December 14, 2015

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme — MPS Update

It is with much excitement that we announce that the Applications for Authorization at all four Phase One schools (Woodcrest, Plymouth, Chestnut Hill and Adams) have been accepted. The IB evaluators shared that based on the reading of each school’s application, the information provided at this stage is in accordance with IB expectations. The next step in the process will be the Verification Visit. A team of IB evaluators will visit each school and determine the final outcome of the authorization process. The evidence provided in the application will be verified during the visit to the school. Each visit has been scheduled and will take place in March for Plymouth & Chestnut Hill and in April for Woodcrest & Adams.

Phase Two schools (Carpenter, Eastlawn and Siebert) submitted their applications for Candidacy in Spring 2015 and have been accepted as PYP Candidate Schools. Their journey continues with the Candidacy Phase.

This extraordinary MPS program has been made possible by the generous monetary support of our community foundation partners—The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, Dow Chemical Company Foundation. Thank you to these wonderful community partners.

Congratulations to the Dow High Novice Debate team that won the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Associations Novice State Debate Championship held this past weekend. Team member include Sydney Gardner, Tia Li, David Lin, Sreya Manchiraju, Shreya Nagarkar, Austin Poon, Sarah Saeed and Abe Yum. This is the sixth time in the last ten years Dow High has won the State championship. The team is coached by Ms. Amy Bushey and Ms. Amanda Bishop with assistance from Varsity team members Sam Ungerleider, Nisha Patel and Noah Coughlin.
Charge Into STEM Winter Camp

Twenty-one elementary age students had a fun day filled with STEM activities at camp hosted by Dow High's Robotics Team 2619—The Charge. Students learned about electricity, magnetics, engineering and robotics by participating in a variety of hands-on activities including building flashlights, boats, levitating magnetic race cars, bridges and towers. Information about the summer 2016 robotics STEM camp will be available in the spring.

In early December the MHS Drama Department participated in the Michigan Educational Theatre Association Festival held at SVSU. Students competed in individual events, for college scholarship money, as well as attended a variety of workshops. Collectively, MHS college scholarship competitors earned $144,500 in award money. Awards went to Josiah Greiner, Allie Williams, and Rhiannon Hintz. Every competing MHS student earned either a Superior or an Excellent in individual event competitions. Earning Superiors were Aaron Mealey, Josiah Greiner, and Rebecca Henning. Earning Excellent Awards were Josiah Greiner, Rhiannon Hintz, and Zachary Federer.

Congratulations to our December Shining Stars ...

✦ Mark Naffie, Plymouth 5th Grade Teacher
✦ Jo Majeske, Manager of Benefits

These dedicated, hard working MPS staff members are being recognized at tonight’s (December 14) board meeting. Thank you Mark and Jo for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students!

Please keep the Shining Star nominations coming in. We have many, many dedicated, hard working employees. Please take a moment to let us know why you think an MPS staff member is a Shining Star! Here is a link to the nomination form: http://midps.org/shiningstarform

Six of Midland High’s international students helped serve lunch to close to 80 senior citizens in early December at the Presbyterian Church. The event was sponsored by Midland County Senior Services Happy Diners program. Attendees enjoyed a meal, fellowship and a gift with donations made possible through the Midland Foundation and local businesses. This is the fifth year MHS international students helped bring Christmas cheer to older citizens of Midland.

December 11 & 12 the Dow High School Cafeteria was transformed into “Charger Manor,” as the Dow High Choirs presented their second annual Madrigal Dinners. Those in attendance were treated to an evening of great food, audience participation, silliness, and beautiful music — Medieval-style! A wonderful time was had by audience and performers alike.

“pearls” of wisdom ...

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

“Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.”
— Booker T. Washington