



# Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

## Superintendent Communique

November 2, 2020 ▶ Volume 8 ▶ Edition 14

[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)

#### "Be Kind to Your Mind"

(Taken from the MDHHS Press Release)

Mental health experts at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are launching a statewide media campaign this week urging residents to seek relief from COVID-19-related emotional distress by talking to a trained crisis counselor and learning about other help available.



The "Be Kind to Your Mind" campaign promotes the use of Michigan's free, confidential Stay Well counseling line, and aims to combat stigma associated with seeking help for feelings of depression, anxiety, anger or loss – all common during a disaster like COVID-19. (Link to full Press Release: [Be Kind to Your Mind Campaign NR.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173_102480---,00.html))

The Stay Well counseling line debuted on May 13, and is staffed with crisis counselors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Callers can access the line by dialing Michigan's COVID-19 hotline at **888-535-6136 and pressing "8" at the prompt**. The service is part of a federally-funded grant program implemented by the MDHHS Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration in partnership with the Michigan State Police. (Link to the Stay Well site: [Michigan.gov/StayWell](https://michigan.gov/StayWell))

COVID-19 has impacted most everyone's mental health in one way or another, and they are here to help.

**MPS Covid-19 Update:** Because the District now receives a daily update from the Midland County Health Department, we have added a Daily Update link to the MPS website. <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](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173_102480---,00.html)
- ➔ MDHHS FAQ sheet. Here is the link: <http://www.midlandps.org/MDHHS-FAQs>

#### Important November Calendar Dates

##### NO SCHOOL — Staff Professional Dev.

➔ Tuesday, November 3

##### Elementary & Pre-Primary Only 1/2 Day\*

➔ Wednesday, November 11

Elementary Parent-Teacher Conf.

##### All Students 1/2 Day\*

➔ Wednesday, November 25  
Teacher Records Day



##### NO SCHOOL — Thanksgiving Holiday

➔ Thurs. & Friday, November 26 & 27

\*1/2 days— specific release times will come from your child's school.

#### NOTE:

The window to move your child from virtual to F2F learning has been expanded to two weeks: Nov. 9-23.

#### Virtual/Hybrid Learning

*Interested in having your child move from Virtual/Hybrid Learning to full Face-to-Face (F2F) Learning in their home school for 2nd Semester?*



#### Want to move from Virtual to F2F at Semester?

##### The November 9

**Communique** will include a link to the form and the procedure to follow to move your child to the full F2F learning platform in their home school.

The window to move from virtual/hybrid to full F2F will be open for two weeks—November 9-23.

**Face-To-Face Learning**

**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

### **The Midland PS Daily COVID-19 Numbers ... What do they tell us?**

We are all living through very uncertain, frightening times right now. We are currently seeing a dramatic “uptick” in COVID numbers in our community, state and nation as well as for Midland Public Schools.



As a result, we have been receiving many questions, here are just a few:

- ⇒ What is the criteria and rules that MPS is following to send children home?
- ⇒ Is MPS following the close contact definition?
- ⇒ Why did MPS buy all of the PPE, like desk shields? The #'s are skyrocketing!
- ⇒ Does MPS realize when they send a student home for 2-weeks, they are affecting the household financially?

We ask that you keep the following in mind when you go to the MPS website and see the District's daily COVID numbers jump up and down from day to day.

- ⇒ MPS receives a daily report directly from our dedicated, knowledgeable partners at the Midland County Department of Public Health . We take the close contact and positive cases directly from their daily report.
- ⇒ MPS & the Midland County Health Department are ABSOLUTELY following the CDC's definition of Close Contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more).
- ⇒ Every family of an MPS student who is deemed to have been a close contact to a person who has tested positive will receive a phone call from their child's school.
- ⇒ As of last week, MPS has had only 13 cumulative students/staff who have tested positive for COVID since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.
- ⇒ By far, the vast majority of MPS close contacts and positive cases are from student/staff interactions outside Midland Public Schools, which means the PPE, social distancing, masks, cleaning/sanitizing/air purifying measures while students and staff are within MPS walls are doing their job.
  - ◇ Here are just a few of the “outside interactions” that have been communicated to us from the Midland County Health Department: family gatherings like a wedding or special dinner, a child's parent in the same home, a group of adults participating in an inside team activity, students gathering at a classmate's home, among many others.

*The key take-a-ways here to keep MPS students in F2F instruction ... be vigilant about masks, social distancing and hand washing; take COVID symptoms seriously; listen to our Health Dept. & Health Care professionals.*

**Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** represents the set of skills your child needs to thrive throughout their life. SEL is commonly described by five core competencies:

1. self-awareness
2. self-management
3. social awareness
4. relationship skills
5. responsible decision making.

**SOCIAL  
EMOTIONAL  
LEARNING**

Very simply put, SEL allows children and adults to understand their own emotions and the emotions of others, and to use this understanding in their choices and relationships. While “SEL” has become a common buzz word among educators, social emotional learning does not just occur in the classroom; it is an important part of our homes, as well.

