



Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

Superintendent Communique

November 23, 2020 ▶ Volume 8 ▶ Edition 17
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)



Happy Thanksgiving

*The year has turned its circle,
 The seasons come and go.
 The harvest all is gathered in
 And chilly north winds blow.
 Orchards have shared their treasures,
 The fields their yellow grain.
 So open wide the doorway,
 Thanksgiving comes again!*

A Thanksgiving Poem

Note:
 One source said this lovely poem was a
 Traditional Rhyme and another said Author
 Unknown. We just say, Happy Thanksgiving!
 May your holiday be filled with gratitude for loved
 ones, time to breathe and memories to cherish!

MPS is in full virtual learning until the week of January 18, 2021

A few **school day logistics** during the District's full virtual learning ...

- Student attendance will be taken on all school days
- The school offices are open with a "skeleton" crew to answer questions and still allow for safe social distancing for staff.
- F2F families received lots of info about their child's learning schedules, food service, Google Meet, etc. from your child's school last week. Check those communications if you have not had a chance to do so.

ALL current Middle School VIRTUAL Families need to complete this form for 2nd semester elective selection.

However, we have had a question from current virtual families about the 1st question in the Learning Request for Second Semester form.

Question 1: To which building will your child return? This question is intended to capture which traditional school your child attends currently—whether they are virtual, hybrid or F2F learners.

Families will make the selection of virtual, hybrid, full F2F later in the form.

LINK to document with form
 for those considering moving your child
 from virtual to F2F learning:

<https://www.midlandps.org/Return-to-F2F-Key-things-to-know>

**Virtual/Hybrid
Learning**

**THE WINDOW TO MOVE TO F2F
CLOSES TODAY—NOVEMBER 23.**

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

*The window is now
open for MPS virtual/
hybrid families whose
child is in the
Virtual/Hybrid
Learning model who
wish to have their
child move to Face-to-
Face Learning for 2nd
Semester.*

**Current
Elementary/High School**
 virtual families only need to
 complete this form if they wish to
 attend some or all F2F courses
 2nd semester.



**DEADLINE TO CHOOSE F2F:
NOVEMBER 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



Congratulations to the Dow High Debate team who has been busy competing in November



November 7-9 the team participated in the University of Michigan Debate held virtually

where the DHS Novice Debate team of **Davis Veith** and **Evelyn Wang** broke to Double Octofinals. This is an outstanding accomplishment as there were over 280 students competing from 30 states and this was their first tournament!

The team also competed in mid-November virtually at a meet hosted by Groves High School.

- The Novice team of **Davis Veith** and **Evelyn Wang** won the novice division. Evelyn placed 3rd speaker overall and Davis placed 1st.
- In the JV division, **Corrine Cai** placed 1st overall speaker.
- In the Varsity division **Rehan Manjila** was 7th overall speaker. **Victoria Heyart** placed 13th speaker overall in the Public Forum.

A message from Dow High Debate Advisor, Amy Bushey: "Overall I am ... excited that our team has found a way to continue to debate this season virtually. It is different and has been a challenge but has opened up a lot of opportunities for us to compete on the "national circuit" without the cost and logistics of traveling and missing school. It took a lot of patience and work on behalf of all my team members to learn how to compete virtually, and I am very grateful to all my debate alumni, from all over the country, that have donated their time and skills and joined us virtually to help "coach" and judge and make it work."



Congratulations to these Midland PS band & orchestra students who were named members of the Michigan All-State Honors Bands and Orchestras!



This designates these students as among the best young musicians in the State of Michigan.

Middle School Honors Band

Owen DeLong – Trombone, Jefferson MS
Anna Gessford – Clarinet, Northeast MS
Elyse Riter – Clarinet, Jefferson MS (HM*)
Lauren Yao – Clarinet, Jefferson MS

Middle School Honors Orchestra

Kanushi Desai – Viola, Jefferson MS
Genevieve Hong – Cello, Jefferson MS

High School Honors Jazz Band

Quinn McMath – Trombone, Midland HS

High School Honors Orchestra

Abigail Ahn – Violin, Dow HS
Grace Chae – Violin, Dow HS
Anna Dorrien – Cello, Midland HS
Zaky El-Nachef – Violin, Dow HS (HM*)
Sarah Li – Viola, Dow HS

Lucas McLeod – Viola, Dow HS
Quinn McMath – Tuba, Midland HS
Boaz Qiu – Violin, Dow HS
Abigail Yoo – Violin, Dow HS (HM*)
 (*Honorable Mention)

The **Building Trades students** continue to make great progress on the garage on the Midland High campus that is their 2020-21 build project. Great job!



