hours with families.



COVID UPDATES

- ➔ MPS Covid-19 Update: Here is the link to the update from the Midland County Health Department*: <https://www.midlandps.org/News/mps-covid-19-update>
- ➔ Midland County COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/abfab9f43a74363b7ad28a763d4d2b6/>
- ➔ Michigan.gov School-Related COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173_102480---,00.html

Want your very own Charlie Brown Christmas Tree?

A Woodcrest Elementary 4th Grade student, Trey Carey, and his buddy Whitman Newland, began making and selling "Charlie Brown Christmas Trees" last year. This year they made a cool video we thought you might enjoy watching.

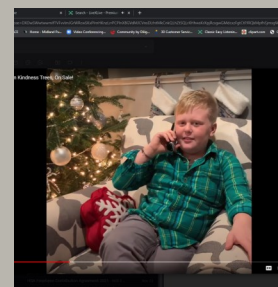
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SROwU5HIM>



These industrious young men are donating some of the proceeds to the Midland County United Way.

Want your very own "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree" from Trey & Whitman?

Go to www.charliebrownkindnesstrees.com before the end of the day Wednesday (12/16) when this year's sale ends. Great job, Trey & Whitman!





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JOIN OUR MPS TEAM — Current Open Positions

MPS Employment Opportunities Link:

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

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MPS District Vision

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and inclusive culture.
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Position	Location
Bus Driver, Substitute	MPS Transportation
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls'	HH Dow HS
Coach, Head, Soccer, Girls'	HH Dow HS
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	District
Electronic Learning Facilitator	MPS Virtual School
Enrollment and McKinney Vento Specialist	Administration Center
Paraprofessional, Special Education (4 positions)	District-wide
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District
School Psychologist	District
School Social Worker	District
Speech & Language Pathologist	Elementary Buildings
Teacher, Special Education	District

MPS Website: 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>



SHINING STARS ... If you would like to nominate a deserving MPS team member for a Shining Star, please complete the nomination form. <https://www.midlandps.org/Content2/shining-star-nomination-form>

Does your child ride the Midland PS SCHOOL BUS to and/or from school?

If so, this next announcement is IMPORTANT for YOUR FAMILY!

The district is excited to announce the roll out of a new **Midland PS transportation app** that will allow MPS parents to follow their child(ren)'s buses. The app is called **Parent Portal Lite**. When students return for face-to-face instruction, letters will be sent home with students who ride MPS buses. Your child's letter will include a bus specific registration code just for his/her bus. If you have more than one child who attend different schools and ride different buses, you will receive a letter for each child, each with their buses' specific registration code. This app will allow parents to set up alert zones that will enable them to know when the bus is approaching their home and school.



This link will take you to the MPS Transportation page that has QR codes and instructions for downloading the MPS bus Parent Portal app. <https://www.midlandps.org/Content/transportation-parent-portal>



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

Wise words to ponder ...

"Keep your face toward the sunshine—
and shadows will fall behind you."
— Walt Whitman