Here are five easy social emotional learning activities for children (and adults!) to support SEL at home: <https://betterkids.education/blog/5-easy-social-emotional-learning-activities-for-kids-to-do-at-home>

### **Meal Pick Up During the Holidays**

**Here is the meal pick-up schedule for the holiday weeks at the end of November & December:**



#### **Holiday Break Meal Pick Up Service**

**November 24** – Five Breakfast & Lunch meals will be available 11:30 am-12:30 pm

⇒ *No Thursday Service November 26th*

**December 22** – Five Breakfast & Lunch meals will be available 11:30 am-12:30 pm

⇒ *No Thursday Service December 24th*

**December 29** – Five Breakfast & Lunch meals will be available 11:30 am-12:30 pm

⇒ *No Thursday Service December 31st*

**Every Saturday** — Meal pick up will be available at Central Park and Midland High from 9-11 am.

**Midland County Department of Public Health is hosting a **WALK-IN FLU CLINIC** from 9 am to 6 pm (with drive-thru service available) on the following dates:**



⇒ **Holiday Inn Conf. Center** (810 Cinema Dr) — Tuesday, November 3

⇒ **Homer Twp. Fire Dept** (222 S. Homer Rd) — Wednesday, November 18

Flu shot form to print and complete before you arrive, if possible:

<https://www.midlandps.org/Flu-clinic-Form-2020-2021>

**Bring insurance card.  
For those without insurance, flu vaccine will be free.**

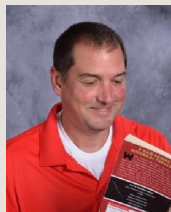


**SHINING STARS ...** Have you seen or heard reports from your child of an MPS staff member who goes above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students? If you would like to nominate a deserving MPS team member, please complete and submit the Shining Star nomination form.

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



### Congratulations to **Brent Doty, Jefferson Middle School Teacher**, who is being honored this week by the City of



Midland and American Heart Association for his fast response and unwavering commitment to saving a student's life in late September when the student experienced a cardiac arrest. Brent was also named an MPS Shining Star for October!



**Ms. Konkol, Northeast Special Education Teacher**, shared a few fun photos of their students/team who dressed up on Friday as characters from the seasonal movie, *Hocus Pocus*. They even decorated their door for the day's theme.



### SOME GREAT F2F MPS LEARNING MOMENTS ...

#### Adams Elementary — 2nd Grade Science:

Properties of Matter! Our second grade classes have been having a great time studying properties of matter. This hands-on, experiential unit helps students explore properties of matter and how they work. Thank you to Ms. Holzheuer for the great picture from her class. Learning is Fun!



#### Primary Years Programme at Carpenter Street School —

##### Ms. Spry's Developmental Kindergarten Classroom:

Read a story about pumpkins and then used their senses to explore a pumpkin by measuring, describing and testing whether it would float or sink.



##### Ms. Partipilio's IB/ PYP Preschool Classroom:

The students have been busy exploring fall this month using their 5 senses.



## Broadband Survey from Midland County ... YOUR input is requested!

Here is a link to the flyer with lots of information about the Midland County Broadband Initiative including the survey link: <https://www.midlandps.org/Midland-County-Broadband-Fact-Sheet>

Here is an excerpt from the flyer with info about this County initiative:

*"To perform an assessment of Midland County's current broadband environment, the Committee will be conducting surveys of local residents, businesses, and other organizations across the county. Responses to these surveys will help us better understand the existing resources and capabilities we now have to support the access, adoption and use of broadband technology in our homes and business. After a structured evaluation of this assessment, we'll then develop appropriate action plans and projects to improve our broadband environment most effectively."*

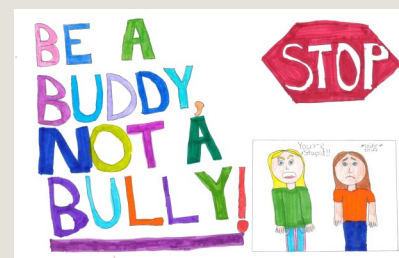


Congratulations to these MPS students who were among the three winners of the ROCK's October poster contest. Below is an excerpt that will be in the ROCK's November newsletter.

*"Last month The ROCK held a contest in honor of National Bullying Prevention month, asking students to submit their ideas for an anti-bullying poster. They received many submissions and ultimately settled on three winners! Check out their amazing work below. The posters will be hung up at ROCK after-school sites!"*

#### Great job Anthony & Carissa!

Your important messages came through loud and clear in your posters!



**Anthony Rupert — Grade 10**  
Midland High School

**Carissa Bowers — Grade 6**  
Northeast Middle School



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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

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

Position	Location
Bus Driver, Substitute	MPS Transportation
Coach, Assistant, Basketball, Boys'	Midland HS
Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls'	HH Dow HS
Coach, Head, Soccer, Girls'	HH Dow HS
Coach, Assistant, Swim, Boys'	HH Dow HS
Coach, Assistant, Debate, High School	HH Dow HS
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	District Administrative
Paraprofessional, Special Education (8 positions)	District-wide
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District
School Psychologist	District
School Social Worker	District
Teacher, Special Education	District

**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>



### MIDLAND PS NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

This school year, MPS has about 60% of the number of substitute teachers we have in a traditional school year. That figure is probably not surprising giving the pandemic our world is currently facing.

This year, however, more than ever, MPS needs substitute teachers! Subs are needed to cover for the traditional reasons when a teacher must be out of a classroom, however, even more this year, for our District to continue F2F learning, it is essential that we have a good pool of guest teachers.

As of November 1, the daily rate of pay for MPS substitute teachers was raised to \$100 per day or \$14.28 per hour. If you are interested in finding out about becoming an MPS sub teacher, please go to click on this link <https://account.edustaff.org/apply/> or call MPS Human Resources—989-923-5027.

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)



### MIDLAND PS NEEDS BUS DRIVERS!

Interested in driving a big yellow school bus and getting students to and from school safely? If so, MPS NEEDS YOU to join our team! Bus driver salary range: \$15.72 to \$19.51/hour.



**TRAINING IS PROVIDED!**

Call 923-5041  
TODAY for  
training & CDL info.

### Wise words to ponder ...

*"Out of difficulties grow miracles."*

— Jean de la Bruyere