Food Service during Remote Learning & Extended Breaks:

Thanksgiving week

- **Saturday, 11/21** meal pick-up at CPE and MHS (9:00-11:00 a.m.) for all MPS students (3 days of meals provided)
- **Tuesday, 11/24** meal pick-up at all elementary buildings (11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) for all MPS students (5 days of meals provided)
- **Saturday, 11/28** meal pick-up at CPE and MHS (9:00-11:00 a.m.) for all MPS students (2 days of meals provided)

Link to extended meal pick up schedule during virtual learning: <https://www.midlandps.org/updated-Food-Service-Pick-Up-Locations>

THANK YOU, MPS CHARTWELLS TEAM!

DAILY 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>

*While MPS is in full virtual learning, we will update these numbers weekly, rather than daily.

- 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

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>

Parent/Guardian Student Canvas Course 'Observer' Instructions



Below are the instructions for parents/guardians for how to create a Canvas account so they can become observers of their student(s) Canvas course(s). However, parents/guardians will not be able to create an account until students are rostered to their teacher's Canvas course and a pairing code is created.

ELEMENTARY student's homeroom teachers will generate pairing codes and share the codes with parents/guardians.

Note: Multiple pairing codes for individual parents/guardians can be created as needed.

SECONDARY students (Grades 6-12) will be able to generate a pairing code to share with parents/guardians.

→ How to generate a pairing code as a student (Grades 6-12) for a parent/guardian as an observer:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-generate-a-pairing-code-for-an-observer-as-a-student/ta-p/418>

→ Canvas Parents/Guardians as Observers Video Instructions:

How to create a Canvas parent/guardian Observer account to become an observer of their student(s) Canvas course(s). <https://midlandps.instructuremedia.com/embed/d7d02585-b015-4849-a557-dc4893a05157>

→ Canvas Parents/Guardians as Observers Guide:

How to link multiple students to a Canvas Observer user account using the pairing code generated for their student(s). <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Observer-Guide/How-do-I-link-a-student-to-my-user-account-as-an-observer/ta-p/539>

→ Parent/Observer Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Observer-Guide/tkb-p/observer>

→ Student Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

November 16 Midland PS Board of Education Meeting Important Highlights

By now, if you live in Michigan and have an elementary-school-age child, you have heard about the **Read-By-Grade 3 Law** that the Michigan Legislature passed in 2016. With COVID, this law has taken some twists and turns, however, *"The Law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind beginning with the 2019-20 school year."*

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Grade_3_Reading_Facts_Families_Final_TJ_632662_7.pdf

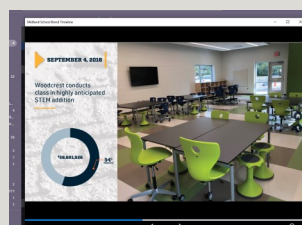
At the Nov. 16 Board meeting, several MPS team members spoke about MPS Literacy Coaching Essentials and the District's work related to the Read-By-Grade 3 Law. We thank Jen Servoss, Tricia Clancy, Annalisa Christensen, Shannon Pnacek & Kim Welter for their presentation and for all they do for MPS students!



Another presentation at the November 16 Board meeting was a Bond Update from Barton Malow, the MPS Construction Management firm. Mr. Dambrow and

Mr. Vanderpoel shared highlights of the District's Bond journey since its passage in February of 2015. Here are few of the "stats" that were shared at Monday's Board meeting:

- \$86 million in projects have been completed since 2015
- 80% of series 1 & series 2 projects are complete
- \$6 million in renovations have been seen in every MPS elementary school
- \$18 million in additional work is yet to be completed
- Series 3 will be sold in 2023 and will generate \$8.31 million for bond projects



A very special presentation was made by Mr. Rayce, President, and Mr. Honerkamp, Project Manager, from the **Kiwassee Kiwanis** group at this Board meeting. This group of dedicated Kiwanis members spearheaded a community-wide fundraiser to raise \$70,000 for Midland PS Chromebooks lost or damaged during the dam breach flooding in May. **Thank you, Kiwassee Kiwanis!**



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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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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 Administrative
Paraprofessional, Special Education (8 positions)	District-wide
Paraprofessional, Substitute	District
School Psychologist	District
School Social Worker	District
Speech & Language Pathologist	Elementary Buildings
Teacher, Social Studies	Jefferson MS
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>

On Thursday, November 12, **3rd grade Plymouth Pioneer, Daniel Lester**, made a unique observation outside of the upper elementary wing at Plymouth Elementary. Perched low in the brush was an owl. Surprised to find an owl so close to the school building, Daniel and staff reached out to wildlife experts, Barb and Joe Rogers.

The owl was identified as a long-eared owl and it is currently on the endangered species list as "threatened." Long-eared owls are low roosting and the owl was likely surveying the woods for its next meal. Thanks to Daniel's attention to detail, students at Plymouth had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to observe a rare bird in its natural environment.



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 ...

"Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving."

— Amy Grant



Broadband Survey from Midland County

YOUR input is NEEDED!

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."

