



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

Superintendent Communiqué

January 4, 2021 ▶ Volume 8 ▶ Edition 22
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)

Congratulations to the HH Dow High School's InvenTeam, among 13 winners from across the United States in the Lemelson-MIT Student Program. This national honor includes up to \$10,000 for their project. This team chose as their project to *develop a device to create drain covers which open in the presence of moisture.*

Team members: **Caleb Qiu, Laura Leiti, Alex Kuo, Andrew Zhou, Abigail Ahn, Zoe Angell, Bobo Qiu.**



Midland Public Schools is proud of this impressive Charger InvenTeam and looks forward to future project updates as the team innovates, creates, tests, experiments, evaluates ...

Congratulations Caleb, Laura, Alex, Andrew, Abigail, Zoe and Bobo! We wish you all the best in the next steps of this exciting journey!

The above photo was taken from this blog: <https://lemelson-teams.mit.edu/blog/introducing-dow-high-inventeam>. Check it out!

[Communique article details taken from the blog cited above as well as a front-page article in the December 29, 2020 issue of *Midland Daily News* entitled, "Dow High InvenTeam wins national innovation grant."]



The H. H. Dow Chamber Singers have been working for weeks to put together virtual choir videos to share. Not only have they been learning the music (outdoors, humming in the classroom, one-on-one lessons at home) but they have been getting a crash course in sound and video editing.

The students all recorded their own vocal lines at home, singing by themselves. Four students then took each video, isolated the audio track, synced each, and then faced the hours-long task of matching each individual video with the audio track to make the mouths match the audio. So far they have the following "polished" products on *YouTube*. We hope you enjoy these performances:

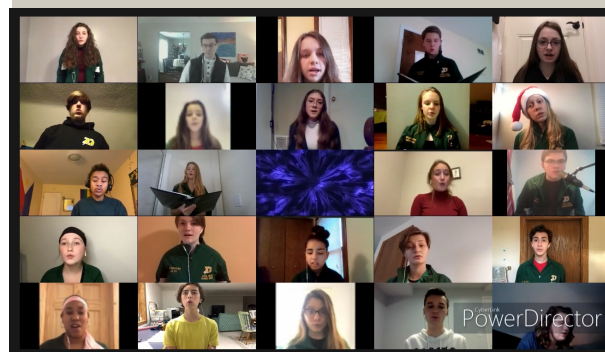
Let it Go:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABi7aBoA-DE>

I Wonder As I Wander:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6rLO5fyzO8>

The Dow High Chamber Singers' Teacher/Director is Adam Gardner-Northrop.



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



Does your child ride an MPS school bus to/from school? If so, this is important info for you!

MPS has rolled out a new transportation app allowing parents to follow their child's bus—*Parent Portal Lite*.

If your child hasn't brought home a letter/flyer with their buses' specific registration code yet, have them ask for one from their bus driver. Click on the link below for QR codes and instructions for downloading the MPS bus app to set up alerts to know when the bus is approaching both home & school. <https://www.midlandps.org/Content/transportation-parent-portal>

SHINING STARS ... Have you seen or heard reports from your child of an MPS staff member who goes above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students? If you would like to nominate a deserving MPS team member, please complete and submit the Shining Star nomination form.

Here is the link: <https://www.midlandps.org/Content2/shining-star-nomination-form>



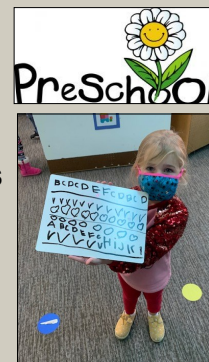
2021-22 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for Midland PS 4-Year-Old Preschool

Who better than Midland PS 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>



Midland PS Food Service Update Through January 14, 2021 — Thank you, MPS Chartwells Team!

➔ January 5 (2 Meals) ➔ January 7 (3 Meals) ➔ January 12 (2 Meals) ➔ January 14 (3 Meals)

Important January Dates:

January 4: All Elementary F2F Students & Virtual Students resume instruction
(Note: Elementary 1st Semester Virtual Students who chose F2F for 2nd Semester begin in-person instruction January 4)

January 4: Middle School F2F & Virtual Students resume instruction

January 4: All High School Students resume virtual instruction

January 15: 1st Semester Ends

January 15: No School — Records Day

January 18: No School — Staff Prof. Development & Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 19: 2nd Semester Begins & High School F2F Students return in-person
(Note: Middle & High School 1st Semester Virtual Students who chose F2F for 2nd Semester begin in-person instruction January 19)

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/>

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>



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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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Position	Location
Administrative Assistant, Technology Department	Administration Center
Bus Driver, Substitute	MPS Transportation
Electronic Learning Facilitator	MPS Virtual School
Family Intervention Specialist (.8 FTE)	Central Park ES
Paraprofessional, Special Education (6 positions)	District-wide
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District
School Psychologist	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>



MIDLAND PS NEW HIRES AND NEW STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

With the start of 2021, we are beginning a new section in our weekly Monday Communiques. In this section, we will share the names of new MPS team members as well as our current MPS staffers who are moving into different positions.



Becci Longstreth has been a member of the MPS team since 2008. Most recently, she has been the Administrative Assistant in the MPS Technology Department. We are pleased to announce that Becci has been promoted to the position of Enrollment and McKinney Vento Specialist at the Administration Center following the retirement of Jana Kullick at the end of December. We send our best wishes to Jana in her retirement and our congratulations to Becci as she begins her new role with Midland PS!

A Little Smile ... Our office was copied on an email this morning from Ms. Marie LaChance, a wonderful MPS Speech/Language Pathologist, who works with Central Park Explorers. The first line of her email to her fellow CPE team said, "I just wanted to share some kindness in the new year!" She went on to talk about wanting to see if she could obtain some nice prizes for her students who have been working very hard in class. She said the students most popular prize choice are stuffed animals. She started by putting word out on some Midland Facebook groups. She said, "within seconds my phone started blowing up with messages wanting to donate." After a few hours she had almost 40 donations, which was all she needed (and more). Ms. LaChance ended her email with, "I'm proud to work and live in this community, and especially at Central Park Elementary. Happy New Year and GO EXPLORERS!!!"



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 ...

"... May it be a year of fruitfulness, of peace and prosperity; may it be a year of peace and unity for all mankind; may the world be freed of cholera." — Giacomo Meyerbeer

(This German Composer lived from 1791-1864. We hope as cholera was wiped out in his time; that COVID may be in 2021!)